



Southbank sizzles with community spirit

A free sausage sizzle, free slushies, a scavenger hunt, lawn games and karaoke were on offer for locals as part of Outside, Side by Side on Saturday, March 29 – a free community event organised by the City of Melbourne neighbourhood volunteer program’s Southbank crew.

Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

“Overwhelmingly positive”: PDG lodges plans for Crown’s former Southbank site

“The future of one of Southbank’s most prominent sites looks bright with developer PDG submitting plans to the state government for a 67-storey tower at 1 Queensbridge St, while retaining the historic Queens Bridge Hotel.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR

”



Following its acquisition of the site in December last year from Crown Resorts’ new owner – US-based company Blackstone – PDG has wasted no time in pushing ahead with its vision to reinvigorate a key part of Southbank.

The developer, which is responsible for a string of other projects across the CBD and Southbank, including

the nearly completed Boyd Village and neighbouring Prima Pearl, says its latest project builds on its “extensive knowledge” of the local area.

Mooted for completion in 2029, the proposal comprises “luxurious residences” together with “premium amenity, including destination dining and entertainment offerings”.

The site is currently home to the former Queens Bridge Hotel building, which received heritage protection in 2021. PDG said its development, designed by Cox Architecture, would be an “architectural landmark” that would “celebrate” the heritage asset.

PDG’s founder and managing director Vince Giuliano said PDG was looking forward to collaborating with the state government, the City of Melbourne, and the local community to “further elevate the Southbank precinct.”

Mr Giuliano said the company’s vision for the project had sought to ensure that Southbank remained Australia’s premier destination for residential living, arts, entertainment, and lifestyle.

“PDG, alongside our world-class team of consultants and advisors, will draw upon decades of collective experience to deliver luxury residences and premium amenities that are designed to be liveable, sustainable and ensure lasting value for our clients,” Mr Giuliano said.

“PDG is Melbourne born and bred with decades of

Continued on page 3.

ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 9

Behind the curtain of Arts Centre Melbourne

BUSINESS, PAGE 11

Yarra River Business Association ushers in a new generation



ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 12

Country, gospel, and jazz: Emma Donovan and Paul Grabowsky’s powerful performance at MRC

Emma Donovan took to the stage at the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) on April 2 for *A Rugged Old Cross*, joined by celebrated pianist Paul Grabowsky and a stellar lineup of Melbourne jazz musicians.



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CONTACT

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

EDITOR

Sean Car

PUBLISHER

Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
ABN: 57 623 558 725

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The deadline for the May  
edition is May 2

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# Council to have another go at expanded Miles St park proposal

The City of Melbourne will revise its designs as well as its approach to community consultation for a proposal to expand the Miles and Dodds Reserve in Southbank after receiving a disappointing response to its first effort.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Councillors unanimously voted in favour of an amended motion at the March 18 Future Melbourne Committee meeting calling on the council's management to go back to the drawing board, despite a recommendation not to proceed with the expansion. That recommendation came off the back of a mere 113 responses to its original draft concept plans, of which 53 per cent did not support the proposal that would see the northern side of Miles St closed between Wells and Dodds streets. While the council said it took an "extremely localised" approach to community consultation, only around three per cent of the roughly 3000 people living in close proximity to the park responded to its plans. The report from management stated that due to "the low response rate and generally negative sentiment towards the proposal from community engagement participants" it recommended not proceeding with the proposal "at this time". However, both of Southbank's major community groups – Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) and Southbank3006 – raised concerns over the council's approach to consultation and design.

SRA president Tony Penna said it was "bewildering" that the council had suggested discontinuing the project because "a mere 60 people objected, albeit a small majority". "We are particularly concerned with the process council adopted for the consultation, which, in our opinion, was poorly planned and/or executed, as demonstrated by the poor response rate," Mr Penna said. "In particular, for past open space projects, the officers would specifically engage SRA for guidance, suggestions and advice on the best way to engage the community. Apart from being advised the project was on Participate Melbourne, no such effort was made from officers to reach out to SRA." Of those who did respond in opposition to the plans, safety and loss of car parking along Miles St were among the main concerns raised. Southbank3006 president David Hamilton said while the council was to be commended for "recognising these concerns", it should first consider modifying the design to take back to the residents. Mr Penna agreed, saying the council employs "some of the best urban designers" and urged it to "go back to the drawing board and redesign the space to address areas of concern in search of a win-win". In response to the issues raised by both groups at the meeting, the council's environment portfolio lead Cr Davydd Griffiths moved an alternative motion calling on management to revisit the proposal. The motion sought "further advice and guidance ... on incorporating best-practice passive and active safety measures that effectively mitigate anti-social behaviour in the draft design." It also requested that management engage in further consultation with the community, "ensuring the consultation process is expanded to include all community and business associations".



"Councillors will be familiar with the passion that open space in Southbank generates," Cr Griffiths said, adding that it was "one of the hottest topics" during the recent council elections. "The responsibility that we have as a council for meeting that is one of the priorities we need to have as a council," Cr Griffiths said. Lord Mayor Nick Reece, who seconded the revised motion, said the council boasted the world's best urban designers and that he was confident concerns could be addressed in a revised proposal. He also implored the council's management to take a renewed focus to achieving a more comprehensive community engagement process. Despite the alternative motion being passed unanimously, Cr Phil Le Liu said he was troubled by the idea of ignoring the will of the majority in search of trying to establish "a different outcome", likening it to "the definition of insanity". Cr Le Liu urged councillors to accept whatever the outcome of the next round of consultation was, however both Cr Griffiths and Cr Ball said it was important to "keep an open mind". The council is expected to bring the results of the further consultation and new draft design back before the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on June 3 for a decision. ●



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



# “Overwhelmingly positive”: PDG lodges plans for Crown’s former Southbank site

Continued from page 1.

local property development experience. Every project delivered by PDG comes with our unwavering commitment to improving people’s lives.”

Despite the current headwinds facing the construction industry, which has seen several major Southbank projects stall in recent times, Mr Giuliano told the *Australian Financial Review* that he was confident in PDG’s ability to deliver.

“We have great relationships with financiers, quality builders and sub-contractors. We have the ability to work collaboratively with our delivery partners to ensure that we can get a major project off the ground that will exceed our purchasers’ expectations,” Mr Giuliano told the *AFR*.

He later told *Southbank News* that PDG had already shared its vision with stakeholders, including the neighbouring Freshwater Place and Prima Pearl owners’ corporations (OC) from which “the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive”.

“For a long time, Melburnians, and especially residents and visitors to Southbank, have imagined what the site could be, so to be able to share our vision for what’s in store is very exciting,” Mr Giuliano said.

“We have consulted with a wide range of stakeholders including Southbank residents, and the design is a reflection of both the site’s heritage and the precinct’s needs by way of improved pedestrian connections and amenity for the community,” Mr Giuliano said.

“Our philosophy has been to design the tower from the ‘inside-out’, ensuring it exceeds the expectations of those who will call it home, and architecturally, delivers an elegant and timeless landmark for our city.”

Having sought to “significantly reduce overall site coverage” Mr Giuliano said PDG’s tower would not only improve integration into Southbank and its neighbours but would also allow it to retain and restore the historic Queens Bridge Hotel.

“The Queens Bridge Hotel is central to the overall design and will include destination dining and entertainment offerings that celebrate its heritage. The façade will be returned to its former glory, and will no doubt be a huge drawcard for the area,” Mr Giuliano said.

“Historically, the hotel has been a popular meeting place for people, and we hope to reimagine that for residents, traders,



workers and visitors to Southbank alike.”

Rebecca Silk, chair of the OC for Freshwater Place, which shares a boundary with the site, told *Southbank News* that Mr Giuliano had presented to its committee on February 17.

“The presentation was well received as a good beginning to the relationship between PDG and the neighbourhood. It was the first consultation from any proposed developer of the site,” Ms Silk said.

“As we understand it, the proposal includes a walkway/arcade from Queensbridge St to the Freshwater Place piazza. We think this may add value and additional retail outlets to the precinct.”

“The committee understands that the hotel will be retained and restored and think this is appropriate.”

The site was previously subject to one of Melbourne’s most controversial development proposals, which saw Crown Resorts enter a joint venture with Schiavello to

build what would have become Australia’s tallest tower.

The project controversially received “state significant” planning approval in 2017 by the current state government, thanks to a \$100 million “public benefits package” that sought to revitalise Southbank Promenade, Queensbridge Square and Sandridge Bridge.

However, the project never eventuated after the joint venture partners failed to begin construction within two years of its permit being issued, resulting in former Minister for Planning Richard Wynne refusing an extension.

The site was sold by Blackstone to PDG last year, which was one of several former Crown Resorts assets it moved on as part of efforts to stabilise the business following a series of controversies impacting Crown’s Australian operations.

Ms Silk said that based on PDG’s precinct presentation, the OC understood that the developer had already held preliminary

discussions with the City of Melbourne and was “keen to have further input on enhancing Queensbridge Square”.

Mr Giuliano said PDG was looking forward to working closely with the state government, the council and local stakeholders “to deliver the much-needed renewal of Queensbridge Square”.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said it was “delighted to see this long-neglected section of our community get some attention” and welcomed the “modest” height of the proposal.

“The proposal for a link to the Freshwater piazza will connect it to Queensbridge Square and Southbank Boulevard, which will further activate that section of the community,” he said.

“It is promising the developer is liaising with stakeholders, including SRA, so early in the project. It appears they understand the benefits of consulting with everyone and working together.” ●

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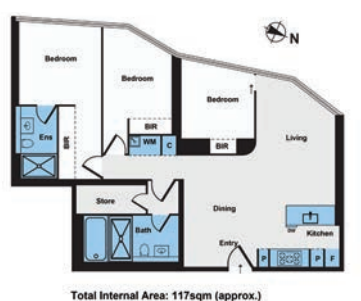
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# “Helping people is in my DNA”: Gladys Liu’s community-driven vision for Melbourne

“

The City of Melbourne has welcomed another new face to Town Hall, with Gladys Liu stepping into her role as a newly-elected councillor.

”

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



A former federal MP, as well as a businesswoman and speech pathologist, Cr Liu brings a diverse background and a passion for community service to the position.

Reflecting on her campaign success having won election via Lord Mayoral candidate Anthony Koutafides’ councillor ticket, Cr Liu shared her enthusiasm for engaging with residents and businesses.

“During the campaign, I got the chance to meet with so many wonderful people and hear about what matters to them,” she said.

“I feel that has prepared me very well for the job that I am now so lucky to do.”

Cr Liu’s journey to the council has been shaped both personally and professionally by her experiences as a young migrant having fostered a deep understanding of the challenges faced by international

students and newcomers to Melbourne.

“I came here as an international student. I still remember I had no family, no friends, no money, and I spoke very little English at the time,” she said.

“I can understand what young people are going through, and I’m very glad that the City of Melbourne warmly welcomes international students, and we are fully behind them.”

Cr Liu’s career has spanned speech pathology, business ownership and politics, including her tenure as the federal member for Chisholm from 2019 to 2022.

“After being elected as a federal member of parliament in 2019, that gave me the chance to understand even more about the running of government, and that prepared me for the role that I have today,” Cr Liu told *Southbank News*.

Despite her experience in federal politics, Cr Liu finds local government to be uniquely fulfilling.

“A lot of people see a federal member of parliament as higher up or more powerful, but at the end of the day, I find that people care more about the environment around them and whether they have enough things like parks and transport,” she said.

“These are the things that people are concerned about, more than the big topics that you and I may hear [about] in the news.”

Cr Liu is also a passionate advocate for accessibility and inclusion, having lived with hearing loss for most of her life.

“I’m totally deaf in my left ear. That made me humble and able to relate to people living with a disability.”

As deputy head of the Disability Advisory Committee and head of the Community Health and City Services portfolio, she



COUNCILLOR PROFILE

hopes to improve services for people with disabilities and those experiencing social isolation.

“Loneliness is quite a big issue, especially in the City of Melbourne, where we have the highest number of people living on their own,” she said.

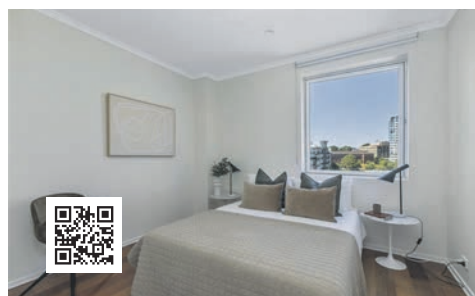
Cr Liu’s commitment to health and well-being extends beyond politics, becoming a certified fitness instructor last year.

“A lot of people my age say, ‘I’m too old, I

can’t move,’ but I wanted to set an example and help those who don’t believe they can do it.”

As she settles into her new role, Cr Liu is optimistic about the future of the City of Melbourne and her contributions to the community.

“I want people to know that I am accessible. If anyone feels that they have an issue, a question, or something to share, please get in touch.” ●



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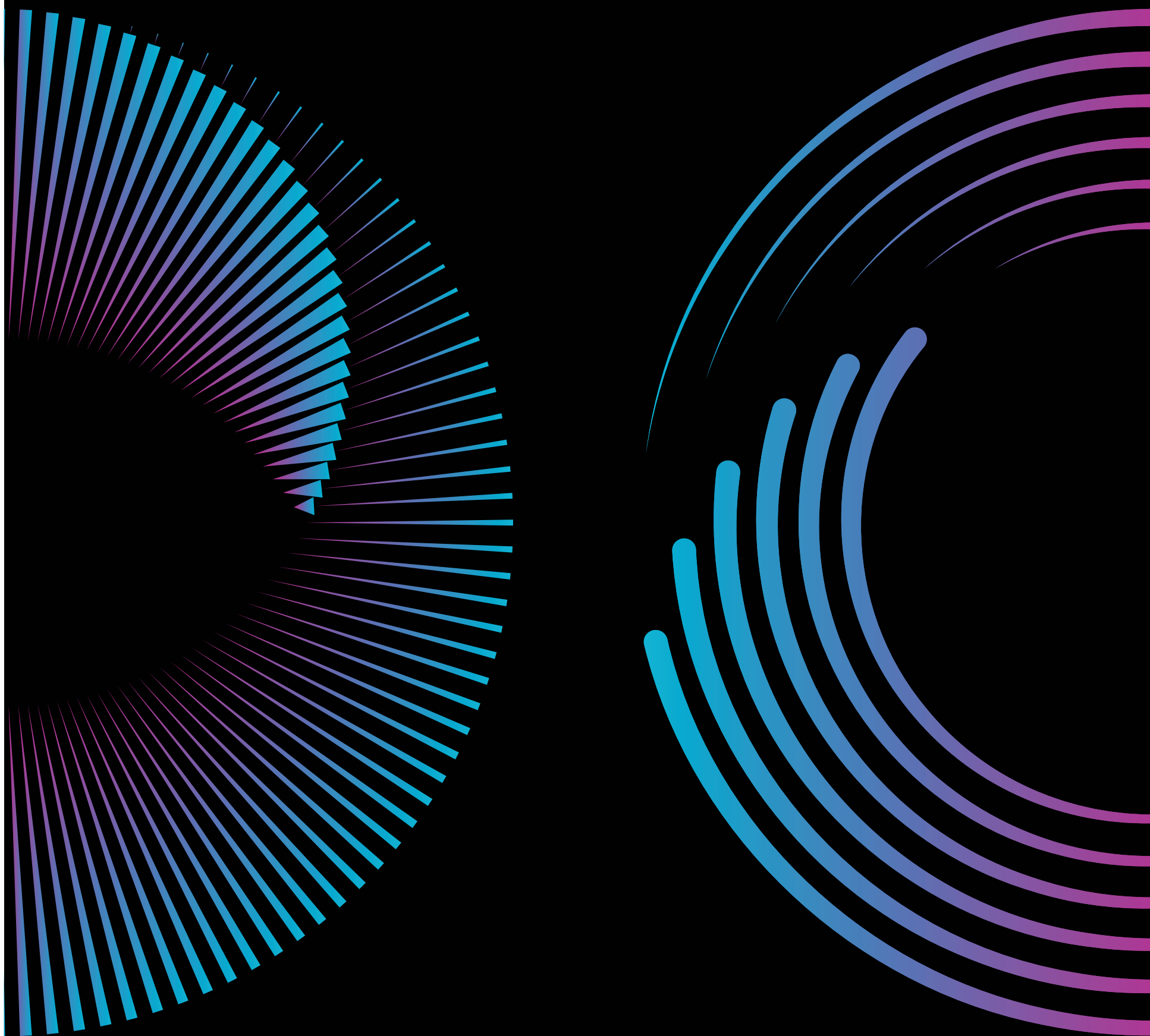
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# Could the vacant Esso House site be turned into temporary community space?

“

With the former Esso House site on Riverside Quay in Southbank now sitting empty, questions are now being asked as to whether it could offer temporary community space should development plans continue to be delayed.

”

WORDS BY  
ALEXANDRA RANDALL



The former ExxonMobil building was sold to Nice Future International Investments in 2016 for \$160 million, which has since gained approval from the state government to build a 30-storey commercial building along with publicly accessible green space.

Demolition of Esso House began midway through 2024, and appears to be edging closer to full completion, offering a rare open-air experience along Southbank Promenade in an area otherwise dominated by tall buildings.

The developer's vision for the site has largely been met positively by locals, and the City of Melbourne provided its endorsement based on the project's contribution to revitalising the promenade and providing new open space.

The Chinese-backed developer Nice Future International Investments estimated that the project would bring more than \$144 million in public benefits and create 4000 construction jobs.

However, the lack of a clear timeline regarding the development has cast a shadow over the project, with this uncertainty leading to frustration among residents and business owners.

Currently, demolition works are all but finished, yet the developer has given no indication to the council as to when construction of its commercial building and adjoining park is going to begin.

Outgoing Yarra River Business Association executive officer Tim Bracher highlighted that it was up to the landowner to say when deconstruction of the site was officially complete. However, it is yet to indicate when these works will conclude, nor when construction will begin.

Mr Bracher said, “what is to become of Southbank's newest vacant space remains very much up in the air” but added that the planning regulations underpinning the project presented a potential opportunity for short-term activation.

“Its future is bound up in a complicated legal arrangement between the developer, the state government's Minister for Planning, and the City of Melbourne,” Mr Bracher said.

“Under the Incorporated Document in the Melbourne Planning Scheme, which the Minister for Planning is the responsible planning authority for, there are conditions to ensure that if the land remains vacant for six months after completion of the demolition, the owner must construct temporary works.”



“This could involve the construction of temporary buildings for short-term retail or commercial use, with an active street frontage, or landscaping of the site for the purpose of public recreation and open space. The design of any temporary park would be subject to council approval.”

As previously reported by *Southbank News*, uncertainty surrounding this site forms part of a larger problem plaguing Southbank, with several neighbouring developments also in limbo.

The transformation of Southgate remains at a standstill two years after the plan was announced, while Beulah's massive \$2 billion STH BNK development future is under a huge cloud of doubt.

When combined with the City of Melbourne's delays in the revitalising the full stretch of Southbank's Promenade

between Princes Bridge and Queensbridge Square, renewal of Melbourne's prime tourist strip looks set for more uncertainty.

However, the empty Esso House site could present short-term relief with temporary activation, which could benefit the community and brighten up a precinct struggling under planning paralysis.

In its recent bulletin to its members, the YRBA said the council had informed it that the hoarding surrounding the site would only be removed “when the development is completed, or from that part of the site for which any temporary activation is completed”.

Mr Bracher said Southbank “could be in for a long wait” until this site was accessible to the public again.

Nice Future International Investments was unable to be reached for comment. ●

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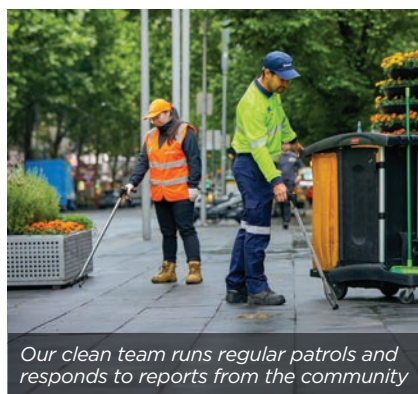
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## Behind the curtain of Arts Centre Melbourne

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Last month, *Southbank News* ventured beneath the lawns of Arts Centre Melbourne to uncover the wonders of its extraordinary Collection Store.

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WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



This month, we returned for a behind-the-scenes tour – an immersive journey into the hidden history, remarkable engineering and artistic treasures tucked within and beneath Arts Centre Melbourne’s iconic Spire.

The story of Arts Centre Melbourne’s construction is as theatrical as the performances it hosts.

The site, once home to Wirth’s Circus in the early 1900s, was transformed into a performing arts precinct after the circus tragically burned down in 1953.

Originally intended to be a single building combining an art gallery and a modest performance space, the vision expanded thanks to composer Margaret Sutherland and the broader arts community.

Their push led to the creation of two distinct landmarks; the National Gallery of Victoria and Arts Centre Melbourne.

Yet, construction proved challenging. The site’s silty, swamp-like ground caused enormous engineering headaches. Excavation was so difficult that engineers had to freeze the soil with liquid nitrogen to stabilise it.

Today, five underground levels are held in place by enormous steel pylons, constantly electrified to prevent corrosion, and supported by a 24/7 groundwater pumping system.

Architect Sir Roy Grounds envisioned a bold, modernist structure, while John Truscott was brought in to design the interiors – famously spending the entire furnishings budget on Hamer Hall alone.

The rest of Arts Centre Melbourne was outfitted through public fundraising and generous donations. Truscott’s design choices – mirrored walls, dark tones and subtle lighting – create a theatrical atmosphere meant to make every visit feel like an occasion.

Even the Spire has a dramatic backstory. Originally designed as a copper trumpet,



rising metal costs and noise issues in wind tunnels forced a redesign.

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## Council to form People’s Panel to boost its 2050 vision

To shape the strategic plan for Melbourne over the next 25 years, the City of Melbourne has announced the formation of a People’s Panel, which will be held alongside its 2050 Summit to help make its vision for the city’s future.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



The panel will take place over five sessions between May 15 and 31 and will involve a representative group of 50 people with a connection to the city, such as residents, workers, business owners, students, and ratepayers.

The panel will learn about the core challenges and opportunities in delivering services to a changing community and the responsibilities of a capital city council.

It will contribute to the development of the 2050 Vision for Melbourne, with results from the panel also informing the council’s more immediate 2025–2029 Council Plan.

At the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on March 18, where the panel was unanimously endorsed, Cr Owen Guest said the proposal was an experiment worth pursuing due to its potential to help identify and improve upon key issues.

He cited potential areas of concern, such as the services and activities provided by the council not aligning with community expectations, and said the panel presented

an exciting opportunity to address this. Both members of the community and councillors expressed concerns about the need for appropriate due processes to be in place for the city to fully benefit from the panel.

Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell emphasised that for the panel to be effective, how businesses were defined was crucial and must include both business owners and workers.

Cr Campbell urged the council’s management to provide the appropriate support through its Business Concierge Program and other services to ensure businesses were aware of this opportunity.

President of community group Southbank3006 Dr David Hamilton noted that due to the tight timeframe for the panel, it remained unclear how its findings would feed into the June budget.

“This aspect of the project needs more attention,” Dr Hamilton said.

In addition to the People’s Panel, the council will host the 2050 Summit on Friday, May 9, at Melbourne Town Hall, with up to 700 participants from a broad cross-section of the community expected to attend.

The summit will include residents, businesses, workers, visitors, students, Traditional Owners, peak industry groups, and key delivery partners from the state and federal governments.

The event is expected to cost up to \$120,000 and is touted to play a pivotal role in shaping the council’s 2050 strategy.

To register interest in either the People’s Panel or the 2050 Summit, community members can express their interest via Participate Melbourne until April 2021.

[melbourne.vic.gov.au/m2050-vision-council-plan](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/m2050-vision-council-plan) ●



## Our three-year ritual ... here we are again: another Federal election



We would like to remind you all, dear readers, that as a community group Southbank3006 is apolitical.

Our members and individual committee members may have preferences for one party or candidate over another, but we as a community group do not express an opinion.

What we do intend to do, however, is express gratitude to the current incumbent in Macnamara Labor MP Josh Burns for listening to us and working with us.

Our commitment to our members is to work with whomever is elected as our next federal representative, and to continue to lobby for continued amenity growth as we represent Southbank residents and businesses now, and into the future.

Future outcomes we would like to see our federal government focusing on include taking responsibility for managing the trucks on all our residential streets, collaborating with VicRoads and the City of Melbourne to ensure we have road safety for pedestrians and bikes throughout the suburb, and, together with the council, investing in pocket parks to enhance liveability throughout Southbank.

We would also like to see greater emphasis on ensuring overall sustainability for our high rises with amenities such as providing grants for buildings to invest in access to power for electric vehicles.

Southbank3006 will not be holding a “Meet the Candidates” event this election,

but we do encourage you to ask questions of the candidates. There are many flyers in letterboxes with contact details and we will post these on our webpage and socials as well.

We would also encourage you to consider what you and your family need for the future, and what further amenities you believe would enhance your liveability and interest in living and remaining in Southbank.

There are a couple of things that we do know the current federal government have invested in, such as the new family-friendly play and game space under the Kings Way overpass slated for completion in 2026.

Also, the Southbank community battery funded by the federal government and installed by the City of Melbourne and located at the Boyd Community Hub.

We can and should ask for more amenities to ensure that as one of Victoria’s densest residential suburbs, federal investment in our growing suburb continues to be a focus for whoever will be elected to represent the seat of Macnamara, both now and in the future.

We wish you happy voting and hope you get a democracy sausage! ●

Trisha Avery

SECRETARY

[COMMUNITY@SOUTHBANK3006.COM](mailto:COMMUNITY@SOUTHBANK3006.COM)



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Liberal for MACNAMARA

GET AUSTRALIA BACK ON TRACK



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Scan for Our Plan.



# Yarra River Business Association ushers in a new generation

“

Tim Bracher, the man who has led the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) for a remarkable 26 years as its executive officer, has called time on an incredible journey and, in doing so, hands over the reins to the highly regarded Elizabeth Joldeski.

”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



For the many stakeholders invested in our river precinct and its community, it will be hard to imagine life without Tim Bracher having an active presence in the area. Such is the passion and dedication he's brought to his role for such a long time.

While that passion for activating the precinct, supporting local business and making the Yarra River the best possible tourism destination it can be will forever be unwavering, he said now was the right time to bring in a new generation of thinking.

Enter Elizabeth Joldeski. Appointed to the role last month after beating a competitive field of impressive applicants, it bodes well for the sort of quality and experience we can expect to see in the YRBA's next chapter.

*Southbank News* caught up with both the outgoing and incoming executive officers to revisit the past with Tim as a means of looking into what the future has in store under the leadership of Elizabeth. It's safe to say, the YRBA is in good hands.

Together with the expertise and skillset Elizabeth brings to driving change along the river precinct, how could one ask for a better knowledge bank than that of Tim's to soak up in preparation for the road ahead?

Meeting along the banks of the Yarra at Riverland beside Federation Wharf, one only has to peer out across the river to Southbank to see how the precinct has evolved over the years. So much of that change has occurred during Tim's era.

What started as a temporary gig back in the late '90s, when the City of Melbourne was looking for someone to kickstart life along the Yarra, has turned into a passion project that 26 years later, he leaves behind as a powerhouse in the city's tourism sector.

"Twenty-five years ago, we had to fight to get Tourism Victoria to include a picture of the river in their promotional campaigns. These days, there is rarely a publication or campaign that does not feature Southbank and the river," Mr Bracher told *Southbank News*.

"The YRBA was there from the start, helping to turn an idea to turn Southbank from factories into a tourism destination."

"In the early days we mainly held the hands of the new, small operators. Most of those little operators are now mature and bigger operations. It has been so satisfying to see them grow," he said.

"Now, we work with the bigger stakeholders to have the voice of business heard and try to get ahead of the big issues."

Having watched the precinct grow from the city's industrialised pocket south of the river into what it is today, Tim said the biggest improvement had been "the flow of people throughout the whole precinct".

At the beginning, people would only visit specific nodes, such as Southgate or the Arts Centre, but he said that Southbank was now Melbourne's "number one promenading location".

From Southbank to South Wharf and



Left to right: Outgoing YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher, incoming executive officer Elizabeth Joldeski and president Jeremy Vincent. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

everything in between, Tim said his most rewarding achievement in leading the association's efforts had been "helping to turn the river into a 24/7 destination".

"We now attract a younger demographic to the floating bars and on the self-drive boats. Their parents still go to the restaurants, but you'll find the younger ones actually on the river," he said.

While there is no shortage of achievements to celebrate, Tim makes no secret of his "biggest disappointment", which will undoubtedly continue to present challenges for the likes of Elizabeth and others into the future.

That disappointment, Tim said, was "the almost complete dismissal by government of the recommendation to change the management structure of the river".

There is a saying that exists along the city stretch of the lower Yarra that goes something like this: if one is to trip from the riverbank, head their head on a pontoon and land in the water, you would likely have travelled through several layers of bureaucracy.

One example might be that the state government and/or City of Melbourne control the land you're standing on beside the river; Parks Victoria – the berth; and Melbourne Water – the water itself.

"We still have multiple organisations with fingers in the pie, which makes everything so much harder to achieve," Tim pointed out, adding that a 2014 multi-department review went close to changing governance of the river, "but the usual territorial interests got in the way and the minister backed away from much-needed change".

"We're still suffering from a horribly fragmented river and not much will change without a river management authority," he said.

But between the precinct's limitless potential and its pipeline of major projects – namely the council's Greenline vision for

the north bank (a project that knows the river's bureaucratic maze well) there is plenty of scope for optimism.

Elizabeth comes into the YRBA at a time of major change throughout the precinct, and one which, as Tim said, was now in urgent need of revitalisation due to "little investment" having been made over the past 30 years to keep things up to standard.

"We have gone from being the country's number one riverfront location to the bottom of the pile," Tim said.

But with her long experience in dealing with small and medium enterprises through roles in government working with the Minister for Small Business, as well as private consultancy, Elizabeth has the right experience to help our businesses navigate these challenges.

She also plans to run the YRBA alongside her current role as executive officer of Mainstreet Australia – the association dedicated to strip shopping centres throughout the country.

As she told *Southbank News*, small business is in her DNA ever since her family migrated from the former state of Yugoslavia and established a hugely successful Gertrude St bistro in the '70s called Restaurant Yugoslavia.

"I learned from my parents just how hard it is to work in a small business, and they came here so that myself and my brother and sister could get a better education," she said.

"I've been an economic development professional my whole career and worked in state government developing small business policies, programs, and grants – so I'm always looking to see how we can help small businesses flourish and grow."

"In my role at Main Street Australia, I look from a macro perspective at the policy settings and advocate and lobby for main streets all around Australia, and now I'm

getting to put all of those theories, learnings and networks into practice along the Yarra River."

"When I think of Melbourne, I think this is the most exciting and iconic precinct and I'm just excited to be part of it and look forward to connecting and helping all of the businesses here."

While uncertainty surrounding the renewal of Southgate and Esso House, as well as the promenade itself, might see the precinct "tread water for a few years" as Tim said, there is no shortage of magic along the Yarra.

"What will not change is the precinct's status as Melbourne's tourism and recreation hub. Melburnians love it, and they don't even need a reason to visit because they know that something will be happening here, even if it's just people-watching," Tim said.

As Elizabeth settles into her new role, she thanked Tim for his many years of service and encouraged all businesses in the precinct to reach out. She is keen to connect.

"I'm looking forward to meeting with all of our members and all of our businesses and just getting to know them. If anyone wants to contact the YRBA I'd love to have a meeting with them," Elizabeth said.

"I'm also really honoured to be taking over from Tim Bracher and say thank you to him. I look forward to building on all of the fantastic work he has done over his 26 years of service. I'm really excited to have had the baton handed over to me."

As for Tim, he said he would soon be taking "that long holiday".

"It's something I haven't been able to do for 26 years," he said. "I'll then reconsider what I will do for the next 20 to 30 years."

"I don't think retirement is in my DNA, so you may see me in some shape or form in the precinct, or at least in the city. I can't stay away from it." ●



## Country, gospel, and jazz: Emma Donovan and Paul Grabowsky's powerful performance at MRC

“

Emma Donovan took to the stage at the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) on April 2 for *A Rugged Old Cross*, joined by celebrated pianist Paul Grabowsky and a stellar lineup of Melbourne jazz musicians.

”

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



The performance blended gospel traditions with jazz improvisation, offering a deeply personal and soulful experience.

Ms Donovan and Mr Grabowsky first collaborated when she was invited to record a track for his memoir *Tell Me Why*.

“I met Paul when he was doing his memoir, and they invited me to do a track with him, *A Closer Walk With Thee*,” Ms Donovan said.

“We ran the track down at ABC, did it live twice, and stayed in touch. We always wanted to dream up doing a gig together, and it’s finally come about.”

Their performance featured gospel songs that hold deep personal significance for Ms Donovan.

“Paul came to me with just the gospel idea, because we did *A Closer Walk With Thee*, and I was talking to him about my upbringing,” she said.

“I was born into a very musical family. My grandfather particularly wrote gospel tunes. Both him and my grandmother on my mom’s side came from mission times, where they learned lots of gospel tunes.”

The setlist evolved through their collaboration, incorporating both classic gospel hymns and Ms Donovan’s family heritage.

“[Paul] actually had a totally different setlist than what we ended up with, but I shared with him some of the classics that came from my grandparents and my household, and we just started from there.”

For Ms Donovan, the show is a continuation of her lifelong musical journey, one shaped by country, gospel, and soul music.

Performing alongside Mr Grabowsky also provided an opportunity for growth in Ms Donovan’s own musical repertoire.

“Jazz is a genre for me that I’ve never really touched on,” she told *Southbank News*.

“I’ve been a little bit frightened to go there. But when someone like Paul makes these amazing arrangements, he kind of just gently pushes you, and gives you that little nudge.”

The performance included songs by her grandfather Micko Donovan, as well as a tribute to Aretha Franklin’s *Amazing Grace*.

Audiences were treated to powerful renditions of *In the Sweet By and By*, *One Day at a Time*, and *I’ll Fly Away*, songs made famous by legends such as Johnny Cash, the Carter Family, and Elvis Presley.

“I always tell anybody, if they can take a little something away for themselves [from the show], that’s what matters,” Ms Donovan said.

“These gospel tunes of my grandfather’s, written in the 1970s, tell a story of our family’s history and mission life. I hope people can understand that.” ●

## International arts festival YIRRAMBOI returns to Melbourne’s Art Precinct

The fifth rendition of YIRRAMBOI will reclaim centre stage in Narm’s Art Precinct in Southbank from May 1 to 11, with 400 First Nations creatives to feature throughout the festival program.

WORDS BY  
ALEXANDRA RANDALL



In the local languages of the Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung people, Traditional Owners of Melbourne/Narm, yirramboi means “tomorrow” – a fitting name for a festival focussed on stepping into a better future.

Providing platform to First Nations artists is YIRRAMBOI’s main mission, aiming to create a future where First Nations artists’ expressions of culture, identity, unity and truth through evolutionary and experimental practices are rightly celebrated.

This year, the festival theme is “past and future”, exploring time’s cyclical nature and recognising that the future is intimately connected to the past.

A dedicated festival hub will be set up, named the Uncle Jack Charles. Here, YIRRAMBOI pays tribute to stage actor, activist and “trailblazing storyteller” – the late Uncle Jack Charles. His niece, Ajia Hamilton, described him as “more than an icon – he was a warrior, a storyteller, and a guiding light for our people”.

Here, the festival looks to the past,

celebrating Uncle Jack Charles’s “legacy of resilience, wisdom, and boundless generosity” while contemplating how this reverberates through the present, before stretching into the future.

This year’s festival sees his spirit live on, carrying his “fire” forwards by “celebrating culture with pride.”

YIRRAMBOI creative lead J-Maine Beezley said that the festival “pays homage” to Uncle Jack Charles, who “broke down barriers in the arts by offering authentic First Nations representation in a way that challenged stereotypical portrayals”.

For him, YIRRAMBOI “walks in the footsteps of giants”, taking on the cultural and community responsibility of forging a new future, informed by the past.

The program, running over 10 days, comprises more than 400 First Nations creatives showcasing their works, including five world premiere works, two international presentations, and late-night DJ sessions.

Sherene Stewart, YIRRAMBOI’S co-lead, described the program as “evolutionary, explorative, diverse, and deeply rooted in purpose, amplifying the voices of now,

presented in unwavering truth”, adding “it’s with immense pride, we again create a platform where brilliant First Nations minds from across the globe converge.”

This year’s festival features Northern Turtle Island (Canada) as a focus nation. More than 20 Canadian First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists are featured throughout the program, encouraging cross-cultural dialogue and marking a significant step towards global cultural unity and collaboration.

Although this festival is centred at the Malthouse Theatre and Chunky Move – renamed “the Uncle Jack Charles” for the event – the 180 performances contained in the programs spill out over Melbourne, with more than 40 venues playing host.

The festival promises to be more than just an artistic showcase, returning colonial spaces to Country that have held them for 80,000 years as “old stories awoken, and new narratives are forged.”

The 2025 program can be found at [yirramboi.com.au/program](https://yirramboi.com.au/program), with tickets for events which require them available from the same site. ●



# You Can't See Speed: new ACCA exhibition blends art, sound, and motion

Greek-Australian artist Tina Stefanou will unveil her first major solo exhibition, *You Can't See Speed*, at ACCA on April 3.

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



This groundbreaking showcase features a newly commissioned collaboration with blind motorcycle mechanic and rider Matthew Cassar, bringing together Ms Stefanou's wide-ranging artistic explorations in voice, performance, film, sculpture, ethnographic research, and socially engaged practice.

The exhibition aligns with ACCA's tradition of spotlighting Australian artists at pivotal moments in their careers.

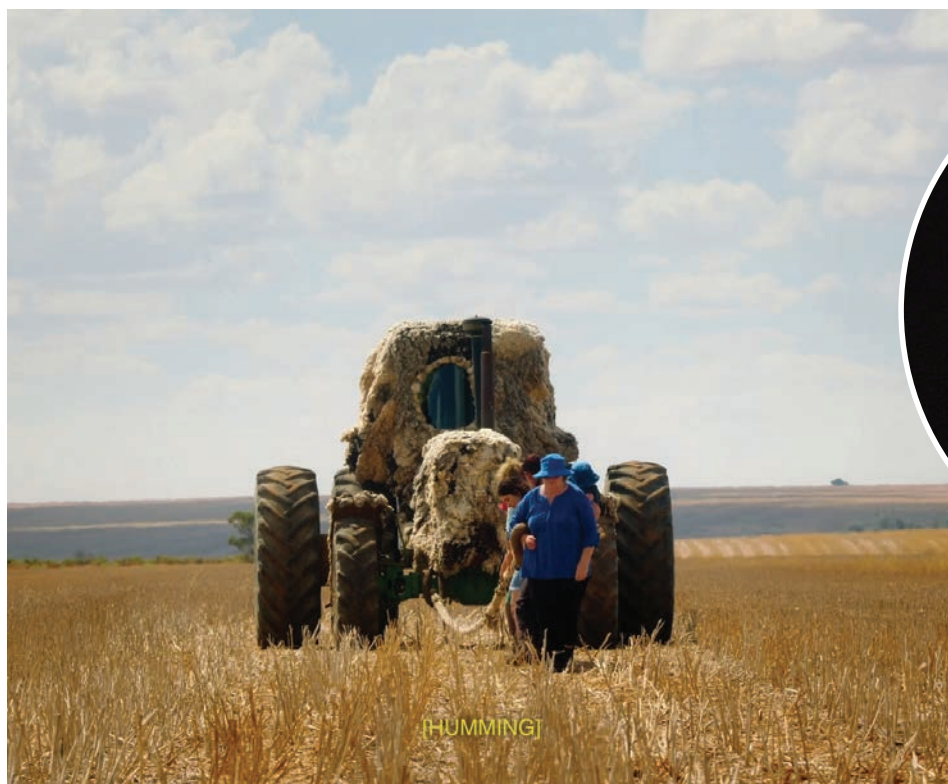
*You Can't See Speed* delves into the multi-sensory nature of film beyond the confines of sight, continuing Ms Stefanou's long-standing fascination with the human voice as an artistic medium.

From sonic soundscapes to the subtle resonance of humming, her work challenges conventional modes of communication and artistic expression.

Central to the exhibition is a new film and sculptural commission featuring Mr Cassar riding dirt bikes in high-performance contexts.

Exploring the dynamics of collaboration and trust, Ms Stefanou's film follows Mr Cassar on a surrealist journey of adrenaline and self-actualisation.

Shot across Super 8, 16mm, digital, and high-definition film stocks, the work traces the material evolution of motion pictures while questioning ideas of speed, long



Euro-modernity, and mechanical processes.

Alongside this new commission, Ms Stefanou presents a reconfigured selection of her cinematic performance works.

These films, created in collaboration with rural and regional communities, weave together narratives of multispecies relationships, class realities, and rural poetics from the perspectives of migrants, farmers, and young people.

With a background as a vocalist, Ms Stefanou moves fluidly across disciplines, engaging with a diverse range of mediums, practices, and approaches – an embodied methodology she refers to as “voice in the

expanded field”.

Her work has been featured in prominent exhibitions, including the 2023 Melbourne Now at the National Gallery of Victoria and the 2024 Adelaide Biennial of Contemporary Art.

Spread across ACCA's four galleries and extending into its bathrooms, *You Can't See Speed* transforms the space into a dynamic and immersive environment.

By merging vision, sound, and physical sensation, the exhibition creates a profoundly experiential landscape, inviting audiences to rethink how they engage with art and the world around them. ●



## READY YOUR EARS

April 2025 at Melbourne Recital Centre



### Matthias Goerne sings Winterreise with Daniil Trifonov

7.30pm Tuesday 1 April

These titans of the classical world present an unforgettable rendition of Schubert's masterpiece.



### Allison Russell

7.30pm Tuesday 15 April

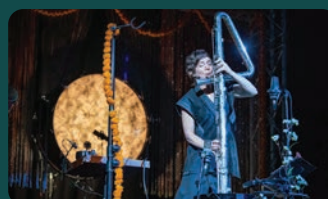
GRAMMY® Award-winner Allison Russell presents an evening of soulful, genre-defying music.



### The Old Rugged Cross

7.30pm Wednesday 2 April

Acclaimed vocalist Emma Donovan unites with pianist and composer Paul Grabowsky.



### Claire Chase – Sex Magic

6pm Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 April

A riot of flutes, electronics, and kinetic percussion with Brooklyn-based instrumentalist Claire Chase.



### Katie Noonan and Karin Schaupp

7.30pm Friday 4 April

With a 20+ year creative history together, Katie and Karin share their latest co-creation.



### GIFT: Eiko Ishibashi x Ryusuke Hamaguchi

7.30pm Monday 28 April

An expansive live cinematic experience with instrumentalist Eiko Ishibashi and Academy Award-winning filmmaker Ryusuke Hamaguchi.

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# Fighting for our next generations in Macnamara

For the first time, Gen Z and millennials outnumber baby boomers in the upcoming election. Some political commentators fear this shift, but I believe it can only be a good thing.

WORDS BY  
JOSH BURNS – MACNAMARA MP

My family came to Australia fleeing persecution in Europe, searching for safety, opportunity, and belonging – and they found that in Macnamara. Good government changed their destiny, providing a safe place to call home, secure work, affordable healthcare, and a high-quality education – things my grandparents could only dream of.

When I was first elected in 2019, I was the youngest member of the Labor Caucus. I decided to run because the decisions made in the House of Representatives shape our future – and young people deserve a say in that.

I won't sugar-coat it – the challenges facing young people today are immense. A decade of Liberal governments left Australia with low wages, high inflation, and housing and health systems in crisis. The Liberals focused more on culture wars than addressing the issues that will define the next decade: climate, housing affordability, and an unstable global economy.

I didn't get into politics to be a commentator. Over the past six years as the federal member for Macnamara, I've pushed for policies that can build the future our generation deserves – strong climate action, ambitious housing reform, and affordable healthcare.

Since Labor came to government, we've tackled the mess left by the previous government. We've launched Australia's largest-ever housing build – 1.2 million homes in the next five years – to tackle the housing crisis. We're incentivising more tradies



to meet the demand with new housing apprenticeship payments and free TAFE. We've boosted social and affordable housing to ensure more homes are built quickly, a policy the Liberals have already committed to scrapping if elected.

While increasing supply takes time, we've increased Commonwealth Rent Assistance by 45 per cent – the first back-to-back rent increase in 30 years. We've also helped young professionals and families own their own home through our Help to Buy shared equity scheme, which only requires a two per cent deposit. Importantly, we have directed banks to overlook HECS debt when calculating home loans.

On the issue of student debt, we've wiped more than \$3 billion of student loans already, changed how HECS is calculated to

prevent indexation from rising faster than wage growth, and we'll be wiping another 20 per cent of all student loans this year. On average, that's a reduction of \$5520.

In less than three years since we came to office, renewables now make up over 40 per cent of Australia's electricity grid, and we're on track to reach 80 per cent by 2028. We've approved enough renewable projects to power nearly every Australian home, and we're rolling out community batteries – like the one coming to Southbank. We've also protected more ocean than any other country in the world.

On top of all this, Labor is finally taking women's health seriously. For the first time in 30 years, more contraceptives have been added to the PBS, and Medicare rebates for menopause and endometriosis have been

introduced. From May this year, certain contraceptive pills will cost just \$25 a script, down from nearly \$300 a year.

In just three years, we've achieved a lot, but the work isn't over.

We can't risk going backwards. Our generation can't afford to wake up with Peter Dutton as Prime Minister.

Under him, we would see no action on climate change, cuts to healthcare and education, and policies that leave us behind for another decade.

In 2022, Macnamara was the seat that delivered Labor a majority. Because of Macnamara, we've been able to achieve all of this.

Now, we must continue building on this progress, and I'm confident that our generation is up to the challenge. ●

## 1 Hotel to open mid-year at Seafarers

Reservations are now being accepted for landmark waterfront property 1 Hotel Melbourne, which is poised to open its doors this July.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



This marks 1 Hotels' highly anticipated entrance into the Australian market, bringing an award-winning blend of sustainable luxury and nature-inspired design to the heart of Melbourne as part of developer Riverlee's Seafarers project.

Located on the south-western edge of Melbourne's CBD at 9-11 Maritime Place, Docklands, 1 Hotel Melbourne offers prime access to some of the city's most celebrated attractions, including Marvel Stadium, the Royal Botanic Gardens, South Wharf and world-class theatres.

The hotel features 277 guest rooms, including 36 suites, a soon-to-be-announced signature restaurant, a state-of-the-art fitness centre, and a wellness spa.

Since launching in 2015, 1 Hotels has placed sustainability at the core of its global expansion, with properties fitted with efficient smart thermostats and sustainably sourced materials.

The brand also strives to incorporate elements of the natural world and the site's history into its hotel designs.

The centrepiece of the Melbourne hotel is the heritage-listed Goods Shed No. 5, the last of the unrenovated goods sheds in what was once Melbourne's busiest port.

The striking asymmetrical façade features floor-to-ceiling windows with lower glazing that echo the panels of the goods shed and upper panels and reflect the rippling surface of the Yarra River.

A similar design philosophy has been applied to the interiors, with more than 2000 living plants throughout the building, bedheads made from reclaimed railway bridge timbers, live-edge furniture, and doors featuring preserved moss panels.

"At 1 Hotels, we believe that luxury and sustainability can and should go hand in hand," the company's founder Barry Sternlicht told *Southbank News*.

"With 1 Hotel Melbourne, we've created a waterfront destination that immerses guests in nature while celebrating the city's



rich legacy and forward-thinking spirit," he said.

"This hotel isn't just about where you stay – it's about how you feel, how you connect, and how travel can inspire a deeper commitment to the world around us."

The hotel will also be home to the Seafarers Event Space, a 1000-square-metre riverside venue that can accommodate up to 900 guests. Additional meeting spaces, including a boardroom and a relaxed lounge, offer flexible options for both corporate and social gatherings.

The hotel will be managed by Starwood Hotels, which currently operates 1 Hotels around the globe.

Starwood Hotels CEO Raul Leal said the opening of the Melbourne hotel was an "exciting milestone" in bringing the company's mission-driven hospitality to Australia.

"From reclaimed materials and immersive biophilic design to thoughtfully curated wellness offerings, this property is a testament to our dedication to sustainability and the extraordinary guest experiences that define 1 Hotels," he said. ●



## VCASS students welcome Southbank Neighbourhood Watch for lunchtime concert



Members of Southbank Neighbourhood Watch and Southbank Police Station were invited to a lunchtime concert at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary College on March 27 as the school community showed its gratitude to the group for its work in making Southbank a safer place. Photos: Hanna Komissarova.



## Sod turned on The Fox: NGV Contemporary

Melbourne's next creative landmark The Fox: NGV Contemporary is a step closer to reality with head contractor Lendlease appointed to begin works on the Southbank Boulevard site in the heart of the Arts Precinct.

Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks announced on March 11 that Lendlease had been awarded the construction contract for what will be the largest gallery dedicated to contemporary art and design in Australia.

The Fox: NGV Contemporary is part of the state government's \$1.7 billion Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation which also includes significant upgrades to Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building and Laak Boorndap, a new 18,000 square metre urban garden filled with biodiverse planting, public art and places for rest.

Once complete, The Fox: NGV Contemporary will span 30,000 square metres, with more than 13,000 square metres of public space to display contemporary art and design from Victoria and around the world, including exhibition galleries, hospitality and events spaces and an expansive rooftop terrace.

The work Lendlease will undertake also includes part of the deck structure for Laak Boorndap and precinct services.

Lendlease executive general manager, Victoria, construction Bill Alexandrakis said, "Our experienced and collaborative team will work alongside the NGV, Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation, Development Victoria, and the exceptional design team led by Angelo Candalepas to create a celebrated, city-shaping cultural landmark that will create a new global destination for the arts."

The Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation project is expected to employ 11,000 workers across the life of the project, including career-launching opportunities for those just starting out.



Almost 550,000 hours of opportunities will be provided to cadets, trainees and apprentices throughout the project, with more than 34,000 hours already worked.

In preparation for The Fox: NGV Contemporary, the former Carlton United Breweries building on Southbank Boulevard was deconstructed in 2024 and 95 per cent of materials were diverted from landfill to be reused or recycled.

"It's fantastic to see work starting on site and the role Victorian construction workers, tradies, apprentices, trainees and cadets will play in bringing this city-shaping project to life," Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks.

"The NGV continues to demonstrate the extraordinary appetite for contemporary art in our state, with thousands flocking to the Yayoi Kusama exhibition every day. This new landmark gallery will open even more opportunities and drawcard experiences for Victorians – and our visitors." ●



## Greenline works recommence

Major construction activity along Birrarung Marr has recommenced as part of stage one of the City of Melbourne's Greenline project.

The works will include constructing new boardwalks, earthworks along the river's edge, and new pathways.

Once stage one is complete, the river's edge will feature 450 metres of new boardwalks, promenades, and a variety of native habitats. However, there is still no clear timeline for the remaining 3.5 kilometres of the project.

Lord Mayor Cr Nick Reece

is "delighted" that works have recommenced and expects them to be completed by the end of the year.

"We know the community is excited to see this landmark project completed, and we look forward to delivering this new space at Birrarung Marr," he said.

"When complete, this stretch of the river is going to be one of the most beautiful walks in Melbourne."

Early works were completed last year, including preparation for landscaping and boardwalks, as well as upgrades to underground drainage and lighting.

Regular updates will continue to be provided as work progresses throughout the year. ●



# Council divided over cat crackdown

The City of Melbourne will implement a cat curfew between dusk and dawn and enforce mandatory desexing, despite the proposal being met with strong opposition from several councillors and experts.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



At the April 1 Future Melbourne Committee Meeting (FMC), councillors considered a proposal for a 24/7 curfew, requiring cats to be confined to their owners' property at all times due to the risks they pose to native wildlife.

However, Lord Mayor Nick Reece proposed an alternative motion that would see the curfew in place between 6pm and 8am, along with mandatory desexing, which was ultimately passed.

Despite councillors Davvyd Griffiths, Andrew Rowse, Owen Guest, Gladys Liu, and Phillip Le Liu all voting against it, the Lord Mayor used his casting vote to get the amended motion carried.

"It's a bit of a dog's breakfast when it comes to the regulation of cats ... some people might even say it's been a 'cat-astrophe'," the Lord Mayor quipped.

He believed that this was an area where the City of Melbourne needed to catch up with neighbouring municipalities, such as the City of Yarra and the City of Port Phillip, where dusk-to-dawn containment measures are already in place.

However, Cr Guest objected to the curfew, arguing that it put the council at risk of being perceived as "mean" and "nasty". However, he did support the mandatory desexing of cats.

Meanwhile, Cr Rowse, who initially supported the 24/7 ban, said that the watered-down motion did not go far enough to address the impact cats have on the local environment.

Community engagement conducted last year revealed support for containment, with 76 per cent of respondents supporting cat containment in general and 85 per cent supporting cat containment at night.

However, only 58 per cent of respondents supported containment at all times, and several experts objected to the proposal at the April 1 meeting.

Emeritus Professor Jacqui Rand from the School of Veterinary Science at the University of Queensland said that the measures proposed would be ineffective

and fail to address the heart of the problem.

"Many of your most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents live in rental properties with inadequate screens, windows, and doors, and they may not have air conditioning," Prof Rand said.

"Not only will it disadvantage the most disadvantaged, but research also shows it will increase your complaints, increase cat impoundments, increase euthanasia, and increase your animal management costs."

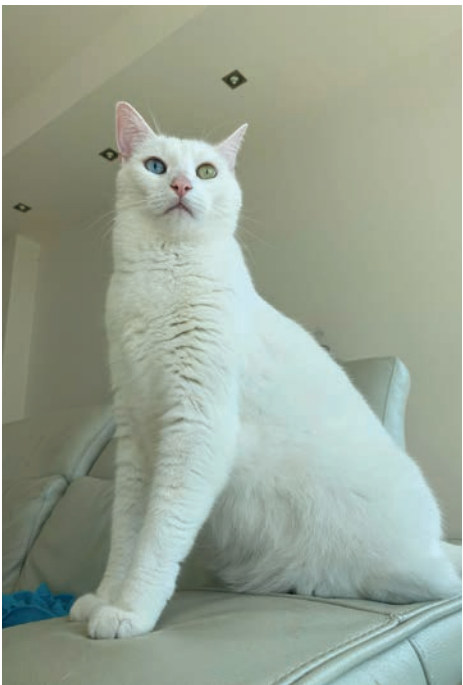
She held similar concerns regarding mandatory desexing, believing that it would become a burden on disadvantaged pet owners.

"Research shows that it's not a lack of motivation that results in cats not being desexed, it's a lack of money. Household income is the strongest predictor of whether cats are desexed or not," she added.

Cr Olivia Ball conceded that there would be costs associated with containment but defended the implementation of the new measures, remaining a strong supporter of the initial 24/7 curfew.

"If your cat is contained at home, it is not going to contract a disease, suffer an injury, or be run over, which, of course, attract vet bills that can be exorbitant," Cr Ball said.

She also noted that cheaper desexing services were provided by the Lost Dogs' Home in North Melbourne to assist people struggling to afford vet bills.



Additionally, under the new measures, cats will be prohibited from roaming freely in waterways, riverine environments, and parks and gardens across the city unless accompanied by their owner and under effective control by means of a purpose-built carrier, harness, or leash.

The new orders will take effect on October 1, 2025, to allow time for a communication campaign notifying cat owners of these orders and ensuring compliance. ●

# Southbank to get new build-to-rent project

Melbourne-based build-to-rent developer, Local, has announced a new project in Southbank as it continues to expand its portfolio across the city.



WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



The 39-storey building, located at 65 Haig St in Southbank, will deliver 312 apartments, providing long-term rental options for tenants. Seventy-four per cent of apartments will be configured as studios and one-bedroom units, with 10 per cent allocated for affordable housing.

Construction of the \$270 million development is scheduled to begin this year, with completion slated for late 2027.

The project will also include a suite of amenities for tenants to enjoy, including co-working spaces, health and wellness facilities, an indoor heated pool, sauna and steam rooms, a gym, a rooftop lounge, entertainment and dining spaces, and dedicated pet facilities.

Head of Investments at Local Chris Axsentieff told *Southbank News* that the area held significant potential for build-to-rent projects and that they had been exploring opportunities to expand their portfolio within the city's south for some time.

The Haig St project marks a pivotal expansion of Local's national portfolio, which also includes projects in South Melbourne and Kensington, pushing its total asset pipeline beyond \$1.34 billion.

"It's got immediate demand," Mr Axsentieff said. "For us, it's a bit of a no-brainer to say this is a great opportunity that responds to rental demand that's probably not really being met."

Strategically positioned on the edge of the CBD, the site is just 200 metres from trams and a 500-metre walk to South Melbourne Market, benefiting from uninterrupted

views of Port Phillip Bay.

While rental prices will vary, based on similar local projects, future tenants can expect to pay upwards of \$589 per week, depending on the apartment size.

Another key drawback of the development, according to Mr Axsentieff, is that it offers renters a more stable and transparent long-term rental process compared to the traditional model, where property managers oversee large portfolios.

Through Local's app and onsite team, the rental process is streamlined, providing residents with clear communication channels to ensure they are satisfied with their living experience and stay informed about community updates.

"Most importantly, we are building good quality products," Mr Axsentieff said. "But things happen, and making sure there's always someone there to quickly respond to those issues is a big part of our offering to the market."

Additionally, following the recent announcement of Managed Investment Trust (MIT) legislative changes, Local's Haig St project is expected to attract increased investor interest as international appetite for the sector grows.

The changes include a reduction in the



withholding tax rate for eligible fund payments from 30 per cent to 15 per cent for rental income from active build-to-rent (BTR) developments, along with an increase in the capital works deduction rate from 2.5 per cent to four per cent for eligible new BTR developments. ●

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# Driving down power prices, and cutting emissions in Victoria

Our Labor Government created the Victorian Default Offer (VDO), which slashed power prices for households, and continues to push power prices down today.

WORDS BY  
NINA TAYLOR – ALBERT PARK MP

Importantly, the VDO is also the maximum allowable price that can be charged in embedded networks, which are common in high-rise apartment buildings.

The newly released 2025-26 draft default offers show Victorians will continue to pay less for electricity than those in other states.

For households, the draft VDO for Victoria is \$448.90 per year or more than 21 per cent cheaper than the draft average DMO across SA, NSW and QLD.

For small businesses, the draft VDO for Victoria is \$1582.80 per year or more than 30 per cent cheaper than the draft average DMO across SA, NSW and QLD.

Victoria's VDO and power prices are



lower because we've prioritised household cost of living, over energy company profits.

The VDO has the lowest-allowed profit margin for energy retail companies in the country (five per cent), reduced in 2024-25, and again in 2025-26.

The Minister for Energy and Resources

wrote to the ESC in early 2025 calling on them to prioritise households' cost of living, even if that meant less profits for private energy companies.

Victoria's power prices are lower than other states, led by our record investment in renewable energy.

We're also supporting apartment residents to save with solar with our nation-leading Solar for Apartments program. Hundreds of apartment buildings across the state are now installing solar thanks to these rebates, with many located in our local area.

Victoria is proud to be leading the country in delivering climate action and transitioning to renewable energy. We are bringing back the State Electricity Commission – to drive down power bills and create thousands of jobs.

The Allan Labor Government has legislated ambitious targets for renewable generation of 65 per cent by 2030 and 95 per cent by 2035, and nation-leading storage targets of at least 2.6GW by 2030 and 6.3GW by 2035.

We've also legislated offshore wind energy targets of at least 2GW by 2032, 4GW by 2035 and 9GW by 2040.

These are critical to achieving our world leading climate targets to reduce Victoria's emissions by 45 to 50 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, 75 to 80 per cent by 2035 and achieving net zero emissions by 2045.

Victoria is well on its way to meeting these targets. We've more than tripled the share of renewable energy since 2014 and are now generating 39 per cent of our power from renewables. ●

# Crime rates increase in Southbank

Total criminal incidents in Southbank were 22 per cent higher in 2024 than the average of the previous nine years, according to data released by Crime Statistics Agency Victoria (CSAV) in March.

WORDS BY  
RICKY SPROULE



This includes a 26 per cent increase in crimes against the person and a 52 per cent increase in property crime over the nine-year average for postcode 3006.

Southbank Police Station commander Snr Sgt Alex O'Toole said the increase was likely driven by increased population and higher foot traffic in the Southbank area.

"Even though police resourcing is a challenge we continue to ensure the public are kept safe," Snr Sgt O'Toole said.

In the City of Melbourne municipality, criminal incidents per 100,000 residents increased 10.7 per cent over 2023, however this statistic does not take into account increased visitor numbers.

The same statistic was three per cent lower than the average of the previous nine years and 12 per cent lower than 2015. This means that population growth has outpaced the increase in crime in the city over the past decade.

The local increase in crime reflects a wider pattern across the state, as significant increases in theft and robbery drive higher crime rates. Statewide criminal incidents per 100,000 residents increased nine per cent over the nine-year average in 2024.

The rate of theft offences being recorded per 100,000 Victorians has exceeded historical peaks according to CSAV chief statistician Fiona Dowsley.

"These increasingly prevalent theft offences can be opportunistic in nature and may be linked to cost-of-living pressures, especially for increases in shoplifting where increases are linked to adult offenders often in their 30s. Younger alleged offenders tend to be involved in theft offences involving

motor vehicles," Ms Dowsley said.

Southbank Neighbourhood Watch launched in October last year in response to increasing community concern about theft.

The group organises events such as "Coffee with a Cop", to facilitate communication between the community and law enforcement.

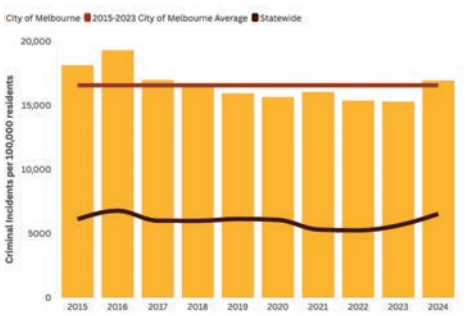
"We're trying to get the community connected because that empowers people," Southbank Neighbourhood Watch organiser Christopher Milner said.

Mr Milner said the aim of the group was to connect businesses, community members, police and the council, adding that a more connected community could keep a collective eye out for anything out of the ordinary and communicate with each other.

"We can't stop thieves getting into our carparks ... but what we can do is build that community participation and connection," Mr Milner said. "To tackle the crime, it has to be a collaborative effort."

Total criminal offenses recorded across both the state and the City of Melbourne increased 19 per cent over the nine-year average last year.

The City of Melbourne continues to have



both the highest recorded offences and highest number of offences per 100,000 residents of any LGA in the state.

Though total criminal incidents in the City of Melbourne increased 10.7 per cent over 2023, that is only a 2.2 per cent increase over the nine-year average.

Snr Sgt O'Toole emphasised that despite ongoing statewide issues with police staffing numbers, Southbank Police Station continued to do its job of keeping the community safe.

"If Southbank was a dangerous place to come, we wouldn't have had an increase in people coming to Southbank." ●

## Your State MP for Albert Park

Please reach out if you need any help.

(03) 9646 7173  
nina.taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au  
PO Box 235, Port Melbourne 3207

NinaTaylorMP Nina TaylorMP.com.au



**ACTION** not words.



# Autumn vibes in our Southbank

After an exceptionally hot summer, the current cooler weather is a relief for high-rise residents.

WORDS BY  
DR SEEMA MISRA THAKUR

At our Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) gardens, volunteers maintained the garden beds during a challenging summer with a record number of high 30-degree days. Our dedicated team of scheduled watering volunteers worked diligently throughout the hot days to minimise the loss to our flower beds, vegetable, and herb plants.

On the first day of March, marking the beginning of autumn, our SSG working bee was notably eventful. We were fortunate to have more than 20 volunteers assisting us.

The SSG garden received a green gift from the City of Melbourne. The garden needed help relocating 50 potted plants (herbs, vegetables, and natives) from Melbourne Town Hall to Southbank. Thanks to the council for this generous gift. The plants are thriving.

Recently, nine local Albert Park Joey Scouts visited SSG gardens with their leader Jeniffer. The energetic children, aged between five and nine, learned gardening basics, prepared garden beds, and replanted some gifted plants from the City of Melbourne.

The “Discover Adventure” motto of Joey Scouts was evident in their questions and curiosity about pollinators, worms, garden “critters”, and the functioning of gardens to produce food.

Team SSG hosted this group and provided educational insights. Children living in inner city Melbourne show a notable interest in nature. Albert Park Joey Scouts are effectively helping young citizens stay connected with the natural environment.

On March 15, SSG working bees hosted the event “Caring and Propagating Indoor Plants” for the second time, led by houseplant enthusiast and SSG team member Corrine. Despite the 37-degree heat, SSG had full attendance from both community members and volunteers at the workshop. Attendees had various questions about growing indoor houseplants. They left with valuable knowledge, as well as green stems, cuttings, and plants provided by Corrine.

Although there have been some minor incidents involving vandalism at the SSG Community Garden, our commitment to creating a pleasant and welcoming space for the community remains steadfast.

The SSG Community Gardens are open spaces where all community members can spend time in reflection. The garden offers an excellent opportunity for children living in high-rise buildings to connect with nature and observe bees, butterflies on flowers, various vegetables, herbs, and strawberry plants.

Several community members have sent us



encouraging emails expressing their appreciation for this space and our volunteers. Please continue to share your thoughts and views on our Facebook or Instagram pages; we are eager to hear from you. Additionally, some community members have shown interest in learning how to assist their children in nurturing plants at schools as part of STEM education. We invite you to visit us at Boyd Community Hub during our SSG Working Bee sessions on April 12 and 26 between 10am and 12pm.

### About the group

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

If you are interested in getting involved with Southbank Sustainability Group join us at a Saturday meet-up or send us an email. ●

## ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE

# Easter at St Johns Southgate

Easter celebrations in most Christian communities will soon begin. For many communities those celebrations include Palm Sunday (April 13), Maundy Thursday (April 17), Good Friday (April 18) and Easter Day (April 20).

WORDS BY  
REV JAMES WINDERLICH

Each of those days commemorate significant moments in Jesus Christ’s journey to his death and resurrection and explore how those moments intersect with our own lives

and meaning.

While they are extremely enjoyable, doughy buns and chocolate eggs are not essential parts of these celebrations.

I write this article to provide an understanding of what might be happening at the churches in your neighbourhood, and why those who participate give it such energy and importance.

Easter is about action and change for what is good. For people of Christian faith, that action begins with God and God’s desire for what is good for all creation. This includes people.

We might assume that such good equates only to comfort, safety and prosperity but these are the very things that can set us on paths of conflict and division with each other, and on self-critical paths of internal, fragmenting conflict where we berate

ourselves that who we are is never enough (read about the power of the word “lack” in: Parker, G. Tavella, G. & Evers, K. (2021) – *Burnout: A guide to identifying burnout and pathways to recovery*. Melbourne: Allen & Unwin).

People of Christian faith believe that human solutions for the human problems of being and meaning revert to the very assumptions and actions that first caused those problems, and so nothing concerning human experience and behaviour changes. Nothing changes because we don’t change. We give priority to our own desires and bend to our angst above all else, thereby discounting the lives of other people and the earth itself.

An Easter perspective draws us to look outside of ourselves to God for change. Change which is good and offers rich

meaning. Change that gives life. We believe that change comes through what Jesus Christ accomplished through his death and resurrection for us. Easter is a celebration of the new, changed life that God gives and works in us.

Your neighbourhood churches will give expression to this and more in their own ways. Some of it will be confronting, and other parts will be beautiful and sublime as it encompasses the breadth of divine and human experience.

Easter connects the unfolding drama of God’s death and life with our own, where the possibility of change for all that is good is alive for us to see, hear and follow.

You’re welcome to join those celebrations. Find out when they are through your local church’s noticeboard or website.

[james.winderlich@lca.org.au](mailto:james.winderlich@lca.org.au) ●

Easter

Palm Sunday 13 April

9am Worship with communion

Maundy Thursday 17 April

7:30pm Worship with communion

Good Friday 18 April

10am Worship with communion

6pm Tenebrae with music, readings and poetry

Easter Sunday 20 April

6:30am Way of the Cross Pilgrimage from St Paul’s Cathedral, Flinders St

7am Dawn Worship with communion

9am Worship with communion

St Johns

Southgate

Every Sunday

9am Worship

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## SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Artist's Impression. Subject to Planning Approval.

## New future beckons for Queensbridge St

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) was delighted to receive a sneak-peek into what is proposed for the recently purchased One Queensbridge site by PDG, formerly owned by Crown.

With a proposed 67-storey tower, this is modest in comparison to what was previously approved for Crown to build on that site citing "state significance", being a 90-storey tower with a sky bridge connecting the casino – bypassing council planning controls.

At the time, SRA was critical of the development insofar that it violated all planning rules. So, the planning minister changed the planning laws which allowed the development. The only consolation was the proposed \$100 million "public benefits package" to upgrade Southbank Promenade, Queensbridge Square and Sandridge Bridge.

In the meantime, while the project sat dormant, the Queens Bridge Hotel received a heritage overlay protection in 2021.

The developer, PDG, has met with local stakeholders, neighbouring Freshwater Place and Prima Tower, to discuss the plans. This was very well received considering Crown gave no such consideration with their planning. We are encouraged the developer has chosen this modest height to respect the surroundings, but we acknowledge they could have gone significantly higher.

It appears the Freshwater Place piazza will connect through to Queensbridge St,

which will be a great connector from the dead-end section of Freshwater Place. It should significantly activate that space and enhance retail opportunities.

We understand the Queens Bridge Hotel is going to be rejuvenated and its heritage retained and respected. This, we feel is appropriate and an opportunity to celebrate the heritage of Southbank; well, what's left of it.

The development is to also include contributions for the upgrade of Southbank Promenade and Queensbridge Square, which is in much need of some love attention, since council is turning a blind eye to this eyesore of our renowned precinct and No.1 tourist hot spot. An embarrassment when compared to the other river precincts throughout Australia's other main cities.

Overall, it is an exciting time for this section of the community, and we look forward to working closely with PDG as it continues to take shape.

On Thursday, April 10, SRA will be holding our usual Meet the Candidates event for the upcoming federal election. Hope to see you there to ask your hard-hitting questions.

These are always a full house, so get in early. Boyd Community Hub – 7.30pm. ●

## Tony Penna

PRESIDENT



## MAPCO



## Family-friendly fun in the Melbourne Arts Precinct this school holidays

During the school holidays, enjoy a range of entertaining and inclusive kid-friendly programs and activities throughout the Melbourne Arts Precinct.

From April 5 to 20, enjoy live music performances, film screenings, art workshops, and many more activities perfect for entertaining the kids and the whole family.

On Saturday, April 12, pianist and composer Nat Bartsch will present a free live music concert for kids and families (particularly neurodivergent people) at The Edge, Fed Square.

For those who want to sit back and relax with the family, there's free screenings of Studio Ghibli films on the Big Screen from April 14 to 17, including popular favourites like *Castle in the Sky*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, and *My Neighbour Totoro*.

If you're looking for a playful, energetic and creative activity for the kids, check out *Play Date* by All The Queens Men from April 15 to 17. While visiting Fed Square, be sure to stop by the Test Garden at the Skyline Car Park. Take a moment to look at all the different plants growing in the garden – if you look closely, you can also spot bees, butterflies and other insects fluttering around the flowers.

At Koorie Heritage Trust, *Stitchin' Stories: Blak and Threadly* is open daily during the school holidays and KHT are also running art-making workshops and events on April 14, 16 and 17. NGV has activities and

exhibitions for kids and teens, including *Draw a Furry Friend* on April 7 and 8, and *Sketchbook Sessions for NGV Teens* from April 8 to 9 at the Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia.

Across Princes Bridge, the fun activities continue at Arts Centre Melbourne. From April 18 to 20, catch a striking performance in the Fairfax Studio of *CIRCUS The Show* featuring world-class illusions, acrobatics, jugglers, aerial displays and more. For the kids and teens in your life with a keen interest in science and learning, you can also catch *KABOOM!* by Showmen Productions for a spectacular science show at 11.30am and 1.20pm from April 18 to 20.

At ACCA, there's a free art-making program on April 15 inspired by their current exhibition Tina Stefanou: *You Can't See Speed* where kids and families can create their own artwork and contribute to a large-scale collaborative work. Australian children's music legend Peter Combe is performing a special Greatest Hits show at Melbourne Recital Centre on April 11, so get in quick to purchase tickets.

There's plenty more events and programs happening across the precinct this month. ●

To find out more about the Melbourne Arts Precinct visit: [artsprecinct.melbourne](https://artsprecinct.melbourne)



## Time Out

Sunny days linger as Melbourne embraces the change of seasons, change of colours and a joyous vibe. And Fed Square comes alive... Time to savour Autumn where Melbourne continues to play, day and night! City workers enjoy an after-work wind-down with colleagues. Visitors soak up the buzz of the city. Everybody comes for cocktails and Timeout is your perfect place to meet.

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# Eleanor Roosevelt comes to Melbourne and Southbank

In 1943, during World War Two, Eleanor Roosevelt (wife of the then US President Franklin D. Roosevelt) undertook a long, dangerous and arduous trip across the South Pacific, heading to Australia.

The trip was organised as part of her role as head of the international Red Cross. Flying in a four-engine Liberator bomber, converted for transport, she spent most of her time visiting US camps and hospitals where US servicemen were patients.

Arriving in Melbourne, it was intended that she would not make any public appearances, due to the large number of engagements she was to undertake, with non-stop visits to hospitals and servicewomen's establishments and factories. But it didn't quite work out that way.

A brief announcement in the press



flagged a visit to Melbourne Town Hall for a Mayoral reception on September 6 – and Melbourne went wild, giving her the greatest welcome ever for an “unofficial” visitor.

Mrs Roosevelt addressed 3000 women inside (mostly representatives of women's organisations) and her speech was amplified through loudspeakers to the thousands

who had blocked the traffic around the Town Hall for more than an hour.

In a punishing schedule, she visited many Red Cross auxiliary sites, research laboratories, military bases and hospitals and American Red Cross clubs, and a number of war production centres, even a munitions factory.

She was continually impressed by the care and attention given by Australian medical staff to hospitalised American troops, and was enormously popular wherever she visited, displaying warmth and compassion for the injured. She was regarded as an unfailing source of courage and inspiration.

One of her stops was at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, newly constructed in Parkville and made available to American troops in February 1942. Stops on her tour included a number in Southbank, including Victoria Barracks and Government House, where the wife of the Victorian Governor, Lady Dugan, had converted the ballroom

to a workroom for up to 70 volunteers who spent their days making surgical dressings.

During her visit she praised the role that the women of Australia were playing in wartime (as were the British) and was glad that the reputation of Australians as very hospitable had been borne out. She continually displayed friendly informality that endeared her to the locals that she met and was a tireless campaigner for equality and women's rights.

Fortunately, she kept a daily diary, with her events described as “My Day” published in newspapers around the country. Her visit was a triumph for the Red Cross and the US President. ●

**Robin Grow**

AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN  
OF SOUTHBANK

ROBINGROW@OZEMAIL.COM.AU



## NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

### Coffee with a Cop

On Sunday, March 30, Southbank Police along with the Crime Prevention Officers from the Melbourne Proactive Policing Unit and Southbank Neighbourhood Watch got together to host “Coffee with a Cop”.

Melbourne Square kindly hosted the event with MICM kindly donating delicious biscuits and muffins, while 10 Hoff Café provided discount coffee vouchers for attendees.

It provided an opportunity for police to interact with the community in an informal setting.

Police were answering lots of questions about safety and security in apartment living and Southbank Neighbourhood Watch president Chris Milner was obtaining email addresses for local residents to start engaging with each other.

Hopefully this is the first of many Coffee with a Cop events for Southbank. Stay tuned for the next one!

Operation Compass is a statewide road policing operation to be conducted over the April school holidays incorporating the Easter and ANZAC Day long weekends. The operation will be conducted from Thursday, April 17 to Sunday, April 27.

Operation Compass will be being conducted throughout all operational police regions and police service areas (PSAs) using all available personnel from local road policing units, general duties and other regional resources.



The major focus for the operation will be on impaired driving, speed, fatigue, distraction offences and seatbelt compliance.

Southbank Police wishes all Southbank News readers a happy and safe Easter break. ●

**Snr Sgt Alex O'Toole**

COMMANDER  
SOUTHBANK POLICE STATION

SOUTHBANK-UNI-OIC@POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU



## 10 YEARS ON

APRIL 2015 | ISSUE 40 |

SOUTHBANK NEWS

### Terminator's shock visit



Southbank business owner Daniel Feldman was “surprised, delighted and more than a little star struck” last month when Hollywood megastar Arnold Schwarzenegger stopped by for a surprise visit.

Flocked by his large entourage, Mr Schwarzenegger dropped in unexpectedly to Designer Chandelier at Eureka Tower, much to the excitement of Daniel and staff member Shanan Fehrmann.

Daniel said what was even more surprising was Arnie's desire to shoot an action scene in the showroom, proposing to drive a

car right through the window and continue the scene outside.

He said he gave the potential action film shoot “the green light”. Designer Chandelier staff member Shanan Fehrmann (left), owner Daniel Feldman (centre) capture a memorable moment with Hollywood megastar Arnold Schwarzenegger (right). ●



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**Snr Sgt Alex O'Toole**

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## Melbourne’s beloved Campbell Arcade set to reopen

Melbourne’s much-loved Campbell Arcade is set to reopen later this year, with a process now under way to fill the arcade’s iconic shopfronts with tenants.

Over the past three years, the Metro Tunnel Project has worked to breathe new life into 1950s-era arcade, which will form part of the passenger connection between the Degraves Street Subway, the new Town Hall Station and Flinders Street Station.

Works have included removing asbestos and redundant services, replacing the ceiling and upgrading lighting, and restoring the 1950s-era heritage features including pink-tiled shop fronts and display cases.

Applications from potential tenants for the eight spaces available in the arcade closed last month, in a major step towards reinvigorating the much-loved arcade shopfronts.

Campbell Arcade was the first major public construction project in Melbourne after World War II and was listed on the Victorian Heritage Register in 2015, in a

revision to the Flinders Street Station listing.

Completed in 1955 in time for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, it features pink-tiled curved walls, granite columns and prominent display windows.

Plans for the arcade as part of the Metro Tunnel Project were developed in consultation with Heritage Victoria after public consultation.

The arcade’s previous tenants were supported in the leadup to construction including relocating to new premises. They have been invited to apply to take up a tenancy in the revamped arcade.

Work is progressing well on Town Hall Station, with crews continuing to fit out the concourse and platforms and dismantle the massive acoustic shed over Fed Square.

The state-of-the-art station will be a new gateway to some of Melbourne’s most popular destinations and landmarks including Fed Square, Birrarung Marr, Southbank, St Paul’s Cathedral and Melbourne Town Hall.

The Metro Tunnel is the biggest upgrade of Melbourne’s train network since the City Loop opened in 1981. It will double the size of Melbourne’s underground rail network when it opens later in 2025. ●



## A free BBQ – and a government that’s gutting our nature laws

During late March, we hosted another of our free community BBQs in Southbank.

WORDS BY  
SENATOR STEPH HODGINS-MAY  
& KATHERINE COPSEY

Locals came together over bean burritos and conversation to meet Greens candidate Sonya Semmens, share their stories, and talk about the pressures they’re facing – from cost of living to climate change, and protecting the places we love.

It was a moment of connection, care, and community. A reminder that while people are doing what they can to support each other, governments are doing the opposite.

While we were bringing people together, Labor and the Liberals were quietly teaming up in Canberra to tear apart Australia’s environmental protections.

In the middle of federal budget week – buried in headlines and passed in under four hours – Labor rammed through legislation that gutted Australia’s environmental laws.

These changes remove the Environment Minister’s power to intervene when coal and gas projects threaten the climate, biodiversity, and local communities.

It is a gift to fossil fuel companies – and a betrayal of every promise Labor made to strengthen environmental protections.

Australia’s environment laws are now

worse than when Labor came to office. This is absolutely shameful.

Species are vanishing. Forests are being cleared. Rivers are drying up. And instead of acting with urgency, Labor is giving the green light to destruction.

But the Greens are fighting back.

We’ve been calling for strong, enforceable environmental laws that actually protect nature – including an environmental regulator with teeth, a climate trigger to stop fossil fuel expansion, and proper rights for communities to challenge harmful projects.

This isn’t just policy. It’s about survival.

Australians care about the environment deeply. They want clean air, healthy rivers, thriving wildlife, and real action on climate. They don’t want fossil fuel executives making decisions behind closed doors.

And they certainly don’t want their government gutting nature laws in the middle of the night.

Labor’s decision won’t go unnoticed. This will be an election issue – and the Greens will stand up for our environment all the way to the ballot box.

Events like our free community BBQs remind us of what real leadership looks like. It’s not backroom deals with lobbyists – it’s showing up in the community, listening, and organising for something better.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, shared your thoughts, and stood with us.

We’ll keep showing up too, in Parliament, on the streets, and in your neighbourhood – to fight for stronger environmental laws, a safe climate, and a future that puts people and the planet first. ●



**KATHERINE COPSEY**  
MP FOR SOUTHERN METRO



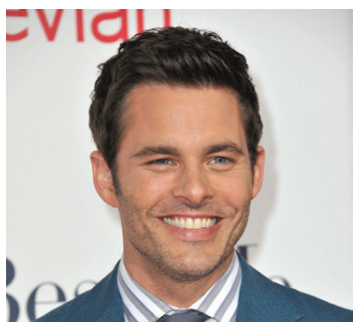
**STEPH HODGINS-MAY**  
SENATOR FOR VICTORIA

**THE GREENS WILL ALWAYS FIGHT FOR NATURE**



Authorised by S. Hodgins-May, Australian Greens Canberra





1. Who has teamed up to revitalise the Kings Way undercroft?
2. How many metres long is Southbank's new public artwork, *Guardian Lion*?
3. When was the Clarendon and Coventry Streets Business Association established?
4. Easter Island is a territory of which country?
5. Which animal is the smallest primate in the world?
6. James Marsden (pictured) starred alongside Katherine Heigl in which 2008 rom-com?
7. The tallest tree in Australia is nicknamed what?
8. How many new councillors are there on the current council?
9. Carambola is a fruit also known by what other shape-themed name?
10. Which Australian television drama series stars Jodie Whittaker, Nicole da Silva and Yael Stone?
11. What year did the first Moomba parade take place?
12. Who is the new executive officer of the Yarra River Business Association?

1. Federal MP for Macquarie Josh Burns and City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Nick Reece 2. 19 metres long 3. December 2021 4. Chile 5. Pigmy mouse lemur 6. 27 Dresses 7. Centurion 8. Five 9. Star fruit 10. *One Night* 11. 1955 12. Elizabeth Joldeski

No. 311

F		A		E
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A		B		T
	U		S	
S		E		R

FRAME, LEMON, ABBOT, PULSE, STEER

Apr. 2025

No. 046

## EASY

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

HARD

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

## SOLUTIONS

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

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

## Theme: Blacksmith

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

KNIFE

## WROUGHT

Secret message: Working not metal

No. 046

## ACROSS

- 1 Variety of nut (9)  
6 Boss (4)  
10 Tavern (3)  
11 Confusing (10)  
12 A rectangle  
halved from  
diagonal  
corners (8)  
13 Special  
abilities (6)  
14 Objurgation (4)  
15 Group of  
organisms (7)  
20 Obliterated (7)  
21 Circle of light (4)  
25 Spectacles (6)  
26 Rocky (8)  
28 Impregnating (11)  
29 Biological  
blueprint (1,1,1)  
30 Calm (4)  
31 Worsen (9)

**DOWN**

- |   |                                  |    |                               |
|---|----------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Office machines (8)              | 7  | Treble (6)                    |
| 2 | Conscious (8)                    | 8  | Abstract (6)                  |
| 3 | Western Australian port city (6) | 9  | Book of the Old Testament (7) |
| 4 | Crow (coll) (6,3)                | 16 | Purifying (9)                 |
|   |                                  | 17 | Non-specific (7)              |
|   |                                  | 18 | Asian country (8)             |

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			
30					31								

- |    |                               |    |                                  |
|----|-------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| 5  | Musical instrument (4)        | 19 | Temper (8)                       |
| 7  | Treble (6)                    | 22 | Employable (6)                   |
| 8  | Abstract (6)                  | 23 | Car fuel (6)                     |
| 9  | Book of the Old Testament (7) | 24 | Brand (6)                        |
| 16 | Purifying (9)                 | 27 | Middle <i>Simpsons</i> child (4) |
| 17 | Non-specific (7)              |    |                                  |
| 18 | Asian country (8)             |    |                                  |

**SOLUTION**

PISTACHIO SLURP  
 INN BAWBOOZZLE  
 TRIANGLE SKILLS  
 EAT SPECIES RANT  
 STOLEN WARD  
 UPSTAIRS  
 SCENES UNSTABLE  
 FEET LITTS  
 DRAINAGE  
 LUTTER VAGVAVLE  
 WNWNI  
 I

No. 046

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

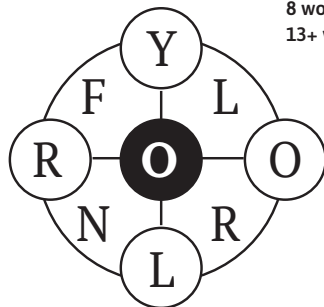
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25 <b>Q</b>
13	26 <b>W</b>

## SOLUTIONS

W	X	M	Z	Y	S	K	R	I	D	C	P	H
26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14
Q	N	L	A	B	V	J	O	U	T	L	H	
13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

No. 046

**13+ 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"

**Reference:**  
Collins Concise  
English Dictionary

## SOLUTIONS

floor, folly, fool, forlorn, FORLORNLY, loon, loony, lorn, lorry, lory, only, orlon, orly, roll, roof



## WHAT'S ON April



Find out what's on in  
postcode 3006 this April.



### ROCKWIZ'S REALLY REALLY GOOD FRIDAY

A must see live event in Melbourne's fabulous music scene features multiple musical guests, comedians, the quizzing they are known for, and of course, contestants drawn from the audience.

Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

FRIDAY 18 APRIL, 8PM – 10.30PM



### ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE TOURS

Begin at Hamer hall and explore six levels of decadent gold and amber interiors. Experience the opulence of the Truscott Lounge. Peek inside the grand auditorium, home to Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

UNTIL 31 MAY



### ACCA FAMILY ART DAY

A free art-making program for children aged 3–10 and families. Create artwork to take home and contribute to a large-scale artwork inspired by ACCA's new exhibition *Tina Stefanou: You Can't See Speed!*

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

TUESDAY 15 APRIL, 10AM – 1PM



### YIRRAMBOI FESTIVAL

A 10-day feast of mediums, YIRRAMBOI returns for its fifth iteration, taking centre stage in Narm's arts precinct with a dedicated festival hub, named the Uncle Jack Charles, a trailblazer of storytelling.

Malthouse Theatre

1 – 11 MAY



### ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

The Dawn Service in Melbourne is a solemn tradition, and an important way for Victorians to commemorate those who served and died in defence of our country during World War I.

Shrine of Remembrance

FRIDAY 25 APRIL, 5.30AM – 6.30AM

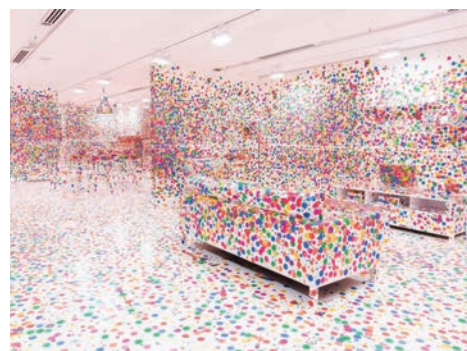


### NGV EASTER EGG HUNT

Get your baskets and bunny ears ready – the NGV's annual Easter egg hunt is back. Hop to it to secure your place in one of four free sessions to enjoy activities, chocolate and more.

National Gallery of Victoria – Garden

THURSDAY 17 APRIL, 10AM – 1PM



### KUSAMA FOR KIDS

At the NGV, Yayoi Kusama invites everyone to 'obliterate' the rooms by adding bright, colourful dots to the white furniture, objects and surfaces.

National Gallery of Victoria

UNTIL 21 APRIL, 10AM – 5PM

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acca.melbourne

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日本語を話します

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BEAUTIFUL LADIES PRIVATELY TO YOUR DOOR 24/7

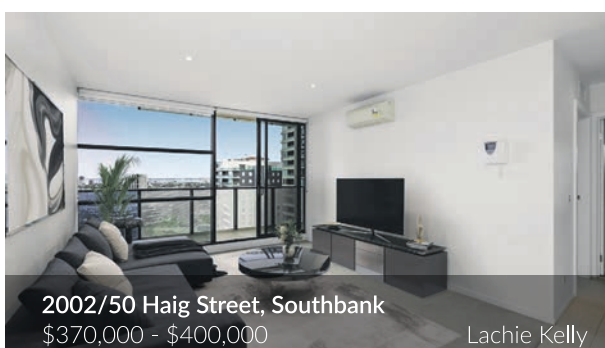


# Here today, gone tomorrow

**RayWhite**



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**2002/50 Haig Street, Southbank**  
\$370,000 - \$400,000

Lachie Kelly



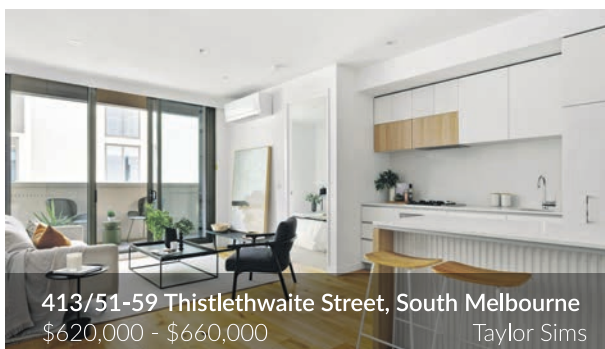
**1404/33 City Road, Southbank**  
\$400,000 - \$440,000

Jolene Tan



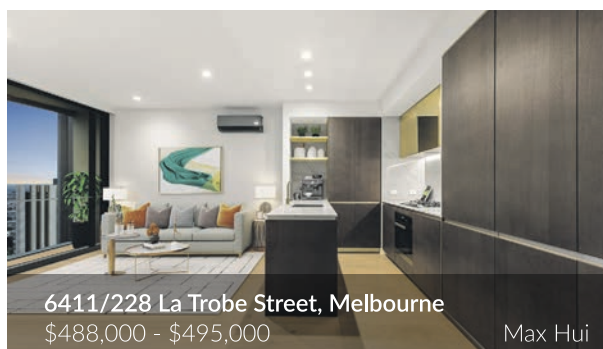
**1408e/42-48 Balston Street, Southbank**  
\$370,000 - \$390,000

Max Hui



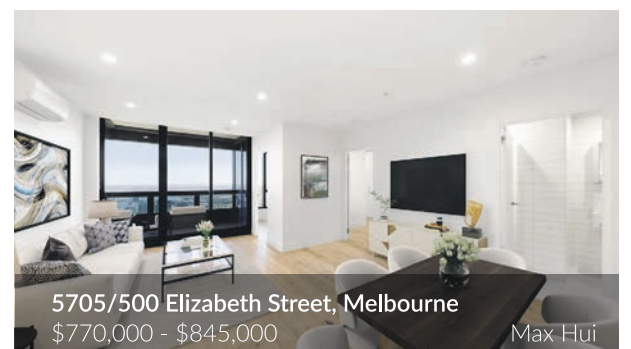
**413/51-59 Thistlethwaite Street, South Melbourne**  
\$620,000 - \$660,000

Taylor Sims



**6411/228 La Trobe Street, Melbourne**  
\$488,000 - \$495,000

Max Hui



**5705/500 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne**  
\$770,000 - \$845,000

Max Hui



**1209/233 Collins Street, Melbourne**  
\$445,000 - \$475,000

Max Hui



**108/23 Queens Road, Melbourne**  
\$600,000 - \$660,000

Tommy-Lee Davies



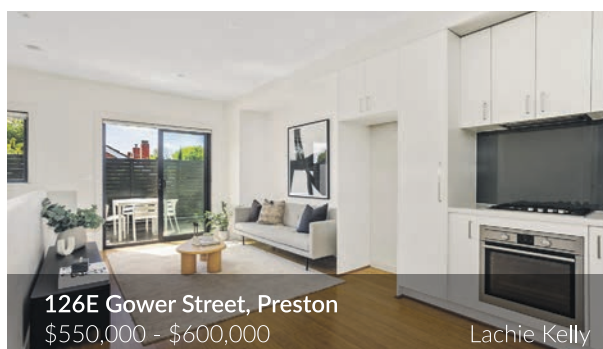
**307/23 Queens Road, Melbourne**  
\$600,000 - \$660,000

Tommy-Lee Davies



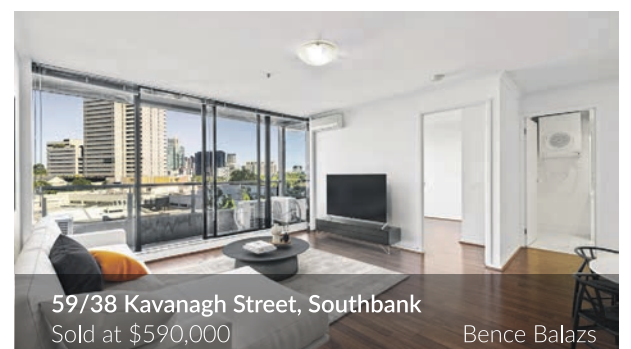
**412A/72 Ascot Vale Road, Flemington**  
\$350,000 - \$385,000

Tommy-Lee Davies



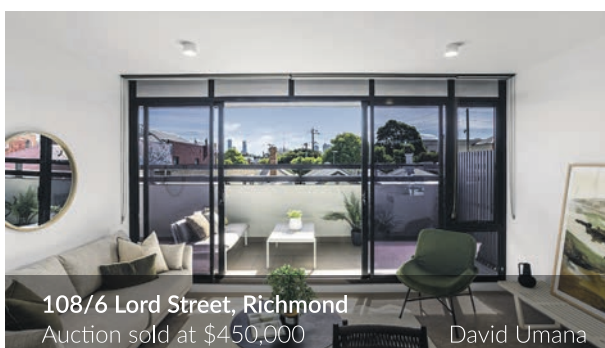
**126E Gower Street, Preston**  
\$550,000 - \$600,000

Lachie Kelly



**59/38 Kavanagh Street, Southbank**  
Sold at \$590,000

Bence Balazs



**108/6 Lord Street, Richmond**  
Auction sold at \$450,000

David Umana



**862 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds**  
Sold at Auction!

Lachie Kelly

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Max Hui: 0430 238 021  
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David Umana: 0481 222 376  
Kerrera Pidcock: 0422 261 527  
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Jolene Tan: 0466 366 041  
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