

# SOUTHBANK NEWS

southbanklocalnews.com.au

Forever Free

Twitter @southbank\_news



Lantern Festival to light up the Yarra  
Photo by John Tadigiri

Queensbridge Square will be the hub of this year's Lantern Festival on the last weekend of February and the event's, organiser Federation of Chinese Associations of Victoria president Simon Qian, said locals could expect more than a thousand lanterns along the Yarra River. *Continued on page 10.*

## Stumbling block for Southgate redevelopment plans

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PLANNING

Plans for an \$800 million redevelopment of Southgate are under threat of suffering significant setbacks with one of the centre's tenants defiantly looking to see out its long-term lease agreement.

In May last year, Southgate's owners ARA Australia lodged a development application with the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for approval as it seeks to deliver a new 21-storey office tower and more than 10,000 sqm of new retail space across four levels.

While the application is still sitting with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), ARA said last year that the project was aiming to begin in 2021 and end in 2024, generating more than 340 construction jobs.

But last month, the directors of events and hospitality venue Metropolis, which currently enjoys sweeping views of the Yarra and the CBD from its 880 sqm home spanning the entire top floor of the current Southgate Centre, said it wasn't going anywhere.

According to its directors Georgina Damm and Eddie Muto, Metropolis has a lease agreement in place until "at least 2024", as well as any extensions afforded to it by disruptions caused by COVID-19.

The business said it signed its seven-year lease with Southgate's former owners Dexus in late 2017 and while other Southgate tenants have demolition clauses in their contracts, Mr Muto said he "doesn't do demolition clauses".

A statement from Metropolis

issued in January accused ARA of "jumping the gun" on announcing its redevelopment plans, which it said "must be put on hold for the time being".

"In articles published on several media outlets, ARA declared that redevelopment could be starting as early as 2021 with the new site to be completed by June 2024. The \$800 million project is said to be rebuilding the two-hectare Southgate site," a statement from Metropolis said.

"However, the articles failed to mention the secured long-term lease agreement between the Southgate Centre and Metropolis Events."

"This announcement, (not surprisingly), triggered many alarming phone calls from brides-to-be and corporate clients wondering why they had not been notified that Metropolis Events would be closing? When in fact, this couldn't be further from the truth."

"Imagine securing the site of your dreams only to read a dream-shattering headline the following day. Talk about fake news!"

The statement said that while the company's directors were currently considering tenure options within the proposed newly-developed Southgate beyond 2024, it said it would remain in full operation in the meantime.

With Metropolis currently occupying the top of the site that ARA plans to demolish to make way for its new tower and four-storey retail precinct, the news presents a major hurdle for Southgate's owners.

ARA Australia told *Southbank News* that it wouldn't be providing a formal comment in response to issues raised by Metropolis, but

*Continued on page 2.*

## Southbank heritage controls finally before minister

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
HERITAGE

A planning scheme amendment that will protect some of Southbank's most important buildings has finally been sent to the Minister for Planning.

Important landmarks like the Castlemaine Brewery, Queens Bridge Hotel and Ron Robertson-Swann's *Vault* sculpture will be protected if Minister for Planning Richard Wynne gives *Amendment C305: Southbank Heritage* the tick of approval.

In what is a long-awaited moment for the City of Melbourne and the Southbank community, the finalised amendment was adopted at a December 15 City of Melbourne council meeting.

"Planning scheme amendments are long and tortuous but this is the final part for us — let's hope the minister doesn't sit on this one for too long," Cr Rohan Leppert said.

In 2017 Cr Leppert, the council's heritage portfolio chair, commissioned a review into Southbank heritage.

The review identified key locations within the local area that were worthy of "protection" under the planning scheme — that is, where higher levels of scrutiny should be applied to any future development plans on the site.

The final document included some changes, including places where the buildings had been redeveloped since the review was conducted or where it was determined the threshold for local heritage significance had not been met.

"We have a large number of buildings and objects that weren't protected in the planning scheme before, but now have varying levels of protection, and that is a wonderful thing," Cr Leppert said.

"[This] finally brings those heritage controls for Southbank up to date. In such a central city, highly contested area where land values are high, that is no small feat. This is a spectacular achievement."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it was important to protect buildings or locations of importance, even in areas not renowned for their historical landmarks.

"I know some people would be very surprised that there

*Continued on page 3.*

COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 03  
**A** Palm trees cause a stir at Southbank Boulevard



ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 05  
**B** Local eyes sought for NGV Contemporary




COMMUNITY, PAGE 09  
**C** A micro-chat with a new local



ARTS PRECINCT, PAGE 11  
**D** COVIDSafe return for Arts Centre Melbourne





Trish Destito   Mark Giuliano   Kayla Ferguson   Sergio Lopez

**Your Southbank Property Experts**

Contact us today for a free, no obligation rental or sales appraisal.

9696 8869 | info@melcorp.com.au | melcorp.com.au



Scan to enquire

CONTACT  
Suite 108, 198 Harbour Esplanade  
Docklands 3008  
southbanklocalnews.com.au  
Tel: 8689 7980

EDITOR  
Sean Car

PUBLISHER  
Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
ABN: 57 623 558 725

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

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

The deadline for the March edition is March 4, 2020.

SOCIAL MEDIA  
Follow us on Twitter  
@SOUTHBANK\_News

Like us on Facebook  
Southbank Local News

Follow us on Instagram  
@southbanklocalnews

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

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



## Stumbling block for Southgate redevelopment plans

*Continued from page 1.*

is understood to be continuing negotiations with the directors to establish a mutually beneficial outcome.

Currently including the two Herald Weekly Times (HWT) and IBM office towers, a three-level retail and hospitality plaza and a basement carpark, the Singaporean-listed ARA Australia purchased Southgate from Dexus in 2016 and assumed management in 2018.

Speculation regarding its planned redevelopment heightened early last year following concerns raised by a number of its current tenants as to whether their businesses would be incorporated in the new plans, as reported in the March 2020 edition of *Southbank News*.

ARA's head of asset management Rohan Neville said last year that it would be accepting expressions of interest from all parties, including its existing tenants, as it sought to create an "all-day lifestyle destination."

"ARA Australia is committed to maintaining open, two-way communication with all tenants and community stakeholders throughout this process," he said.

"Our tenants have been aware of the master planning investigations for some time and each tenant has been contacted by an ARA representative via phone to inform them of our intention to lodge the application. Moving forward we'll be providing regular updates and sharing new information as it becomes available."

"We are currently exploring a range of options in relation to Southgate's retail and dining offering, to enhance the overall customer experience for everyone who visits the precinct."

ARA Australia had sought to take advantage of the state government's fast-tracking of building permits amid the COVID-19 pandemic last year, but the plans still remain subject to approval.

Metropolis said its directors were also in discussions with other river fronted sites



▲ A render of ARA's planned Southgate redevelopment.



▲ Inside Metropolis at Southgate.

flagged for development in the near future. "This offers Metropolis Events the opportunity to operate its premium event services uninterrupted if the company chooses to not stay at Southgate Centre past 2024," a statement from Metropolis said ●



Sean Car  
EDITOR  
SEAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

## Damning findings against Crown

WORDS BY David Schout  
BUSINESS

Crown Resorts has been found unsuitable to hold the licence of its new Sydney casino in a bombshell revelation that could have ramifications for its flagship Southbank casino.

An independent NSW inquiry into the licence, headed by former Supreme Court judge Patricia Bergin, found that widespread changes were required for it to be a suitable operator in the future.

The 800-page final report considered evidence of systemic issues at Crown's Melbourne casino, which included allegations of money laundering and links to organised crime.

The damning revelations put further pressure on the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation's (VCGLR) upcoming review of Crown Melbourne.

Late last year the state government announced it had brought forward the review from 2023 to 2021 as a result of findings interstate.

"This review is needed given the evidence we've seen come out of the NSW inquiry," Gaming Minister Melissa Horne said in December.

"We're making sure Crown Melbourne conducts its business in a transparent and appropriate manner."

The now significant pressure on the regulatory body and state government comes after it took an interstate inquiry to find damning evidence of actions that took place at the Melbourne casino.

Activist shareholder Stephen Mayne, an outspoken critic of the gambling industry, told *Southbank News* in November that the VCGLR had a "history of being particularly tame".

Commissioner Bergin's recommendations were due to be considered by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority later this month ●

MELBOURNE  
**GRAND**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
13 - 21 FEBRUARY

Inspect 8 furnished displays, a whole floor of luxurious resident facilities & actual apartments for sale and rent.

SPACIOUS CITY HOMES

1, 2 & 3 BEDS FROM \$489,000\* • PRIME CBD LOCATION

SPECTACULAR CITY VIEWS



RESIDENTS' LOUNGE & DINING



**Apartment features:** Generous living spaces, balcony/ terrace, modern kitchen with stone bench-tops, Miele appliances, concealed reverse-cycle heating & cooling and motorised blinds.

**Residents' Facilities:** Residents lounge & Dining, Banquet room, Theatre, Coffee Lounge, Indoor heated pool, Gym, Sauna, Yoga room, Outdoor terrace & BBQ's & 24 hour Concierge service.

**WINNER!**  
APARTMENT  
COMPLEX OF  
THE YEAR 2020

HOUSING INDUSTRY  
ASSOCIATION  
(VICTORIA)

**HUGE STAMP DUTY SAVINGS up to \$25k for all investors & owner occupiers**

\* Price as sold as 20/1/2021, until sold.

**CENTRAL EQUITY**  
AWARD-WINNING AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPER

Inspect 7 Days, 10am - 5pm at 570 Lonsdale St, Melbourne

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

9278 8888 (7 DAYS)

# Palm trees cause a stir at Southbank Boulevard

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The first sign of greening at Southbank Boulevard emerged last month with fresh grass laid down out the front of the ABC building, but the installation of a series of palm trees has raised many eyebrows.

Following a report by *Southbank News* in November last year highlighting the extent of the project's budget and timing blowouts, calls from locals to bring the project to a quick end by delivering much-needed green space have heightened.

And while the first signs of fresh grass have been widely welcomed, many locals have questioned the decision to plant eight palm trees along the edge of the ABC building, which they claim were absent from the original project renders.

Many took to social media via the Southbank Community Hub Facebook group in December to express their disappointment.

"Hideous. Clearly residents' opinions aren't valued in the planning of these projects," one wrote.

"Very disappointing, especially with some of Boyd Park being taken from us," another wrote, while many others lamented the loss of established London Plane trees in the area, which the council is phasing out to be replaced with more climate-resistant tree species.

But in response to a query from a local resident to Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, which argued that the project wasn't contributing to a "greener Melbourne, the project's principal manager said more trees would be planted in March.

"Some residents have noticed that eight palm trees have been planted in the civic space to date, and these will be complemented by approximately 40 canopy trees which are estimated to be planted in March 2021, which is the commencement of the planting season for trees next year," the project manager said.

"I can assure you that the design for the civic space to the front of the ABC is very closely aligned to the concept plans and artists' impressions which were published online, and this will become clearer as further works are completed, and the remaining trees are planted next year."

In addition to the eight palm trees, the council said that locals could expect to see a mixture of Ginkgo Biloba and Poplar trees planted from March.

According to the council Ginkgo Bilobas are an upright tree with "fan-shaped foliage and brilliant yellow autumn colour" and typically they grow 11 metres tall. Poplars, which typically grow to around 20 metres in height, are a fast-growing species, and are a mid-green during the year with foliage that turns to yellow



▲ Palm trees have emerged at Southbank Boulevard.

▼ Render versus progress.



in autumn.

"As per that presentation which was provided to residents in the Southside Gardens complex, [the] council has worked to ensure that we are retaining trees where possible, and as such the six large London Plane trees adjacent to the footpath within the nature strip between Moore St and Kavanagh St are to be retained," the project's manager said.

"While we are able to retain these six large and prominent trees, there are five smaller London Plane trees within the former central median strip which are proposed to be removed in order to allow for the old roadway to be demolished, and the area to be turned into an open space."

"While it is unfortunate that these trees need to be removed, the development of the open space will see a significant increase in tree numbers, along with an increase in species diversity and biodiversity for the area, which meet the City of Melbourne's Urban Forest and precinct plan targets for tree species and

climate readiness."

While the council estimates a further 50 trees will be planted between Moore and Kavanagh streets as part of the next phase of the project, the project's manager has assured that no further palms are proposed to be planted.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp and the council's management are also currently in discussions with the Southbank Residents' Association regarding a Southbank community meeting in March, to allow locals the chance to discuss a number of important projects such as Southbank Boulevard, Boyd Park and the City Road Master Plan.

While a date is yet to be confirmed, the meeting will be established at a local venue which can cater for around 150 people. In addition to addressing current capital works projects in Southbank, the event will provide locals with the chance to identify new potential opportunities for green open space. More details will be announced in the March edition of *Southbank News* ●



▲ The Castlemaine Brewery building on Queensbridge St.

## Southbank heritage controls finally before minister

*Continued from page 1.*

is indeed heritage to protect in Southbank," she said.

"It is an area more renowned for modern skyscrapers than it is for heritage. But now, through this work, we're going to be able to preserve and protect those stories, that character and that personality that Southbank can proudly claim as its own."

The timeframe for a government decision on Amendment C305 is not known, however there are a number of important council planning amendments still sitting with the Minister for Planning, including Planning Scheme Amendment C308: Urban design in the central city and Southbank ●


## Kennedy Park

COMMUNITY

Southbank's new park at Kavanagh St will be renamed Kennedy Park, in honour of Australian actress Patricia Carmel Stewart "Pat" Kennedy, under a proposal by the City of Melbourne and Melbourne Square developer OSK Property.


With the two new roads in Melbourne Square also named after women in the arts – Hoff Boulevard and Bale Circuit are named after Dr Ursula Hoff and Alice Bale, respectively, the proposed name seeks to follow the same theme.


Patricia Kennedy (1916-2012) was a Melbourne-based actress who starred on stage, film, television and radio throughout the 1970s, '80s and '90s ●




**Awarded  
Victoria's best.**

**Award for Excellence - Large Owners Corporation  
Management Business 2020.**





**Request a free  
Management Proposal today.**



ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update



**IN-BRIEF**

**YOUR COUNCIL**

The City of Melbourne has welcomed its newly-elected Council. Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil) to find biographies and contact details for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and councillors, as well as details of upcoming meetings. Did you know you can watch meetings live from wherever you are thanks to our live-streaming capability? Tune in live or catch up later.

**CARERS**

Do you provide unpaid care to an older person, or someone living with a physical or mental health condition or disability? Email [healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au) or call or text 0427 872 516 to enquire about our informative carer support program. We also offer a dedicated group for LGBTIQ+ carers. Find out more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/carers](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/carers)



**FREE PROMOTION**

Do you know a retail, tourism or hospitality business in the City of Melbourne that is doing something wonderful? We might be able to offer them free promotion through our What's On Melbourne channels. Find out more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/markingsupport](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/markingsupport)

**SECRET SPACES**

Feast your eyes on photographs of iconic and never-before-seen Melbourne locations captured during lockdown, including amazing city views from deserted hotel rooms and new street art. Discover our Melbourne Digital Time Capsule images at [magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au) or in-person at the Melbourne Visitor Hub at Town Hall.



*Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur.*

**Connect with us**

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



**IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD**

**HOSPITALITY CO-OP FINDS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS**

**Book a table at a local restaurant to show your support to hospitality businesses and workers as they innovate and evolve following a challenging 2020.**

In September, the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government announced a landmark \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund to reactivate the central city as businesses progressed towards a COVID-safe reopening.

One of the grant recipients was South Wharf restaurant BangPop, which used the funding to put in place outdoor dining infrastructure and develop activations to entice customers back.

During lockdown, BangPop also moved its Thai cooking classes online and created an ecommerce hub to help promote a co-op of local businesses.

The restaurants include Meat Market South Wharf, Plus 5 cocktail bar, Henry and the Fox and The Common Man.

Area manager Sam Shaw said the alliance worked together to 'pivot to keep the dream alive'.

'Our teams joined forces to bring you something a little different from other COVID-19 hospitality pivots by providing online experiences including all equipment and ingredients delivered to your door,' said Sam.

'We saw that there was a need for people to connect to others throughout the lockdown and much of what was missed during this time was interaction, which is an important part of the hospitality experience.

'We sought to fill this need and found great success and a way to stay in touch with our customers (and find some new ones) through a tough time for everyone.'

Sam said the mental health of staff and the uncertainty around financial wellbeing presented great challenges for the hospitality industry during the pandemic.

'At the time of the first lockdown, hospitality staff had no information on financial aid so we were going blind into uncharted territory and it took its toll on all of us,' Sam said.

'Through resilience and working together, plus the added support of the government and the City of Melbourne, we were able to keep people engaged, which had a positive effect on their mental state.

'The learning from 2020 is that we are much stronger working together and through this we can get through anything.'

Looking to the future, Sam believes the hospitality industry will continue to innovate, with an increased focus on local products and produce.

'The obvious shortage of qualified staff for the hospitality industry, which relied so heavily on international workers, means the industry will need to further embrace technology,' Sam said.

'Through this, the usual roles of workers will change and we will see an uplift in local people seeing the industry as a viable career rather than just a means to an end.'

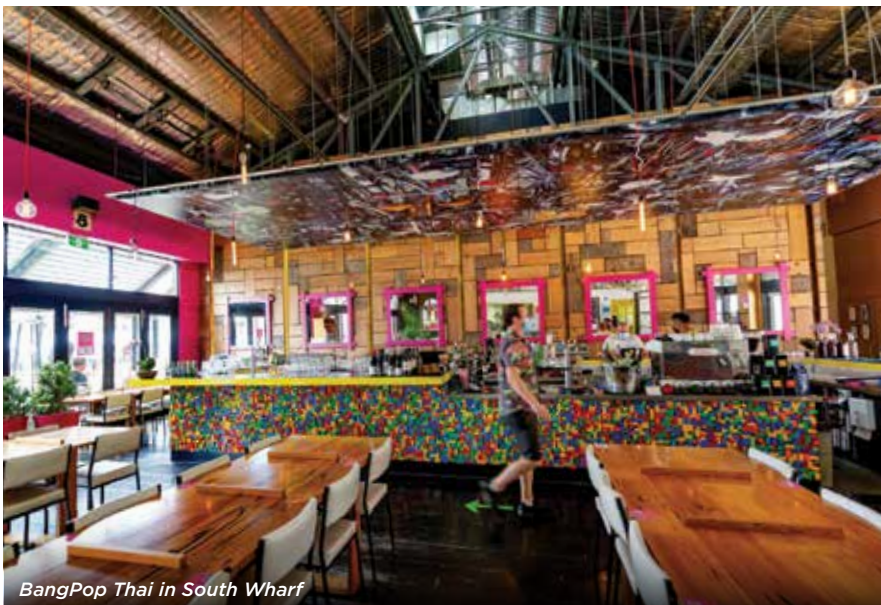
To find out more, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/business](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/business)

**SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES**

Local businesses, services and organisations are the lifeblood of Melbourne, and our support for them is multi-layered and ongoing.

Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/business](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/business) to subscribe to the Business in Melbourne newsletter and explore the help on offer, including free one-on-one support for city businesses, rate relief, marketing support and free outdoor dining permits.

For one-on-one advice, call our dedicated Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business), or enquire online at the above website.



# “Distinctive” design given go-ahead

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PLANNING

A 19-storey Dorcas St development featuring distinct office, hotel and apartment elements has been given the green light by the City of Melbourne.

Despite receiving a “significant number” of objections, the mixed-use development was deemed a “high-quality outcome” by councillors.

The site at 10-16 Dorcas St, currently a nine-storey office building, would be replaced by a development comprising lower office floors, upper apartments and a hotel in between.

Architects Plus Architecture have sought to emphasise the three distinct components of the proposed building in their design.

However, the proposal received 47 objections about issues ranging from the distance between facing windows, amenity impacts, the atypical form of the building, and parking.

Other issues involved the nearby Shrine of Remembrance, which was “the key visual element of the surrounding area”.

Council officers concluded that the building would not negatively impact the important Melbourne memorial site.

“On the basis the proposed building would only be visible from acute angles when viewed from the Shrine, it is considered that it would not impact upon its significance,” the council’s report said.



“

*We can understand why there are so many objections; it is a difficult, quickly densifying part of the municipality.*

”

The council’s chair of planning Cr Nicholas Reece said 47 objections was a “significant number”, but key aspects had been “adequately dealt with”.

However, the council’s report concluded “the basic form and presentation of the building, as well as the quantum of uses, remain as originally proposed.”

Despite this, Cr Reece said the “distinctive” design was a “genuine mixed-use development”.

This included three floors of office space, a nine-floor hotel comprising 172 rooms, and a six-floor residential component featuring 36 apartments, half of which were three-bedroom dwellings.

“That’s a really positive thing for Melbourne,” Cr Reece said.

“It’s great for families, and we’d love to see more families taking up apartment living in our city, particularly at a great location like this so close to the park.”

Deputy planning chair Rohan Leppert also empathised with objectors but said a “high-quality outcome” had been brokered.

“We can understand why there are so many objections; it is a difficult, quickly densifying part of the municipality,” he said.

“But given the way that the provisions have been written, I think this is a really deft way of handling it.”

Cr Leppert acknowledged that while some nearby residents might not be pleased, the end outcome was fair.

“Equitable development is the key issue here,” he said.

“The massing of the building with the stacked development with the hotel and the residential apartments at different parts of the ‘lego blocks’ is actually a really nifty way of ensuring that the planning provisions are upheld, whilst still resulting in what I think is a really high-quality outcome.” ●



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



▲ An artist’s impression of NGV Contemporary from the new public garden. HASSELL + SO-IL.

## Local eyes sought for new NGV Contemporary in Southbank

WORDS BY *Ellen Blake*  
ARTS & CULTURE

A competition to design Southbank’s new NGV Contemporary gallery has been launched by the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and the state government.

Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said the competition to design the country’s largest public gallery of contemporary art was only open to Australian entrants.

“This landmark project offers an extraordinary opportunity for Victoria and Australia’s architectural community to shape our creative state for decades to come,” Mr Pearson said.

NGV Trustee Corbett Lyon chairs the competition’s jury, which also includes NGV director Tony Ellwood and Victorian government architect Jill Garner.

Located at Southbank Boulevard, the gallery would span 30,000 sqm and house NGV’s growing collection of Australian and global contemporary art, design, fashion and architecture.

The new gallery provides extra space to display art and design from NGV’s permanent collection and large-scale exhibitions, such as the *Triennial* series.

NGV Contemporary will connect the Southbank neighbourhood and St Kilda Rd through 18,000 sqm of new elevated public gardens.

Premier Daniel Andrews described NGV Contemporary as an “Australian-designed global icon” that would help reinvigorate the state’s economy.

“In its design, construction, operations, exhibitions and programs, the gallery will create thousands of local jobs and boost our economic recovery,” Mr Andrews said.

NGV Contemporary is part of the first phase of the \$1.46 billion Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation, which will redevelop the face of Southbank’s Arts Precinct.

The second phase of the transformation will see a new building developed for Arts Centre Melbourne at 1 City Rd, as well as an upgrade to the theatre buildings ●

**For more information:**  
[ngv.vic.gov.au/ngv-contemporary-design-competition](http://ngv.vic.gov.au/ngv-contemporary-design-competition)

GOOD COMPANY.  
GREAT FOOD.  
AMAZING VIEWS.

Southgate is open for all of your essential needs.

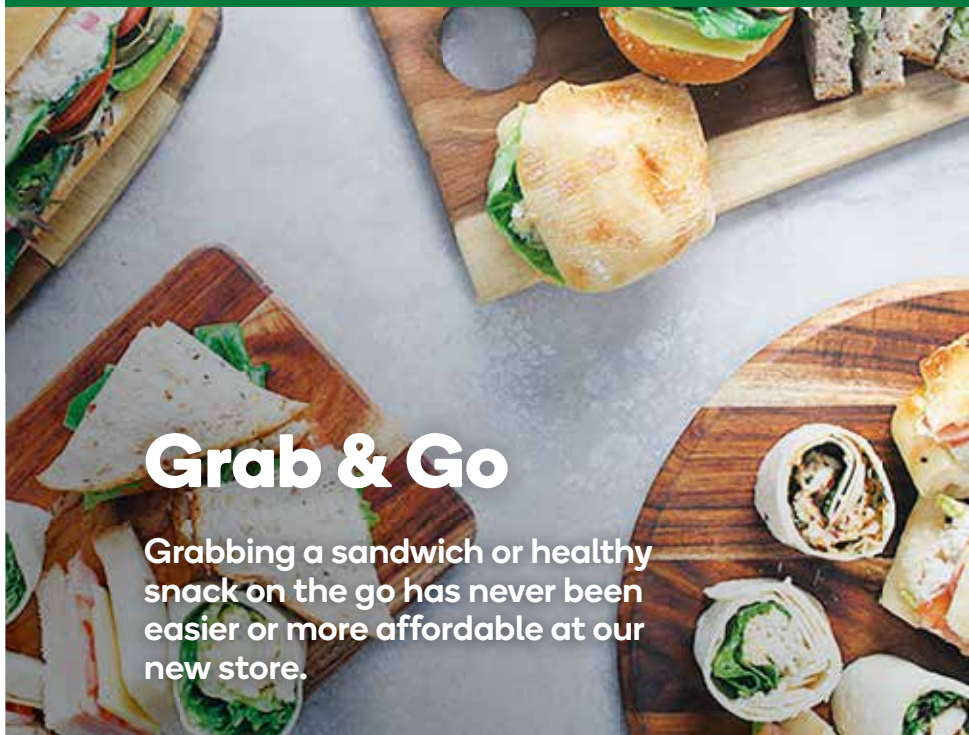
Visit our website to stay up-to-date with your favourite restaurants and stores, and help support local business.

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

**southgate**

# MELBOURNE SQUARE NOW OPEN

You'll find us located at  
Kavanagh Street, Southbank



## Grab & Go

Grabbing a sandwich or healthy snack on the go has never been easier or more affordable at our new store.



## Fresh sushi

Sushi is made throughout the day by our skilled sushi chefs. Off to a celebration? We can make sushi platters to order.

Helping you shop  
COVIDSafe at Woolworths  
Melbourne Square



Scan&Go



Available in the  
Woolworths app



T&Cs apply. See [woolworths.com.au/scanandgo](https://www.woolworths.com.au/scanandgo)



## Drinks at BWS

Whether you're a fan of beer, wine or spirits, the locally curated range at BWS means you'll always find something you love.



Woolworths   
The fresh food people

# Southbank workers continue return Cladding ban announced

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
BUSINESS

Peak-hour pedestrians on Southbank Promenade have topped their highest Monday number for almost a year in positive signs workers were returning to Southbank offices.

On Monday, February 1, 740 pedestrians were recorded passing along the promenade between 8am and 9am — the highest Monday morning figure since March 23 last year.

The foot traffic data, which is counted via sensors at key city locations, tells a story of a gradual return to offices.

And it represents promising news for small businesses.

An exodus of workers from central Melbourne due to COVID-19 has devastated those small businesses that largely depend on their presence to survive.

Despite the positive upward trend of foot traffic, however, numbers are still well below pre-pandemic levels.

For example, morning peak-hour pedestrians on Monday, March 16 last year — just prior to stay-at-home restrictions were enacted in Victoria — reached 2762 on Southbank Promenade.

This is more than four times the number counted earlier this month on February.

### Three-quarter return on “pause”

The upward trend plateaued early this month when a planned return of 75 per cent of workers on February 8 was put on hold following Victoria’s first locally-acquired case of COVID-19 in almost a month.

Offices had been restricted to 50 per cent capacity in the private sector and 25 per cent in the public sector, and both were set to welcome back up to three-quarters of staff until the positive case.

In response, the government said it had “paused” the further easing of restrictions.

It is not known when the state government would proceed with the planned return, although COVID-19 response commander Jeroen Weimar said the expectation was of 14 days of no community transmission before restrictions — which also included masks and indoor gathering— were eased.

“We are very keen to see a full 14-day period normally between the first positive case we see and our response,” he said on February 7.

A further positive case on February 8 meant the earliest



▲ Foot traffic into and around Southbank has increased since the start of the 2021 working year

date would be late February.

Health Minister Martin Foley defended the move despite the Australian Open hosting 30,000 daily spectators throughout the tournament. “The advice from the public health team is pretty clear — events that are outdoors, events that are in highly-regulated environments, are able to be done safely,” he said.

“In regards to the wider return to work, I appreciate the frustrations that some might point to in that regard. I do point out that this is a pause, and I think employers, the workforce and wider Victorian community know that a pause is an infinitely better outcome than taking measures that might put staying safe and staying open at risk.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said a return to near-full offices was a vital step for the city.

“Bringing city workers back to the office will be critical for our economic revival,” she said.

“More people in the city means more money coming into local businesses, which keeps Melburnians in jobs. Our economic recovery has started but it needs coordinated and consistent support to ensure we bounce back as quickly as possible.” ●

WORDS BY *Jack Alfonso*  
BUILDING

All future multi-storey developments are now prohibited from using high-risk cladding products for external wall cladding.

The Minister for Planning and Housing Richard Wynne made the announcement on February 1 basing the decision on expert advice which found that combustible cladding contributed to the spread of fire when used inappropriately on specific buildings.

The announcement comes more than six years after the blaze at the Lacrosse building at LaTrobe St in Docklands, which triggered a state inquiry into the issue.

The ban prohibits the use of flammable aluminium composite panels and rendered expanded polystyrene, applies to the use of these materials on apartments, hotels, and aged care facilities with two or more storeys, and to office buildings, shopping centres, and retail premises such as warehouses, factories, and car parks with three or more storeys. Minister Wynne said that the state government was “continuing to act” on the “most up to date expert advice” on combustible cladding, adding that “anyone caught flouting this ban will face significant penalties.”

The fines can total up to \$400,000 for significant breaches and will be enforced through the Victorian Building Authority (VBA). “This ban will ensure new developments are built to the highest standard to keep Victorians safe while we continue to rectify existing buildings through our world-first cladding rectification program,” Mr Wynne said.

The announcement has been met with cautious optimism from Master Builders Victoria (MBV), who said the change provided “certainty around what cladding products are deemed acceptable”, while also stressing it was “important to avoid any further changing of the goalposts” to avoid confusion for builders.

“Prior to this February 1 change, stringent processes had already been put in place to ensure the appropriate use of cladding products,” CEO of MBV Rebecca Casson said. “While this further change may simplify the process for future projects, it should be recognised that builders had abided by the previous changes that have been made to ensure the safety of cladding products.”

The Liberal opposition Minister for Planning Tim Smith, in comments reported in *The Age*, said that the VBA had “failed to keep Victorians

*“Instead of the Andrews government re-announcing a cladding ban on new buildings, why don’t they make existing buildings, that are clad in highly combustible material, safe?”*



safe” from high-risk cladding, adding there were still “literally hundreds of buildings” throughout Melbourne that could be deemed unsafe. “Instead of the Andrews government re-announcing a cladding ban on new buildings, why don’t they make existing buildings, that are clad in highly combustible material, safe?”

The state government’s own cost-benefit analysis indicated an annual \$1 million economic gain due to reduced insurance costs. The ban comes in lieu of the investigation conducted by the Victorian Cladding Taskforce, which was established in 2017 after combustible cladding exacerbated a blaze that caused 72 deaths in the Grenfell disaster in England, while high-risk cladding was also held responsible for the 2014 blaze at the Lacrosse building in Docklands.

“These products are a high risk when used inappropriately or installed incorrectly — that’s why we’ve acted to ban them for new multi-storey buildings,” Minister Wynne said.

In 2019, the government committed \$600 million to the Cladding Rectification Program to fix buildings with high-risk cladding. However, there is still a lot of grey area as to who fronts the costs of the program, as it is dependent on the risk associated with the individual building’s cladding ●

## Outdoor dining gets big tick from hospo

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
BUSINESS

Four in five hospitality traders within the City of Melbourne said the emergence of outdoor dining has helped them reopen post-lockdown.

And the positive feedback is likely to see the initiative extended.

In a survey of 150 cafe, restaurant and bar owners in December and January, 81 per cent gave outdoor dining “parklets” the thumbs-up since reopening in late October.

Temporary extended outdoor dining permits have allowed hospitality venues to expand operations onto

footpaths, on-street parking, laneways and street space to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

Of those surveyed, 72 per cent were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their outdoor dining arrangements.

“Delivering the extended outdoor dining program has helped to support hospitality businesses and create jobs after Melbourne emerged from lockdown,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“In just a few months, we received 10 years’ worth of applications for outdoor dining permits compared to pre-COVID-19 levels. Our team

assessed applications quickly and issued nearly 1500 permits for outdoor dining across the municipality.”

Due to the success of the initiative, the council will consider extending the program until the end of May at a February 23 council meeting.

“The extended outdoor dining program has helped to bring back the buzz to Melbourne and we are doing a review to determine how we can support hospitality businesses into the future,” Cr Capp said.

The program is part of the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, a joint initiative between the council and state government ●



## Celebrate this Valentine’s Day on the Melbourne Star

*Treat your special someone to a spectacular Melbourne skyline experience this Valentine’s Day. Packages starting from \$66 per couple\**

**BOOK TODAY ON**  
[melbournestar.com](http://melbournestar.com)

\*Terms and conditions apply



**MELBOURNE STAR**  
OBSERVATION WHEEL



# I'm a Southbanker

## Stories from the locals you know

*Southbank and South Wharf are a vibrant mix of residents, workers and businesses. Over the past 20 years they have evolved from just places to live into communities with a growing heart. We invite you to get to know some of the personalities behind the shops, bars, restaurants and cafes. Drop in for a chat, enjoy a drink or meal with friends, because it's your "front yard", and it's you who make it our "home".*

### Yarra River Cruises

Con Sarrou  
Berth 2, Federation Wharf, Princes Walk Melbourne,  
info@yarrarivercruises.com.au  
www.yarrarivercruises.com.au Ph 0450 778 000



Riverboat operators are often colourful characters who come to the business from a variety of backgrounds, but none so varied as Con Sarrou, the owner and operator of Yarra River Cruises.

Con had contact with water from an early age; growing-up on a fruit property on the Murray River, near Mildura. However, a life on the land was not for him and he began an accounting career during the 1980s with Boral, James Hardie and Datacraft.

The turmoil of the mad 1980s corporate world made him seek something smaller and more personal. In a complete turnaround, he joined the world of entertainment, taking on the business and financial management of St Kilda's Palace Entertainment Complex in 1991. He also handled the accounting at the Gas and Fuel Corporation, located in that infamously ugly building where Fed Square now stands.

In 2008, his role at Palace was extended when the company bought the Metro Nightclub at the top of Bourke Street and operated it as The Palace Theatre until its closure in 2014. Con was immersed in the world of entertainment and was brushing-up against some of the biggest names in the music industry. He also audited the Big Day Out music festival for 15 years and the company also ran the bars for the 40,000 strong Soundwave Music Festival.

His water connection was sparked through an involvement with dragon boat racing. He trained with the Gas & Fuel Dragon Boat team and competed in Hong Kong, Penang and Guangzhou, China in 1996. He also managed the Navy Dragon Boat team that toured Asia in 1998.

Con combined his water interests and corporate talents when he bought City River Cruises with his partner, Shelley, in 2018. Following a major mechanical overhaul, a change of name and new corporate colours, a bright, sparkling new Yarra River Cruises emerged to run sightseeing tours, corporate events and special occasion functions.

As an experienced business manager, Con knew that connections were vital to the success of any business. He joined the Yarra River Business Association as soon as possible, where he has been able to contribute to the health, growth and wellbeing of an industry that provides world-class memorable activities for locals and tourists. In 2019 he was elected to the Board of the business association.

2020 was a horror year for such a young business, but Con used the downtime to become accredited as an eco-tourism operator and to realign his business to better suit the local market. For example, in 2021 you can take an all-inclusive sunset cocktail cruise on Yarra River Cruises.

He may no longer rub shoulders with some of the world's great musicians, but he loves his new floating workplace and enjoys showing-off Melbourne from the water to everyday people.

### Arbory Afloat

Daniel Manly  
Northbank Yarra River,  
hello@arbory.com.au www.arboryafloat.com.au Ph +613 9629 1547



Arbory Afloat's arrival on our waterway in 2015 demonstrated to the authorities and the community what an activated Yarra River could look like.

The short term licence granted by Parks Victoria was an experiment. Despite its immediate public success and acclaim, it was nearly shut-down before it could get on its feet.

However, since 2017 the floating venue has returned each year in a different guise and this season's beach house themed decor has been a much-needed bright spot in an otherwise COVID affected hospitality scene.

Daniel Manly has been with the project since day one, responsible for fine-tuning its daily 'offer' and making sure its message reaches the target markets. As Brand Director for both Arbory Bar & Eatery and Arbory Afloat, he has grown both of the businesses to become two of the most loved bars and alfresco eateries in Melbourne.

Trained in marketing, advertising and branding disciplines, he began his career with a special events catering company. He's a self-confessed 'foodie' and a lover of creative projects. All his

### Man-Mo

Eric Duong  
Shops G13-G15, WTC Wharf Precinct, 18-38 Siddeley St,  
bookings@manmowtc.com.au  
www.manmowtc.com.au Ph 03 9077 9598



There's plenty to look at when you stroll along the Yarra in front of Jeff's Shed. However, what invariably captures attention and lures people across the Seafarers Bridge to the World Trade Centre are the two grand statues on North Wharf.

They depict 'Man' and 'Mo', the Chinese gods of literature and war. When combined, the two words form the name of Man Mo restaurant on WTC Wharf. Owner Eric Duong installed them some years ago to help the restaurant to stand out on the lesser-known side of the river.

Man Mo's 40 metres of opening windows provide a classic setting for a quality Chinese dining experience during these warm summer and autumn months.

Sit back in the classy interior, watch the passing boats and enjoy its modern Chinese cuisine, which has been honed over Eric's 30 years in the restaurant business.

The quietly spoken proprietor started his career as a university trained civil engineer, but soon moved into the restaurant industry. He started in Wantirna South during the 1980s, quickly adding another restaurant in Rowville. He still runs the Rowville restaurant with his two brothers, but in 2002 Eric expanded his interests to New Quay in Docklands. After 13 years he moved Man Mo around the corner to occupy its current WTC site.

"I had developed a great cuisine over the years, but I wanted a more classy setting and it doesn't get much better than looking over the Yarra River", says Eric

"We cater for delegates attending the convention and exhibition centre, as well as the local hotels, but we also have a very loyal customer base from Lorimer Street, Southbank and Dockland residents.

"Many of them choose to take a short walk along the river to get to us, which, for most of the year, is a very pleasant experience".

Man-Mo's head chef has been with the restaurant since it opened in 2014, supervising the preparation of everything from classic favourites such as Peking Duck, Stuffed Garfish and Cantonese Chicken, to more adventurous dishes using local produce such as wagyu beef and black truffle sauce.

Peking Duck and Baked Crabshell stuffed with crabmeat, mushrooms and bacon have been firm customer favourites over the years, but diners have become more casual in their eating styles and dress over the decades, says Eric. However, for those who want a more formal style banquet or special occasion dining, Man Mo's private dining rooms, catering for between 18 and 35 people, provide privacy and a bit of exclusivity.

Because Man Mo caters for many repeat diners, Eric and his chef ensure there's always plenty of variety and seasonal specials to give people a reason to keep coming back.

Eric's personal favourite is seafood, especially Coral Trout and Wild Barramundi, so you can be assured of a good range of fresh seafood on the menu, including from the six live fish tanks in the restaurant.

passions were brought together through a chance meeting in 2014 with the owners of HQ Group, Richard Shelmerdine and Tim Botterill.

They invited him to lend his expertise to their new business, Arbory - an adaptive re-use of the old Sandridge rail line at Flinders Street Station - which had taken four years of negotiating, planning & building with various authorities to bring to fruition.

Hot on the heels of Arbory's success, in late 2015 they launched the 3 week experimental floating function space in time for the Spring Racing Carnival. Despite its great public reception, when the company went to repeat the offering in 2016, it was met with a firm 'no' from the authorities. However, two changes of CEO at Parks Victoria since then has resulted in a completely different attitude. The 2017 and 2018 iterations of 'Arbory Afloat' built further trust with the authorities, resulting in a three year lease from Parks Victoria in 2019 and a coveted 'Melbourne Award' from Melbourne City Council.

Each year a new theme and colour scheme is brainstormed by owners, staff and a consultant designer. Themes over the years have embraced the Italian lifestyle, a Hamptons style fit-out, Palm Springs chic, and last year's Miami/ Cuban theme, complete with upstairs deck, swimming pool and cabanas.

The 2019/20 'Miami-by-the-Yarra' themed Arbory Afloat was hampered by dust storms, bush-fire smoke and then the COVID shutdown. It was a major financial blow to the company, but the committed owners and key staff regrouped in September to reinvest and to come-up with the current beach house theme. Restricted numbers are nearly half what the venue has been able to handle, but its guests are just as enthusiastic. The partnership with Four Pillars Distillery has continued, as well as the showcasing of Melbourne artists and photographers.

Since 2015 Arbory Afloat has withstood torrential downpours, gale force winds, dust, smoke and COVID, to re-emerge as a much loved feature of our new-look Yarra River.





# A micro-chat with a new local

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
COMMUNITY

It takes 40 seconds to make a coffee and sometimes you can pick up enough information in that time to make a life-changing move.

The micro-chat has become a feature of Melbourne culture during the lockdown.

It's the chat you have through masks, screens and windows.

Daniel Phillips, a barista at the House of Cards café at the Boyd Community Hub, has heard it all.

"A lot of people were looking for an excuse to get out of their apartments," he said, and they came down to the House of Cards looking for company.

Many residents told Daniel they were leaving Southbank to go and live with their parents; others told him about splitting up and being forced to remain living together.

"You can spin your life story in 40 seconds," he said.

One story that particularly interested him was the drop in rental prices during the lockdown and the great deals going in Southbank. You could get a two-bedroom apartment for \$390 a week, down from \$450.

Dan has stayed on at the job and has been doing quite a bit of travelling from St Kilda.

So, five weeks ago he made the move. He and his girlfriend signed a lease for an apartment in Kavanagh St.

Now he is ecstatic. "I had to wash four people's dishes every day. Now I bung it in the dishwasher," he said.

Agents say that Southbank attracts a transient population who move here to be close to their work in the CBD or the arts. When the jobs disappeared, many moved out.

But that logic is now working in reverse as the economy picks up and a new lot of workers is moving in.

"I love the convenience," Dan said. "I can sleep in in the morning and walk to work."



▲ Daniel Phillips at work at Boyd Community Hub.

He said that Southbank was the most densely populated suburb in Australia but that you didn't really see this at ground level.

The House of Cards abuts Boyd Park and there's a great urban landscape with fly-overs just outside his work window.

The community centre is the engine room of the suburb looking after residents and the café is the place where you can exchange a few ideas.

One is that people like living close to work and will give up a location next to St Kilda Botanical Gardens to be at the centre of community life ●



# Electric chargers installed at South Melbourne Market

WORDS BY Ellen Blake  
SUSTAINABILITY

Electric vehicle charging stations have been installed at the South Melbourne Market rooftop car park, allowing residents and visitors to charge their electric vehicles for free.

City of Port Phillip Mayor Louise Crawford said the council had invested \$150,000 in the charging stations to encourage residents to embrace the new technology.

"As more and more people opt for electric vehicles, it's important to provide the infrastructure to support this fantastic environmentally-friendly choice," Cr Crawford said.

The charging stations will be powered, in part, by the 612 solar panels on the roof of the Market and are compatible with all models of electric vehicles.

Mayor Crawford said the installation of the

stations would encourage more visitors to the South Melbourne area.

"The installation of the charging stations at South Melbourne Market is a win for residents and visitors, and we hope people will make a day of visiting our city and exploring all we have to offer, while their car charges," Cr Crawford said.

Transport currently accounts for 16.25 per cent of the Port Phillip community's carbon emissions.

The council is currently working with partners and electricity providers to install more charging stations on public land.

An electric vehicle report commissioned by the council found that Australian interest in purchasing electric vehicles had tripled between 2018 and 2019.

"We need to be ready for the increase in demand for charging stations," Cr Crawford said.

The two charging stations are located next to the lift on the market's rooftop car park ●



**Whittles**

Owners Corporation Management Services








W

Established in 1968 Whittles is the largest Australian owned strata management company and widely recognised for its experienced staff and the provision of professional strata management services nationally. With specialist expertise in prestigious high-rise buildings, marinas, commercial and residential, Whittles is proud to be part of Southbank in Melbourne.

whittles.com.au

For superior owners corporation management services, contact the Docklands dedicated team

Whittles, Level 1, 838 Collins Street, Docklands VIC 3008  
T 03 8632 3300 E info.docklands@whittles.com.au



OPERATION RIVER RUN

ENFORCING BIKE SPEED LIMITS

IN SOUTHBANK

Victoria Police will be promoting cyclist and pedestrian safety in the community, while also targeting speeding cyclists and e-scooters in high pedestrians areas.

**WHEN**  
February and March

**TIME**  
Peak foot and bike traffic times

**WHERE**  
Southbank Promenade

For more information visit

[facebook.com/eyewatchmelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/eyewatchmelbourne)

**Southbank Police Station**  
66 Moray Street, Southbank

**Melbourne Bike Patrol Unit**  
202 Bourke Street, Melbourne



VICTORIA POLICE



## Yarra River lights up for this year's Lantern Festival

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Southbank will be a hub of culture, light and joy on the last weekend of February for this year's Lantern Festival celebrations.

Lion dances, traditional food and cultural performances are all in store at the Red Stair Amphitheatre at Queensbridge Square.

Federation of Chinese Associations of Victoria president Simon Qian said there would also be thousands of lanterns lighting up the Yarra River.

"There are more than a thousand lanterns all around the Yarra River, showcasing colourful Melbourne and our multicultural state," he said.

Festivities are set to kick off on Friday, February 26 with a VIP cocktail and river cruise event, and will continue over the weekend.

Saturday is the big day of the festival, with entertainment and traditional food stalls at the Red Stair Amphitheatre starting at 11am, with celebrations continuing until well into the night.

Saturday's festivities will also have a multicultural focus, with performances scheduled from a diverse range of cultures, including from the Sorbian and Filipino communities, as well as traditional lion dances.

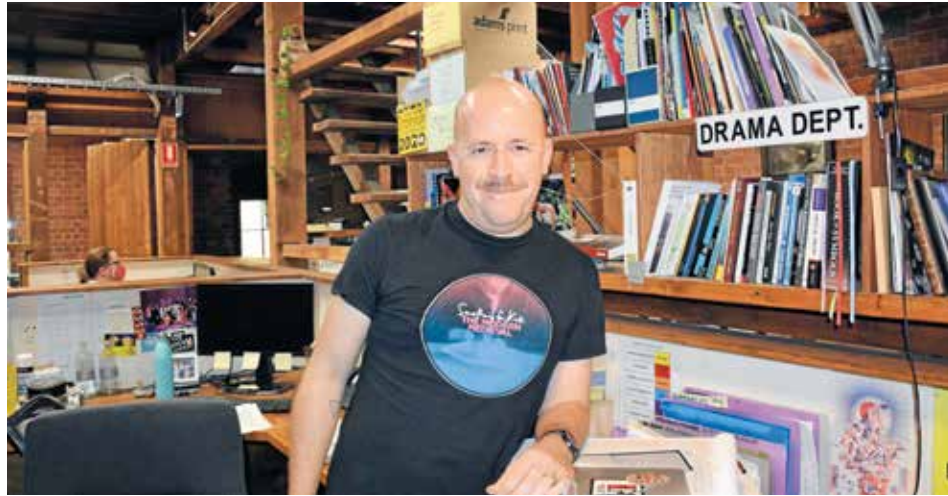
The Lantern Festival is a traditional part of the Lunar New Year celebrations, and is celebrated in many Asian countries, and by communities across the world.

It occurs on the 15th day of the new Lunar Year, and marks the first full moon on the calendar.

Mr Qian said the Chinese community would be especially excited to be celebrating Lunar New Year after a difficult year due to the pandemic.

"They are willing to get together face-to-face safely and enjoying their traditional culture ... even supporting each other," he said.

The Lantern Festival will finish on February 28 ●



▲ *New works manager Mark Pritchard at his desk in the Drama Department.*

## Getting it right at the drama desk

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ARTS & CULTURE

The Malthouse has launched a new Engine Room program to give writers, directors and audiences insight into the process behind the scenes at the theatre.

Mark Pritchard, the new works manager, wants to get a conversation going about craft.

Usually the audience sees a play in terms of the story but there's a lot more going on.

"Audiences don't have the language to talk about plays in other ways," Mark said, but as the one responsible for getting Malthouse texts into shape he's keen to broaden their horizons.

"I've started thinking about plays as hypotheses," he wrote in an essay in the Engine Room. "A writer proposes a theory of action, and the performers and creative team work together to test and refine this theory in real space and time."

"The approach might be completely fantastical, or clinical, or some other approach altogether to demonstrate some dynamic relationship between forces in the fiction."

Other directors and playwrights have also been commissioned to write essays about their own ways of working which have been posted on the Malthouse website.

"These are conversations we have all the time about how work is made but they're invisible," Mark said.

Resident director Bridget Balodis, in an essay *Leading on New Work*, confides how much the mood of the director dictates the outcome of a rehearsal, be it "wacky and loose" or "laser-focussed".

When she was doing a play about a teen witch she got everyone doing horoscopes. "Some of it felt silly. Some of it felt true. That was the fine line we needed ... to make the play work."

She also said that a first impression of a new play provided a valuable insight because the audience would only see it once.

The essays were aimed at artists, Mark said. "It's an insider's conversation" but one that he hopes will educate audiences as well. "When they hear about how the thing came about they'll appreciate it better," he suggested.

He makes a distinction between a director's comments and an in-depth articulation of how much work goes into getting a production up and running. Most shows take a couple of years.

"The journey of making a play starts with a concept. We commission and develop. It's just an idea. It might be a proposal. Then we talk about how it might sit in this building."

Many punters think of theatres as venues whereas the Malthouse is a production company that gets plays relevant to Melbourne up from scratch.

"What stories would suit Melbourne?" is the question they focus on even if they do use a few buzz words such as "process" and "innovation".

"We're seeing work in rehearsal. What you're doing is interesting and articulate. Can you put that down on paper? It gives them the confidence to talk in detail," Mark said.

While he added these were not COVID responses, they did reflect an inward gaze at the way the company worked. "This is a whole new framework for us," he said.

Even the marketing manager Davey Simmons said it was important that they weren't just known by the outdoor stage.

"We're here to work with artists as part of the cultural scene," he said, announcing that the company had just launched an innovation prize calling for playwrights to send in a sample and a proposal.

Now that's putting your money where your mouth is! ●

## Locals have a say on community engagement

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*  
ARTS & CULTURE

The City of Melbourne sought the voices of locals in January to help shape their new Community Engagement Policy, created in line with the new *Local Governments Act 2020*.

Residents, business owners, visitors and workers were invited to provide their feedback to the council's community engagement team online, in person, via email and even over the phone.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said, "the City of Melbourne is developing a new Community Engagement Policy to encourage greater public participation and improve decision-making."

Methods the council used to gather feedback included the Participate Melbourne website, which provided locals with an online survey, as well as an ideas board and the opportunity to sign up for virtual workshops.

Pop-up kiosks across the City of Melbourne throughout January also gave the community a chance to give their feedback in person, and they could also call or email the council with their input.

Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) president Tony Penna expressed his support for the initiative.

"SRA as a residents' association and lobby group will always support all, or any, attempts at engaging the community for feedback," he said.

The new Community Engagement Policy for the City of Melbourne is one of a suite of changes for councils required by the new *Local Government Act 2020*.

The new Act requires councils to adopt "deliberative engagement practices" in order to involve the community more and give more transparency to decision-making processes.

It stipulates that not only must a council adopt and maintain a community engagement policy, but the policy itself must be developed in consultation with the community.

Mr Penna believes that in the current day, community engagement must be done in a way that the community "connects with and understands".

"What it comes down to is, community engagement, by definition, is a broad concept. It shouldn't be any single medium. It should be a collection of mediums," he said.

The draft policy is now in its development stages, with the Future Melbourne Committee due to consider it on February 16.

Further updates will be provided in the March edition of *Southbank News* ●

# FREE HOSPITALITY PHOTOSHOOT

AS PART OF OUR HOSPITALITY  
RELIEF SOCIAL MEDIA  
MANAGEMENT PACKAGE

(03) 9088 2036

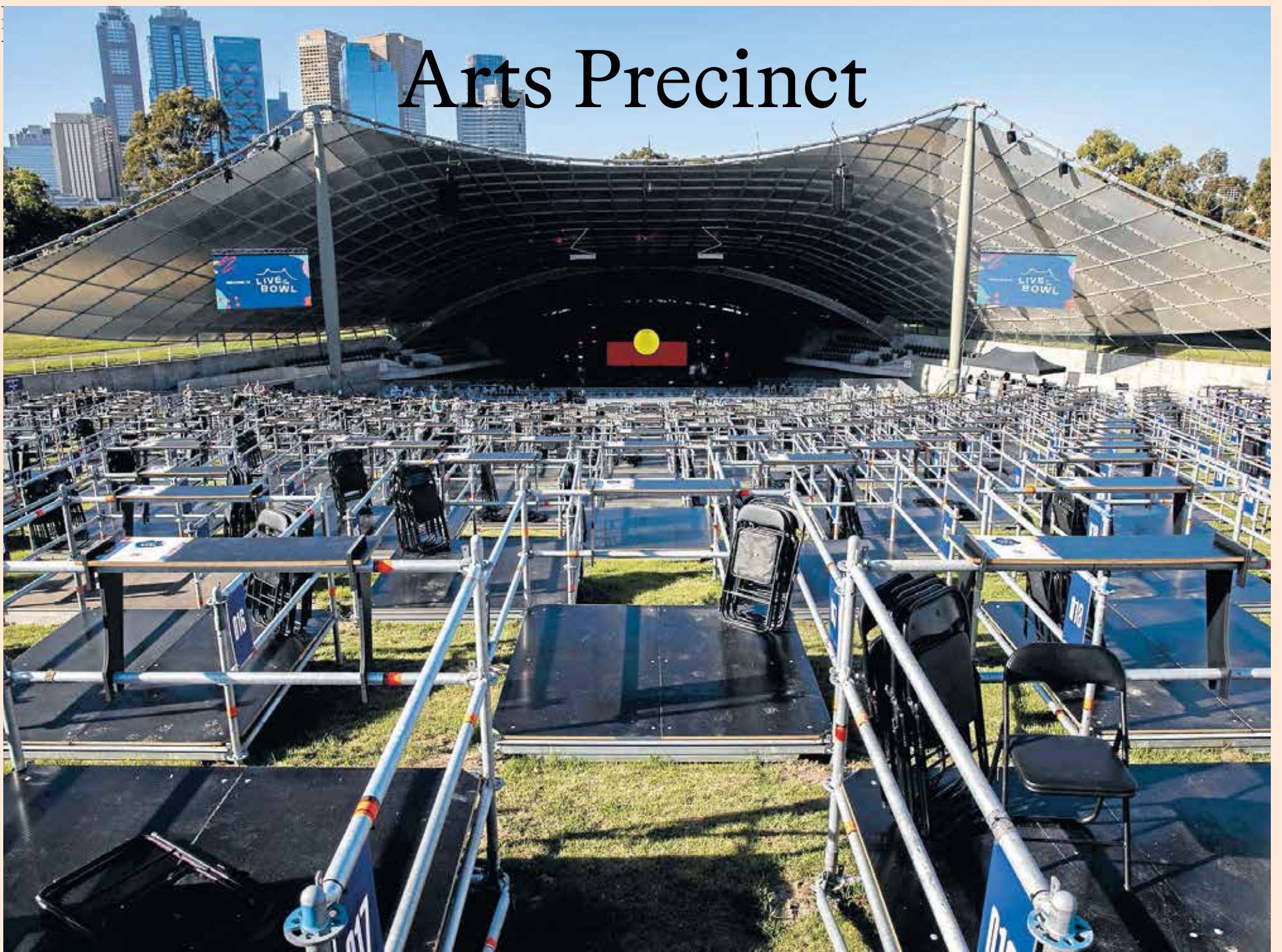




BORNSOCIAL.CO

HELLO@BORNSOCIAL.CO

# Arts Precinct



## COVID safety at the forefront for Arts Centre Melbourne

*Arts Centre Melbourne is welcoming back visitors to enjoy the many events on offer this summer with the provision of COVIDSafe environments being the top priority.*

WORDS BY JACK ALFONSO

"Every step that we take will ensure that being COVIDSafe is at the centre of what we do, and we will be transparent on the things we are doing to make our spaces safe for all," Arts Centre Melbourne CEO Claire Spencer said. Having begun proceedings with the tentative openings of forecourt cafe Protagonist and the Sunday Markets, events such as *Live at the Bowl*, an initiative to promote Australian-grown talent, and a range of different artistic performances — ranging from theatre through to circus — are designed to rekindle Melbourne's passion for cultural experiences. With the state government announcing a \$17.2 million package to reinvigorate Southbank's Arts Precinct, the Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said the "extensive program" would "showcase Victoria's incredible creative talent." "It will be a celebration of all we've achieved together to get through this year and will bring



people back to the experiences we love in new, exciting and COVIDSafe ways," Minister Pearson said. Among those new and exciting ways are the re-opening of the Australian Music Vault, with *Vault Sessions: Live & Lo-Fi* being made available for free of charge, and the brand-new public art exhibition *Me and UooUoo* — an initiative to support the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) 150th anniversary, which opened on January 20. "*Me and UooUoo* offers the unique opportunity for the community to be involved in celebrating the incredible heritage of this world-leading institution," Sue Hunt, CEO of the RCH Foundation, said. "Most importantly, it provides a sense of unity and aspiration, so that we can persevere through these challenging times together." After the exhibition is finished, each of the 200 sculptures will be auctioned off to raise funds for the RCH Foundation. Accompanying every *Me & UooUoo* exhibition is a "First Nations Playlist". The playlist, titled *SovReign Sounds*, features 85 different tracks from 80 different First Nations artists nation-wide. The return of Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building is not forecast to return until late February, with *Wata* — an event celebrating indigenous culture through ceremonial song cycles called "manikay" — scheduled to take place at Hamer Hall on February 20, as the public tries to work with government recommendations to deliver a COVIDSafe event. "We are dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming space alongside all cultural, hospitality and retail offerings across the Melbourne Arts Precinct," CEO Claire Spencer said. "It's been a monumental effort to open up and activate the spaces that we treasure so we hope that the community will continue to embrace us and the offerings that we've been able to provide." ●

**For more information:**  
[artscentremelbourne.com.au](https://artscentremelbourne.com.au)

# Sounds of summer at MRC

*Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) has partnered with Crown Ruler to bring a free outdoor music series to the heart of the Arts Precinct all summer long.*

WORDS BY *Ellen Blake*

The *Sweet Summer Suite* is showcasing Melbourne's best DJs with weekly Thursday and Saturday sets at MRC's new forecourt as part of the transformed Southbank Boulevard. Curated by Crown Ruler, the series' eclectic and genre-bending program features a lineup of artists from Melbourne's electronic scene.

February will feature sets by Miss Goldie, DJ Yangos, Elle Shimada, dj pgz, DJ Jimmy James, Sophie McAlister, Gallery B, Midnight Tenderness and Winters.

The program continues into March with acts Hybrid Man and Adriana. The series then



welcomes back DJ JNETT, College of Knowledge, Miss Goldie, dj pgz, Gallery B, Sophie McAlister, Lori and Zjoso for another round of performances.

Visitors can enjoy the summer sun and warm nights at the open air venue, with signature cocktails and an Asian-fusion menu from Blondie Bar being served alongside pizzas by Script Bar & Bistro.

MRC said the outdoor music series celebrates the city's rich artistic pedigree and community spirit.

The *Sweet Summer Suite* will run until Saturday, March 27 and feature two shows every week on Thursdays and Saturdays ●

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



## CRITIC

# Surprises in perspective

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) is a haven for those who have an artistic take on life and the curators are clever about the way they present work.

The closure of the gallery during the lockdowns was tragic for this reason.

And the quick re-opening between the lockdowns, a bruising reminder of the loss.

The 2020 NGV Triennial, which opened in December, is a welcome reintroduction to the crucial role of art in society.

The Triennial attempts to engage with a larger percentage of the population than the more modest *Winter Masterpieces*, which was postponed in 2020.

Can this blockbuster style of exhibition with name artists and amusing installations also be memorable?

An exhibition needs to work with the expectations of the viewer, be beautiful, sensitive and provocative. Too much extraneous detail can kill it, so curators have used the floors to guide visitors towards a message.

The best commentaries on the ground floor are drawn from life, in that they speak directly to contemporary concerns.

My votes go to the display apartment *Walls 4 Sale* by the Swiss design team BTW and to *Coloured In* by Melbourne designer Danielle Brustman.

We've all been trapped inside the shells of our apartments and homes and we've seen their faults, these exhibits seem to suggest.

Do our decors truly reflect us or are we dominated by the dimensions of stoves and air conditioners? Do we feel trapped in the toilet? Is white on white really practical? Could we be creative with colour instead of relying on views of the city as backdrops?

What about our ceilings? Why are they all 2.4 metres high? Is this because plasterboard sheets come in this size? Who says that benchtops should be 900 mm in height and balustrades 1.1 metres? Does the house fit us or do we fit the house?

*Walls 4 Sale* is a satire about the normalising impact of the ubiquitous "normcore" apartment and Brustman extends this argument by using colour charts to visually blend carpet with furniture.

The BTW team won the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale two years ago and were commissioned to take advantage of the great position on top of the NGV art collection to create their display home.

John Macarthur, in an essay in the catalogue, called the installation "cuttingly critical" and "Instagrammable" in that it dealt with both the normalisation of domestic life and our constant desire to document it.

He raises some important points about minimalism, the usual justification for seeing homes in terms of grids. Does this program us to think in a certain way?

The exhibits on the third floor using natural materials such as kelp and sea urchins offer a different way of thinking that feels its way forward rather than proclaims it.

2020 NGV Triennial, National Gallery of Victoria, until April 18.

[Ngv.vic.gov.au](http://Ngv.vic.gov.au) ●



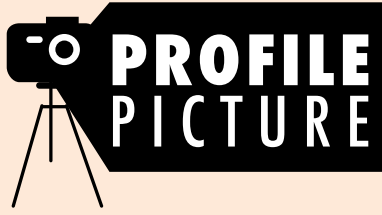
▲ A toilet in *Walls 4 Sale* by BTW.



▲ A balcony in *Walls 4 Sale* by BTW.



▲ *Coloured In* by Danielle Brustman.



KERRY HERSHELL

## Fashioning a photographic passion

*Photography Studies College (PSC) student Kerry Herschell caught the travel bug once her children grew older.*

WORDS BY *Ellen Blake*

It was on these trips that Kerry's photographic imagination was ignited. "Vietnam was a holiday that was particularly inspirational. I was really inspired by all the faces and colours and people in the street," Kerry said.

Following this trip, Kerry purchased a camera and started teaching herself how to use it.

Attending photography workshops followed, which ultimately led Kerry to enrol at PSC.

Now a second-year student studying an advanced diplo-



ma of photography part-time, Kerry said her time at PSC had given her an increased depth of understanding to craft.

"The college has taught me that a photograph should tell a story. It's taught me the how and the why, of telling a story through photography. It's more than just a pretty picture," Kerry said.

Students are returning to in-person classes this semester after the coronavirus pandemic meant lessons moved online.

"The college handled it really well. The classes were still really interactive and we could get great feedback on our photos even though it was online," Kerry said.

Originally a chef by trade, Kerry produced a folio of food photography during last year's lockdown.

"It's as though I transferred my creativity from food to photography."

Kerry's true passion, however, is capturing faces through portraiture or street photography.

"I'm particularly interested in the street genre. That's what I first started out doing. Everyone has a story or an interesting face that they don't recognise within themselves," she said.

Kerry also has an interest in fashion photography and recently had her photograph featured on the January cover of fresh fashion magazine *Malvie*.

Kerry owns her own photography business – Kerry Herschell Photography – and following the completion of her studies at PSC, she would ultimately like to put aside her catering business and focus on photography fulltime.

"My future goal is to run a successful photography business and continue to grow it organically," Kerry said.

[kerryherschellphotography.com.au](http://kerryherschellphotography.com.au) ●



© Kerry Herschell PSC Part-Time Graduate



# PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE

## CAN'T TRAVEL? STUDY PHOTOGRAPHY

Enrol in our next intake of Part-Time Courses commencing **3 March 2021!**

Explore your creative potential | Learn to take your camera off automatic and start getting the best out of your equipment

Enhance your skills for when the borders open!

WE OFFER

MASTERS | BACHELORS | DIPLOMAS | CERTIFICATES | SHORT COURSES

Find out more

[PSC.EDU.AU](http://PSC.EDU.AU) +613 9682 3191



[study@psc.edu.au](mailto:study@psc.edu.au) | 37-47 Thistlethwaite Street, South Melbourne VIC 3205

ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update



Lord Mayor Sally Capp with artists Henry Wagons and Katie Pearson at the launch of Melbourne Music Week-Extended

# REDISCOVER YOUR CITY AS MELBOURNE REOPENS

## Melbourne is open for business, shopping, dining, exploration and, of course, coffee.

We've missed you, and while you've been staying safe at home, we've been supporting local businesses and creating a captivating Melbourne for residents to enjoy and visitors to return to.

Whether it's picnicking in our heritage parks, criss-crossing the bluestones to find the ultimate laneway restaurant, or hunting for the quintessential Melbourne-designed must-have, it's time to rediscover your city.

Here are just a few things to look forward to in summer and beyond.

### 1 Ride your bike in style

We're installing more than 40 kilometres of new protected bike lanes to help you get into the city quickly, safely and sustainably.

### 2 Explore little streets

Our iconic 'little streets' - like Little Collins and Little Bourke - are being transformed into safe and vibrant shared zones for all. Look out for bespoke stencils and colourful paint showing that pedestrians have right of way and speed limits are reduced.

### 3 Dine outdoors

Melbourne's beloved restaurants, cafes and bars have thrown open their doors, creating open-air dining experiences in laneways, parking spaces, footpaths and parks.

### 4 Wander through creative laneways

Forty of Melbourne's historic laneways are being transformed through lighting and creative installations, thanks to a team of production and graphic designers, music producers, lighting specialists, technicians and maintenance workers.

### 5 Attend innovative events

From Melbourne Music Week-Extended to Moomba, our artists and producers are working to deliver a calendar of events that will celebrate our city's resilience, curiosity and creativity. Find out more at [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### 6 Discover talented buskers

Our beloved Melbourne buskers are back and ready to entertain you from Bourke Street to Southbank and everywhere in between. Sing along and tip generously.

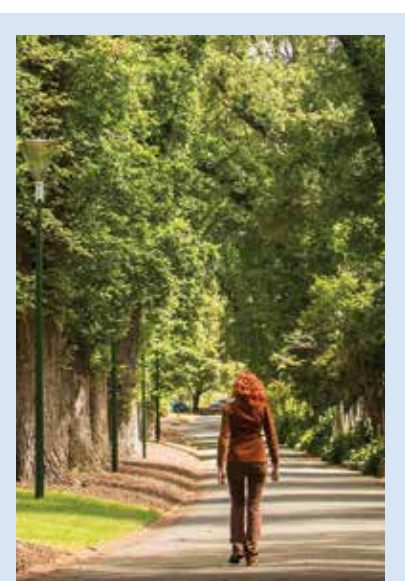
### 7 Watch your step

Our revamped laneways, bike lanes, shared zones and outdoor dining areas mean the landscape of the city has changed. We'll be updating our lane closure information and mobility maps, but please be mindful that traffic conditions on roads and footpaths may be different to the last time you visited the city.

To find out more, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneisopen](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneisopen)



A busker in Bourke Street



## KEEP COOL

Discover the coolest routes through the city on hot summer days by using our new Cool Routes tool.

As Melbourne experiences more frequent, extended and intense heatwaves due to climate change, this tool is designed to help you travel through the city more safely and comfortably, using a mix of city research and data from microclimate sensors.

To find out more, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/coolroutes](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/coolroutes)

ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

# 15 FAST FACTS ABOUT THE YEAR THAT WAS

In a year like no other, we were particularly busy at the City of Melbourne providing essential services and responding to all the challenges of 2020.

Here is a snapshot of our year in numbers:

- 1 planted 3174 trees
- 2 created more than 100 extended alfresco dining parklets
- 3 processed more than 1242 birth notices
- 4 recorded more than 6000 registered pets for the first time, including 2316 cats and 3747 dogs
- 5 supported a group of seven large energy users to purchase 110 gigawatt hours of renewable electricity through the second Melbourne Renewable Energy Project
- 6 provided more than \$17 million in funding to 2988 businesses
- 7 completed 4716 phone calls to check on the wellbeing of 726 isolated older people
- 8 supported 5650 artists with more than \$3.5 million in funding across 907 arts grants, including 385 artists with disability
- 9 loaned more than 220,000 physical items and more than 640,000 electronic items through our libraries
- 10 ran 200 early literacy programs, 249 English conversation clubs and 87 book clubs
- 11 provided 154 grants and sponsorships worth \$1.48 million to community organisations
- 12 delivered 551 ArtPlay creative sessions with 225 artists for 27,622 children and families
- 13 delivered 622 Signal creative art sessions with 488 artists, reaching 4056 young people
- 14 generated 862,000 kilowatt hours of clean energy from 2244 solar panels on council buildings
- 15 harvested 120,478,000 litres of stormwater

This is just a small sample of the varied work that is done by local councils.

To find out more about what we do and how to get involved in city life, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur.



Solar panels



Pet registrations



Business funding



Arts grants

## COMMUNITY FOOD GUIDE

The proportion of Melbourne residents who reported experiencing food insecurity increased from 25.8 per cent in 2019 to 32.9 per cent in 2020, according to data from our latest Health and Wellbeing Profile. To find out how to access affordable, fresh and healthy food, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/communityfoodguide](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/communityfoodguide)



A new outdoor dining area at Bar Lourinha



### KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne* magazine online at [magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

You can also join conversations to influence plans for your neighbourhood through Participate Melbourne at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

#### Connect with us

- /cityofmelbourne
- @cityofmelbourne
- @cityofmelbourne



# Leadership roles assigned as council revamps meetings

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Key portfolios for the next four years have been assigned to recently-elected City of Melbourne councillors, who have endorsed a new way to conduct meetings.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp will take over transport chair duties, an important portfolio in the next four years as the council looks to implement its Transport Strategy 2030.

Since entering Town Hall in 2018, Cr Capp has been a strong proponent of redistributing CBD space to both pedestrians and cyclists, who make the vast majority of trips within the Hoddle Grid.

The Lord Mayor will also become the Aboriginal Melbourne chair.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece has retained the planning portfolio, a role he held in the previous council term (2016-2020).

Rohan Leppert will remain as his deputy, while also taking on the role of environment chair after fellow Greens councillor Cathy Oke stood down last year after 12 years in the chamber.

Cr Leppert holds his role as heritage chair but relinquishes the arts portfolio after eight years.

Town Hall's current longest-serving councillor, Kevin Louey, has been assigned the Business and Global Opportunities portfolio.

Once the chief of staff to former Lord Mayor John So, Cr Louey has entered his 13th year in the council chamber in 2021.

Second term councillor Philip Le Liu has been assigned as finance chair, taking over from former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood, who in October ran unsuccessfully against Cr Capp in the 2020 City of Melbourne election.

Cr Leppert said given its scope of responsibilities, councillors decided a portfolio structure was again the most efficient way to conduct business.

He added that the process was a harmonious one.

"At this point in the electoral cycle some councils are tearing themselves apart deciding who gets which position. We don't do that," he said

Remaining portfolios were largely assigned to recently-elected councillors.

Dr Olivia Ball, the second Greens councillor alongside Cr Leppert, will chair the Health, Wellbeing and Belonging portfolio.

Roshena Campbell, who in her short time on council has been a strong advocate of a voucher program to kick-start the local economy in 2021, will lead City Activation.

Jason Chang will take the lead on Small Business, Elizabeth Doidge has been handed responsibility for Sustainable Building, Jamal Hakim will become Creative Melbourne chair, and Davydd Griffiths will lead the Education and Innovation portfolio.

At the December 15 council meeting, councillors also announced a shakeup to its decision-making framework for the next four years.

From now, Future Melbourne Committee meetings — which represent around two-thirds

*Lord Mayor Sally Capp will take over transport chair duties, an important portfolio in the next four years as the council looks to implement its Transport Strategy 2030.*



of all council meetings and where key decisions impacting the city are typically made — will no longer be structured in portfolio segments as featured during the previous term.

Instead, the Lord Mayor will take on the role of committee chair of all but one portfolio.

That remaining portfolio, Planning, will continue to be chaired by the Deputy Lord Mayor.

Cr Leppert said the new system eliminated an overly-centralised decision-making process. "I am actually quite glad that we've done away with what I thought was becoming a little bit of a problematic conflict, where the portfolio holder was also the chair of the committee, the proponent of the motion before the committee, the media spokesperson and becoming a bit of a policy lead," he said.

"We have to be conscious that all councillors have equal decision-making authority and responsibility. I think this model brings us back to that in two key ways; it doesn't make the portfolio lead the chair — the Lord Mayor will be the chair."

"Secondly, we're seeking to a brief a whole lot of portfolios together in a way that's going to make life as efficient as possible for the administration."

In what was the final meeting of 2020, councillors also endorsed its latest code of conduct.

"This code of conduct represents our commitment to respectful behaviour, to setting an appropriate tone and example for the rest of the organisation, and certainly reflecting our culture," Cr Capp said ●

## Council starts cleaning blitz to remove graffiti

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Unightly graffiti and tagging in Southbank will be removed from shopfronts, bridges and building facades under a new City of Melbourne initiative.

Using some of the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery fund, the council will focus on removing graffiti in high places that would normally be out of reach.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the cleaning blitz would ensure Melbourne was sparkling clean for workers returning to the city.

"Unwanted graffiti and tagging is a blight on the city. We can now literally go above and beyond to remove graffiti from hard to reach places," the Lord Mayor said.

"The significant cost of hiring elevated working platforms means that the removal of graffiti from heights above three to four metres is cost-prohibitive."

"This joint funding means we are able to contract two additional staff and hire the necessary equipment to remove graffiti from heights, including above shop awnings, bridges and on the sides and facades of buildings."

So far the council has identified Swanston, Elizabeth, Bourke, Little Bourke and Russell streets as priority areas for cleaning and will be adding more destinations over the next six months.

Carlton will also be a major focus for the council initiative as more people return to Lygon St.

Southbank resident Lachy Christie said that there had been a marked increase of graffiti and tagging on the side of apartment buildings along Whiteman St.

"Good graffiti can be really nice, like in Hosier Lane where there is real street art," Mr Christie said.

"But nonsensical tags that you can barely read, either from terrible handwriting or a lack of creative talent is just frustrating."

Another Southbank resident Athena Zouki said there was "almost always" graffiti on the side of her building on Clarendon St.

"If it was proper graffiti like from back in the days along the train lines then I wouldn't mind so much, but it's just trashy tags," Ms Zouki said.

Graffiti removal services for tagging at street level will be boosted between now and the end of June 2021 as part of the program.

The council has hired two additional graffiti management vehicles and two more contract staff to proactively control and clean the areas on a daily rather than weekly basis.

The recovery fund will also be put towards additional waste services, including more hard waste collections for businesses and residents, deep street cleaning, additional cleaning of outdoor dining parklets and increased dumped rubbish removal.



▲ Graffiti on the side of 99 Whiteman St.

Currently the CoM invests almost \$1 million on graffiti removal annually and removes around 50,000 sqm, or more than two MCGs worth of graffiti from private and public spaces, every year.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the new initiative would ensure Melbourne was cleaner than ever.

"Our community has been clear that graffiti removal is important to them and they want more action taken to address tagging across the municipality," she said.

"So together with the Victorian Government we are responding with a six-month cleaning blitz which will see our city sparkle again as we welcome workers and visitors back." ●



## Sky's the limit for new vertical school at Fishermans Bend

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*  
EDUCATION

A new secondary school at Fishermans Bend reached structural completion last month, with the vertical school topping out at four storeys.

It is one of seven vertical government schools being rolled out in the inner city and is designed to cater for up to 1100 students.

The interim name for the school is Fishermans Bend Secondary School and it will be welcoming students from Southbank when it opens in 2022.

Member for Albert Park Martin Foley said, "The community's vision for a Fishermans Bend secondary school is now becoming a reality and students will soon get to attend a modern, innovative and important local school."

Designed in consultation with the local community, the school features an environmentally-sustainable design.

Solar panels and solar batteries, food production gardens, and bicycle facilities for students and staff all feature, as well as a façade design allowing for natural light and thermal comfort.



▲ A render of the new school.

Science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) will be the curriculum focus of the school, and students will have access to high-tech amenities, including a fabrication lab and robotics workshop, and arts, food technology, sports and learning resource centre spaces that can be shared with the community.

Member for Southern Metropolitan Nina Taylor said, "Right across inner city Melbourne, we are delivering new schools and upgrading existing schools — so all Victorians can access a great local school."

The school was funded in the Victorian Budget 2019/2020, which invested more than \$6 million to build new schools across the state.

The school, located on Graham St in Port Melbourne, will open next year ●



SOUTHBANKER

# Restoring village values through life coaching

WORDS BY *Sean Car*

Career teacher Stephanie Ashley is passionate about providing education through positive reinforcement.

The English-born educationalist has lived in Australia since she was four years old, having lived and worked all around the country, from Hobart and Melbourne, to remote areas in Queensland and New South Wales.

With bachelor and master's degrees in education from the University of Melbourne and Latrobe University, respectively, the Southbank resident has dedicated her life to teaching.

Ms Ashley told *Southbank News* that in 2019 she spent a year teaching indigenous children in remote outback Queensland, where the importance placed on the customs of community and eldership were reinforced.

Since returning to Melbourne and settling in Southbank just prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, she's now looking to bring her years of experience helping people of all ages and backgrounds through a new business venture – life coaching.

"It's because of my dealings with students that I realised we are missing giving them a hell of a lot about teaching them about life," she said. "Who teaches you about how to navigate

your way through life?"

"No one actually teaches you strategies. As a life coach I use those strategies on my students with great success and they would be so distressed, and I'd get them calm. I think we all need a life coach."

"What used to happen is that we all grew up in villages and there would be wise people we'd go to for advice. Who do we go to now? Where is that old village philosophy?"

While the notions underpinning the village philosophy might largely be lost in today's modern world, Ms Ashley believes it is through the power of positive reinforcement and wisdom that some of these values can be restored in all of us.

Taking shape in the form of one-on-one sessions in the meeting rooms at her Coventry St apartment building, she said her brand-new business specialised in providing completely confidential and non-judgemental life coaching services.

And irrespective of what her clients were seeking help with, she said her job was all about asking "meaningful questions" that got to the heart of helping people understand their true value as a human being.

"As an educationalist, teaching kids about life is the most important thing to do because we all



have to do life and get up every day and balance everything in our life," she said.

"I always see the individual first. I never seen them as valuable for what they produce. Whether or not you pass or fail, it's irrelevant. The only important thing to pass at is at being the kind of person you want to be."

"Somehow as human beings, we know we're worth something, but as soon as we start

interacting with people that's often where self-esteem is lowered. So, positive reinforcement plays an enormous role." ●

**For more information:**  
[life-coaching.com.au](http://life-coaching.com.au)

METRO TUNNEL



▲ TBM reassembly at Anzac Station – credit: The Metro Tunnel Project



▲ Pop-up park at Albert Rd. Credit: Phoebe Powell

## TBMs forge ahead towards city centre

*Tunnelling in Domain is in full swing following the relaunch of tunnel boring machines (TBMs) Millie and Alice.*

The TBMs are making their way from the Anzac Station site under St Kilda Rd towards the CBD, a 1.8km journey that will see them tunnel under the Yarra River before breaking through at the site of the new Town Hall Station more than 30 metres beneath the southern end of Swanston St.

The relaunch of the tunnelling machines follows the completion of the 1.7km eastern section of tunnels between Anzac Station and the eastern tunnel entrance in South Yarra last year. Following the breakthrough at South Yarra, the TBMs were retrieved, transported back to the St Kilda Rd site, reassembled and launched to build the twin tunnels towards the city.

As tunnelling continues, works to build

Anzac Station are progressing above and below ground.

The completion of station roof construction in 2020 meant the 300-metre-long station box was successfully built directly under St Kilda Rd, all while keeping traffic, trams and cyclists moving safely through the area.

Excavation is currently underway for the train-tram interchange station entrance, which will be the major entry point for Anzac Station. A second station entrance near the Shrine of Remembrance is also taking shape.

**Pop-up parks prove a popular spot**

The pop-up parks at Domain Rd and Albert Road Reserve are proving popular with people

looking to enjoy the alfresco life.

Despite Melbourne's weather turning unseasonably cool, residents and their pups enjoyed food and entertainment at the recent launch of the Albert Road Reserve pop-up park – delivered by the Metro Tunnel Creative Program.

The program has extended the existing park on Domain Rd, South Yarra, and added the Albert Rd park so more people can dine outside while following social distancing ●

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




### Little Mandarin Yoga & Pilates

An intimate and inclusive yoga and Pilates studio in the CBD, offering Mat Yoga, Aerial Yoga classes as well as Mat & Reformer Pilates classes for all levels. Whether you're a beginner or experienced, Little Mandarin will support and nurture you.

[www.LittleMandarin.Melbourne](http://www.LittleMandarin.Melbourne)

📍 Suite 201 & 202, Nicholas Building  
37 Swanston St, Melbourne

☎ 0414 200 121

📷 @little\_mandari



**SHOP LOCAL**

**Supporting business**



Construction partner:



BS00201

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

# Back to the Future ... 2021

Hello, dear readers. I hope you have all had a happy, peaceful and healthy transition into 2021.

The Montague Precinct is springing back into life, with almost 2019 numbers of pedestrians and cars on the road, but with an enormous amount more electric scooters and skateboarders cutting through our precinct to the city and back again. It makes for a very interesting streetscape, and a few near misses. As a note from all of us residents, please make sure you look before you cross the road, particularly up from your phones!

It was a joy to see all the little ones returning for the third year of South Melbourne Primary School, and particularly for those that started at the day care and have graduated to school.

The developments around the education precinct at the top of Buckhurst St, including the development of Montague Square, are moving on apace and are planned to be completed this year.

It will be interesting to see if Kirrip Park is used outside of school hours. It was, until the end of last year, being used a lot on the weekends for individuals and families with dogs and those doing workouts during the 2020 lockdown. However, as without notice to the local community the park was made leash-only, all those using it on weekends with their dogs have



*The developments around the education precinct at top of Buckhurst St, including the development of Montague Square, are moving on at pace and are planned to be completed this year.*



moved away, disrupting what was becoming a fun community activity.

With the influx of hundreds of new residents moving into the abovementioned developments, inevitably with dogs, it will be interesting to see how they respond to the restrictions on the only park around them. As the park is not used by the school after hours, or on weekends, we just don't understand why the restrictions are not lifted during those times to support and encourage community activities.



The developments along Normanby Rd and environs are progressing apace and our landscape and streetscape is changing almost daily. We look forward to these completed before the next tranche of developments start, to give us a break from all the noise and disruption.

The Montague Community Alliance hopes to be able to hold a community event sometime this year, COVID-19 permitting. An event where we can hear from not just our elected representatives, but the council and Fishermans Bend Taskforce officers on the plans for the Montague Precinct.

It would also be an interesting initiative to consider how all these new apartments/offices are being marketed. It is clear that those who leased or bought prior to 2018, in Gravity Tower on Montague St and Nightfall on Gladstone St, or those who bought or leased offices in Gladstone, Buckhurst and Thistlethwaite streets, were not told about the developments. For example, the old Carlin's site on Buckhurst St and Fifteen85 on Gladstone St were only demolished at the end of 2018.

And we are not holding our breath about a local community office in Montague to answer local residents and businesses queries about the development, street closures, etc.

But we do hope for all those things we had negotiated in 2019 will come to pass in 2021.

Yes – we are hoping to go back to the future ●



*Trisha Avery*

TRISHA AVERY IS THE CONVENER OF THE MONTAGUE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

TRISHAVERY@ME.COM



ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE

# Companions for the journey

*Every time I put my four-year-old daughter Genevieve to bed, she asks for a Jupiter story.*

I can't recall how it started, but a year or two ago, I began making up stories for her about her adventures on Jupiter (Yes, I know, Jupiter doesn't have a solid surface or breathable air. It's a story for a kid!).

Every night, a spaceship lands in our backyard, waking Genevieve from her sleep. She jumps out of bed, peaks under the curtains, and sees the spaceship doors opening to reveal a friendly creature of some description that invites her to fly with it to Jupiter to attend a party. Naturally, Genevieve is always excited to go.

After the countdown, the blast-off, and the speeding through the galaxy, they arrive on Jupiter, landing in a meadow with green, green grass and yellow flowers. Then, Genevieve's companion leads her on a long journey to get to the party. The long journey is a deliberate feature, repeated identically each night. They walk down from the meadow, along the beach, up the path alongside the river, over the bridge, around the lake, through the desert, and so on. The very specific path through the landscape

is there for a reason – to bore the poor girl to sleep! But it never works. She always makes it to the party, and even stays awake for the return journey through the Jupiter countryside and the flight home.

Having a plan, having a routine, having a map of the directions we expect to go in is important. Usually, they aren't there to put us asleep, but oddly enough, they do have the effect of calming us, or settling us down. We need to have a reasonable expectation of what comes next in life. We need, in order to have some peace of mind, to be able to imagine that on the weekend we'll be visiting a friend, seeing a movie, or going to choir rehearsal.

One of the reasons the COVID restrictions have been so difficult is because they have impacted on our ability to traverse our social geography. We've been kept, somewhat, from stepping out on those familiar journeys that keep us grounded and our anxieties at bay. But it hasn't been, nor does it need to be, seen negatively in every instance. A shake-up, leading to the mark-ups on the map, can be a good thing.

When Jesus of Nazareth began preaching his message, he called people to follow him, to stop doing what they were doing, living the way they were living, and follow on his path. But it wasn't always a particularly comfortable path to walk on and the map didn't show a

straight line from current-location-point-A to a destination-point-B. Following Jesus would mean loving your enemies and praying for those who curse you. It would mean detours down steep and shadowy valleys as well up to bright shining mountaintops. But most of all, the path that Jesus led his disciples on, was one that was radically different from the standard, sometimes cosy, generally accepted way of doing things. It was, in every respect, a new way of walking on the human journey. Which might have something to do with the fact that early Christians, as is mentioned in the *Book of Acts*, referred to themselves as followers of The Way.

Whether we are mapping out our physical movements for 2021, limited as they will probably be, or if we're considering the path of our spiritual life, there is one thing in particular that might give us hope for the journey. Interpersonal interactions – expressions of human connection – even if they sometimes need to be virtual, make the destination somewhat irrelevant. The journey itself, even if it is embarked upon on a treadmill, so to speak, is where fulfilment is to be found.

As I mentioned, early Christians called themselves followers of The Way. But the interesting thing about that is that The Way is a person. Jesus said, "I am the Way the Truth and the Life."

Whatever stories we tell ourselves, whatever paths we feel we the need to follow to keep ourselves sane, they finally only make sense in the sharing of them. No one can be an island. And in the Christian tradition, it is Jesus who rises up, fills the watery gaps and forms continents of the many human islands, bringing us together with the divine and with each other.

Whenever I finish telling my daughter, Genevieve a Jupiter story, she inevitably asks for another one, and if I'm in a good mood, I oblige. But I've been around her long enough to realise that it's not really that she wants another story, it's just that she doesn't want me to leave until she's fast asleep.

Travellers need companions. In the Christian tradition, Jesus leads the way of companionship and is the chief loving companion. Where are you finding companionship and connection for your journey? ●



*Tom Hoffmann*

TOM HOFFMANN IS THE PASTOR AT ST JOHNS SOUTHGATE CHURCH.

STJOHNSOUTHGATE.COM.AU



**St Johns Southgate**

**In-person and online worship available**  
**Check our website for details**

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

# Investing in social housing, in the era of working from home

“

Welcome to the sixth of our 12-part series which will attempt to explore the role that housing can and should play within Australian society and why it is important to our economy that we house all Australians.

”

This series intends to draw on a range of perspectives centred around housing and homelessness. We will hear a range of views from business, the not-for-profit sector and hopefully government, as to why they believe housing is an important social and economic building block for Australia's future prosperity.

This month we have asked Peter Colacino, Chief of Policy & Research, at Infrastructure Australia to share his thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians, and in particular investing in social housing in the era of working from home, should be considered an economic imperative for Australia ...

As Australians continue to feel the impacts of COVID-19 and the rolling series of lockdowns, adequate housing for many members of the community is a barrier to maintaining productivity and avoiding social isolation.

With one in three workers still based at home as a result of the pandemic, and 10 per cent of the total workforce intending to continue working remotely into the future, the measure of adequacy for housing has shifted. So too, the importance of suitable and affordable broadband has grown.

This shift has created, for many workers, a new hurdle for accessing work. The home internet connection becomes the link to economic and social opportunity, the living room the office as well as the place for family and the costs of utilities have shifted from employer to employee.

As we spend more time working from home, the pressure on those in an unstable or unsatisfactory housing situation has intensified. This risks further detaching those who are already

vulnerable from economic and social opportunities, and risks pronouncing isolation.

Infrastructure Australia's recent report *Infrastructure beyond COVID-19* anticipates the value of face-to-face contact and agglomeration in CBDs is such that two-thirds of those working remotely will return to the office and CBDs.

However, for those remaining at home, and those with reduced frequency in the office, optimising their productivity while working remotely is critical both to the economic performance of the nation and to avoid entrenching of financial disadvantage for individuals.

The pandemic, and the new needs of our workforce, should serve as a catalyst for the owners of housing for those on the fringe, including public, community and affordable housing, to rethink the economic value fit-for-purpose housing offers through enabling participation.

It is already widely understood that social housing is an economic enabler. As noted by KPMG in its evaluation of post-GFC investment in housing, social housing provides on average multiplier boost to the economy of \$1.30 for every \$1 spent.

However, just as the Commonwealth Treasury has noted, economic infrastructure provides an estimated four dollar return for every one dollar spent, although the impact of each project varies and the benefits of good projects can be many times higher.

Defining housing quality and pinpointing its incremental benefits remains a key challenge. To secure appropriate prioritisation of housing it will be necessary to turn the focus from considerations of the macro impacts of housing, to gaining a deeper understanding of the specific benefits of tangible housing projects and interventions. It is now paramount to consider the role that investment in fit-for-purpose housing plays in connecting its residents to the workforce.

While it's clear that many frontline roles cannot be undertaken remotely, research from the University of Sydney in September 2020 found the diversity of people working remotely is relatively high, both during and before the pandemic. While the transition to working from home has been most substantive in white collar roles, it extends beyond that. Clerical and administration roles shifted from 20 per cent to more than 56 per cent remote, while sales staff working remotely shifted from 22 per cent to 30 per cent of the workforce and more than 10 per cent of the labourer and machine operator/driver workforce is also remote.

Analysis from McKinsey across nine

countries has shown that many activities such as information gathering and processing, communicating with others, teaching and counselling, and coding data can theoretically be done remotely.

With much of the workforce operating at least intermittently from home, the challenge of meeting people's housing needs has been complicated by the suitability of a person's housing to allow them to work from home. Housing now has a resounding impact on the kind of employment people can access as a result of its location, physical and digital connectivity and configuration.

The challenge of housing inequity, with social housing failing to meet the modern needs of the community, was highlighted in the 2019 Australian Infrastructure Audit. In particular, social housing faces the dual challenges of ageing, inappropriate assets and long waiting lists. This is exemplified by many multi-bedroom dwellings remaining under-occupied, while there is overcrowding elsewhere.

While this inequity in access is not new, the pandemic has thrust it into the spotlight. The acceleration of the move of the workplace online has also accelerated the move of social housing from social policy to a paramount economic issue that could directly impact our economic recovery. If we are to hasten the economic recovery, address workforce constraints and boost workforce productivity, it is critical that every individual has the opportunity to participate. With as many as one in 10 Australians now living in social housing, and two-thirds of that group employed, it is critical this substantial cohort is provided the opportunity to engage in the workforce.

Social housing tenants in the workforce are both more likely to exit social housing, and more likely to have access to higher incomes. The opportunity to achieve these two outcomes is now more closely tied to the nature of the property.

To encourage investment, we need more data and robust analysis of how public, community or affordable housing infrastructure interventions have improved outcomes for individuals. It is well known that investing in social housing has benefits for residents and our national economy, but we understand less about how these benefits are impacted by the type of housing we invest in. We need to better define fit-for-purpose housing and the economic case for enabling interventions.

The other side of the coin from Australia's property boom has been pronounced challenges in the delivery of affordable housing. While

existing community housing appreciates in financial value, locking up the balance sheets of owners, these assets age, deteriorate and their service value erodes as they no longer meet the needs of residents. The costs of minor maintenance, the costs to heat, cool and digitally connect, all grow.

While there is an established and growing need to refresh existing social housing assets, the opportunity to use the sale of existing houses to fund new, higher-quality dwellings strengthens.

Despite the opportunity, well-intentioned community attitudes to maintain the level of publicly-supported housing can compound the challenges associated with inadequate housing stock. Perceived friction associated with recycling or transitioning of housing stock to private ownership to create a stream of revenue for investment in new housing assets is a major hindrance. It is incumbent on the owners of existing public housing to educate the community on the shortcomings of existing assets.

If we are to address the challenges of economic and social isolation that impact those in publicly supported housing, it is critical that we can support an informed public discussion about the contribution of housing and digital connectivity to our communities. COVID-19 provides a catalyst for this discussion, and a burning platform to build the data and knowledge to support modern, right-sized assets to meet the needs of the post-pandemic home-based workforce.

*I hope you found the above perspective by Peter interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our view of the world, we all need to listen and digest what is said by others in order to find common ground. This is why we are focusing on the fact that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need (not human right) and without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that will span generations.*

*Doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act, and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts: [info@housingallaustralians.com.au](mailto:info@housingallaustralians.com.au)*



Rob Pradolin

FORMER GENERAL MANAGER AT FRASERS PROPERTY AUSTRALIA AND FOUNDER OF HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS (HAA)

[INFO@HOUSINGALLAUSTRALIANS.COM.AU](mailto:INFO@HOUSINGALLAUSTRALIANS.COM.AU)

## ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

# Landfill tops Koorie Art Show

*"I've always used art in a political way," artist Clinton Naina told Southbank News. In December, Clinton was awarded the Koorie Art Show's top prize for his work Landfill.*

WORDS BY Meg Hill

The work is on exhibition at the Koorie Heritage Trust until February 21.

"It's a way of telling a story or exposing things that need to be thought about. Art can tell a political story as well as being political in and of itself," Clinton continued.

Clinton made *Landfill* out of domestic bleach and cotton. The artwork, a depiction of and commentary on societal waste, was made during Melbourne's lockdown. Surgical masks are depicted alongside a plastic bag.

"It's commenting on the waste that society uses that is filling our land. There's better ways of using or reusing these materials and we should be looking at ways to recycle and making sure we're not polluting the land because it's all we have," he said.

Reflecting on societal waste during the pandemic, Clinton said he saw the two phenomena as connected: there is sickness and illness all around the world, and we're chopping down the

forests that protect us from germs and disease.

"I think every time we chop down a tree or a forest or another creature dies, we're getting closer to destroying ourselves," he said.

He's has been exhibiting his art since he was a teenager, but he's been politically active even longer.

"My mother was Eleanor Harding, a political activist and community service worker. She was from the Torres Strait Islands, her lineage descends from Meriam Mer people of the Eastern Torres Strait and the Ku-Ku people of north-west Cape York," he said.

"I was taken as a newborn to my first Aboriginal land rights protest when I was one month old – to the first Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra on Australia Day 1972."

"That was the start of my political awareness of my people's ongoing struggle to survive."

He said art was a way of exposing things that needed to be thought about.

"I've particularly always looked at the politics of the environment, animal welfare, the Torres

Strait Islander people, land, mining – land is entwined with everything else in Torres Strait Island culture, it's not separate like in Western culture," he said.

In a way, Clinton said he felt responsibility to depict those things in his art: "We're not the only ones here anymore, so we have to teach the people living on the land how to look after it," he said.

"So, it was my responsibility in a way not just to be an artist but to do work that can shed light on those things and help the situations that we're in."

The 8th Koorie Art Show is open to the public Sunday, February 21 at the Koorie Heritage Trust, Yarra Building, Federation Square. Entry is free ●

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

COUNCILLOR PROFILE

# A true community councillor

When *Southbank News's* sister publication *Docklands News* ran Jamal Hakim's image on the front page of its September 2020 edition ahead of last year's City of Melbourne council elections, he really would have liked his chances!

And sure enough, the long-term Docklands resident, multicultural campaigner and managing director of a national health not-for-profit defied the odds and snuck into one of the nine coveted councillor positions ... not that we're suggesting our help had anything to do with his success!

Off the back of some clever preferences with other like-minded resident candidates and an "open and honest" dialogue with the rest of the field, Mr Hakim said he had always remained optimistic about his chances.

"I take things in my stride, I guess," he said. "I'm the kind of person that leaves myself open to all possibilities. So, part of me did feel optimistic. But at the same time, I was realistic that it's the first time I'm running and I'm an unknown character."

"I went into the preference discussions the same way I would any other negotiation, which is to align from a values perspective. Have those conversations, be really honest and look at the policies of the other candidates."

"My goal was to work with the other resident candidates to say, let's get an independent resident on council. It doesn't matter who it is."

Mr Hakim is one of six new faces on the council and his election to the City of Melbourne should come as welcome news to local residents throughout the municipality, given his pledge to carry his own lived experience into the role.

Not only has he lived in Docklands for more than 10 years, his professional experience working with Democracy in Colour, Marie Stopes and previously with Midsumma Festival means community will be central to



▲ Newly-elected councillor and long-time Docklands resident Jamal Hakim.

his approach as a councillor.

Having been assigned the Creative Melbourne portfolio and deputy lead on the Health, Wellbeing and Belonging portfolio, he told *Southbank News* that he was passionate about promoting multiculturalism, safety and deliberative government in our city.

"I think safety in the city is a really big issue because it underpins everything," he said.

"People feel less safe in the City of Melbourne year on year and that's probably because we're not understanding what safety encompasses – it's emotional, psychological, cultural, accessibility, environmental and all sorts of things."

"Deliberative government is also something that I'm really interested in. We really need to create a way of collaboration that takes into account our community in all of its forms."

"About 70 per cent of the recommendations from deliberative processes in Scotland are enacted. I think when you have that you have a more engaged community. You have to represent community realistically and be able to show representation within council."

While Jamal's life is about to get a whole lot busier as a councillor, he is no stranger to a full workload having only recently completed his Juris Doctor (JD) at RMIT University so expect

him to take the juggle in his stride!

He said that the combined fresh talent of fellow new councillors Jason Chang, Olivia Ball, Elizabeth Doidge, Davydd Griffiths and Roshena Campbell, with the experience of Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and councillors Kevin Louey, Rohan Leppert and Phil Le Liu placed the group in good stead for a productive and pragmatic council term.

"What's really terrific about this council, and I can say this confidently, after meeting and sitting down with everyone individually is that we really got to know each other and we all set some ground rules around our behaviours and how we want to engage together," he said.

"What came from that was that we have a bunch of councillors who don't necessarily agree on everything, but they agree on the way we want to interact. Everyone wants to go into this in a way that is positive and be soft on people and hard on issues."

"All eyes will be on council post-pandemic and I think everyone is conscious of that fact in that whatever we do in this term will have implications for years and years to come – similar to what happened with Postcode 3000 and some of the other major changes in Melbourne."

"What we do with a city that is really changing in terms of how communities and businesses interact and how people's livelihoods are going to be impacted is going to be a challenge, but an opportunity to do things better." ●



Sean Car

EDITOR

SEAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

## Get ready, 'cause here we come!

*Staying true to summer's elevated energy, we started the year very actively and energetically.*

Following a successful "Upcycle Christmas!" workshop with great participation and a few good group meet-ups, we are paving the way to make this year a success for the Southbank community and our environment.

After such a long hibernation, we are all very keen to host more educational activities, where we get to interact with the Southbank community again. You'll see a lot more activities from our group, especially on practical topics from sustainable ways of living to home gardening. Starting with bringing the community together for another garden planting day towards the end of the month. More details below ...

### Coming up

We know that the current look of the Southbank Boulevard green space upgrade is a pain point for many Southbankers, with lack of council communication causing further frustration. We passed it on that we need better communication on what's coming and what the end result will be. There's apparently many more trees about to be planted and we'll hopefully be knowing more about it soon.

We also learned that our council will be initiating some in-depth community consultation workshops to identify more localised needs, opportunities, and crowdsourced solutions. While that's being organised, we encourage you to start putting down ideas of what Southbank could use the most, or solutions that would work well for our neighbourhood. Feel free to email us some of your ideas if you'd like us to pass them on (use email subject: "Southbank ideas").

### A team of champions leading Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG)

Knowing the growth potential and ripple effect our group's solutions-focused decisions and activities seem to have, we thought it was high time to get more driven Southbankers involved in the leadership of the group to reach our full potential.

We formed a team of champions who will be the driving force behind a lot of the environmental work and educational material you will be seeing soon in Southbank. We also know that any good work for our environmental footprint is good for everyone, so we are keen to grow our reach and positive effects even further. We are very excited to welcome the passionate new team of champions! A diverse mix of people, old and new members, with many great ideas. There will also be many opportunities for volunteers and community members to help or get involved with different projects. Email us if you are interested in volunteering.

### Community planting day

The garden is once again buzzing with life (humans and bees) and it's almost planting season again!

We always love involving you in everything we do, so we want to invite Southbankers of all ages to come join us Saturday morning, February 20 and learn how to grow vegies from seeds, while getting the next round of seedlings ready for their permanent home in Southbank's community garden.

Participants will be taking home some newly planted seeds in egg cartons to take care until they grow into more resilient seedlings, then bring them back to replant in the garden – making this a community planting in the fullest sense! Participants will even get to keep a seedling or two for their home. If there's a certain winter vegetable or herb you are keen to see in the community garden, please email us soon. It



might just make the final list of plants that will be growing soon at Boyd. Email us or keep an eye on our Facebook page for the Eventbrite registration link to secure your seat to this free community event.

### Many events beyond this group

February is Sustainable Living Month with many events and learning opportunities – both online and face-to-face. The festival covers a wide range of topics to suit any interest and we encourage everyone to participate. More on: [slf.org.au](http://slf.org.au)

Our next meetups will be on Saturdays February 20 and March 6, 10am at Boyd.

### About the group

A solutions-focused group of Southbankers working to bring positive change in sustainability practices and education to our neighborhood, while building a wonderful community of like-minded people. Free to join. 2019 Environment Melbourne Award & KVB 2020 Sustainable Cities Environment Award winner ●

Reach us at:  
[southbanksustainability@gmail.com](mailto:southbanksustainability@gmail.com) or [facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SouthbankSustainabilityGroup)



Artemis Pattichi

SOUTHBANK SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

SOUTHBANKSUSTAINABILITY@GMAIL.COM

# A familiar face returns to Melbourne’s luxury apartment market



*Georgina Zeneldin (née Dakdouk) had been a friendly face in the community, especially among luxury property listings, for many years before departing to expand her real estate career and knowledge in Dubai’s luxury property market.*



WORDS BY *Andrew Salvo – Ray White*

Returning with five additional years of intense real estate experience, Ms Zeneldin has dealt with some of the world’s highest calibre investors and properties.

Having been the market share leader in luxury properties for many years, Ms Zeneldin has developed unsurpassed market knowledge and a deep passion for the building industry.

More Ms Zeneldin, representing owners and promoting the lifestyle and feature benefits of luxury properties comes with ease, due to her passion for the building industry and devotion to her career.

Ms Zeneldin is highly driven to serve luxury properties residents with outstanding customer service, results and an unmatched property experience.

While her competitive nature pushes her to negotiate the very best deal for her clients, she has a friendly approach. People just love doing business with her.

I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending Georgina Zeneldin to reliably value your property, to discuss the market or to represent you in your next transaction.

Contact Ms Zeneldin on 0481 577 772 or via email or [georgina.zeneldin@raywhite.com](mailto:georgina.zeneldin@raywhite.com) ●

▼ *Georgina Zeneldin.*



## Central Equity wins HIA Apartment Complex of the Year 2020

Central Equity has taken out the prestigious Housing Industry Association (HIA) Victorian Apartment Complex of the Year 2020 Award, for its recently completed landmark apartment tower Melbourne Grand.

It makes the Melbourne company HIA Victoria’s most awarded apartment developer, winning the award six times in the past 10 years.

Central Equity has been setting the benchmark in Melbourne inner city housing with more than 80 projects delivered more than 33 years.

Melbourne Grand Apartments was designed by long established Melbourne Architects Guilford Bell and Graham Fisher.

The 58-level tower, located at 560 Lonsdale St, has a luxurious entry foyer and approximately 1700 sqm of resort style facilities.

The resident facilities – the Lonsdale Club is home to a cinema, expansive lounge and dining areas, outdoor BBQ dining terraces, a banquet room, coffee bar, an impressive gymnasium, indoor heated swimming pool, sauna and a yoga room.

The judges praised the project as being “flawlessly appointed and combines meticulous detail with functionality and stylish design. The high level of amenity and apartment configurations are well matched to today’s modern urban lifestyle, and the complex as a whole is a very worthy recipient of this accolade”.

Central Equity has been credited as the pioneer of inner city living in Melbourne, developing a number of residential properties in the Southbank and the CBD.

Melbourne Grand Apartments has been very well received with many residents now occupying their new homes.

There are a limited number of one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments for sale and rent at Melbourne Grand. For further information or to inspect the award winning complex and furnished display apartments, contact Central Equity on 9278 8888 or visit [melbournegrand.com.au](http://melbournegrand.com.au)

The onsite sales office is open seven days a week at 570 Lonsdale St, Melbourne ●

# Pet's Corner

## Happy Otto



*Southbank resident Haruka and her five-month-old dachshund Otto can often be found strolling through Boyd Park.*



WORDS BY *Ellen Blake*

The pair love spending time together inside and lounging around, but young energetic Otto can't wait until it's time to hit the pavement.

Having just received all of his vaccinations, Otto is now free to explore widely and meet all the other local dogs.

"He loves being outside," Haruka said. "It's nice to have such a beautiful park close by."

However, walk time has been a steep learning curve for the young pup.

"He used to walk me, he'd be so excited and I'd be being dragged behind. Now we walk together," Haruka said.

When asked to describe Otto, the first two words that came to Haruka's mind were "stubborn and naughty".

"He's still learning," Haruka laughed. "He makes me very happy." ●

### SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Welcome to 2021!

I am sure for many it is certainly welcome. While I am hopeful 2021 will be a better year, I am still filled with many reservations. The future is still looking so uncertain, albeit promising thus far.

I don't know about you, but once COVID started, 2020 seemed to have zipped by. While we were all locked up and restricted, it feels only like yesterday that restrictions began with the cancellation of the Grand Prix. Next month will be 12 months.

You may recall in my December column that after the approval for the 42-storey building at the Boyd Park, we received a commitment from council for dialogue with our residents about the future of Southbank and the opportunities to be exploited and developed. Our committee has been working hard to make this happen and with the personal commitment of the Lord Mayor, it seems this is likely to happen sometime in March. We think we have sourced a venue, in Southbank, which will be able to comfortably accommodate between around 150 to 200 people in a COVID-safe environment. I will certainly keep you informed of the details in my March column.

This will NOT be an opportunity to beat-up the council about any failures of the past within Southbank, and we know there are many, but about the looking to the future. There will be nothing achieved if the focus is on highlighting the failures of the council in the past, I am confident the council is certainly aware of the things they could have done better and maybe the opportunities that might have been lost. There will be very little achieved dwelling on the past, but valuable time lost to focus and plan for the future. I have specially requested the CEO and directors of the critical portfolios, such as capital works, city design, etc, instead of councillors, with the exception of the Lord Mayor and the planning councillors, for obvious reasons. The reason for this is that unbeknown to many, councillors are not the decision-makers in council, but it is the executive from the CEO down. Yes, of course councillors can influence

the priorities and the process/outcomes, but predominately council is run by its executive and, in my opinion, these are the very people we need to get onside to commit to Southbank. I suspect the top three issues of discussion will be, but not in any order of importance, open space (preferably green open space), Southbank Boulevard and City Rd upgrades.

Our committee is also preparing for a "community day" sometime later this year, possibly around October. As you will recall, we were planning our inaugural community day in March last year, however COVID put a stop to that. If anyone in our community has any suggestions for our community day or would like to assist us with the planning, I encourage you to reach out to us.

Our annual general meeting (AGM) will be mid this year. Once again, we will be looking for people to join our committee of volunteers. If you would like to know more about what we do, maybe attend a few committee meetings in time for nominating at the AGM, please make contact as you would be most welcome.

Finally, if you would like to support Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) through membership, then this can be done via our website, [southbankresidents.org.au](http://southbankresidents.org.au). Without membership our lobbying reach is very little. Our members are what give us a voice ●

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



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



### SAFETY & SECURITY

## Hugh and his special stolen Specialized

*This month I have a particularly good news story coming out of Southbank Police Station.*

The story starts back on August 30, 2019, when Hugh's collectible Specialized S-Works M4 Festina edition bicycle was stolen from the Royal Melbourne Hospital car park where it was chained up.

Holding little hope that his bike could be recovered and not wanting to waste police time, Hugh decided to not report the theft to police, but made a post on Facebook, where he was referred by friends to report his theft to BikeVAULT.

Unbeknown to Hugh, his bike was recovered by Southbank Police three weeks later, when police attended an address in Southbank and arrested a 58-year-old male in relation to the theft of another bike. While at the address police recovered the bike they were looking for and Hugh's bike, which was confiscated as suspected stolen property, as it could not be found on the police database and the investigating police were unaware of BikeVAULT at the time.

Fast forward to December 2020, when Acting Sergeant Simon Pitzzen, who has a keen interest in bikes and regularly searches BikeVAULT, spotted Hugh's bike in the property store. After performing a simple "Make" and "Model" search of stolen listings on BikeVAULT, he was able to quickly find the stolen listing and identify Hugh. While Hugh's bike had a court order to be sold, quick work by the diligent Sergeant saw the bike released from the property store in a matter of days and returned to Hugh, who was very happy to get his much-loved bike back. Great work by all involved!



### Why it is important to report all bike thefts to the police

While the recovery and return of stolen bikes to their owners is less than 10 per cent in Australia, the police do recover thousands of bikes each year, although many of these bikes are not linked to reported thefts and aren't returned to their owners due to the inability to link the stolen bicycles back to their owners via the police database.

Reporting stolen items to police gives owners the best chance of being reunited with stolen property once recovered by police. Thankfully Hugh was successfully reunited with his very special Specialized. Southbank Police regularly donate bikes to charities where the owners cannot be tracked down ●



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

## OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

## Owners' Corporation Amendment Act set for debate in the Victorian Upper House

*In the first week of February 2021, the Victorian Legislative Council is set to debate and consider passing the amendments to the Owners' Corporation Act 2006.*

For those with a long memory, these were the legislative reforms first proposed in 2013, then repurposed and expanded upon and sent back out for public consultation in 2016, drafted and completed in late 2016 and then left to fester on the shelf for the past four years.

During that long and drawn out phase of eight years while successive Consumer Affairs Ministers have come and gone, Victoria's skyline has rapidly changed, and the profile of several metropolitan Victorian suburbs have increased in density significantly.

The winners have been the developers, and the burgeoning owners' corporation (OC) facilities management industry. The losers have overwhelmingly been the owners and residents in these towers.

Since the legislation was drafted and put on the shelf in 2016, we have had several fires in buildings with combustible cladding, prompting a huge government response in the form of the formation of a new entity – Cladding Safety Victoria – tasked with assisting in the removal of all combustible cladding on residential buildings.

We have also had the Supreme Court decision of Balcombe, which severely limited an OC's ability to enforce rules relating to short-stay operators and the use of residential lots as quasi-hotels.

We have also had the high profile corporate restructuring of high-profile developers, builders and architects, which has left multiple Melbourne buildings facing ruinous debts for building defects.

None of the above major catastrophes made it into the amendments proposed by the new OC legislation. It is simply breathtaking that a government would ignore the obvious lessons of those events, and simply act to dust off a piece of legislation that has been left on the shelf for four years and seek to enact this legislation.

Victorians deserve better. It is simply not good enough to put such a dynamic and fast-growing industry to one side.

Yes, there are some very worthwhile amendments that shall be passed with this legislation. Long overdue and sorely needed. The amendments will go a long way to ensuring that Victorian OCs are built and managed in a way that does not disadvantage owners unduly.

Of course, the only issue is that these reforms were on the table and ready to be passed years ago. What we needed was a well-resourced and informed Consumer Affairs ministry that was prepared to issue amendments and re-writes to keep pace with the industry, so that when parliament finally receives the legislation, it is at least current and up to date.

There is a possibility that The Greens and Independents might support amendments to be made to the OC legislation at the Upper House. What is sorely needed is further reform on short-stay operators. In addition, developers need to be restrained from engaging their mates and related companies to push management contracts. The threshold for an OC filing legal proceedings in all jurisdictions needs to be reduced to an ordinary resolution. ●



Tom Bacon

TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.

TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.COM.AU

## WE LIVE HERE

## OCs have “responsibility” to inform short-stay guests on cladding

*Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) is placing the onus jointly on owners' corporations (OCs) and owners to inform transient short-stay guests about flammable cladding.*

In our previous column we said that CSV had not provided any advice on how OCs can deal with transient guests who are more likely to be ignorant of fire safety.

The CSV let us know that its site does in fact have a section dedicated to “owner(s) of short-stay accommodation”, and it contains this:

“If the building has been found to contain combustible cladding, and it is within Cladding Safety Victoria's program, it is the responsibility of the owners' corporation and the owner to inform guests.”

This might come as a shock to OCs of buildings where short-stay businesses operate.

The requirement by CSV for the OC to “inform a guest” about combustible cladding cannot be met.

Without regulation, short-stay operators will not scruple to keep OCs in the dark about all aspects of their business operations including which apartments are being let and the occupancy. Building managers or OCs simply do not have contact details for the guests.

Really, the onus should be on the short-term operators not only to know and understand what the status of the building is but to obtain a signature from each guest to show that they also know and understand the situation.

We will put more questions to CSV and update you in our next column.

### Short-stay watch one: Police bashed

Before a month has passed in the new year, an all-night party at a short-stay has ended with a police officer hospitalised and four partygoers arrested.

Neighbours in the fiasco, which garnered prime-time news coverage, contacted We Live Here and said, “this out-of-control [short-stay] culminating in police assaults. Forty-plus people in attendance and a 15-hour ordeal where

we were at real risk with inadequate police response to de-escalate and owner refusing to remove renters until 2.30pm the following day.”

So much for the so-called “Airbnb Party” legislation. Let's hope the sympathies of a local councillor and a federal member can convert to pressure on the Victorian Government to step up and regulate this “out-of-control” industry.

### Short-stay watch two: Mail and parcels stolen

A Melbourne apartment building contacted us with a shocking report of mail theft:

“We had a short-stay guest rob our mailroom of all mail and parcels they could carry, then take them to their rented apartment. We had the whole thing on CCTV, but VicPol did not move immediately to apprehend the thief. None of the items have been recovered ...”

Compromised security is inherent to short-stay operation in apartment buildings. We will continue to lobby for regulations requiring short-stay businesses to record guest details with the building manager.

### Bills, Bills, Bills: Legislative confusion reigns

This month two OC Bills will return to state parliament and nobody seems to know what's going on.

The Bills are two parts of the same act!

- *Owners' Corporation and other Acts Amendment Bill 2019* – part heard.
- *Owners' Corporation Amendment (Short-Stay Accommodation Act) 2019* for review.

Given that we have had three Consumer Affairs ministers in the past four years, it's no surprise even the government doesn't understand the convolutions.

In 2015 the Victorian Government commenced a review of the *Owners' Corporations Act 2006* and received more than 150 submissions. The *Owners' Corporation and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2019* was introduced in December 2019 and had reached the Upper House for the third reading when COVID-19 closed parliament in February 2020.

The review included measures to regulate OC managers and developers and improve governance, e.g. restricting proxy farming; all long-overdue reforms.

One glaring omission a review of Section 8 “Rules of the owners' corporation” was explained like this:

“One issue that is beyond the scope of this paper is whether owners' corporations should be able to make rules prohibiting a certain use of a lot, where that use is permitted under the applicable planning instrument ... therefore, the question of whether a particular land use is appropriate is a matter to be addressed in the planning scheme and not through rules made by an owners' corporation.”

Separately Consumer Affairs introduced the *Owners' Corporation Amendment (Short-Stay Accommodation Bill) 2016*.

This is the Bill We Live Here lobbied against and had referred to a bipartisan Parliamentary Inquiry, which determined the Bill was unfair. The findings were dismissed by the government and the Bill was enacted in February 2019.

Has anyone made a successful complaint under this so-called Airbnb Party Act? We have had zero cases reported to us.

Now, in response to widespread derision, Minister for Consumer Affairs at the time, Marlene Kairouz, effectively said don't worry, we'll review the Act in two years. Well, time's up!

Rather than a confusing piecemeal approach, the government should review all aspects in concert: general improvements to the OC Act, specific provisions for short-stays and the hot potato – the role of planning regulations.

We hope the new minister for Consumer Affairs Melissa Horne understands that there are many, many major problems related to short-stays beyond violent parties.

We need a mature, open conversation between the government and stakeholders to address the short-stay issue in its entirety ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET

WELIVEHERE.NET



## SKYPAD LIVING

## Looking back to look forward

*While our high-rise precincts are new, Melbourne has a long history of apartment living.*

According to Charles Pickett, Melbourne saw its first purpose-built apartment building - a “walk-up” - around 1900. This was soon followed by our first high-rise. This was The Astor and it was constructed in 1920 and was 20 storeys high.

Of course, Melbourne's apartment history pales in insignificance against that of Europe's, with claims that vertical living originated in ancient Rome around 753 BC. Called insulae (island), these apartment buildings could be up to eight stories high and were constructed from wood, mud brick or rudimentary concrete.

In relative terms, however, Melbourne can still claim a respectable pedigree, with apartments having a longer Australian history than majority home ownership.

As regards the evolution of our apartment sector, Robert Stent, architect and Former Governor of Master Builders Association Victoria Foundation, contends that the sector has been “full of turn-offs, short sprints and long runs of both type and frequency.” And he sees four distinct periods that have been most influential:

- 1930s–1940s: the modernist movement which embraced the need for compact living and featured many studios and one-bed apartments;
- 1950s–1960s: relaxed planning controls permitted construction of three- and four-storey apartment buildings and also featured the “commission flats” under the Housing Commission of Victoria's Slum Reclamation Program (HCVSR);
- 1970s–1980s: an amended planning scheme stymied apartment construction in favour of detached dwellings in the city fringe;
- 1990s–2000s: inner-city Melbourne development in former industrial areas such as Southbank.

But why then is apartment living claimed as being so new for us?

Why are apartments not a prominent part of our “housing history”?

One theory for this absence has been posed by architect Peter Brew. He suggests that “flats” posed a problem for our more nationalistic historians as this style of living jarred with

our populist view of ourselves as having of a quarter-acre block with a Hills hoist. It is also the case that purpose-built apartments were not universally supported, with their desirability debated since they first appeared here over a century ago. While proponents pointed to cities like New York and their widespread adoption of this mode of living, many Australians argued that the future of the nation was in the balance, as apartments would surely become “the slums of the future”.

It is interesting to note that these same claims are still made today! However, design and construction are only part of our apartment story.

Next month's column will share the origins of the regulations that govern how we are able to live in our vertical villages ●



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/SKYPADLIVING/



# Faces of Southbank

*What are your favourite places to visit in Southbank?*



NEEZ

"With my little boy, I always come to Boyd Park. With kids I don't have time much time to do much else. But I also like walking along the river."



EMILY

"I really like going to the play area at the Grant Street Park, opposite Sturt St."



BRYAN

"I like walking down Southbank Promenade. And I also have a lot of fun at Crown".



SHALVI

"My daughter loves Boyd Park. She's in kinder and she just loves to run around like crazy. You can't catch up with her. It's definitely her favourite place."



# Nature Therapy

"It's my day off."

*Boyd Park*

# Southbank Sudoku

Last month's Sudoku solution

U	H	B	T	A	K	S	N	O
K	S	O	B	N	U	A	T	H
N	A	T	S	H	O	U	K	B
B	N	S	K	O	H	T	A	U
H	T	A	U	S	N	B	O	K
O	K	U	A	T	B	H	S	N
A	B	H	N	K	S	O	U	T
T	O	K	H	U	A	N	B	S
S	U	N	O	B	T	K	H	A

*A variation of Sudoku, with the letters SOUTH BANK replacing numbers.*

The rules are the same as regular Sudoku, each line must contain the letters "SOUTH BANK" as must each 9-square box. This Sudoku is HARD, good luck!

				A		O	B	
		H	N		U	T		A
	N							
U				T				
		S				U		
				B				H
							N	
S		B	O		H	K		
	T	K		S				



HISTORY

# Waiting for a tram in Southbank

*Melbourne boasts a tramways network. Multiple lines to the south and east run through Southbank along the beautiful tree-lined boulevard of St Kilda Rd.*

A major part of the network is the tram shelters. Over the past decade, new shelters have been installed – raised to the level of tram doors to allow wheelchair access and finished in glass and metal and with electronic displays of services.

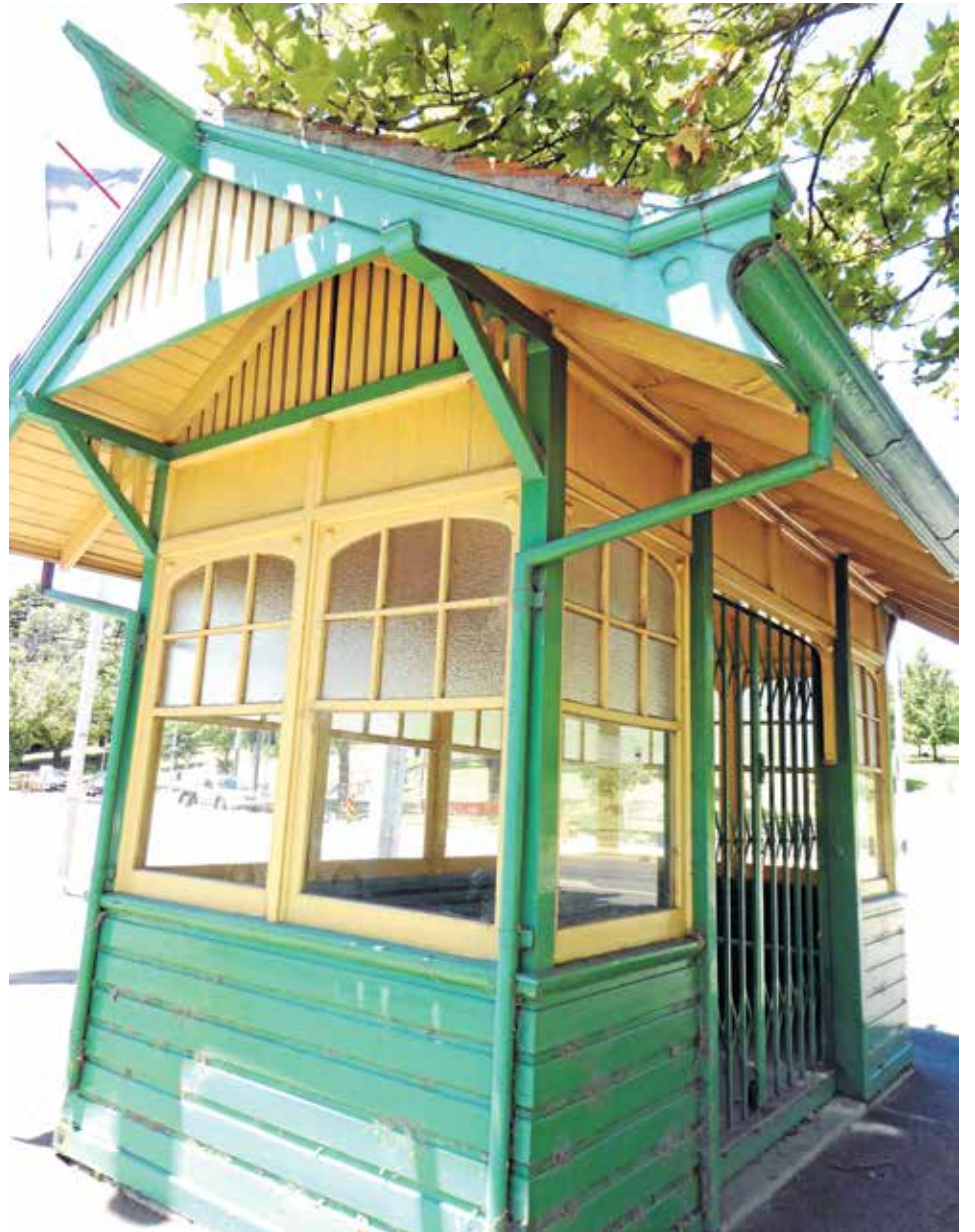
But for a long time, tram shelters were more rudimentary. Many were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, constructed and managed by the Tramways Trust (later the Metropolitan Tramways Board). Sixteen survive today, and a number are now heritage-listed, reminding us of their importance to the network and also of their design from a century ago.

One of the best is at the corner of St Kilda Rd and Dorcas St, constructed in the central strip of the road. The delightful little pavilion was painted in the green and cream that was long used as the livery for Melbourne trams, and it features an interesting mix of architectural motifs and materials.

Designed by Frank Stapley, architect and city councillor, it emerged in 1917 when passengers were still carried by cable cars. Constructed mainly of timber, it had a single entrance and passengers sat on slatted timber seats around the walls. The shelter has a half-hipped roof with deep overhanging eaves and a gable at each end, faced with shingles, and with a somewhat strange protruding section. The roof

is clad in red asbestos tiles, probably supplied by Wunderlich in Southbank, and passengers could see approaching trams through the stylish multipaned arched windows. The shelter is closed today, and the entrance is blocked by metal doors, but it continues to enhance the existing streetscape.

Two similar shelters were built in 1927 just after the conversion of St Kilda Rd to an electrified service. As so often happened in Melbourne's history, issues and disputes arose about ownership and responsibility for the shelters. Councils were keen to gain control of the shelters and were prepared to undertake the cost and responsibility of maintaining them. Other styles were introduced for protection of passengers over the years but the pre-WWII versions remain as charming reminders of earlier times ●



Robin Grow

PRESIDENT - AUSTRALIAN ART DECO AND MODERNISM SOCIETY  
ROBINGROW@OZEMAIL.COM.AU

HEALTH & WELLBEING

# COVID has brought about one massive positive! What is it?



Now you may scoff at this as being a small positive but living in Australia where in 2017-18, the Australian Bureau of Statistic's National Health Survey showed that two-thirds (67 per cent) of Australian adults were overweight or obese (12.5 million people), an increase from 63.4 per cent in 2014-15. Now I do not want to come across as harsh but that is not only a national disgrace but embarrassing that a country with such wealth, education, access to health services and an abundance of health, fitness, sporting and recreational options could have such an elevated rate of obese and overweight Australians!

So, knowing that if you are overweight, obese, unhealthy, have poor nutrition, are a smoker, unfit or with pre-existing health complications that you have a great risk of dying from contracting the coronavirus, I would like to think that surely you would use this horrible situation as the catalyst for positive change!

Moving away from the increase in personal training and the many successful stories I could share, I would like to share with you some fantastic positive changes that I have heard first-hand from people that I know or know of that do not use our services:

A lady in her 60s working as a nurse on the front-line, who for more than 20 years pre-COVID had smoked between 40 to 50 cigarettes a day, quit smoking during a three-week period and has gone down to zero cigarettes a day.

A man that I have known from one of the apartment gyms that I have frequented for more than 15 years in Southbank who has always been overweight. Since having the restrictions of one hour a day of exercise, he has taken it

*The number of families that have connected in ways in which they rarely if ever did before by walking, riding, playing soccer/footy/tennis together! Amazing to see and hopefully will continue as the new norm moving forward!*



upon himself to walk one hour a day or more, seven days a week and I hardly recognised him when I saw him a couple of months ago. He has lost more than 20kgs!

The number of families that have connected in ways in which they rarely if ever did before by walking, riding, playing soccer/footy/tennis together! Amazing to see and hopefully will



continue as the new norm moving forward!  
You see, we all have choices in life and we can all react to hardship in differing ways. I even heard a quote not long ago – “while some cry, others sell tissues”.  
If you haven't already, I urge you to find the positive to come out of COVID and improve your health, fitness and wellbeing!  
For a more information, exercise guidance or if you have any questions please feel free to contact me ●



Justin Moran  
JUSTIN IN TIME PERSONAL TRAINING  
JUSTIN@JUSTINTIMEPT.COM

# 遗产控制方案终于提呈部长

David Schout

一项旨在保护南岸(Southbank)一些最重要建筑的规划方案修正案最终提交给了州规划部长。

如果规划部长Richard Wynne批准C305修正案,那么南岸遗产,像卡斯特莱梅啤酒厂(Castlemaine Brewery)、皇后大桥酒店(Queens Bridge Hotel)和Vault雕塑这样的重要地标将受到保护。

对于墨尔本市政和南岸社区来说,这是一个期待已久的时刻,在12月15日的市议会会议上通过了最终修订案。

市议员Rohan Leppert表示:“此规划方案的修改过程是漫长而曲折的,但这对我们来说已是最后一步了,希望部长不要对此耽搁得太久。”

2017年,墨尔本市遗产组合主管Leppert受命对南岸的遗产进行审查。

审查确定了当地一些根据规划方案值得进行“保护”的关键地点,也就是说,应对这些地点的任何未来发展计划进行更高级别的审查。

最终的文件包括一些变更,也包括自审查以来对有些建筑进行了重新开发的地方,或确定未达到当地遗产重要性要求的地方。

Leppert议员说:“我们有大量的建筑和物体以前没有在规划方案中得到保护,现在可以有不同程度的保护了,这是一件大好事。”

“[这]最终更新了南岸的遗产控制。在这样一个土地价值高、竞争激烈的中心城市,这可不是一件小事。这是一项了不起的成就。”

市长Sally Capp指出,保护重要的建筑或位置很重要,即使是在那些历史地标不闻名的区域。



她说:“我知道有些人会非常惊讶,南岸确实有遗产需要保护。”

“这是一个以现代摩天大楼而非历史遗产闻名的地区。通过现在这项工作,我们将

能够保存和保护那些故事,南岸可以自豪地宣称自己的特征和个性。”

州政府对C305修正案做出决定的时间框架还尚不清楚。



# 当代艺术馆设计比赛

Ellen Blake

维多利亚国家美术馆(NGV)和州政府发起了南岸(Southbank)新NGV当代艺术馆的设计竞赛。

维州创意产业部长Danny Pearson表示,这次设计本国最大的公共当代艺术馆竞赛只对澳大利亚参赛者开放。

Pearson先生说:“这个具有里程碑意义的项目为维多利亚州和澳大利亚的建筑界提供了一个难得的机会,以塑造我们未来几十年的创意之州。”

NGV受托人Corbett Lyon主持这项比赛的评审团,评审团还包括NGV总监Tony Ellwood和维多利亚州政府建筑师Jill Garner。

当代艺术馆位于南岸大道(Southbank Boulevard),占地30000平方米,可容纳NGV越来越多的澳大利亚和全球当代艺术、设计、时尚和建筑作品。

新的艺术馆提供额外的空间来展示来自NGV永久收藏品和大型展览(如三年展系列)的艺术和设计。

NGV当代艺术馆将通过18000平方米的新高架公共花园将Southbank街区和St Kilda大道连接起来。

州长Daniel Andrews将NGV当代艺术馆描述为“澳大利亚设计的全球偶像”,这将有助于重振本州的经济。

州长表示:“在设计、建造、运营、展览和项目方面,当代艺术馆将创造数千个当地就业机会,并推动我们的经济复苏。”

NGV当代艺术馆耗资14.6亿澳元,是墨尔本艺术区域改造第一阶段的一部分,这项改造将使南岸艺术区的面貌焕然一新。

该改造项目的第二阶段,将在City路1号为墨尔本艺术中心建造一座新建筑,并对剧院建筑进行升级改造。

更多信息请查阅: [ngv.vic.gov.au/ngv-contemporary-design-competition](http://ngv.vic.gov.au/ngv-contemporary-design-competition)



# 重建计划的障碍

耗资8亿澳元重建Southgate的计划正面临重大挫折,因为该中心的一个租户坚持要求持续其长期租赁协议。

Sean Car

去年5月, Southgate的业主澳大利亚ARA公司向州规划部长Richard Wynne提交了开发申请,要求批准其公司建造一座新的21层办公楼,并在四个楼层面上提供超过10000平方米的新零售空间。

虽然该申请仍在等待环境、土地、水和规划部(DELWP)处理,但ARA去年表示,该项目的目标是在2021年开始,2024年结束,创造340多个建筑就业岗位。

但上个月,庆典公司Metropolis的负责人表示,他们无意去其它地方。目前该公司可以从其横跨当前Southgate中心整个顶层的880平方米的工作区域俯瞰雅拉和中央商务区的全景。

根据其董事Georgina Damm和Eddie Muto的说法, Metropolis与ARA签订的租赁协议“至少要到2024年”,由于COVID-19疫情还可以提出延续。

据了解,在Southgate经营的其他租户的合同中都包含短期拆除条款,但Metropolis表示,三年前租赁该场地时,他们已协商在合同中获得了一项为期七年的拆除条款。

Metropolis在1月份发表的一份声明中指

责ARA在宣布其重建计划时“草率行事”,并称该计划“必须暂时搁置”。

Metropolis的声明指出:“ARA在多家媒体上宣称,重建项目最早可能在2021年开始,将于2024年6月竣工。这个耗资8亿澳元的项目据说准备重建占地2公顷的Southgate场地。”

“然而,报道文章中却没有提及Southgate中心和Metropolis之间有保证的长期租赁协议。”

“这个重建计划的宣布无疑引发了许多准备婚事的客户和企业客户打来电话,想知道为什么没有人通知说Metropolis要关闭了?而实际上,这与事实相去甚远。”

“想象一下,拿到了你梦想中的场地,但却在第二天看到了一个梦境破碎的新闻标题。难道是假新闻!”

声明说,尽管公司董事们目前正在考虑新开发的Southgate项目以及2024年以后的场地选择,但表示在此期间仍将保持全面运营。

目前, Metropolis占用了ARA计划拆除场地的顶部,而ARA重建项目要为其新塔楼和四层零售区域腾出空间,这个长期租赁的消息为Southgate业主带来了重大障碍。



# “独特”设计获得批准

David Schout

墨尔本市政批准了一个坐落在Dorcas街19层高的开发项目,该项目具有独特的办公室、酒店和公寓元素。

尽管遭到“大量”反对,议员们还是认为该项目混合用途的开发是“高质量的设计成果”。

该地块位于Dorcas街10-16号,目前是一座九层的办公楼,将由一个低层办公楼、高层公寓和位于两者之间的酒店组成的开发项目所取代。

建筑设计公司(Architects Plus Architecture)在其设计中力求强调所提议建筑物的三个不同组成部分。

但是,该提案收到了47个反对意见,涉及的问题包括窗户面对面之间的距离,便利舒适性影响,建筑物的非典型形式及停车问题。

其他问题涉及附近的战争纪念馆,这是“周围地区的关键视觉元素”。

市政官员得出结论,该建筑不会对重要的墨尔本战争纪念馆造成负面影响。

市政的报告称:“基于提议的建筑从战争纪念馆的角度来看,只有从锐角才能看到,因此这不会影响其重要性。”

市政的规划主管Nicholas Reece表示,47项反对意见是一个“相当大的数字”,但关键方面已经得到“充分处理”。

然而市政的报告总结说:“建筑物的基本形式和外观以及使用范围仍然与最初提议的相同。”

尽管如此,Reece议员说“其独特的”设计是“真正的混合用途开发”。

这包括三层办公空间、由172个房间组成的九层酒店和由36个公寓组成的六层住宅部分,其中一半是三居室的公寓住宅。

Reece议员说:“这对墨尔本来说是一件非常积极的事情。”

“对家庭来说非常好,我们希望看到更多的家庭在市中心公寓生活,尤其是在这样一个离公园很近的绝佳位置。”

规划副主管Rohan Leppert虽然同情反对者,但表示该“高质量的结果”已经形成。

# Business Directory

## Church



**St Johns**  
Southgate

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

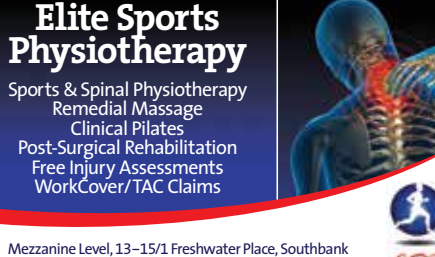
## Health



**OSTEO STRONG**

OsteoStrong South Melbourne  
378 Clarendon St, South Melbourne  
P: 7004 1284  
E: sthmelb@osteoststrong.com.au

## Physiotherapy



**Elite Sports Physiotherapy**

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

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



**THE EVERMORE**  
MELBOURNE

Retreat Everyday  
call 1300 383 766

Display suite & apartment available to view, contact us for further information  
www.theevermore.com.au

## Boating



Experience the river like never before

**GOBOAT**  
MELBOURNE

Sandridge Wharf, Southbank VIC 3006  
hello@goboatmelbourne.com.au  
(03) 8372 0664

## Life Coaching



Live your dream life | Discover your ideal self | Find the ultimate you

**Stephanie Ashley**

www.life-coaching.com.au  
contact@stephanieashley.com.au  
39 Coventry St. Southbank  
**0408 148 128**

## Real Estate



**CENTRAL EQUITY**  
AWARD-WINNING MELBOURNE DEVELOPER

**1800 63 8888**

southbankplace.com.au



**Whittles**  
Owners Corporation Management Services

For superior owners corporation management services, contact the Docklands dedicated team  
Whittles, Level 1, 838 Collins Street, Docklands VIC 3008  
T 03 8632 3300 E info.docklands@whittles.com.au

## Functions



**St Johns**  
Southgate

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

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


## Market



**SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET**

Explore the Market

**SOUTH MELBOURNE MARKET**  
Corner of Coventry & Cecil Streets, South Melbourne



**LUCAS**

WE KNOW VERTICAL LIVING BETTER THAN ANYONE.  
THAT'S YOUR ADVANTAGE.

9091 1400 | lucasre.com.au

## Renovation



**AROM** APARTMENT RENOVATIONS OF MELBOURNE

1300 96 86 07  
edgar@arom.com.au  
www.arom.com.au

## Gallery



Beautiful, Original, Meaningful Melburniana, since 1994

**MELBOURNE STYLE**  
GALLERY | BOOKS | GIFTS

155 Clarendon Street, Southbank. Tel: 9696 8445 or SHOP ONLINE at  
www.melbournestyle.com.au

## Owners Corporation



**The Knight**

Owners Corporation Management you can trust.

Experience the difference.  
1300 553 613 theknight.com.au



**MELBOURNE SQUARE**

THE LARGEST TERRACES IN MELBOURNE

TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT CALL 1300 888 770 OR DISCOVER A TERRACE STORY AT MELBSQUARE.COM.AU

## Schools



www.haileybury.vic.edu.au

**HAILEYBURY**  
MELBOURNE BRISBANE BERNICK CITY BEIJING

## Gym



**JUSTINTIME**  
PERSONAL TRAINING

University degree qualified trainers that come to your apartment gym!

Justin Moran  
0411 798 934 justintimept.com

## Photography



**PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE**

MASTERS | DEGREES | DIPLOMAS  
CERTIFICATES | SHORT COURSES

Find Out More  
PSC.EDU.AU + 61 3 9682 3191  
info@psc.edu.au | 37-47 Thistlethwaite St, South Melbourne VIC 3205



**RayWhite**

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

## Services



**Stop Noise**  
ADD ON DOUBLE GLAZING

**NOISE REDUCTION SPECIALISTS**

1800 880 844  
INFO@STOPNOISE.COM.AU  
WWW.STOPNOISE.COM.AU

# SOUTHBANK NEWS

Talk to Southbank News owner Sean Car  
t 0433 930 484  
e sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au  
about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.

# We're ready, are you?

**RayWhite**

Ray White Southbank | Port Phillip  
111 Clarendon Street  
Southbank, VIC 3006  
8102 0200  
southbank.vic@raywhite.com

For further information please visit our website [raywhitesouthbank.com.au](http://raywhitesouthbank.com.au) or call 8102 0200



2012/288 Spencer Street, Melbourne  
\$235,000 - \$255,000 Max Hui



E601/11 Flockhart Street, Abbotsford  
\$445,000 - \$485,000 Max Hui



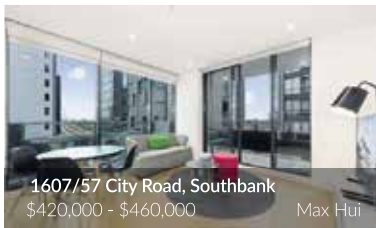
1811/618 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne  
\$585,000 - \$640,000 Max Hui



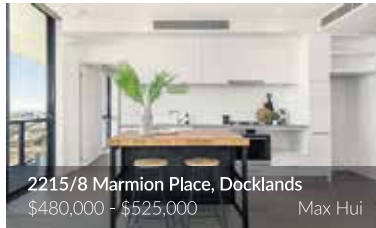
6507/568 Collins Street, Melbourne  
\$400,000 - \$440,000 Max Hui



2515/70 Southbank Blvd, Southbank  
\$465,000 - \$510,000 Max Hui



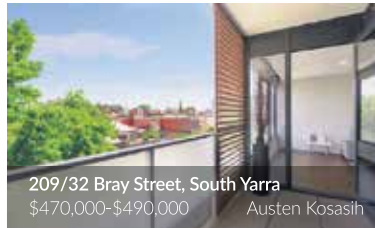
1607/57 City Road, Southbank  
\$420,000 - \$460,000 Max Hui



2215/8 Marmion Place, Docklands  
\$480,000 - \$525,000 Max Hui



1304/180 City Road, Southbank  
\$440,000 - \$460,000 Austen Kosasih



209/32 Bray Street, South Yarra  
\$470,000-\$490,000 Austen Kosasih



3/10 Burke Road, Malvern East  
\$1,000,000-\$1,100,000 Austen Kosasih



89/88 Wells Street, Southbank  
\$570,000 to \$625,000 Michael Pastrikos



29 Fawkner Street, Southbank  
Contact Agent Michael Pastrikos



3/64-66 Hotham Street, St Kilda East  
\$630,000 - \$650,000 Tommy-lee Davies



508/22 Dorcas Street, Southbank  
\$309,000 Tommy-lee Davies

Michael Pastrikos 0404 282 864  
Austen Kosasih 0432 750 774  
Max Hui 0430 238 021  
Tommy-lee Davies 0416 823 173  
Georgina Zeneldin 0481 577 772

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

**RayWhite**



2502/180 City Road, Southbank

3 2 1

- Oversized apartment with office/study space
- 3 large bedrooms, master with ensuite and WIR
- North-East facing with natural light flowing throughout
- Double glazed windows

Auction  
Contact Agent

Michael Pastrikos  
0404 282 864

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

## In Room Auction

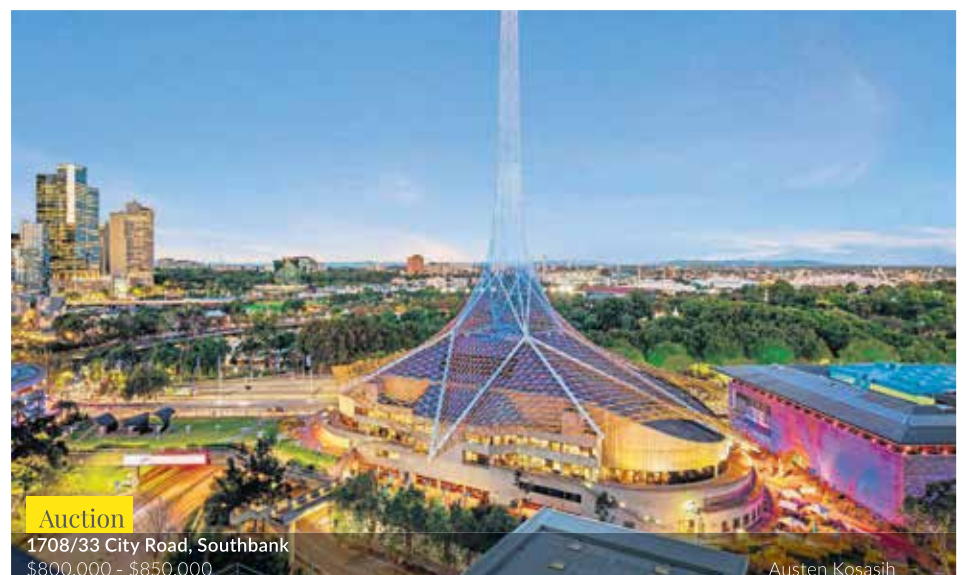
**RayWhite**

4 Auctions, One Room, One Night

Thursday 25th February from 6pm

Join us at Level 17, 40 City Rd, Southbank

Digital viewing available, enquire with the agent for more details



Auction

1708/33 City Road, Southbank  
\$800,000 - \$850,000

Austen Kosasih



Auction

2304/118 Kavanagh Street,  
\$560K - \$600K Tommy-lee Davies



Auction

1404/33 City Road, Southbank  
\$395K - \$430K Austen Kosasih



Auction

2502/180 City Road, Southbank  
Contact Agent Michael Pastrikos

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