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JULY 2026 EDITION #164

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# NEWS



Future of Southbank  
Makers' Market secured

“

The future of Southgate's art and design market has been secured after a co-operative of stallholders was formed to take control of the popular attraction which runs every Sunday on the Southbank Promenade.

”

The market had been run by Southgate shopping and retail complex but a change of direction by new management meant the riverfront institution was in doubt.

But a not-for-profit, incorporated body of artists and makers has now been formed to guarantee the market will continue every Sunday.

The rebranded Southbank Makers' Market formally took over operations on July 5. More on page 12.

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2 1  
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1 1 1  
 1/88 Wells Street, Southbank

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SOLD

3 2 1  
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SOLD

2 1 1  
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BIG CHANGES  
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## Police crackdown on illegal e-bike behaviour

Police have issued hundreds of fines during a major road policing operation targeting unsafe and non-compliant e-bike use across Melbourne's CBD and surrounding areas, including in Southbank, as captured above outside Southbank Police Station in June. More on page 5.

Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

## New primary school campus tipped for vacant Ferrars St site

“The Victorian Government's promised new campus for South Melbourne Primary School could be delivered on a major vacant site directly opposite the existing vertical school, *Southbank News* understands.”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The government announced in the recent state budget that South Melbourne Primary School would share in a \$419.6 million investment in new schools, with funding to provide a new campus and expand capacity by 250 students.

While the government has confirmed the new campus is scheduled to open in 2029, it has not publicly identified where it will be located.

However, *Southbank News* understands the state has been considering the vacant 120-132 Ferrars St site, on the corner of Buckhurst St, opposite the current school.

If pursued, the move would require a substantial government acquisition in one of Melbourne's most strategically important urban renewal precincts.

The site sits within the capital city zone in Fishermans Bend's Montague precinct, where land values and development expectations remain high.

*Southbank News* understands the current owner of 120-132 Ferrars St is unaware of any government plans to use the property for a new school campus.

The government has remained tight-lipped on how it intends to deliver the additional capacity, with Albert Park Labor MP Nina Taylor confirming only that planning, design and early works funding had been allocated.

“I'm proud that Labor is delivering a new public school campus for families in South Melbourne,” Ms Taylor said.

“South Melbourne Primary School will share in a \$419.6 million investment in new schools in this year's budget.”

Continued on page 2.

ENVIRONMENT, PAGE 07

## Draft greening plans target Southbank

COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 08

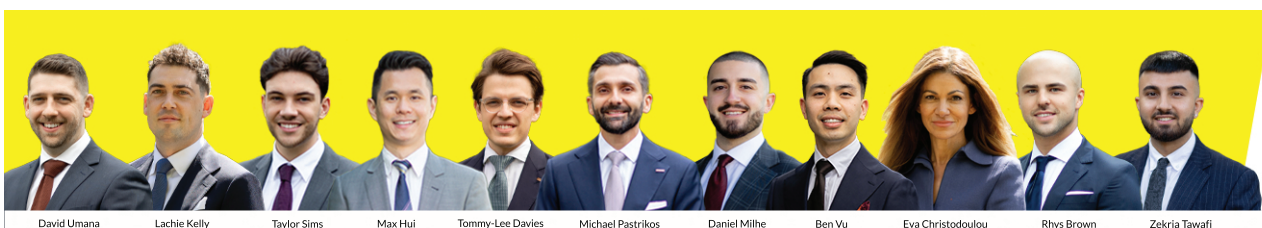
## Public job points to deeper Town Hall tensions



LOCAL NEWS, PAGE 9

## Dorcas St meal brings community together in South Melbourne

A weekly community meal at Dorcas St Uniting Church is serving up food, dignity and connection for South Melbourne locals facing hunger, hardship and isolation.



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# New primary school campus tipped for vacant Ferrars St site



Continued from page 1.

“The funding will deliver a new school campus, to expand capacity by 250 and cater for growing enrolment demand in Melbourne’s inner south.”

The announcement has prompted speculation about whether the government intends to acquire a new site or add to the existing Ferrars St vertical school.

However, the use of the term “new campus” suggests a separate site rather than a simple expansion of the current building.

Such a move would represent another major government intervention in Montague, where the need for schools, parks and community infrastructure has grown alongside rapid apartment development.

The current South Melbourne Primary School opened in 2018 as Victoria’s first government vertical school, delivered as part of the Ferrars Street Education and Community Facility.

The building also includes a kindergarten, sports courts and maternal and child health services, and has long been closely linked to the Southbank community despite its South Melbourne name.

When the school opened, many local families from Southbank were within its catchment, following years of advocacy for a public primary school to serve the growing high-density population.

The new campus would continue that role in an area where enrolment pressure is expected to increase as Fishermans Bend develops.

The potential Ferrars St acquisition also carries echoes of the nearby MAP Coffee site, which the City of Port Phillip and state



government were forced to acquire for around \$19 million in 2016 to create what is now Kirrip Park.

That project provided crucial open space for South Melbourne Primary School and the growing Montague community.

If the state does move on 120–132 Ferrars St, it would again underline the challenge of retrofitting essential community infrastructure into a fast-growing precinct where private development has often moved faster than public planning.

City of Port Phillip Mayor and Montague Ward councillor Alex Makin said the council welcomed the investment in further educational facilities in Fishermans Bend and awaited further details from the government.

“The enrolment growth in South Melbourne Primary School is unsurprising given the residential expansion within the Montague precinct in Fishermans Bend,” Cr

Makin said.

“The rapid growth in Montague and its connectivity to two existing tram routes, is a complete contrast to Sandridge and Wirraway, which lack the promised tram extensions and are forced to contend with an hourly bus service connecting these areas to the rest of Port Phillip,” he said.

“The success of Montague relative to the rest of Fishermans Bend highlights the importance of investment in our public transport networks to facilitate growth and support the investment in new schools.”

Southbank3006 president David Hamilton also welcomed the commitment for the new South Melbourne Primary School campus, emphasising that while the school bordered South Melbourne and Southbank, most of its students lived in Southbank.

“The need to expand the school to cater for rising student numbers reflects that Southbank is becoming more than just a neighbourhood for students and young people; increasingly, families are making Southbank their home,” Mr Hamilton said, adding that it was “why a forward-looking community is asking that the Victoria Barracks site be transformed into a high school and a suite of community facilities.”

“Expanding South Melbourne Primary is the first step in reinstating educational facilities in Southbank. But where do these students move to for high school?”

“The Victoria Barracks site is the first real opportunity in a generation to deliver a major facility that serves the whole community of Southbank, the CBD, and St Kilda Rd.”

“Securing a local high school is about more than just education; it’s about enabling people to think of Southbank as a long-term home, rather than somewhere you just stay for a short period of time.” ●



## When the Market Changes, Experience Matters

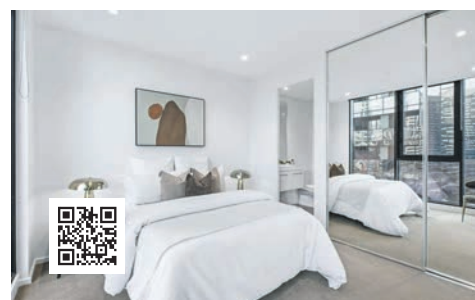
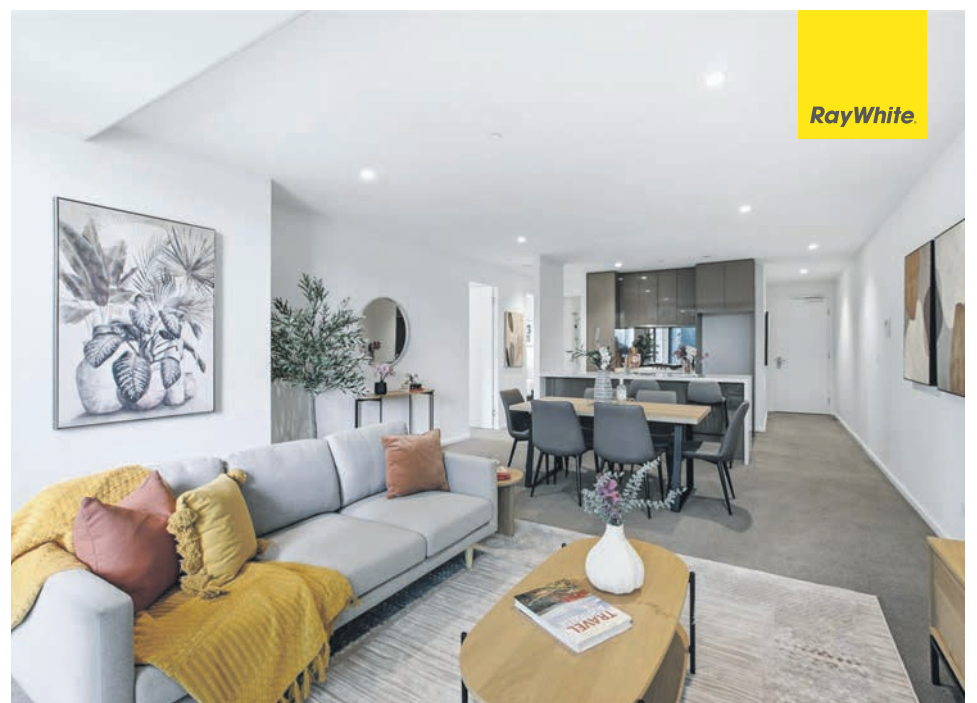
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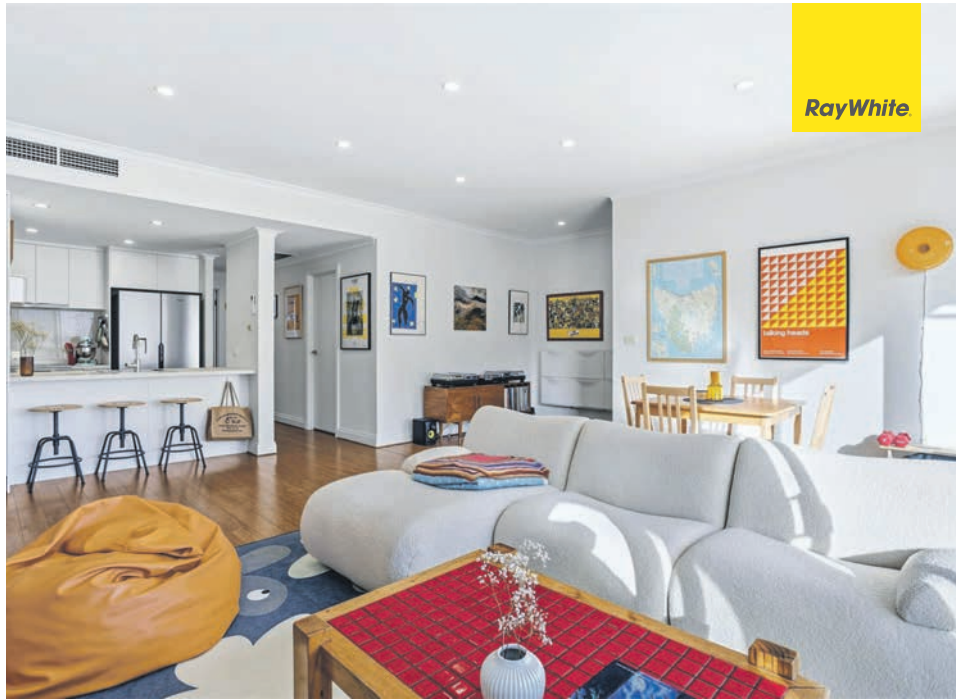
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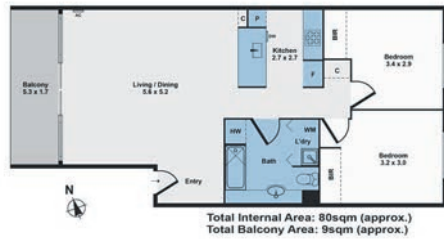
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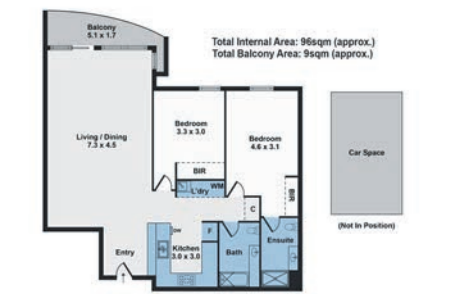
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# Police crackdown on illegal e-bikes and e-scooter behaviour

Police have issued hundreds of fines during a major road policing operation targeting unsafe and non-compliant e-bike use across Melbourne's CBD and surrounding areas, including Southbank.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Operation Consider, which has relaunched this month, has seen Victoria Police's State Highway Patrol and Solo Unit join forces with North West Metro's Bike Patrol to enforce e-bike compliance and road safety.

Police have been patrolling city streets by bicycle, motorcycle and highway patrol vehicle, with a particular focus on food delivery riders using overpowered and illegal e-bikes in the CBD.

State Highway Patrol officers have also been tasked to Southbank, including Moray St and City Rd, targeting areas that have attracted complaints about unsafe riding, including riders using footpaths.

Southbank News observed police stopping riders on Moray St in June, outside Southbank Police Station, as part of the broader enforcement push.

Victoria Police said 275 infringements had been issued during Operation Consider so far in June, including 174 offences involving e-bike riders.

Those included 44 unregistered vehicle offences for overpowered e-bikes, 40 helmet offences, 32 unlicensed driver offences for riders of overpowered e-bikes, 11 offences for failing to obey traffic signals or signs, six defect notices and two disqualified drivers.

Police also issued 101 infringements to other road users, including 20 mobile phone

offences, 16 cyclist offences, 12 failing to obey traffic signals or signs offences, 10 unregistered vehicle offences, nine defect notices, five disqualified or unlicensed driving offences, four speeding offences and two seatbelt offences.

Two vehicles were also impounded.

Police conducted 164 preliminary breath tests and four roadside drug tests during the operation, but no drink or drug driving offences were detected.

Under Victorian rules, an overpowered e-bike is considered a motorcycle and is subject to the same road rules as other motorcycles, including licensing and registration.

Riders caught using an overpowered or non-compliant e-bike can face penalties including a \$1018 fine for using an unregistered vehicle and a \$1018 fine for unlicensed driving.

An electrically power-assisted cycle, or EPAC, can have an auxiliary motor of up

to 250 watts, with power assistance cutting out at 25km/h. The rider must pedal to access the power.

A power-assisted bicycle can have one or more auxiliary motors with a power output not exceeding 200 watts and may use a throttle without the rider needing to pedal.

If an e-bike exceeds those limits, travels faster than 25km/h under motor assistance, or the motor is not the secondary source of power, it is considered overpowered.

Road Policing Acting Superintendent Craig McEvoy said the majority of offences detected during the operation had involved unregistered vehicles and unlicensed riders, meaning the e-bikes were overpowered.

"This indicates to police there is a clear lack of understanding, or blatant disregard, for compliance when it comes to e-bikes," Acting Supt McEvoy said.

"It is paramount all riders ensure they understand and comply with the rules before using an e-bike."

He said riders also needed to follow the road rules that apply to cyclists, including wearing helmets and using bike lanes where required.

"Operation Consider isn't just about enforcement; we will always aim to educate riders and increase awareness around the rules, however we will enforce when necessary, particularly when it puts other road users at risk," he said.

With school holidays beginning this week, police are also urging parents and children to familiarise themselves with e-bike rules before riding.

"As we're about to head into the school holidays, we're asking all riders and also parents of children who ride e-bikes, to ensure they're familiar with the rules and using a compliant e-bike," Acting Supt McEvoy said.

Police said e-bike enforcement operations would continue across Melbourne in coming months. ●

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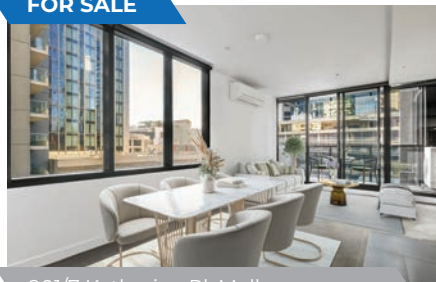
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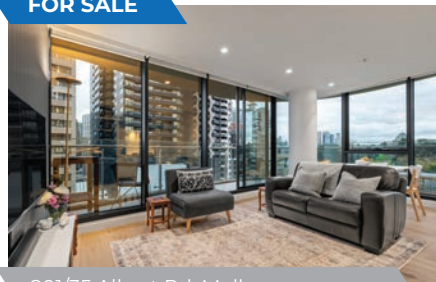
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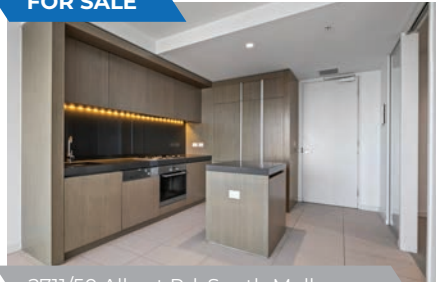
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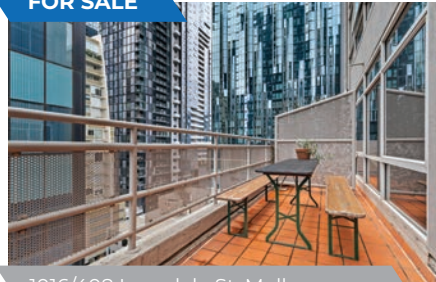
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# A helping hand out of homelessness



The City of Melbourne's investing \$2.3 million in homelessness initiatives as part of Budget 2026-27.

## For people experiencing homelessness, a pathway to stable housing often begins with something simple: a conversation.

"A huge part of our work is consistency. We keep showing up."

After 8 years working with people sleeping rough in Melbourne, Jessica has seen firsthand how trust is built slowly, one conversation at a time.

"Everyone is different and there's no one-size-fits-all approach. Sometimes a win is someone accepting a cup of coffee and being open to a chat after years of trying to build rapport," says Jessica.

Rain, hail or shine, Jessica's teams are in the city every day. As the coordinator of Launch Housing's Rough Sleepers Initiative and Daily Support Team, they're often the first point of contact for people experiencing homelessness.

In a typical month, the Daily Support Team speaks to more than 130 people across the City of Melbourne. They connect people with health services and crisis accommodation and pathways into longer-term housing.

Jessica says while the work can be challenging, it's deeply rewarding.

"The real beauty of the work we do is seeing people who have been entrenched in sleeping rough find a home after years of persistent engagement with the team."

"We got to know someone who had been sleeping rough for 10 years. He's now moved into safe, secure, long-term supported accommodation where he can stay for the rest of his life if he chooses. This amazing outcome came from years of engagement, relationship building and support from multiple people across the team."

For Jessica, stories like this are a reminder that the right care can change lives.

To help more people find a path out of homelessness, City of Melbourne is investing \$2.3 million in homelessness initiatives as part of Budget 2026-27.

The funding will help back 2 new programs: the Melbourne Outreach Team, delivered by Launch Housing and Ngwala Willumbong, and a new Safe Space Program led by VincentCare.

Led by Jessica, the new Melbourne Outreach Team will help people sleeping rough with referrals to crisis accommodation, supported housing and other essential services.

The service will also double the number of specialist frontline workers on Melbourne's streets and introduce a dedicated complex case manager to provide trauma-informed, long-term care.

"We want to ensure people experiencing homelessness get the care they need most, working alongside trusted partners with expertise in mental health, social services and trauma. Together, we believe we can make a real, positive difference in people's lives," Lord Mayor Nick Reece said.

Jessica says the complexity of homelessness means no single organisation can tackle it alone.



"It takes strong partnerships between outreach services, health providers, housing services and local government to create lasting change."

As part of this broader network, City of Melbourne Community Safety Officers (CSOs) also help connect vulnerable people with services across the city. Their numbers are set to double from 11 to 22 as part of Budget 2026-27.

CSOs are trained in trauma-informed engagement, mental health awareness, cultural safety, substance use and family violence awareness.

The path out of homelessness rarely begins with housing. More often, it starts with trust.

"Treating people with dignity and respect won't solve homelessness but it can make it more likely that people will feel comfortable reaching out for support," Jessica said.



The team connects people with crisis accommodation and longer-term housing. Photo: Launch Housing



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## Draft greening plans target Southbank and Fishermans Bend growth areas

“

Southbank and Fishermans Bend would be targeted for more shade, biodiversity and climate-resilient tree planting under draft urban forest plans considered by the City of Melbourne on July 7.

”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The draft Southbank and Fishermans Bend Urban Forest Precinct Plans are part of a broader renewal of the council's 10 neighbourhood-based urban forest plans, which guide street tree planting over 10 years.

The plans sit under the City of Melbourne's Urban Forest Strategy, which aims to increase canopy cover across the municipality to 40 per cent by 2040.

If supported by the Future Melbourne Committee, the draft plans will proceed to community engagement via Participate Melbourne between July and August, before returning to the council in final form in 2027.

Southbank and Fishermans Bend are among the municipality's lowest-canopy precincts, placing them at the centre of the city's efforts to cool streets and make dense urban areas more liveable.

Southbank has 16.8 per cent canopy cover, with 1397 trees planted since 2012 and nine major streetscape projects completed.



The draft plan says Southbank has high social vulnerability and heat risk, as well as one of the lowest canopy covers in the municipality.

Its urban forest reflects the suburb's history of industrial use, redevelopment and high-rise growth, with a mix of large vehicle-oriented roads, smaller streets between towers and more recent green spaces.

The plan says Southbank has no single urban forest character to protect, creating an opportunity for experimentation and innovation in urban greening.

Community feedback calls for Southbank

to become a "green, walkable village" with biodiversity, shade, rooftop gardens, shaded streets and more places for rest, play and connection.

Residents identified major arterial roads such as City Rd and heavily urbanised areas as places needing more shade, while also supporting understorey planting for aesthetics and biodiversity.

The draft plan says future planting should improve greening on both public and private land, particularly in recently developed areas.

Fishermans Bend presents a very different

challenge. It currently has just 9.8 per cent canopy cover, one of the lowest rates in the municipality, despite 1646 trees being planted since 2012 and eight major streetscape projects completed.

The area is part of Australia's largest urban renewal project, covering about 480 hectares across the Cities of Melbourne and Port Phillip.

Within the City of Melbourne section, Fishermans Bend had only 20 residents at the 2021 census. But by 2050, the broader renewal area is expected to accommodate about 80,000 residents and support up to 80,000 jobs.

Because of that, the draft plan says urban forest planning in Fishermans Bend is different from other neighbourhoods, with the City of Melbourne's role focused on supporting tree planting through a long-term transformation led by the Victorian Government's Fishermans Bend Taskforce.

Community consultation has also been different. While Southbank and Parkville plans were informed by extensive engagement between 2023 and 2026, Fishermans Bend's low current population means its draft plan draws on existing Fishermans Bend Taskforce engagement and the council's ongoing Participate Melbourne survey.

Only eight survey responses had been received for Fishermans Bend.

The council report says the three draft plans for Southbank, Parkville and Fishermans Bend have been informed by tree data, environmental risks, heat, biodiversity, land use, community preferences and Traditional Owner perspectives.

Across all three precincts, the plans aim to prioritise streets with low canopy cover, improve species diversity to reduce pest and disease risks, and better reflect community values.

The estimated cost to deliver the three plans over 10 years is \$3.11 million, with funding to be considered through future council budgets. ●



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## Australia 108 rooftop stunt sparks safety questions

Police had no record and building authorities had no comment concerning a small group who found their way onto the top of Melbourne's tallest building Australia 108 recently.

WORDS BY  
JENNY DENTON



In a video filmed from inside a nearby high-rise, the group of what appeared to be five young men were seen performing on top of Australia 108, with several sitting on the edge of the unfenced rooftop, one walking along it and another posing on the edge with arms outstretched.

The video of the June 26 stunt made it onto Channel Nine's 6pm news for around 20 seconds on June 27, and attracted more than half a million views and considerable controversy when it was posted to Instagram by 3AW presenter Jacqueline Felgate.

Posts from anonymous accounts claiming to represent the group said they were "photographers and videographers" who were pursuing their hobby of "urban exploration".

According to information on one, "urbex" is "the act of exploring abandoned, hidden, or restricted places that most people never get to see".

"Some people explore abandoned buildings, while others do rooftopping or enter active but restricted areas," it said.

The activity has "a strong code" according to the description, which involves "tak[ing] nothing but photos and leav[ing] nothing but footprints".

The self-confessed culprits suggested the group had made their way to the 99th floor of Australia 108 and somehow climbed to the 100th.

The majority of comments responding to the video on social media condemned the fivesome as stupid and irresponsible.

However, some expressed appreciation for their daring and the extraordinary photos taken from the tops of buildings and towers posted on their accounts.

Comments from at least one of the apparent climbers sought to distinguish them from "stupid daredevils" or "thrill-seekers" who would hang over the edges of buildings.

There have been at least two high-profile international "rooftopping" deaths over the past decade – the July 2023 fall of 30-year-old Frenchman Remi Lucidi from a residential building in Hong Kong, and the 2017 plunge of 26-year-old Chinese climber Wu Yongning from the top of a building in Hunan province.

Reportedly incidents like the Australia 108 event are not terribly rare around Southbank but tend to go unreported for fear of revealing security vulnerabilities and encouraging copycat activity. ●

## Public jab points to deeper Town Hall tensions

A public social media jibe by City of Melbourne (CoM) councillor Owen Guest has exposed fresh questions about unity, attendance and council-related travel at Town Hall, as the current council approaches the halfway point of its term.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The comment came in response to a Council Watch Victoria Inc Facebook post criticising the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) National General Assembly in Canberra, which was attended by Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, Cr Mark Scott and Cr Andrew Rowse in late June.

"Gold. Not sure but I might be the only non-junket traveller at CoM," Cr Guest wrote.

On one level, the remark was a throwaway line on a public Facebook post. But for a sitting councillor to so casually ridicule colleagues over officially approved council travel says something about both Cr Guest's combative style and the current dynamics inside the councillor group.

The Canberra conference had been approved by the council earlier this year at an estimated cost of \$3600 per participant, with Cr Campbell, Cr Rowse and Cr Scott representing the City of Melbourne.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece had originally been endorsed to attend the ALGA conference but travelled to Singapore in mid-June 2026 to attend the World Cities Summit. Immediately following, he travelled to the UK to participate in London Climate Action Week. Cr Campbell attended the ALGA event in his place.

Council-related travel has become a recurring theme during the first half of the term, with approved trips and reports covering Canberra, Chengdu, Sydney, North Asia, Queensland, Shanghai, India, Brazil, Japan, Singapore, USA and London.

Supporters of such travel argue that it is part of Melbourne's role as a capital city: building government relationships, attracting investment, advocating for funding and participating in national and international policy forums.

But the frequency of travel-related motions, together with unexplained absences, personal travel, remote attendance and public commentary about "junkets", has sharpened scrutiny of councillors' time away from Town Hall and the communities they were elected to represent.

At the time Cr Guest posted his Facebook comment in late June, four councillors were on council-related trips, and a further three – Cr Guest, Cr Philip Le Liu and Cr Gladys Liu – were all overseas on personal travel.

An analysis of 49 council and Future



Owen Guest

Gold. Not sure but I might be the only non junket traveller at CoM.

Melbourne Committee meetings between November 2024 and June 2026 shows generally strong attendance overall, but some clear outliers.

Cr Dr Olivia Ball and Cr Davydd Griffiths were recorded as present at every meeting reviewed. Cr Reece, Cr Liu, Cr Rowse and Cr Scott each missed one. Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell missed two.

Cr Le Liu recorded the lowest attendance, present at 41 of 49 meetings, with eight apologies. Cr Guest, Cr Rafael Camillo and Cr Kevin Louey were each absent four times.

The reasons for most apologies were not recorded in the minutes, making it difficult to distinguish between personal or sick leave, work commitments, council business or travel. Cr Le Liu's attendance record has attracted attention, particularly after he departed during the May 12 budget submissions hearing, where the meeting was left with a thin quorum.

Cr Louey has also been a frequent remote attendee, joining 13 meetings by Zoom, more than any other councillor. He was also absent from the May 12 hearing and is understood to have recently been on a personal trip to Europe.

Southbank News understands that councillors who do attend the 5.30pm Tuesday meetings via Zoom have been absent from the council briefings held during the day in the lead-up, which provide crucial information and context.

Cr Guest, meanwhile, is understood to be on a six-week personal trip to the United States. He joined the June 30 council meeting via Zoom but has also recorded absences at other points this term.

His attendance is not the most irregular, but his voting record is by far the most unusual.

Across the 49 meetings reviewed, Cr Guest abstained from voting 30 times – more than double compared to any other councillor. Cr Le Liu and Cr Gladys Liu each abstained 12 times, while Cr Griffiths abstained 11 times.

Some of Cr Guest's abstentions have been on procedural or travel-related items, consistent with his criticism of council trips. But others have gone to core council business, including the 2026–27 Budget, despite his

role as finance, governance and risk portfolio head.

He abstained on the Hawke Street Greening Project, amid concerns about parking impacts, and has repeatedly argued the council should focus more tightly on "roads, rates and rubbish" rather than broader advocacy or symbolic motions. He also abstained from cohealth community health centre closures, the council's new heritage strategy, Fishermans Bend place-naming and the M2050 plan.

That approach has made Cr Guest a distinctive voice at Town Hall, but it also raises a fair question: at what point does repeated abstention move from protest to non-participation?

Councillors are elected to debate, scrutinise and ultimately make decisions. Abstention can be a legitimate tool when a councillor believes a motion is flawed, premature or compromised. But when used repeatedly, it risks becoming a substitute for taking a clear position.

The broader issue is not Cr Guest alone. The current council has already shown signs of division across debates on heritage, Aboriginal recognition, nuclear disarmament, international advocacy, urban greening, the budget, community safety and councillor travel.

Some of that tension is healthy. A council chamber should not be a rubber stamp, and ideological differences can improve decision-making when handled constructively.

But public sniping between councillors, repeated abstentions and unexplained time away from formal meetings all contribute to a perception of a chamber struggling for cohesion.

Nearly halfway through the term, the City of Melbourne's councillor group still has time to reset the tone. Robust debate is part of democracy. So too is scrutiny of travel, spending and priorities.

But councillors also carry a responsibility to model the seriousness of the institution they serve. Publicly mocking colleagues may win applause from critics of local government, but it does little to build the trust, discipline and collegiality needed to govern the capital city well. ●

CHRISTMAS IN JULY  
AT THE

# Winter night market

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# Dorcas St meal brings community together in South Melbourne

“

At around 6.30pm on a wintry Thursday a few dozen people are tucking into a three-course meal at the Uniting Church Hall in Dorcas St, South Melbourne.

”

WORDS BY  
JENNY DENTON



Staff and volunteers (left to right) Caitlin, Lynne, Helen, Zak, Candice, Lizzie (front), Hannah, Tim, Graeme and Reverend Alex. Photos: Hanna Komissarova.



Cook and meal organiser Mark Henderson with a visitor to the emergency relief pantry.

Over the speakers Kasey Chambers is competing with the scraping of chairs and clacking of cutlery and the occasional burble of conversation and laughter.

On people's plates, serves of lamb ribs, lamb rack, pork, chicken, fish, pasta and "every vegetable you can imagine" are laid out.

Reverend Alex Sangster, a key instigator of the weekly community meal, points out that people choose their food.

"It's not just plonked on a plate," she says.

The meals are open to everyone and aimed at addressing social isolation as well as food insecurity with a "dignified" and "joyful" approach, she says.

A team of upbeat volunteers are dishing up, whisking around the kitchen and taking turns to sit and eat at the shared tables or walk around collecting dishes.

Some have been working since early afternoon to prepare the impressive spread. Tonight the rain has kept patron numbers down – there are usually around 80, and up to 120 – but those who have come are enjoying it.

At one table a youngish man is complaining he ate too much soup and bread and can't do the main course justice.

"This is my first time here," he said.

"The meal is exceptional."

Immanuel, or "Samuel", who lives a few doors away, has been coming for two years and says the hall is usually full.

"Sometimes they have to pull out a few more chairs," he says.

"The quality of the food is very good, and you can have as much as you want. Because of costs going up – food items and utility bills – this seems to be something that's a help to everyone."

Eighty-two-year-old Brian also highly recommends the meal, for both quality and company.

"I'm hopeless at cooking and it's good to mix with company," he says.

"The staff and volunteers are lovely, hard workers, and it's always nice and clean and tidy."

The only thing that could improve the experience for Brian is social dancing.



As it turns out, that is not out of the question.

Started in 2023 by Reverend Alex, her former colleague Reverend John Tansey, and cook and youth worker Mark Henderson, the project, thanks to the backing of the St Kilda South Port Uniting Church and a range of charities, has already seen a commercial kitchen cobbled together, a shower installed for those who need it and an emergency pantry opened for all comers.

Organisations like Port Phillip Community Group, Share the Food, Pinchapoo and It's the Little Things Community have also enabled it to serve up thousands of highly appreciated meals and provide food and toiletry essentials for those who need them.

The organisers are now "looking at how we meet the community's needs going forward," Mark says, and social dancing "may well happen".

There has been a live singer at the meal recently and a regular live band in the past, he points out.

While the focus for some meal attendees may be social, others find themselves in desperate circumstances, Reverend Alex says.

"One woman that comes has got three kids, and they've been living in their car for eight months."

"She gets her kids to school every day in their uniforms."

"She showed me a photo and said, 'you'd never know, would you?'"



Immanuel (left) and Brian (right) with friends at their regular table.

Another man, who "comes and goes" from the weekly event is the "unbelievably tough" single parent of four young kids who is "trying to keep it all together".

Part of the idea of the weekly event is to keep track of people's lives and connect them with services where possible, Reverend Alex says.

There is also "transformation" that happens there.

For example, a man in his late thirties with "a jail history" and "a big, complicated life" who has got involved as a volunteer.

"He's here at nine o'clock every Wednesday and meets Mark to go and get all the food."

"And he's thinking about trying out for youth work ... to work with young lads to stop them from taking the path that he did."

According to Reverend Alex, the need for initiatives such as this has increased as a result of the federal government defunding emergency relief and food programs to instead provide individual packages to those eligible for aged care and other support.

"There's this idea that individual choice takes priority and power over community and people working together to care for each other, so there's a lot of uncertainty in the sector at the moment," she says.

For volunteer Helen Matthews there was no uncertainty about getting on board a couple of weeks after the dinners started.

An old friend of Reverend Alex's, who had become increasingly aware of "[her] privileged position", Helen answered a Facebook call for "people who might want to come and chop vegetables and peel potatoes and wash dishes".

"I was working casually, so I could make time," the library technician says.

Before long she had fallen into the role of at-home dessert maker as the result of feedback from the clientele that the fruit salad and ice cream afters were "a bit lacking".

Among the desserts Helen has on rotation are apple crumble, apple and pear cake, a "custardy lime bar slice" and a flourless coconut and almond cake.

She makes them at home the night before the dinner, using her own ingredients.

Long-term regular diner Felix clearly appreciates the variety on offer.

"I enjoy the meal here and my friend does too," he says, noting he always arrives on time.

"Some places you go it's a bit rough but this one's a very nice place, it's always friendly and I never feel disappointed."

"There's always enough food and you can even take some home."

"The efforts they go to for the hungry people!"

The community meals are held every Thursday at 6pm at the Dorcas St Uniting Church throughout the year except January. ●

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## Jayson Gillham returns with two-piano recital

“

Australian-British pianist Jayson Gillham will return to Melbourne Recital Centre this month as part of a national recital tour that brings together two friends, two pianos and a program built around musical connection.

”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



*Keys to Life – Two Friends, Two Pianos* will be performed at Elisabeth Murdoch Hall on Sunday, July 19, before touring to Brisbane, Adelaide and Sydney.

The concert pairs Gillham with Palestinian-Jordanian pianist Iyad Sughayer, who will make his Australian recital debut as part of the tour.

Together, the two pianists will perform a colourful program of works by Mozart, Debussy, Ravel, Khachaturian, Arensky and Chabrier, alongside the world premiere of a new commission by Palestinian-Lebanese composer Houtaf Khoury.

Gillham, named *Limelight's* 2024 Artist of the Year and described by *Gramophone* as a “story-teller”, is self-presenting the tour independently.

He said the project was close to his heart and reflected a shared belief in music as an act of connection.

“I have been looking forward to this tour for a long time,” Gillham said.

“Iyad and I share a vision of what music can do, not just as a performance, but as an act of connection.”

“To bring him to Australian audiences for the first time, in a program this rich and this

alive, feels like exactly the kind of thing I want to be doing.”

Sughayer, who is based in the UK, has performed across Europe, the Middle East, Colombia and North America. Recognised as *Classic FM's* 2022 Rising Star, he is also a YCAT Artist and BIS recording artist.

He said making his Australian debut alongside Gillham was a significant personal milestone.

“Australia has always felt like a place I wanted to bring my music,” Sughayer said.

“To make my debut here alongside Jayson, with a program that means so much to both of us, is something I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

The tour also marks a notable return to Australian stages for Gillham amid his ongoing legal dispute with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Gillham launched Federal Court proceedings after the MSO cancelled a concert he had been scheduled to perform in August 2024, following onstage comments in which he accused Israel of deliberately murdering Palestinian journalists.

The pianist has alleged unlawful discrimination, adverse action and breach of contract, while the MSO has argued his remarks breached expectations around unauthorised political statements from the stage.

According to the *Australian Financial Review*, Justice Graeme Hill urged both parties in June to make a further attempt to settle the matter, warning that a judgment could involve findings damaging to reputations on both sides. His decision is not expected quickly if the case proceeds to judgment.

Against that backdrop, *Keys to Life* places Gillham back before Australian audiences in a program framed around friendship, shared humanity and live musical exchange.

The recital is designed to be festive, warm and accessible, with the two-piano format allowing the performers to move through Mozart's wit, the shimmering colours of Ravel and Debussy, and the energy of Khachaturian and Chabrier.

*Keys to Life* will be performed at Melbourne Recital Centre on Sunday, July 19 at 5pm. ●

## NGV sets the stage for children with Ragnar Kjartansson exhibition

Children are being invited to step into the world of theatre, performance and make-believe in a new free exhibition at NGV International.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



*Children's Play: Ragnar Kjartansson for Kids* is the world premiere of Icelandic artist Ragnar Kjartansson's first exhibition created especially for children.

Now open and running until October 4, the exhibition invites young visitors and families to dress up, perform, build, draw and create their own theatrical scenes.

Taking inspiration from the lavish festivities of European courts during the Rococo period, and the later theatre tradition of “dinner and a show”, the exhibition features elaborate stage sets, props, costumes and interactive activities.

At the centre of the exhibition is a theatre with three hand-painted scenes: a cabin, a Rococo garden and a snowy forest. Children can choose to become actors, storytellers, audience members or creators, using bespoke costumes and props to bring each setting to life.



Photo: Eugene Hyland.

The exhibition also reflects Kjartansson's own lifelong connection to theatre. The son of an actor and theatre director, he grew up surrounded by rehearsals, scripts and backstage activity, experiences that have shaped his love of performance, costumes, sets and play.

Food and celebration also feature strongly. Children can build their own cake sculptures using soft, colourful cushions; sit on a giant upholstered cake and take part in drawing activities inspired by theatrical feasts and still-life displays of cakes and food.

NGV director Tony Ellwood AM said the

exhibition was designed to inspire creativity and confidence through theatre.

“Children will be able to explore, play and create both on the stage and as an audience, introducing young minds to the magnificent world of theatre,” he said.

*Children's Play: Ragnar Kjartansson for Kids* coincides with the NGV's major exhibition *Ragnar Kjartansson: Mercy*, which features new and recent video works by the artist.

Both exhibitions are on display at NGV International, St Kilda Rd, until October 4. ●

# MTC brings Chekhov's wit and heartbreak to the Playhouse in *Uncle Vanya*

For Anne-Louise Sarks, the enduring power of *Uncle Vanya* lies in its emotional honesty.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



More than a century after Anton Chekhov wrote his masterpiece about longing, regret, family tension and lives left un-lived, the Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) artistic director and CEO says the play still feels urgent.

"The emotional honesty of *Uncle Vanya* feels just as urgent and resonant today as it did when Chekhov first wrote it," Sarks told *Southbank News*.

"Chekhov's characters feel so alive because he understood the messiness and contradictions of being human. He captures beautifully what it is to be in love, to feel heartbreak and disappointment, and his characters move so adeptly between those emotions."

MTC's major new staging of *Uncle Vanya*, adapted by Joanna Murray-Smith and directed by Sarks, will take over Arts Centre Melbourne's Playhouse from July 21 to August 22.

Positioned as the centrepiece production of MTC's 2026 season, the show brings together an all-star ensemble of stage and screen performers, including Daniel Henshall, Catherine Vān-Davies, Fayssal Bazzi, Carolyn Bock, Don Bridges, Evelyn Krape, Philippa Northeast and Shaun Micallef.

For Henshall, best known for screen roles including *Snowtown*, *The Babadook* and *How to Make Gravy*, the production marks his first stage appearance since 2013. Micallef also returns to the theatre after his last stage appearance in 2016.



*Uncle Vanya* Cast – Melbourne Theatre Company. Photo: Charlie-Kinross.

"To have Daniel Henshall and Shaun Micallef returning to the stage at Melbourne Theatre Company is very special," Sarks said.

"They are joined by Don Bridges, who was recently honoured with an Equity Lifetime Achievement Award, alongside Philippa Northeast making her mainstage theatre debut, and an exceptional ensemble including Catherine Vān-Davies, Fayssal Bazzi, Evelyn Krape and Carolyn Bock."

"There is an indescribable energy in the rehearsal room: these are artists at the height of their powers, bringing immense creativity, rigour and generosity to the work, day after day."

Murray-Smith's adaptation follows her acclaimed work on *The Talented Mr Ripley*, *Julia* and *Switzerland*, bringing what MTC describes as sharp psychological insight to Chekhov's 1897 classic.

Sarks said the adaptation honoured Chekhov while making the characters feel immediate.

"Their questions about love, family and purpose don't feel historical – they feel immediate," she said.

"It could be Melbourne in 2026. What's most special about her version is the comedy; she's unlocked the humour, life and playfulness within Chekhov's classic."

That balance between comedy and sorrow sits at the heart of the work. Sarks said *Uncle Vanya* did not offer simple answers, but allowed complexity to remain unresolved.

"At Melbourne Theatre Company, we're drawn to work that is undeniably entertaining. And *Uncle Vanya* is exactly that," she said.

"What first drew me to *Uncle Vanya* was the idea of someone looking at the choices they've made and the life they've built and asking themselves, 'how did I get here?'"

"There's something quietly destabilising about that moment of reckoning – vulnerable, disorienting, and deeply human. It's both intimate and universal."

Sarks said the play's environmental themes also felt strikingly contemporary, particularly through the character of Astrov, who observes the neglect and degradation of the natural world.

"Those questions of responsibility feel, if anything, even more urgent in 2026 than they did when the play was first written over a century ago," she said.

The production is being realised on an ambitious scale, with a lush set and costume design by Dann Barber, whose previous credits include *Bloom*, *Yentl* and *RENT*.

Sarks said the physical world of the show was central to its emotional force.

"Dann Barber has created an elegant and richly detailed design," she said.

"It invites you into the world in a very intimate way, from the way characters are seated, to the dressing of the table, to the natural detail of the landscape. And the costumes are stunning."

"This is one of our most ambitious productions in recent years, taking place on the Arts Centre stage, the Playhouse."

For audiences who may know Chekhov as a classic playwright but have never seen *Uncle Vanya* performed, Sarks hopes the production will reveal how alive, humorous and moving the play remains.

"I hope they discover just how funny and incredibly moving this show is – it's even a little ridiculous," she said.

"This will be a night where audiences will run the gamut of human emotions."

Most of all, she hopes audiences reconnect with the power of live theatre.

"Nothing compares to sitting in a room together – laughing, grieving, and reflecting in real time," Sarks said.

"That shared experience is so powerful, and it's what we're striving to create with our staging of *Uncle Vanya*." ●

## Danielle de Niese comes home for MSO debut

Melbourne-born soprano Danielle de Niese will make her Melbourne Symphony Orchestra debut this winter, returning home for her only Australian concerts during this visit.

The internationally acclaimed performer will appear in the MSO's 2026 Winter Gala concerts on July 30 and August 1, led by chief conductor Jaime Martín.

Hailed by the *New York Times Magazine* as "opera's coolest soprano", de Niese has performed on some of the world's leading opera and musical theatre stages, building a career that spans classical music,

musical theatre, television, recording and broadcasting.

Her Australian story began in 1988 when, at the age of nine, she became the youngest winner of *Young Talent Time*. She later won an Emmy Award at 16 while hosting a weekly television arts program for teenagers in Los Angeles, before going on to front BBC documentaries and introduce opera to broader audiences.

For her MSO debut, de Niese will perform favourites from Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern and Cole Porter, in a program that celebrates her "multi-genre skillset" and wide-ranging musical career.

The concert will also feature Ginastera's *Variaciones Concertantes* and Bernstein's

*Symphonic Dances* from *West Side Story*.

De Niese was last seen in Australia in 2025 in Opera Australia's *Carmen*. Her return follows another major career milestone, having received an Olivier Award for Outstanding Contribution to Opera in April 2026. She has also recently made her directorial debut with a 20-city UK tour of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

The Winter Gala concerts will mark a homecoming for one of Australia's most recognisable classical artists, offering Melbourne audiences a rare chance to hear de Niese perform with the MSO.

The MSO's 2026 Winter Gala featuring Danielle de Niese will be held on Thursday, July 30 and Saturday, August 1. ●



Photo: © Decca / Chris Dunlop.

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## Makers' Market's future secured

Continued from cover.

The new group is championing the market's array of products that are home-made, not mass made.

Market leaders have secured sign-off and permits from the City of Melbourne, as well as sealing a partnership with the Yarra River Business Association.

Southgate is also on board, helping with a smooth transition and providing ongoing support.

Market chair Georgia Symmons said the traders were excited about the future and what it means for our visitors and the precinct.

"This is just the start, and we're already working on plans to grow and strengthen the market in the months ahead," Ms Symmons said.

Yarra River Business Association executive officer Elizabeth Joldeski said the organisation was proud to support the Southbank Makers' Market as it embarked on an exciting new chapter.

"This partnership reflects Yarra River Business Association's commitment to investing in experiences that make Southbank a destination people want to visit, explore and return to," she said.

"The market not only showcases the incredible talent of Victorian makers and small creative businesses, it creates a unique sense of place that can't be replicated anywhere else."

Ms Joldeski said a growing market could help activate under-utilised spaces along the riverfront and bring new life to areas that are ready for rejuvenation.

"By encouraging visitors to explore further along the precinct, we can create more opportunities for local businesses, support creative entrepreneurs and continue building Southbank as one of Australia's premier waterfront destinations," she said.

Ms Symmons said the partnership would help showcase Melbourne's talented makers.

"And it will create a place for creativity, connection and discovery, and encourage locals and visitors to explore, stay longer and experience more of the Yarra River precinct."

The market has its roots in the long-time former Arts Centre Sunday market on St Kilda Rd, which closed when the arts precinct redevelopment began.

The stalls moved to Southgate in early 2025. ●



## ACCA forecourt park takes shape



“

Construction has begun on a new green space outside the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, marking a long-awaited step in the City of Melbourne's push to deliver more open space in Southbank.

”

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



Lord Mayor Nick Reece, Cr Davydd Griffiths, Albert Park MP Nina Taylor, ACCA CEO Myles Cook, Transurban's Victorian general manager Anup Jois and Chunky Move executive director Suzanne Daley attended the Sturt and Grant streets site on Monday, June 29, to officially mark the start of works.

The project will transform more than 900 square metres of paved forecourt outside ACCA into landscaped public open space, including new planting, lawn and seating.

Funded through the Victorian Government's Better Parks and Playgrounds Program and Community Support Fund, the project is expected to be completed by October 2026.

Cr Reece said the new park would bring together two of Melbourne's defining strengths: arts and public space.

"Southbank is growing rapidly and so is our garden city," Cr Reece said.

"You'll soon be able to touch grass outside ACCA – as we get on with delivering 900sqm of new green space right near one of Melbourne's leading cultural institutions."

"Melbourne is known for its vibrant arts scene and great public spaces, and this project brings the two together, transforming the ACCA forecourt into a greener, cooler



and more welcoming place in the heart of Southbank."

The ACCA forecourt greening project forms part of a broader pipeline of open space and greening works across Southbank, one of the city's fastest-growing and most densely populated suburbs.

The City of Melbourne says the project will maintain the forecourt's important role within the surrounding arts precinct while creating a more inviting and usable place for residents, visitors and workers.

Once complete, the space will support biodiversity, community wellbeing and the vibrancy of the Melbourne Arts Precinct.

Environment portfolio lead Cr Davydd Griffiths said the project would deliver practical benefits for the neighbourhood.

"Projects like this bring real benefits, from cooler streets and more biodiversity to better places to meet and spend time

outdoors," Cr Griffiths said.

"It's great to see more of Southbank becoming greener and inviting."

The project was first announced in 2023, after the state government committed funding to convert what was then described by locals as an underused and dusty forecourt into a new community space.

Southbank community groups strongly welcomed the funding at the time, pointing to the suburb's long-running shortage of green space and the need for more inviting public places around the Arts Precinct.

The ACCA forecourt project will complement other Southbank greening initiatives, including Dodds Street Linear Park, Boyd Park, continuing upgrades to Southbank Boulevard, and planned projects such as the City Road Undercroft Park, Miles and Dodds Street Reserve expansion and Normanby Road Reserve expansion. ●



# Your State MP for **Albert Park**

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**ACTION not words.**

## Victorians deserve the truth about the Big Build

Victorians have every right to ask a simple question. What has corruption in the Big Build actually cost us?

**WORDS BY**  
RACHEL WESTAWAY –  
STATE MP FOR PRAHRAN



It is a question the Allan Labor Government clearly doesn't want to know the answer to.

In recent days, the Premier has finally acknowledged that corruption and criminality have occurred within Victoria's Big Build. Yet despite acknowledging the problem, the Premier seems unwilling to establish just how widespread it was, who benefited and, most importantly, how much it has cost Victorian taxpayers.

Instead, Victorians have been asked to accept that ballooning project costs are simply the result of inflation and expanded project scopes.

That explanation does not withstand scrutiny.

The North East Link, for example, was originally announced at around \$10 billion. Today, its estimated cost is approximately \$26 billion. Inflation alone cannot credibly

explain an increase of that magnitude. Nor can the government be allowed to normalise enormous cost increases by retrospectively claiming projects simply became larger after elections.

If that becomes accepted practice, future governments will have every incentive to

understate project costs before polling day, only to dramatically increase budgets later with little accountability.

Anti-corruption barrister, Geoffrey Watson SC, has estimated that corruption and criminality on the Big Build may have cost Victorians at least \$15 billion, while former Victorian Ombudsman Dr Deborah Glass OBE and former IBAC Commissioner Robert Redlich AM KC have both called for a Royal Commission.

Only a Royal Commission has the powers to compel witnesses, test evidence under oath and uncover the full extent of what has occurred.

The Premier argues that a Royal Commission into union corruption has already occurred, but this is misleading. The federal Royal Commission she refers to reported in 2015, just months after the conception of the Big Build. It could not possibly have examined allegations arising over the past decade.

Meanwhile, media reports have revealed that Victoria Police sought stronger investigative powers to properly pursue alleged corruption, but these pleas appear to have fallen on deaf ears. It has also been reported that investigators have faced significant challenges in encouraging witnesses to come forward.

The Premier has since announced additional powers for IBAC, but the most important "follow the money" powers, those needed to trace financial flows and uncover

the proceeds of corruption, are not expected to commence until the end of 2027.

Victorians should not have to wait years for anti-corruption investigators to have the tools they need.

This comes as Freedom of Information documents reported by *The Age* revealed that a senior Allan Labor Government adviser referred to a "30 per cent CFMEU premium" on Big Build sites. If true, that represents a cost increase many times greater than inflation and raises serious questions that deserve independent examination.

These are not abstract numbers.

Every dollar lost through corruption, waste or inflated costs is a dollar that cannot be spent fixing local roads, reducing hospital waiting lists, improving public transport, supporting frontline services or easing the tax burden on Victorian families.

Only an elected Liberal and Nationals Government led by Jess Wilson will call a Royal Commission into corruption on the Big Build, strengthen IBAC's powers, reinstate a Victorian Code of Practice for the Building and Construction industry, and establish Construction Enforcement Victoria to enforce compliance with the construction industry code.

Victorians have made enormous sacrifices to fund the state's infrastructure program. At a time when state debt is approaching \$200 billion, taxpayers deserve confidence that every public dollar is being spent honestly, efficiently and in the public interest. ●

## ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE

### Human touch

Do you have a favourite coffee shop? What makes it your "go-to" place? My hunch is that while good quality coffee is important there are other things that encourage your loyalty.

**WORDS BY**  
PASTOR JAMES WINDERLICH

Alternatively, there are reasons for not returning to a coffee shop. These also have little to do with coffee. I think that human touch or connection is a key motivator for our loyalty and when these are absent or poor we are unlikely to return.

Those who operate my chosen coffee

shop know two things about me. Firstly, they know and use my name, and I know and use theirs. Secondly, they know my preferred coffee order.

Consequently, there's no need to waste valuable time to provide the same information each time I visit the shop. They know who I am and what I like, and so our brief interactions can dive deep into chatting about our families, leisure activities, and interests.

Those interactions are rarely about coffee. They're about our human stories. They offer warm, welcoming, surprising, interesting and safe connections. That's why I keep going back, and I notice that a lot of other people do the same, to the point that we also begin to know each other by face and name.

Good coffee helps but there's more going on.

We experience similar connections in other places where we are also known. They

might be pubs or cafés, nail or hair salons where we experience the added benefits of healthy and respectful touch, community activities such as Choir 3006 through the Melbourne Recital Centre, or at our Boyd Community Hub and even our local places of religious worship such as St Johns.

Our souls ache for these connections and they seem to make the coffee or other products and services just a little more delicious and enjoyable.

Despite our astounding technological advances human connections can't be adequately mimicked or substituted. I've used coffee apps linked to my name, but when my coffee is ready and my name is called there is little sense of any story that goes with my or anyone's name.

There's not even the sense that a story might be possible. The interaction is reduced to a digitally mediated, commercial singularity of production and consumption. The service might be tightly scripted

and efficient, the coffee good, but a human touch is absent and the connection is cold. I have a sense of being alone, unknown and strangely unseen.

In our haste to achieve peak efficiency and growing returns we quickly forget who we fully are and so we stop going back. It's a place that only makes coffee. It's not the place for the sum of us.

Thank God for the sites of human connection scattered throughout Southgate. Thank God for the people who know and use our names, for their openness to our stories and their recognition of our presence.

Thank God for our collective refusal to allow technology to exclusively act and speak for us. Thank God for all that flows from the precious gifts of healthy and wholesome human touch as we launch into each day.

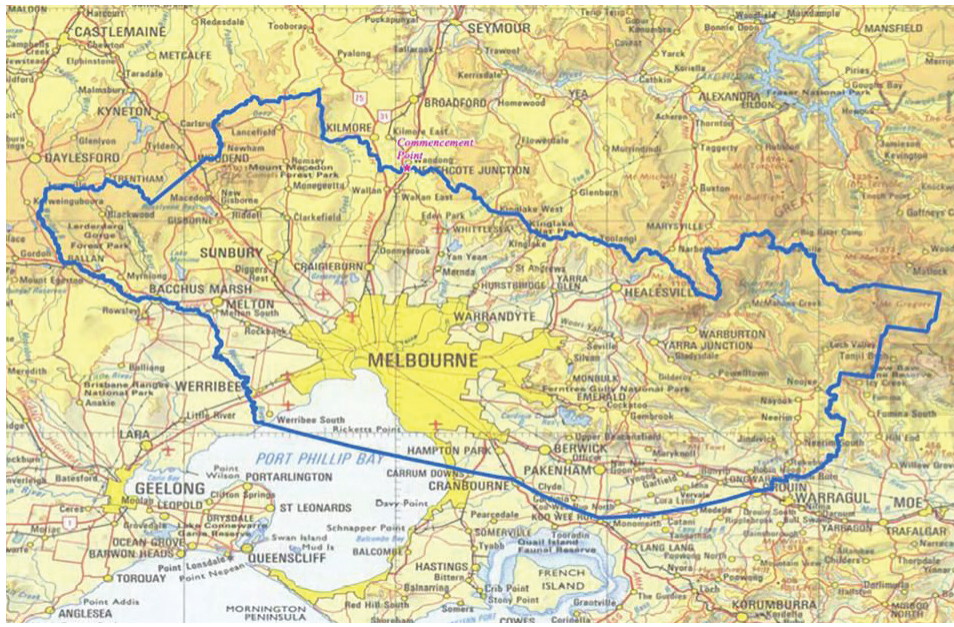
In this moment I am particularly grateful for the team at Pocket Espresso. Thank God for them all. ●

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## City of Melbourne seeks seat at table on native title claim

“The City of Melbourne has voted to join proceedings in the Federal Court relating to a native title claim over metropolitan Melbourne and surrounding areas.”

WORDS BY  
JENNY DENTON



The claim, lodged on October 30 last year on behalf of the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people, covers an area of approximately 10,424 square km extending from the Werribee River in the west to the Dandenong Ranges in the east and Mordialloc Creek in the south.

Registered in the name of 11 individuals, it takes in 36 council areas.

The claim excludes freehold land and areas where native title has been extinguished by public works, relating principally to Crown land where native title may have survived, including parks, gardens, reserves and some waterways.

The native title rights claimed include the right to “speak for” Country – as the traditional authority – as well as to hunt, fish and gather resources and to protect places of cultural significance there.

Lead claimant Perry Wandin, whose ancestor William Barak was a Wurundjeri leader said to have been present as a child when John Batman met with elders to “purchase” the Melbourne area in 1835, told the ABC last year the claim was part of a multi-generational struggle for recognition of his people’s connection to land.

Native title wasn’t about taking over but being able to control Crown land, he said.

“We want to be traditional owners of Melbourne, of Naarm as we know it.”

In South Australia, where the Kurna people were recognised as holding native title over parts of Adelaide in 2018, the title was found to exist only in relation to 17 parcels of land.

The recognition has been widely regarded as symbolically important.

In practice, it has resulted in a strengthening of the Kurna people’s role in land management and the protection of places of cultural significance.

When it was lodged last year Premier Jacinta Allan described the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung native title claim as a positive step, comparing it to the Dja Dja Wurrung settlement covering her Central Victorian electorate, which was reached more than a decade ago.

“This is a positive thing for traditional owner groups to come to their determination that they are ready to take this step,” she said.

Victoria has had its own framework for recognising traditional owner rights since 2010, the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act*, which provides the option of negotiating a settlement with the state government rather than pursuing a court-based native title claim.

The Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung are instead pursuing native title through the courts.

Introducing the issue at the June 30 council meeting, Lord Mayor Nick Reece said the City of Melbourne had been invited to join the Federal Court proceedings as a respondent under the *Native Title Act*, and doing so would provide the opportunity to protect its legal interests and “participate in any determination affecting land under our management”.

“Joining the proceedings would ensure that council has a seat at the table,” he said.

“And I do want to stress that in voting for this and seeking that seat at the table, we do this in good faith.”

“It allows us to understand the claim, assess implications and influence any agreement or determination. It also supports clarity on how Native Title rights may coexist with public infrastructure and our service delivery responsibilities.”

Deputy Mayor Roshena Campbell agreed it would be remiss of the council not to take up “the opportunity to be heard”.

Native title proceedings were relatively untested in Victoria, she said, and the council would “watch with interest as to the position” [and] approach” taken by the other councils affected by the claim.

The proceedings will take a number of years to be determined, the meeting heard, especially if the Boonwurrung Traditional Owner group make an overlapping application, as is expected.

*Southbank News* contacted several inner-city councils to ask if they were also joining the proceedings.

Merri-bek, one of only two municipalities to respond by deadline, said it was considering its response.

Stonnington CEO Dale Dickson said his council considered it to be in the best interests of the community to join the proceedings as a respondent and was currently taking the necessary steps to do so. ●

## Grey skies, green thumbs and warm hearts at SSG winter gardening bees

Even with the grey, overcast skies and chilly June weather at both working bees, our action-oriented volunteer team’s smiles remained bright, and they showed up in droves! In fact, these mornings were even more exciting than usual on warmer days.

WORDS BY  
DR SEEMA MISRA THAKUR



On June 6, we welcomed winter wholeheartedly. The absence of harsh sun to tire us or dry out the soil, the task of pruning, planting new winter crop seedlings to name a few like Asian greens, sweet potatoes, Russian kale, lettuce and herbs like coriander was a breeze.

The transplanting of plants to new beds was done without any fear of heat stress. It was a working bee organised on Friday, June 5, after World Environment Day. After completing the gardening tasks, the members gathered to discuss how Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) leads and supports the Southbank community through ground-level action in sustainability practices and gardening. This includes providing information, advocating for change, and conducting educational workshops on various topics related to positive climate action.

In recent past we hosted expert talks on food sustainability, food security, sustainable fashion, planting a sunflower for young children and the importance of native and indigenous plants in creating an ecosystem to support native insect biodiversity.

The second working bee on June 20 coincided with the upcoming Winter Solstice Day on June 21. The gardening tasks were completed with the help of our seasoned team members and a few new ones who have never done any gardening or even planted a seed, and who joined the volunteer team to clean the beds of autumn leaves, fertilise the beds with vermicompost and worm juice as well as prepare worm food out of cuttings and autumn leaves for the hungry worms in the worm farm.

At SSG, we embrace the spirit of gardening and believe in creating a safe and welcoming space for everyone, especially new residents. Through this connection, attending members learn about urban gardening and local greening efforts. The Southbank resident community is one of the most diverse and fastest growing, with a very dynamic and young demographic. Currently, we are approximately 28,000 residents and are projected to grow to around 40,000 by the year 2040.

Each resident here takes pride in living in the world’s most liveable city. In response, the City of Melbourne has launched a new initiative called Garden City.

This urban greening strategy aims to transform Melbourne into one of the world’s greenest, coolest, and most sustainable cities. The initiative focuses on rapidly developing pocket parks, expanding existing reserves, and driving community-led flora initiatives. The City of Melbourne is driving this initiative through the Urban Forest Strategy and Urban Forest Fund.

On June 12, SSG members and a few community action-leading residents from Southbank attended the “Meet an Urban Forester” session organised at the Boyd

Community Hub.

Dr Freya Thomas from the Urban Forest team informed us that the first stage community consultation draft will be released in July. This draft is based on the initial community consultation held in May 2025.

During the interaction, attendees discussed several issues and questions, including the selection of tree species by the council, the need for more variety in the trees chosen, and the potential hazards posed by leaf litter and fruit drops from certain trees on footpaths. Other concerns included maintenance, cleaning of leaf litter, and the phasing or removal of aged trees.

Read more about the Southbank Greening and Urban Forest Project in – [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/urban-forest/project-overview](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/urban-forest/project-overview).

The new Greening Guidelines were recently released, and a few of us SSG members attended the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on June 17, where these guidelines were presented. These guidelines aim to promote community-led gardening in our neighbourhoods by providing clear and easy-to-follow instructions for creating gardens in inner-city local streets.

Importantly, these guidelines do not require permits as long as they are followed and complied to, taking into account the specific needs and limitations of the local community. To know more check out guidelines at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/garden-city-guidelines](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/garden-city-guidelines).

To learn more about positive climate action-oriented sustainable gardening and greening efforts, do join us at the upcoming working bee session on July 4 from 10am to 12pm at the Boyd Community Hub.

### About the group

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

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



## Choir3006 sings for connection

A Southbank community choir has brought together residents, police, politicians and local community groups for a special gathering celebrating the role music can play in strengthening neighbourhood connection.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Choir3006, Melbourne Recital Centre's free weekly lunchtime drop-in choir, welcomed members of Southbank Neighbourhood Watch, Southbank Police Station Commander Senior Sergeant Alex O'Toole, Albert Park MP Nina Taylor and City of Melbourne councillor Rafael Camillo to join members in song on June 10.

The event highlighted the broader community benefits of the choir, which has welcomed more than 700 people since launching in 2025.

Held at Melbourne Recital Centre and

led by acclaimed choral conductor Renee Heron, Choir3006 was created as an accessible antidote to urban loneliness, offering local residents, workers and visitors a chance to step out of their daily routine and connect through music.

The program regularly attracts around 70 to 80 people each week.

A 2025 University of Melbourne Creativity and Wellbeing Research Initiative study documented the choir's social and wellbeing impacts, with participants reporting that singing together helped them feel more connected to their community, develop new skills and leave in a more positive mood.

Many members also identified broader benefits, including feelings of safety, belonging and security through social activities, local networking and repeated contact with familiar faces.

The June 10 gathering built on that theme, bringing together community safety groups, police and elected representatives in a relaxed setting focused on shared participation rather than formal discussion.

Choir3006 runs as a free weekly lunchtime program at Melbourne Recital Centre.

People interested in taking part can register via [melbournerecital.com.au](http://melbournerecital.com.au) ●



## Snap Squad: a community approach to reporting local issues

In a busy and growing community like ours, small issues can quickly become larger ones – whether it is dumped rubbish, abandoned shopping trolleys, graffiti, damaged footpaths, or other local concerns that affect residents' daily lives.

While many of these matters are reported individually, there is increasing value in a coordinated, community-based approach.

One simple tool already used by many residents is the free Snap Send Solve app. The app allows users to take a photo of a local issue, automatically identifies the location, and sends the report directly to the relevant authority – removing the need to work out who to contact.

A number of local residents have begun exploring how this tool can be used more effectively at a neighbourhood level, particularly in areas that experience recurring challenges. By sharing information and encouraging timely reporting, residents can help ensure that issues are documented,

visible, and addressed more efficiently.

There is now an opportunity to build a small, informal network of residents who use – or are interested in using – the app. The aim is not to replace existing reporting channels, but to strengthen them through greater awareness, participation, and collaboration.

Snap Squad brings residents together in a practical and social way. The launch meeting will be held on Saturday July 25 at 2.00 pm at a local café (venue to be announced). Following the launch, members will meet on the last Saturday of each month to walk through the neighbourhood, identify issues, submit reports through Snap Send Solve, and enjoy a coffee and chat afterwards.

No technical experience is required. Whether you already use the app or simply want to learn more, your involvement can help create a safer, cleaner, greener, and more connected community.

Interested in joining Snap Squad?

Contact Bubbles Segall for more information or to attend the launch meeting. Email: [snap.squad.clarendon.st@gmail.com](mailto:snap.squad.clarendon.st@gmail.com)

*Working together for a better neighbourhood. Empowering residents to make a difference – one snap at a time. ●*

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## Budget backs growing Montague

Our 2026/27 Budget has now been adopted, and I am pleased to share what this means for our community.

**WORDS BY**  
ALEX MAKIN – MAYOR AND  
MONTAGUE WARD COUNCILLOR,  
CITY OF PORT PHILLIP



Port Phillip is a city ready for the future. Our community is growing, our neighbourhoods are evolving and the decisions we make today will shape the city our communities of tomorrow will call home. This budget is our commitment to getting those decisions right.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share feedback during our community consultation, which we opened as early as November last year. Your input directly shaped our priorities and that is exactly how it should be.

We have delivered a balanced, debt-free and responsible budget that protects services and invests in our neighbourhoods, despite the cost-of-living pressures facing households and businesses across our community. The average rate increase of 2.75 per cent is in line with the Victorian Government's rate cap and well below forecast inflation of 4.9 per cent, with a further \$2.4 million in efficiency savings embedded throughout.

At the heart of this budget is a \$123.1 million capital works investment, one of the most significant in our city's history. For Southbank and Montague, this budget delivers on priorities that matter most to our growing precincts. This includes precinct planning for the Lakeside and Domain areas and Bay St in Port Melbourne, foot-path construction to improve walkability, and open spaces for Fishermans Bend – all of which lay the foundations for a connected and liveable community as our city continues to grow.

More broadly, the budget invests in

community facilities including the South Melbourne Town Hall restoration and redevelopment of six children's centres, expanded community safety measures, greater investment in arts and events, and \$26 million for parks, open spaces and streetscapes, including the Sandridge Recreation Precinct.

I am also pleased that this budget expands our Accessible Beaches program to operate year-round at Port Melbourne Beach, with work under way to extend the program to South Melbourne and Sandridge Beaches. Our beaches are one of Port Phillip's greatest assets and everyone in our community deserves to enjoy them.

None of this happens by accident. It happens because our community speaks up, our council listens and we are united in our belief in being Proudly Port Phillip.

As our precincts grow, so does the need for other levels of government to invest alongside us.

Our budget demonstrates the council's commitment to Fishermans Bend, and we call on the state government to match that commitment and inspire confidence in its urban renewal.

Hourly bus frequencies are inadequate for most of Melbourne, let alone a precinct earmarked for rapid growth. Promised pedestrian crossings remain undelivered, hampering walkability and neighbourhood connection.

I will continue to advocate strongly to the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments to ensure Fishermans Bend and our evolving neighbourhoods receive the infrastructure and services they need and deserve. ●

## Roy Park – a community legend

Few locals had the impact on the community in South Melbourne displayed by Dr Roy Park who practised medicine in Cecil St. He was an outstanding doctor, a war veteran, champion league footballer, and a State and (briefly) a Test cricketer.

Born in Charlton in 1892, he was educated at Wesley College and Melbourne University where he showed outstanding ability playing for University in the Victorian Football League (VFL). He was only a little bloke but, despite his diminutive stature, he was a goalkicking star for University in an era where they struggled to win a game.

Over 57 matches in the VFL, he kicked 146 goals and topped the VFL goal-kicking list in 1913 with 53 goals, despite the team's wooden spoon finish.

After University folded in 1915, he moved to play for Melbourne. After graduating in 1917 he enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Corps and joined the 5th Field Ambulance in France, with the rank of captain.

Park oversaw medical operations in a highly mobile environment, contributing to the ambulance's efforts in casualty evacuation and immediate treatment. He served with distinction and was mentioned in dispatches in 1919.

Post-war, he established a general practice in Cecil St and became known for his modesty, generosity, and community devotion, often prioritising patients over personal gain.

Midway through 1920 he returned to football, signing with Footscray in the Victorian Football Association (VFA) with whom he won a premiership.

On the cricket field, Park was a graceful right-handed batsman known for his leg-glances and partnerships in interstate matches and returned to cricket as a right-hand batsman for South Melbourne the following summer, with some outstanding performances for Victoria.

He was selected in the Australian team for the second Test against England over



the New Year of 1921. Extremely popular, he was welcomed by a large MCG crowd.

But after a sleepless night spent attending a difficult birth, his Test career was short-lived. His wife had dropped her knitting as he faced his first ball.

When she bent to pick it up, she missed seeing him being bowled first ball! He never got another chance. It was an unfortunate Test career.

After his retirement from active sport, he became an official of the Victorian Cricket Association and represented the South Melbourne Cricket Club as its delegate.

By the mid-1940s, despite emerging health challenges, he maintained active involvement, entering a partnership with his son, Dr Roy L Park, at 60 St Vincent Place in Albert Park from April 1946.

Nicknamed "Little Doc", he died prematurely in 1947, aged 54, after a prolonged illness. ●

### Robin Grow

AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN  
OF SOUTHBANK

ROBINGROW@OZEMAIL.COM.AU



## STATE MP – ALBERT PARK

## Southbank community safety update

**We've responded to an increase in violent offending by introducing Australia's toughest bail laws and bringing in tougher sentences, so there are more serious consequences for violent crimes.**

**WORDS BY**  
NINA TAYLOR – STATE MP  
FOR ALBERT PARK

Adult Time for Violent Crime laws mean children charged with serious violent offences will face adult courts, where the chance of jail is greater, and sentences tend to be longer.

We've banned machetes, removing thousands of dangerous weapons from the streets so far.

Crime has dropped across Victoria thanks to Labor's tough laws. The drop in alleged youth offending is the biggest since before the COVID pandemic. There's still a big job ahead to drive down overall crime, but our

laws reflect what Victorians expect, and they are reducing crime in our communities.

The data shows:

- Aggravated burglary down 22 per cent
- Aggravated and non-aggravated robbery down 15 per cent
- Crime committed by young men continuing to decline with a drop of nearly nine per cent
- Theft from a motor vehicle down four per cent
- Sexual offences and family violence incidents continuing to decline
- The victimisation rate, overall recorded offences and criminal incidents all decreasing

More adults are also being held to account for breaching their bail conditions following our tougher changes:

- For the first time since records, bail revocations and refusals in the Magistrates Court now make up a greater share of bail decisions – meaning more people are being jailed than are being bailed
- Bail revocations are up nearly 50 per cent and bail refusals are up by more than 63 per cent

Despite these continuing positive signs,

crime is still unacceptably high and there's more work to do.

- That's why we brought in Adult Time for Violent Crime, increasing the likelihood of jail
- That's why we started the Violence Reduction Unit to intervene early and stop crime before it starts
- That's why we back the Chief Commissioner's plan to get more police on the streets
- That's why we're keeping Victorians safe at work with PSOs in shopping centres and tougher ram-raid laws

### Violence Reduction Unit

While serious consequences for violent crimes are critical, the best approach is to stop crime before it starts. That's why the Victorian Government set up the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), to intervene early with kids at risk of committing crime.

The VRU model is based on Scotland's successful approach to violence prevention which helped cut violent crime by 60 per cent.

Labor has now given the VRU a permanent home in our justice system backed with \$33million in this year's Budget.

Funding will go directly towards new programs that identify and disrupt youth crime



patterns early.

Our Early Intervention Officers have already been selected to help 23 schools across Victoria support our teachers, principals, and wellbeing teams to keep kids engaged in positive activities and prevent them from heading down the wrong path. ●

## How do we turn neighbours into a community?

Southbank has undergone an extraordinary transformation over the past two decades. What was once largely a commercial precinct has become one of Australia's most densely populated residential communities. Every day, thousands of people call Southbank home—but increasingly, many of them are only here for a short time.

Students arrive for a semester or two before moving on. Professionals relocate for work contracts. Renters change apartments every year or two. Visitors come to enjoy everything Melbourne has to offer before returning home. Even many owner-occupiers divide their time between multiple residences.

There is nothing wrong with this. In fact, it is one of Southbank's greatest strengths. Our suburb is vibrant, diverse and welcoming, bringing together people from across Australia and around the world.

However, it does raise an important question.

How do we build a genuine sense of community when so many of our neighbours may only be here for a relatively short period?

Strong communities are built on more than impressive buildings. They are built through relationships. They grow when neighbours know one another, when residents feel comfortable saying hello in the



lift, when people support local businesses, attend community events and take an interest in the place they call home.

For those of us who have lived in Southbank for many years, it can sometimes feel as though familiar faces disappear almost as quickly as they arrive. Every move-out represents someone else's fresh start, but it also means our community is constantly rebuilding itself.

The good news is that Southbank already has one of the most valuable ingredients needed to bring people together—the Boyd Community Hub.

Home to the Southbank Library, community meeting spaces, workshops, exhibitions, children's activities and a wide range of community programs, Boyd is far more than just another public building. It is a place where neighbours can become acquaintances, acquaintances can become friends,

and a collection of apartment buildings can begin to feel like a genuine neighbourhood.

Whether you're borrowing a book, attending a community event, participating in a workshop, or simply enjoying the welcoming atmosphere, Boyd provides countless opportunities for residents to connect. Yet I suspect many people living in Southbank have never stepped inside, or are simply unaware of the breadth of services and activities available.

Perhaps we should be making much more of this incredible community asset.

Imagine if every new resident moving into Southbank received information about the Boyd Community Hub as part of their building's welcome pack. Imagine quarterly "Welcome to Southbank" events where new residents could meet their neighbours, discover local services and community groups, and learn more about the suburb they now call home. Imagine stronger partnerships between Boyd, local businesses and the Southbank Residents Association to create more opportunities for residents from different apartment buildings to meet.

These are relatively simple initiatives, but they could have a lasting impact.

Community doesn't happen by accident. It doesn't come from another apartment tower or another planning permit. It grows one conversation, one introduction and one shared experience at a time.

Southbank has become one of Melbourne's great residential success stories. The next challenge isn't simply accommodating more residents; it's ensuring

that everyone who chooses to live here—whether for ten years or ten months—feels that they truly belong.

We often measure a suburb by its skyline, but perhaps we should measure it by something else—how connected its people feel. Southbank already has the foundations of a wonderful community. By making greater use of places like the Boyd Community Hub and creating more opportunities for neighbours to meet, we can ensure our suburb is known not only for its remarkable buildings, but for the strength of the community that lives within them.

Next month Southbank Residents Association will be launching our highly-anticipated SRA+ community app, which will go a long way with assisting our neighbourhood to achieve this sense of community. We will be linking our local businesses and community and meetup groups with the wider community in a one-stop app - watch this space!

If you have any ideas for creating our community we would love to hear from you – [info@southbankresidents.org.au](mailto:info@southbankresidents.org.au) ●

**Tony Penna**

PRESIDENT



## SOUTHBANK3006

## Healing, colour and connection in Southbank

When we opened bookings for our first Paint & Connect Southbank workshop, I hoped local women would be interested. I did not expect the tickets to go so quickly.

### WORDS BY

NISHA GULL-E-NISHAT  
FOUNDER, HEALING NOOR  
COLLECTIVE & COMMITTEE MEMBER  
SOUTHBANK3006



The event sold out quickly, with 50 women registered and another 50 people joining the waiting list.

On Saturday, June 20, close to 40 women filled the room, some arriving with friends, many coming on their own, and all bringing their own stories, life stages and reasons for being there.

For a first pilot by a new social impact initiative, that response said something important: women are looking for spaces where they can slow down, be welcomed, create, and connect without pressure.

Paint & Connect was delivered by Healing Noor Collective at Boyd Community Hub, in partnership with Southbank3006 Inc. and supported through a City of Melbourne grant. It was designed as a gentle creative wellbeing session for women, using guided painting as a way to slow down, connect and feel part of a local community.

As women arrived, the room slowly shifted from unfamiliar to warm. There were introductions across tables, cups of tea, quiet laughter, and the small courage it takes to

sit beside someone new. The workshop was facilitated by artist Belle, who guided participants through abstraction as a process of connecting with the self.

Participants began with expressive sketches before moving into a final painting. It was not about producing perfect artwork. It was about colour, feeling, reflection and allowing something internal to take shape.

As the room settled, the atmosphere changed. It became quieter, softer. People were concentrating, reflecting, and allowing their own internal worlds to appear on the page and canvas.

There was something very powerful about seeing almost 40 women sit together in that way, not rushing, not performing, not needing to explain themselves, just creating.

That is exactly what we hoped Paint & Connect would offer. Healing does not always begin in formal settings. Sometimes it begins when someone feels safe enough

to sit at a table, pick up a brush, speak to another woman, and remember that they are not alone.

The feedback from participants was generous and deeply affirming. One woman wrote that she "felt safe and included" and met "some amazing ladies". Another described it as "just as the advertising promised, a calm, creative wellbeing session".

Others used words like "creative", "inclusive", "connection" and "safe". One participant wrote, "Please continue this workshop." Another said, "More spaces and experiences are needed like this."

Those comments stayed with me because they confirmed that this was more than an art workshop. For many women, especially those navigating grief, hormonal changes, fertility journeys, menopause, migration, caring responsibilities, isolation or emotional exhaustion, there are few spaces where they can simply arrive as they are. Not every form of healing needs to happen

in a clinical setting. Sometimes it begins in a community room, with paint on the table and another woman saying, "I understand."

This pilot would not have been possible without the support and partnership of Southbank3006 Inc. From the beginning, David Hamilton, MaryKay Rauma and the Southbank3006 committee understood the value of creating a local, accessible and welcoming space for women. Their support helped bring the idea from concept to reality through encouragement, promotion, local connection and practical partnership. For a new social impact initiative like Healing Noor Collective, that kind of community backing is not just helpful; it is foundational.

We were also honoured to be joined by Nina Taylor MP, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell, and David Hamilton from Southbank3006 on the day, whose presence showed strong support for local, community-led ideas.

Hearing Nina and Roshena share their personal experiences encouraged others and reinforced the value of creating safe and accessible wellbeing spaces close to where people live.

The success of this pilot is already shaping our thinking about what comes next. Participants asked for more sessions and suggested other creative forms, including poetry, storytelling and different art-based workshops. The waiting list also tells us there is real demand for ongoing opportunities.

One afternoon cannot solve everything. But it can open a door. On Saturday, that door opened through colour, conversation and care and many women walked through it together.

And that is where the next chapter begins! Feel free to reach out and join [southbank3006.com](http://southbank3006.com) ●

Quiz



- 1. Which country hosted the first Commonwealth Games in 1930?
2. Which popular Southbank bar reopened in June following an arson attack on its venue?
3. Author Lynley Dodd is best known for her books about which canine character?
4. Which Southbank apartment development recently launched its new tower Aura?
5. Who were the two lead actors in the 1978 film Grease?
6. Willis-Ekbom Disease is more commonly known by what name?
7. Which charity partnered with ABC Radio Melbourne for the 'Meals for Melbourne' appeal in June?
8. The chequered markings on emergency service vehicles are named after which patterned cake?
9. Chloë Sevigny (pictured) played Nicolette Grant in which drama TV series about Mormon fundamentalism?
10. Where will the new Stolen Generations Marker approved by the City of Melbourne be located?
11. What is the name of the Southbank bakery believed to be Australia's first Armenian bakery?
12. Which South Melbourne street is home to the proposed Else Bathhouse development?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

- 1. Canada 2. Soho Bar and Restaurant 3. Hairy Maclary 4. Melbourne Square 5. John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John 6. Restless legs syndrome 7. Foodbank 8. Battenberg cake 9. Big Love 10. Alexandra Gardens 11. Tatli's 12. Delights 12, Bank Street

5x5

No. 325

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

5x5 grid puzzle with missing letters: B \_ E \_ D, \_ E \_ U, A \_ E \_ T, \_ E \_ S, S \_ Y \_ R

SOLUTIONS

BLEND, REVUE, AVERT, TERSE, SLIER

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION ©PAGEMASTERS PTY LTD PAGEMASTERS.COM

July 2026

Sudoku

No. 060

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

EASY

Easy Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled

HARD

Hard Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled

SOLUTIONS

EASY

Solution for Easy Sudoku

HARD

Solution for Hard Sudoku

Wordfind

Theme: Peru

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

Wordfind grid containing letters to find words related to Peru

- ALPACA, AMAZON, AMERICA, ANDES, AYACUCHO, CACTUS, CEVICHE, CONDOR, CUSCO, JAGUAR, MOCHE, MONKEY, MOUNTAINS, NAZCA, QUINOA, RAINFOREST

Secret message: Location of Machu Picchu

Crossword

No. 060

ACROSS

- 1 Suggests (7)
5 Expressing much in few words (7)
9 Terrific (9)
10 Caribbean Sea island (5)
11 Sequence (6)
12 Becoming prominent (8)
14 Red wine (6)
15 Most important; major (4)
19 Not false (4)
20 Commercial (6)
24 Self-government (8)
25 Water-surrounded land mass (6)
27 Florida port (5)
28 From Oslo, e.g. (9)
29 Sources of light made with wax (7)
30 Traditions (7)

Crossword grid with starting numbers

DOWN

- 1 Brew; steep (6)
2 Food cupboard (6)
3 Female name (8)
4 Places oneself on a chair (4)
5 Railway vehicle (10)
6 Objects for sitting (6)

- 7 Maritime (8)
8 Replenishing (a battery) (8)
13 Medications given to a patient (10)
16 Second largest ocean in the world (8)
17 Large Australian spider (8)

- 18 Members of a trust (8)
21 Encompass (6)
22 Gambling house (6)
23 Ancient Greek figure of beauty (6)
26 Australian actor - Bana (4)

SOLUTION

Solution crossword grid

Codeword

No.030

Codeword puzzle grid with numbers and some letters

SOLUTIONS

Solution for Codeword puzzle

Vertical codeword puzzle grid

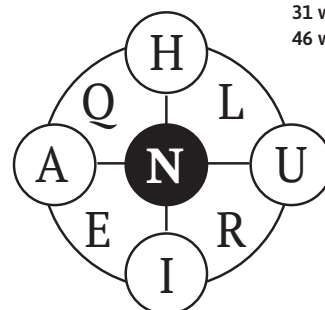
9-Letter

No. 060

Today's Focus:

- 20 words: Good
31 words: Very good
46 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 nouns ending in 's'.



Reference:

Macquarie Dictionary

SOLUTIONS

List of words formed from the 9-letter puzzle: alien, anil, anille, earn, elan, HARLEQUIN, hernia, hernial, hinar, inhale, inhaler, inhaul, inhauler, inure, lain, lane, larvae, learn, lien, line, linear, liner, lunar, lunge, nail, narlu, near, neural, quern, quilt, rain, rani, rein, renal, rhinal, ruin, rune, whilar, ulan, ulna, ulnae, unhair, unreal, urnal, urine

## WHAT'S ON July



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



### KHT NAIDOC WEEK FIRST PEOPLES ART AND DESIGN MARKET 2026

Discover a vibrant First Peoples art and design market featuring 20+ artists, unique handmade goods, and free family-friendly creative workshops.

Main Square, Fed Square

FRIDAY 10 JULY, 12PM – 5.30PM



### EMMA DONOVAN X MSO

Emma Donovan reunites with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for a powerful NAIDOC Week celebration of classic soul music and symphonic arrangements.

Hamer Hall, 100 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

FRIDAY 10 JULY, 7.30PM – 9PM



### TABLE TENNIS

Weekly table tennis coaching at Boyd Community Hub welcomes all skill levels, offering fun, fitness and skill development for families, friends and neighbours. Registrations essential.

Assembly Hall, Boyd Community Hub

UNTIL 31 JULY, 5PM – 7PM



### UNCLE VANYA

Anne-Louise Sarks directs Joanna Murray-Smith's contemporary adaptation of Chekhov's Uncle Vanya, exploring love, regret and family tensions.

The Playhouse, Arts Centre Melbourne

21 JULY – 22 AUGUST, 6.30PM – 8.30PM



### CHOIR 3006

Choir 3006 is a free Southbank community choir offering relaxed lunchtime sing-alongs, welcoming all abilities with no experience required. Wednesdays (during school terms).

Melbourne Recital Centre

15 JULY – 16 SEPTEMBER, 12.15PM – 1PM



### CHILDREN'S PLAY: RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

Children explore drawing, storytelling and theatrical play in Ragnar Kjartansson's interactive exhibition, designed to inspire creativity and imagination.

National Gallery of Victoria

UNTIL 4 OCTOBER, 10AM – 5PM



### THE SOUTHBANK MAKERS' MARKET

Come and explore, meet the makers and artists face-to-face and learn about their products and what inspires their work. Stallholders are positioned in marquees along the Yarra River.

Ground Level & Promenade, Southbank

UNTIL 26 DECEMBER, 10AM – 4PM

## Business Directory

### ARTS AND CULTURE

**MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE**

### EDUCATION

**PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE**

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9682 3191

37-47 Thistlethwaite Street  
South Melbourne 3205

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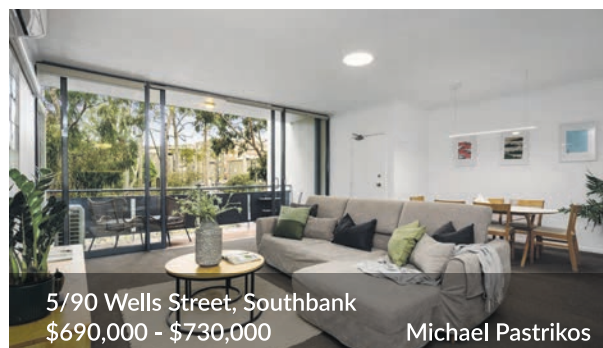


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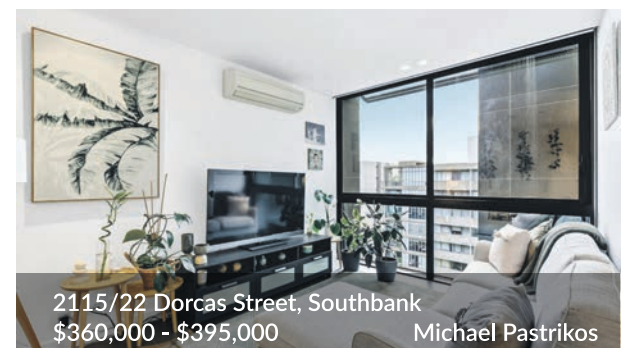
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3211/60 Kavanagh Street, Southbank  
\$950,000 - \$1,025,000 Michael Pastrikos



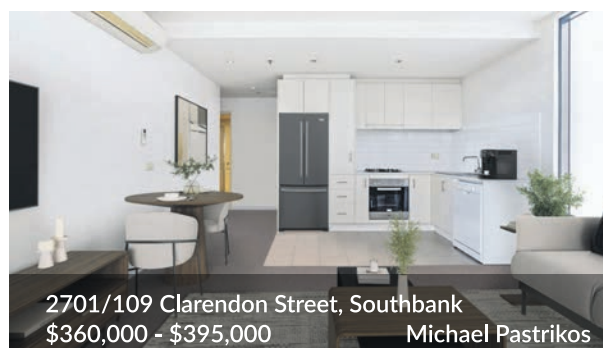
5/90 Wells Street, Southbank  
\$690,000 - \$730,000 Michael Pastrikos



2115/22 Dorcas Street, Southbank  
\$360,000 - \$395,000 Michael Pastrikos



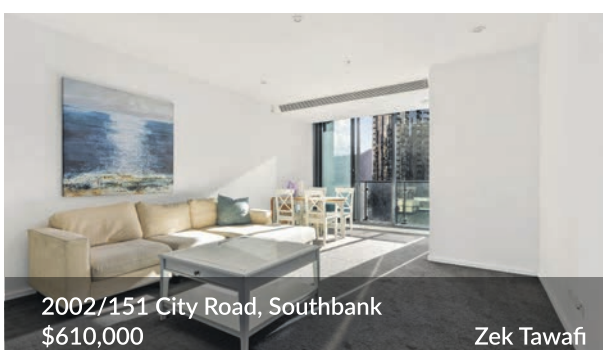
1503/135 City Road, Southbank  
\$390,000 - \$425,000 Michael Pastrikos



2701/109 Clarendon Street, Southbank  
\$360,000 - \$395,000 Michael Pastrikos



99/88 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank  
\$550,000 - \$600,000 Michael Pastrikos



2002/151 City Road, Southbank  
\$610,000 Zek Tawafi



914/31 City Road, Southbank  
\$230,000 - \$250,000 Zek Tawafi



4005/45 Clarke Street, Southbank  
\$540,000 - \$570,000 Tommy-Lee Davies



504/250 City Road, Southbank  
\$310,000 - \$340,000 Max Hui



2106/45 Clarke Street, Southbank  
\$565,000 - \$620,000 Max Hui



1304/58 Clarke Street, Southbank  
\$445,000 - \$475,000 Max Hui



3710/105 Clarendon Street, Southbank  
\$360,000 - \$395,000 Max Hui



1802e/18 Hoff Boulevard, Southbank  
\$400,000 - \$420,000 Max Hui

Michael Pastrikos: 0404 282 864  
Max Hui: 0430 238 021  
Tommy-Lee Davies: 0416 823 173  
Taylor Sims: 0403 485 210  
David Umana: 0481 222 376  
Lachie Kelly: 0411 446 204  
Ben Vu: 0422 284 216  
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QR Code

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Virtual Staging

2 2 1  
 3513/151 City Road Street, South-

QR Code

\$695,000

Actual View

2 2 1  
 4207/1 Balston Street, Southbank

QR Code

\$740,000 - \$780,000

2 1 1  
 18/100 Wells Street, Southbank

QR Code

\$590,000

1 1 1  
 147/83 Whiteman Street, Southbank

QR Code

\$425,000 - \$465,000

2 2 1  
 3908/60 Kavanagh Street, Southbank

QR Code

\$660,000 - \$710,000

1 1  
 1508/63 Whiteman Street, Southbank

QR Code

\$365,000 - \$400,000

1 1  
 66/173 City Road, Southbank

QR Code

\$450,000 - \$495,000

Actual View

3 2 1  
 211/100 Kavanagh Street, Southbank

QR Code

\$868,000 - \$908,000

Actual View

1 1  
 711/63 Whiteman Street, Southbank

QR Code

\$420,000 - \$460,000

Virtual Staging

2 2 1  
 175/100 Kavanagh Street, Southbank

QR Code

\$618,000 - \$658,000

Actual View

3 2 2  
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QR Code

\$780,000

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 911/180 City Road, Southbank  
**\$380,000 - \$418,000**

Virtual Staging

🏠 1 🛏 1 🚗 1  
 208/100 Kavanagh Street, Southbank  
**\$430,000**

Actual View

🏠 2 🛏 2 🚗 1  
 4804/81 City Road, Southbank  
**\$840,000 - \$880,000**

Virtual Staging

🏠 2 🛏 1 🚗 1  
 2802/241 City Road, Southbank  
**\$480,000 - \$528,000**

Virtual Staging

🏠 1 🛏 1  
 76/183 City Road, Southbank  
**\$340,000 - \$370,000**

Actual View

🏠 2 🛏 1 🚗 1  
 3205/1 Balston Street, Southbank  
**\$580,000**

## Your Sales Team

- |                                        |                                     |                                   |                                     |                                    |                                          |                                    |
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| <br>Hanin Ven<br>0461 452 010          | <br>Jackson Santana<br>0477 222 856 | <br>Jacob Cock<br>0458 885 870    | <br>James Yue<br>0457 661 730       | <br>Jane Sukpanich<br>0472 876 281 | <br>Jason Li<br>0400 361 277             | <br>Jason Singh<br>0417 792 125    |
| <br>Jen Lin Lau<br>0466 407 555        | <br>Jenny Huo<br>0481 915 796       | <br>Mike Yuan<br>0499 579 822     | <br>Natalia Susanti<br>0411 892 357 | <br>Nick Hogan<br>0400 222 751     | <br>Primo Gianni-Ostrow<br>0428 689 942  | <br>Ricardo Zalapa<br>0456 822 278 |
| <br>Stratton Jacobsen<br>0408 766 757  | <br>Sunday Hu<br>0484 708 087       | <br>Thomas Fraser<br>0486 269 745 | <br>Will Newman<br>0409 912 711     | <br>Yas Sunar<br>0408 674 896      | <br>Rod Richards<br>0434 835 945         |                                    |

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- |                                     |                                  |                                          |
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| <br>Mervin Lutchman<br>0459 944 871 | <br>Sura Gim<br>0407 980 676     | <br>Jacob Paola<br>0423 027 874          |
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