



COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 05

Council put on notice again as more of the open space picture is revealed

ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 07

Artist Deborah Halpern reflects on Southbank icon, *Ophelia*

Arts Centre Sunday Market to live on at Southgate from July

“In what has been described as a “huge coup” for Southbankers and market-lovers alike, the much-loved Arts Centre Sunday Market will remain in the suburb at its new home at Southgate from Sunday, July 7.

WORDS BY
JACK HAYES



Originally slated for permanent closure on June 30 due to Arts Precinct Transformation construction, the Sunday Market, which has been a fixture of Melbourne life for more than two decades, will find a new backdrop at Southgate shopping centre, across three levels and 34 potential stalls.

Rob Ewing, head of asset management at ESR Australia, told *Southbank News* that Southgate was “delighted to provide the space for people of all ages to continue this legacy” and find the “right solutions to support Australian businesses, big or small.”

“For over 20 years, the Sunday Market has been a place for the community to come together and support small local businesses,” Mr Ewing said. “Combining the artisanal charms of the Sunday Market with Southgate’s selection of much-loved cafes, restaurants and retailers means locals can make a day of enjoying everything the area now offers.”

“As the gateway to Melbourne’s art precinct, it’s fitting for the Sunday Market to relocate to Southgate.”

“This new location means the Sunday Market traders will be part of a vibrant ecosystem, situating them perfectly to service customers, old and new.”

Rather than providing competition to existing Southgate traders, Mr Ewing expects the Sunday Market to add to the centre’s already established reputation for quality and help drive visitation.

Long-standing Sunday Market trader Jackie Sanders from *Crafty Jack* welcomed the move, which she expects will bring a new “buzz to the area.”

“As a long-term trader at the iconic Sunday Market, I’ve developed excellent relationships with customers both local and visiting from overseas,” Ms Sanders said. “Relocating to Southgate allows me to continue my interaction with my customers and further develop my designs.”

“Southgate has offered us a new and exciting opportunity and a very welcome lifeline to continue trading in a location close to our original area.”

Southgate’s Sunday Market will operate entirely under cover, with the potential for nine ground-level, 12 mid-level and 13 upper-level stalls.

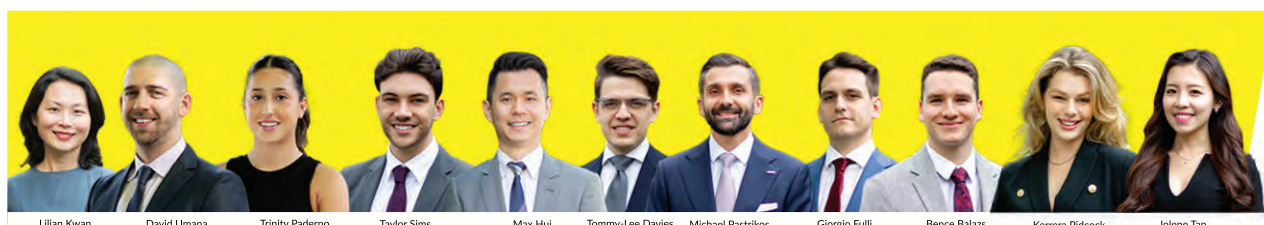
Continued on page 2.



EVENTS, PAGE 11

Smiles and joy unite community at the Festival @ Boyd

The Southbank community came together for an inaugural festival at the Boyd Community Hub on May 18 as crowds enjoyed the fun and fanfare of live music, food, workshops, stalls, and African drumming.



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Plans put on hold to partially close Cecil St at South Melbourne Market

A plan to permanently close a suburban street to traffic next to the South Melbourne Market will be held off following objections from the community.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The proposal to partially close northbound traffic on Cecil St was initially supported by the City of Port Phillip in 2022 after a study showed it would improve the intersection performances of York/Cecil streets and Coventry/Cecil streets.

But that plan will now be reassessed after councillors supported a motion at their May 15 meeting to further investigate its merits along the popular culinary strip after a community survey found the proposal would have a negative impact on the area.

The survey, conducted from November 3 to December 3 last year, revealed 40 per cent of respondents objected to the proposal while 30 per cent were in favour and 30 per cent were undecided.

The survey was completed by 46 market traders, 34 local traders, and 783 members of the public.

Asked if Cecil St was to be permanently closed between York and Coventry streets, which was trialled in 2021, more than 50 per cent of respondents said they would like to see more public realm features, including increased public seating, increased restaurant/dining, green space, children's play areas, and dog-friendly areas.

The proposal to close Cecil St is part of various capital works projects at the South Melbourne Market, which will be combined

into "one overarching aligned and comprehensive master plan" called Project Connect from July 1.

Cr Rhonda Clark, who successfully moved the motion, which also sought to investigate plans to extend outdoor dining following community feedback, said closing Cecil St would have "broader consequences for the traders and residents".

"We need to consider those impacts beyond the somewhat smaller footprint of the South Melbourne Market even though the market is obviously a very significant asset in South Melbourne," she said.

"It's to have that discussion on its own rather than being part of a broader or part of our South Melbourne Market capital works upgrade."

Cr Marcus Pearl supported the motion, saying it would ensure council gets the "best result for everybody with good consultation".

"The market committee and the market management manage the footprint of the market, so they manage up to the border, which is the footpath. Anything outside that realm is our responsibility. It's [the] council's responsibility," he said.

The community was also asked for their feedback on the market's trading hours, which are not proposed to change at this stage.

The market's capital works program includes a revamp of existing toilets and new amenities, such as more bath facilities, improved pedestrian gradients, two new lifts and stairs, smoke extraction fans above aisle B and emergency access stairs from the rooftop carpark on York St.

Proposed projects along Coventry St include extending the footpath, replacing angle parking with parallel parking spaces/loading spaces, and providing more public realm for seating and people movement. ●



Arts Centre Sunday Market to live on at Southgate

Continued from page 1.

According to jeweller and Sunday Market stalwart, James Estergard, artisanal markets are crucial in supporting small businesses and makers of fine and bespoke products.

"The market has been my established business location for 22 years in a well-known artisan market environment where both local and non-local clients can find me," he said.

"I'm really pleased that Southgate has come on board to host the Sunday Market and look forward to seeing the relationship between large retailers and artisan market traders evolve."

"As an artisan, I enjoy my job but it also pays the bills. The ability to sell the product of my imagination and artisan skills is very important to me. I am grateful for the opportunity to move the market into a new environment." ●

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Arts Precinct transformation creates more jobs for local apprentices, trainees, and cadets



More apprentices, cadets and construction workers are kickstarting their careers with hands-on experience working on the city-shaping Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation (MAPT) project.

MAPT will deliver The Fox: NGV Contemporary – a new gallery dedicated to contemporary art and design, significant upgrades to Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building under the Spire, and a new 18,000sqm urban garden in the precinct.

The capital project is supporting Victoria's growing workforce, generating new jobs for local workers, apprentices, trainees, and cadets.

To date, 30 new roles for cadets and apprentices have been created across the project, with contractors already exceeding their required apprentice hours. Over the lifetime of the project more than 11,000 new jobs are being produced, ranging from carpentry and demolition to flooring, fire services and project management.

The Minister for Development Victoria, Precincts and Creative Industries Colin Brooks, Minister for Jobs and Industry Natalie Hutchins, and Member for Albert Park Nina Taylor, recently toured the site of the future The Fox: NGV Contemporary gallery and met some of the local apprentices and workers who are contributing to the major infrastructure project.

Along with building a practical skillset and nurturing a growing workforce, these apprentices, trainees, and cadets have the opportunity to play a part in the once-in-a-generation transformation of the Melbourne Arts Precinct.



Construction and access updates

So far this year, construction on the project is making strides ahead, with works well under way across several sites.

At 77 Southbank Boulevard (the future site of The Fox: NGV Contemporary) deconstruction of the previous building is progressing. A long-reach excavator recently arrived on site to begin the next stage of the deconstruction.

To fast-track important works in the Kavanagh/Sturt streets intersection, there are traffic changes in place to enter and exit Arts Centre Melbourne's Car Park.

Until Monday, July 1, the Car Park entry and exit will be via Southbank Boulevard only. There will be no access to the Car Park via Kavanagh St during this time. This temporary change will benefit the overall project programme and reduce future disruption in the precinct.

For more information on the temporary change to entry and exit for the Car Park, check out the map below.

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Fishermans Bend to gain new primary school in fast-growing area

A new primary school is set to be built in Fishermans Bend in what will form another critical part of Australia's largest urban renewal project.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Department prioritises community road safety and ensures that the planning and construction of this campus addresses these critical concerns from the outset," he said.

Cr Pearl said several schools in the municipality were awaiting funding for building upgrades, and urged the state government to not only focus on new projects but also to "provide the necessary support to our existing schools, ensuring all students have access to the best possible educational facilities".

"The City of Port Phillip has always been committed to working with the state government to enhance educational opportunities for our community and ensure that all developments serve the best interests of our residents."

Minister for Precincts Colin Brooks said the government was proud to be contributing to the community's growth with a new primary school, which "will add to the area's vibrant and expanding community and be a place for education, care, and social connection".

The Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association (BCNA) welcomed the announcement but noted more school and transport infrastructure were "critical elements to achieve the proposed population increases in coming years" as outlined in the Fishermans Bend Framework released in 2018.

"With the government proposing a total population of 80,000 residents in Fishermans Bend by 2050 and assuming the ratio of primary school children remains consistent with the wider Port Phillip, this anticipates roughly 2900 primary school students," the BCNA said.

"Assuming 650 students per school, this means another two to three schools of similar size will be required. The BCNA recommends the state government take a proactive approach to acquiring land for these schools and other social facilities such as medical centres, community hubs, and dedicated transport facilities."

The BCNA added that given open green space was at a premium, it "strongly cautions against allocating existing parkland" for the new school building.

"We also caution against assuming that a new school can be constructed adjacent to existing parkland with an expectation that parkland be used for school recreation. Junior school children require significant recreational space and concentrating 650 students into existing parkland for their primary recreation will rapidly render the grounds unusable for the wider community." ●

The state government announced the acquisition of land on Williamstown Rd in Port Melbourne for a new primary school, with the temporary name of Fishermans Bend Primary School.

The new school is expected to open from the beginning of 2026, accommodating places for up to 650 students from Prep to Grade 6 at the centre of Fishermans Bend, Australia's largest urban renewal project covering 480 hectares that will be home to 80,000 people by 2050.

Minister for Education Ben Carroll made the announcement on May 27, saying it was exciting news for current and future families, and would help meet the needs of the growing population.

However, the state government did not confirm the exact address of the acquired site, instead, stating the "site is located within the Wirraway Precinct of Fishermans Bend and is not the Australia Post site".

The 15,000sqm Australia Post site on Williamstown Rd was acquired by the City of Port Phillip for \$38.8 million in December last year, with the council proposing to develop a sport and recreation hub on the land.

The site is currently occupied by Australia Post's Port Melbourne Business Centre, which would be relocated nearby.

The state government initially had intentions to buy the Australia Post site for a new school.

City of Port Phillip Gateway Ward Cr Marcus Pearl said he welcomed the acquisition of land for a new primary school in Port Melbourne, but added it was "very unusual" the government had not publicly disclosed the exact location of the site to the community, noting community transparency was important.

He also believed, given the site's proximity to Port Melbourne Primary School, that the new school could form part of a new campus for Port Melbourne Primary, specifically for Grades 5 and 6, which "would create a seamless educational pathway for local students and maximise the use of our existing educational resources".

Cr Pearl also called for the state government to consider the design and construction lessons learned from the experiences with Port Melbourne Secondary College, and that it "must work with Port Phillip Council to get good outcomes for our community".

"It is imperative that the education



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Council put on notice by the “Penna bear” as more of the open space picture revealed

“

As reported in the May edition of *Southbank News*, the City of Melbourne is proposing a new 1.2-hectare expansion of Normanby Road Reserve, while long-mooted plans for a decking over Citylink appear to be dead and buried. Here is what we know about the future of open space in Southbank ...

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



At the May 7 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, councillors considered two major agenda items, each aimed at boosting liveability in Australia’s most densely populated suburb.

Those items were, “opportunities to deliver new public open space for Southbank” and an “update” on the City Road Master Plan – two initiatives striving to provide new and improved spaces for the community.

What we learned was that much of the \$25 million (an estimated \$22.5m to be a little more precise) allocated in the council’s 2021/22 and 2022/23 budgets towards “new Southbank open space” is expected to be spent on the Normanby Rd project.

In identifying the section west of Kings Way as “the priority area for new open space”, the council says the Normanby Rd initiative would help address the open space shortfall for residents in this area who currently have limited access within a reasonable walk.

While Southbank3006 president David Hamilton applauded the project as “exactly the type of imaginative thinking” Southbank needed to solve its open space issues, Southbank Residents’ Association (SRA) president Tony Penna was more tempered in his praise on May 7.

Mr Penna told councillors that the expanded reserve would indeed “be a great asset to the residents in the block bound by Whiteman and Clarendon streets”, as well as future residents of the neighbouring Montague Precinct.

However, in a scathing critique of the council’s communication on its open space plans for Southbank, he questioned how the ambitious centrepiece of the 2010 Southbank Structure Plan – a decking over Citylink – had been “conveniently” scrapped.

The decking project proposed unlocking 3.4 hectares of developable space above the “CityLink void”, which would have

required multiple levels of government investment, along with the participation of freeway operator Transurban.

While no formal business case has ever been completed since the decking idea was first shared with the Southbank community, the open space opportunities report on May 7 for the first time officially ruled it out as unfeasible because of its estimated cost of \$1.5 billion.

However, we also learned that the feasibility study, which was based solely on the option as proposed in the structure plan, was completed by the council way back in 2021, but only publicly revealed last month.

While Mr Penna said SRA accepted the project as per the Southbank Structure Plan wasn’t viable, he lashed the council for not sharing its decision sooner after it told *Southbank News* only last year that it hadn’t yet formally ruled it out.

“Once again, Southbank can’t help but feel we were kept in the dark,” Mr Penna told councillors, labelling the decision after 14 years as “a travesty”.

“Has the state government officially informed the council it will not fund the project or has council just decided there was likely nothing to gain from lobbying the state?”

“We elected you councillors to represent us in this council. Where have you been regarding this issue of the Citylink deck? How much have you been advocating for us?”

Cr Rohan Leppert, whose 2020 Greens team went to the City of Melbourne elections with a \$385 million decking proposal of its own with 2.5 hectares of purely open space, queried the council’s planning team as to whether any other options had been tested.

A council planning officer replied: “The feasibility work that was completed in 2021 was based on what’s outlined in the structure plan.”

“Once that feasibility was completed, and that \$1.5 billion potential price tag was ventilated, then we moved our focus to other areas.”

While the vision set out in the structure plan won’t be going ahead, Cr Leppert left the door open on other open space concepts around the Citylink precinct; namely rerouting the Power St loop to open the “cloverleaf” site surrounding the *Habitat Filter* sculpture.

In what was an “idea I’ve heard around this place [Town Hall] from time to time”, Cr Leppert raised the possibility of connecting the Power St exit route to the corner of Moore and Miles streets to create a significant new park.

He also suggested that an even bigger space could be provided at Normanby Road Reserve by rerouting the 109 tram, to which the planning officer responded by saying the council was “considering all options at this stage”, however, “I think the tram tracks might be one of the trickier outcomes.”

Mr Penna also criticised the council for claiming that upgrades to Southbank Promenade and Southbank Boulevard had

been completed, despite remaining works on stages one and six of each project, respectively, still outstanding.

But in an “important nuance”, the council officer said that open space was only considered complete when it’s formally gazetted. “That’s when it contributes to our formal recognition of open space,” the officer replied, adding that these remaining works would be completed during the next financial year.



Council secures lease for Kings Way undercroft

As part of the update on the City Road Master Plan, the council confirmed that it had finally reached an agreement with the Department of Transport (DTP) to lease the Kings Way northern undercroft.

As one of the major visions of the council’s master plan, which was endorsed back in 2016, it has long sought to transform the former taxi rank near Crown Casino into recreational play space for the community.

However, with the land owned by DTP, efforts to renew the area have suffered long delays due to ongoing negotiations over the how the site’s “multiple constraints”, including safety and flooding, would be appropriately managed.

The council confirmed at the May 7 meeting that it had secured a 40-year lease of the site, and the project was expected to be delivered during the 2025/26 financial year at an estimated cost of \$5.85 million.

“A chain of community amenities” has been mooted for the area, including sports courts, group fitness facilities, events spaces and climbing walls in what Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said would “further enhance the amenity of Southbank”.

As he has previously highlighted, Cr Reece said the project would provide an important precedent for the renewal of the 20 kilometres of underutilised undercroft space across the rest of the city, “much of which is in Southbank”.

With the state government being the authority for City Rd, the council has acknowledged it has limited control over achieving the vision set out in the 2016 master plan.

While most of the six key action items remain incomplete or in the hands of government authorities, Tony Penna again called out the council for claiming it had completed Action 6 – “expanding the bicycle network within Southbank”.

“We are perplexed by this update,” Mr Penna said, pointing out that no cycling infrastructure had been installed along City Rd to date.

Cr Rohan Leppert amended the update to reflect this fact, adding “let’s not poke the Penna bear by suggesting that things are completed when they’re not.”

The council’s open space report noted that with the Normanby Road Reserve expansion estimated to cost \$22.5 million, representing “almost the full \$25 million allocation for Southbank new open space”, that any “future opportunities for land acquisition in Southbank would be subject to approval of additional budget either from the Public Open Space Reserve or council funds.”

Southbank open space: what we have, what we know, and what may be coming ...



Completed:

- Southbank Boulevard (between Dodds St and City Rd)
- Dodds St Linear Park
- Boyd Park
- Kennedy Park (in partnership with OSK Property)
- Moray St Dog Park
- Stage one of Southbank Promenade (between Princes Bridge and Evan Walker Bridge, except the section in front of the Southgate food court)
- Riverside Quay upgrades
- Temporary basketball court at Melbourne Square

Pipeline:

- City Road northern undercroft and upgrade of nearby City Rd Park
- Southbank Boulevard “stage 6” (City Rd to Queensbridge Square)
- Park near Esso House – Southbank Promenade/Riverside Quay
- Normanby Road Reserve expansion
- ACCA (pending maintenance arrangements by Creative Victoria)
- Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation (18,000sqm garden)
- Expanded Miles and Dodds Street Reserve
- City Rd West streetscape upgrades (City Road Master Plan)
- Greenline – north bank of the Yarra and Sandridge Bridge
- Remainder of Southbank Promenade
- Market St linear park (City of Port Phillip)

Ideas?

- Undercroft renewal opportunities (with the City of Port Phillip)
- Expanded “cloverleaf” park surrounding *Habitat Filter* near CityLink
- Expanded streetscapes (“low-traffic neighbourhoods”)
- Pocket park opportunities ●

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Dilapidated heritage building could become a hotel and apartments

An eyesore heritage-protected building in Southbank could be converted into a hotel and build-to-rent apartments under new plans being considered by the state government.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



A planning application by developer Run All International Pty Ltd has sought to amend approved plans to increase the height of two towers as well as add more apartments at the site of the former 1888-built Austral Otis Engineering Works office building at the corner of Kings Way and Kavanagh St.

Under the proposal, the application seeks to increase the tower heights from 144.5 and 80 metres to 152.2 and 82.6 metres, respectively, while the number of apartments would rise from 328 to 445, comprising one-, two- and three-bedroom homes.

Other amendments include adding 219 square metres of office space on level five of the podium, which proposes to be increased to 29.9 metres – up six metres from what was previously approved.

The plans submitted to the state government said the proposal's "design and use has evolved as a direct response to the site's physical and strategic policy context, the increase in demand for build-to-rent accommodation within immediate proximity to Melbourne's central city and specific requirements of the hotel operator".

"The design will continue to complement the historic and contemporary characteristics of the area, adding to the high-quality architecture for which Melbourne is renowned."

The amended plans for the land at 63-83 Kings Way and 127-129 Kavanagh St also noted the revised design drew inspiration from the architecture of the nearby Boyd Community Hub and seeks to restore the late 19th-century Austral Otis façade to its original condition, "allowing for the public, tourists and residents to gain an appreciation for Southbank's architectural history".

The building, which later became the



Regent House, was the subject of a heritage overlay in 2020 as "a very rare survivor of South Melbourne engineering works".

But the building has fallen into disrepair and also plagued by vandalism, including graffiti and broken windows.

The new plans by architects Fraser and Partners stated that the development, if approved, "continues to be of high-quality design, creating something uniquely different within the city skyline, enhancing the character of the area and positively contributing to the appeal of the public realm".

"The proposal incorporates active uses, including all day dining, a signature restaurant, office space, communal terrace and gymnasium and large apartments with functional balcony spaces across the podium levels."

The amended development also "responds appropriately to its surrounding interfaces and will not result in unreasonable amenity impacts, including by way of wind impacts or overshadowing".

A planning permit was issued for the subject site on July 19, 2011, and more recently amended on 24 January 2020. The permit will expire if the development is not completed by 19 December 19 this year. ●

Artist Deborah Halpern reflects on Southbank icon, *Ophelia*

If you live or work in Southbank, chances are you've probably seen the colourful, mosaic masterpiece that has become synonymous with the area. *Southbank News* sat down with artist Deborah Halpern to discuss the work and its place on Southbank Promenade.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Chosen as "the Face of Melbourne" by Tourism Victoria in 1996, *Ophelia* has remained an iconic structure in Southbank for nearly three decades, captivating locals and tourists alike.

"*Ophelia* was born out of my contemplation of the character from Shakespeare's Hamlet – specifically, the themes of water and reflection both literal and metaphorical," Ms Halpern told *Southbank News*.

"*Ophelia* is an artistic interpretation that connects the tragic beauty of Shakespeare's character with the fluid, ever-changing nature of the Yarra River. I felt this linkage not only highlights a creative integration of literary and environmental elements, but also deepens the cultural tapestry of Melbourne where the Yarra is a central feature."

Ms Halpern's passion for sculpting, in particular mosaics, derives from growing up in the picturesque surroundings of Warrandyte, where the "rural environment, rich with natural beauty and wildlife, provided a fertile ground for my creativity".

"I was surrounded by creatures and influenced by the artistic ambience at home, where my mother, notable sculptors, and the works of Henry Moore served as my early inspirations," she said.

"I found a particular resonance with mosaic art's tactile, vibrant potential. This medium allowed me to express my early fascination with the natural world through a blend of colour and form that expanded over the years and is now my signature brand."

The restoration of *Ophelia* in 2012 was a testament to its influence on the community, which involved moving the work to a more prominent location on Southbank Promenade.

Unlike creating a new work from the ground up, meticulous restoration of *Ophelia* posed its own unique set of challenges, including the task of sourcing the original tiles to ensure the preservation of its authenticity and vibrancy.

"The process of creating *Ophelia* was a labour of love, infused with the challenges



and joys typical of mosaic artistry," Ms Halpern said.

"It brought me a profound sense of satisfaction, reconnecting with my original vision and the physical elements of the artwork – I loved doing the restoration because it brought so many people coming over to say 'hi' and sharing with me their love of *Ophelia*."

Reflecting on her creation's significant impact on the Southbank community, Ms Halpern says she appreciates the "dynamism and visibility" of *Ophelia*'s current home, as well as the vibrant culture the precinct.

"*Ophelia* remains a beloved fixture in the Southbank community, as indicated by the positive feedback received during the restoration process. The community's love for the sculpture gratifies me, confirming my artistic mission to create works that resonate deeply with the public," Ms Halpern said.

"I view *Ophelia* as more than just an artistic endeavour; it is a medium through which she connects with and enriches the community with colour, inspiring joy, and contemplation."

deborahhalpern.com ●

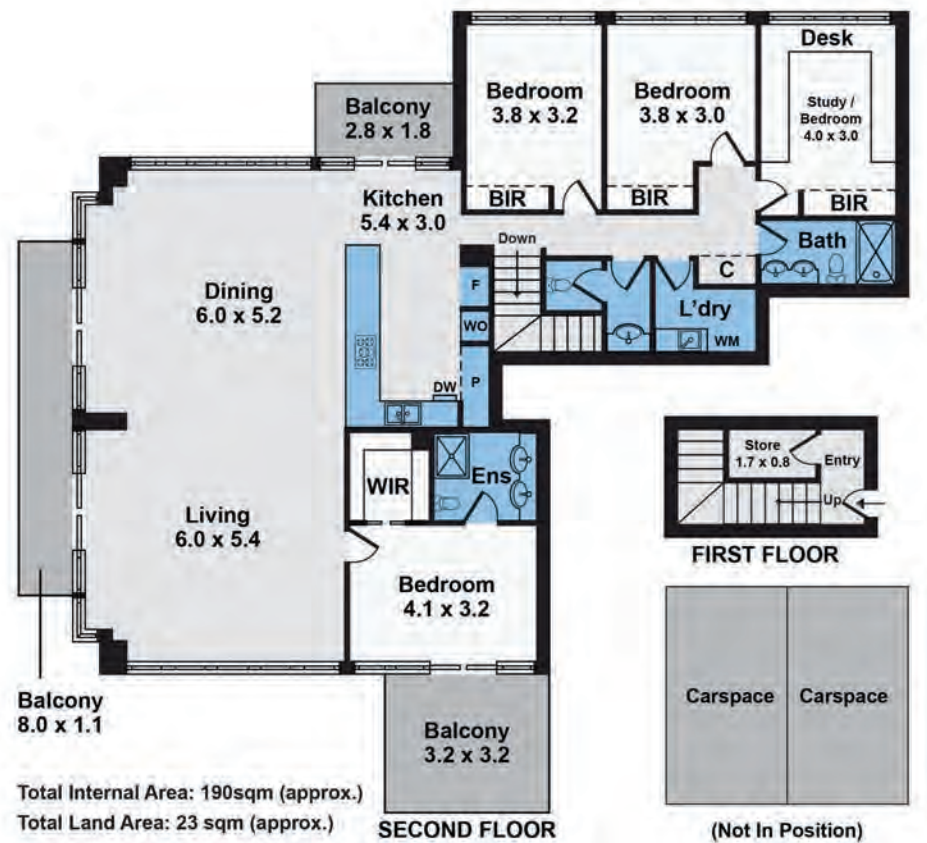
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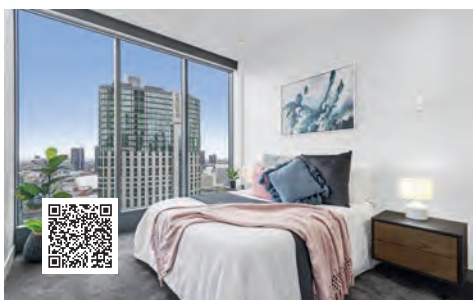
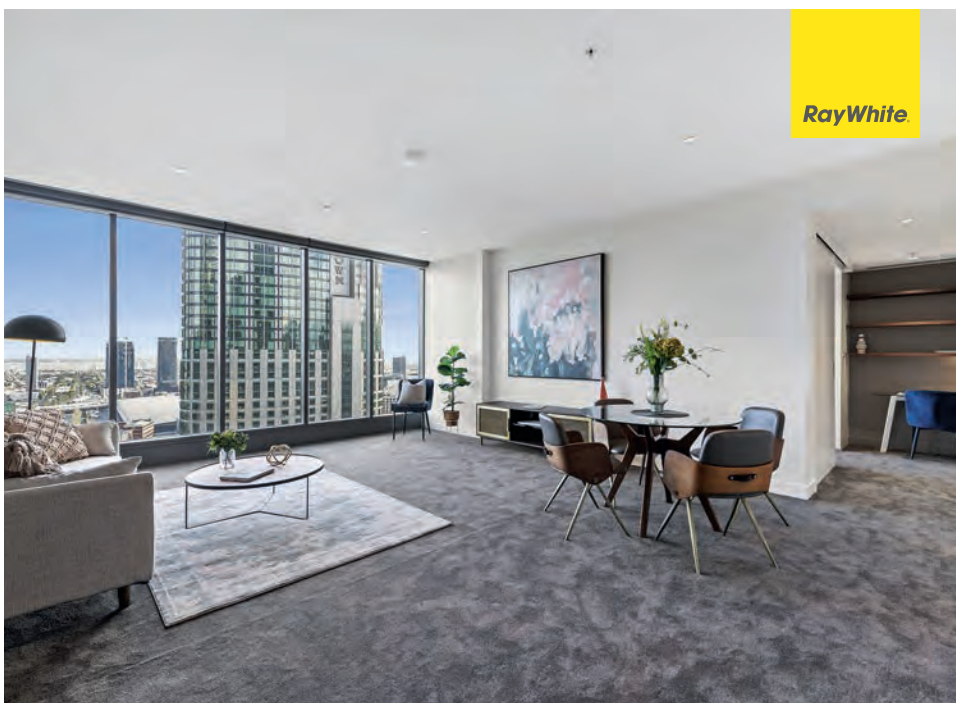
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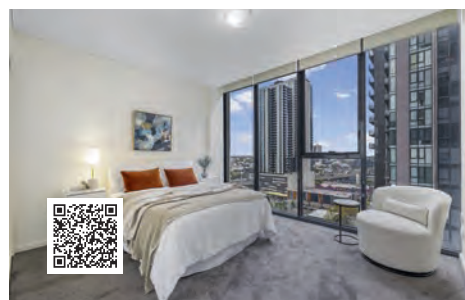
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Auction
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SOUTHBANK AGENT OF THE YEAR 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 + 2024



FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL RETURNS

WITH WORLD-FIRST UNDERGROUND LIGHT SHOW

A never-before-seen labyrinth of light and sound will dazzle Docklands this winter as an extension of the much-loved Firelight Festival.

Firelight Labyrinth will transform the underground space at Marvel Stadium into a spectacular maze designed by international creative lighting specialists, Mandylights.

"Firelight Labyrinth is the largest 3D video installation ever built in Australia," said Mandylights CEO Richard Neville. "The maze is essentially a giant three-dimensional video screen that people can walk inside."

"The term 'immersive experience' gets bandied around a lot these days, but by putting people in the middle of this video maze - well, you can't really get any more surrounded and immersed than that!"

Richard said many of the Mandylights design team began their careers in local high schools and amateur theatres. From these small-scale beginnings to vast global projects, their passion runs deep.

"Even though we're working with more lights and more pressure these days, my team and I feel lucky to be paid to play with lights. It's great fun."

The designers spent two months exploring unused spaces around the City of Melbourne before deciding on Marvel Stadium's underground car park.

"For concerts and theatrical productions, lighting is a supporting element," Richard said. "With Firelight Labyrinth, there is no artist or set to light - the lights are the whole show."

"We've had a blank canvas and an open creative brief. So, we can plunge everybody into darkness and present something amazing."

"In this day and age - when audiences have seen and done everything - it's rare to be able to offer a completely new, never-before-seen experience."

"It's always great to present work in Melbourne because people here don't need to wait until they see photographs on Instagram - they naturally want to go and explore unique experiences."

City of Melbourne's free Firelight Festival will once again illuminate New Quay Promenade, Victoria Promenade and Harbour Esplanade in Docklands, offering a diverse range of tasty eats and entertainment.

There'll be fire performers, African drumming, live music and storytelling, plus fire pits and drums, flame jets, fire sculptures and arches.

Warming food and drink will also be on offer, including dumplings, smoked meats, paella, churros and hot chocolate.

A team of fire drummers will be among the performers who'll create a buzzing atmosphere.



DON'T MISS FIRELIGHT

The free Firelight Festival will take place on the first weekend of the school holidays, from Friday 28 June to Sunday 30 June.

The ticketed Firelight Labyrinth experience will continue until Sunday 14 July.

Visit firelight.melbourne.vic.gov.au for more information.

How to get your flu vaccine

Bookings for flu vaccinations are now available for our community sessions, individual appointments and workplace immunisations.

Vaccination is the most important measure to prevent influenza and its complications and avoid passing the virus to family, colleagues and friends. It is recommended for all people six months of age and over.



For more information visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/flu vaccine or book via the QR code.



CITY OF MELBOURNE



Smiles and joy unite community at the Festival @ Boyd

The Southbank community has come together for an inaugural festival with crowds enjoying the fun and fanfare of live music, food, workshops, stalls, and African drumming.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Held on May 18 at the Boyd Community Hub, the Festival @ Boyd was hailed a resounding success by the event's organiser and Active Southbank Community Association president Sophy Galbally.

"The Festival @ Boyd defied the elements to deliver an unforgettable day of joy and community spirit. Neither rain nor cold could dampen the enthusiasm of participants, who engaged wholeheartedly in a wide array of activities," she said.

The event, which was about celebrating sustainability and multiculturalism, featured 30 stalls of recycled and upcycled items, homemade art and craft goods.

There were also performances by cultural dance groups, food vendors, music, children's activities, a chess tournament, and more.

Ms Galbally said the festival provided "an unforgettable day of joy and community spirit" with many stallholders expressing a keen interest in returning for the next event on August 18.

"Food stalls reported robust sales, with two vendors selling out entirely – a sign to recruit more foodies for future events," she said.

"The festival buzzed with energy as families and individuals joined in diverse



workshops, from Salsa and African drumming to Bollywood dance sessions."

Stallholder and Southbank resident Mark Boldiston said it was a memorable experience.

He sold a combination of excess stock from his street art online business called Paste-Up which included greeting cards,



bomber jackets, stickers, and lens cleaning cloths, as well as offloading some household items.

"The weather was a bit miserable, but the atmosphere was good," he said.

"The return percentage wise was also really good. I had a lot of fun; it was nice connecting with local residents."

The event also saw 28 volunteers handing out free raffle tickets and coffee vouchers from local businesses including Mr. Summit, Hoff Café, and BearBrass. The day was made possible thanks to major sponsors including the City of Melbourne, MICM, and INDI, as well as silver sponsors Gigacomm and Melbourne Square/OSK. ●

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Family Art Day

Thursday 11 July

10am–1pm

Children and families are invited to join free art-making activities inspired by ACCA's exhibition *Future Remains: The 2024 Macfarlane Commissions*.

This program is led by ACCA Education and is suitable for children aged 3–10 years. All children are to be accompanied by an adult or carer.

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art
111 Sturt Street
Southbank VIC 3006
Melbourne, Australia

Book now:
acca.melbourne

Image: Kim Ah Sam, *Not knowing what you know* 2022. Courtesy the artist and Vivien Anderson Gallery. Photograph: Simon Anderson

ADVERTISEMENT
Your City of Melbourne community update



Our draft Budget invests in cleaning, making our city greener and building better community facilities closer to home.

OUR DRAFT BUDGET 2024-25

HERE'S WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU

The City of Melbourne's \$781 million draft Budget 2024-25 is about doing what counts and delivering on our promises to the community, while strengthening our financial future.

Our draft Budget, together with our Annual Plan, sets out the priorities and investments we will deliver for Melburnians in the final year of our Council Plan 2021-25.

We are proud to announce a surplus Budget - a year ahead of schedule, with surpluses projected to continue to 2028.

We've made responsible choices so we can deliver what counts for our community now and continue to invest for our growing population in the years ahead.

The cost of living has been front of mind during the development of this Budget. We are continuing to deliver our core frontline services, along with free and affordable services our community relies on.

SEVEN HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR DRAFT BUDGET

1. Keeping our city clean

We're supercharging our cleaning efforts with \$41.6 million to ensure our streets are sparkling. Our Clean Team will be on the ground 24/7 - cleaning our streets, prioritising the removal of graffiti, monitoring hotspots and collecting and disposing of public litter.

2. More parks and open space

We're transforming our city from grey to green in neighbourhoods that need it most - with almost \$50 million to deliver more open spaces, and ensure our city is greener and more sustainable. This includes new green open space on Normanby Road in Southbank, expanding the Miles and Dodds Street Reserve, plus opening the Bedford Street Pocket Park, North Melbourne. We'll also plant 3,000 trees and maintain our parks and gardens.

3. Building better community facilities

More Melburnians will be able to play the game they love - close to home. We've earmarked \$224.7 million to build city-shaping projects and upgrade grassroots sporting facilities. We'll open the new Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre, complete the first stage of the Greenline Project in Birrarung Marr, build the state-of-the-art Trader Shed at Queen Victoria Market and a new Ryder Pavilion in Royal Park. We'll also invest almost \$13 million to maintain and upgrade our roads and footpaths to make it as easy as possible to get around.

4. More affordable homes and homelessness support

We're doing our part to address the housing crisis - with a proposal to transform two sites on Curzon Street, North Melbourne and Victoria Street, West Melbourne into new affordable housing. We'll also open the doors to Make Room, our landmark social housing initiative, providing accommodation and support for 50 people experiencing homelessness.

5. Country's biggest events calendar

We're doing everything we can to bring more people into the city - and delivering the best events calendar in the country does exactly that, with an investment of more than \$26 million. All our favourites are back - the Christmas Festival, Moomba, New Year's Eve, Now or Never and Firelight Festival, along with a world-first underground light show. With most of our major events free to attend, everyone can enjoy an affordable day or night out in the city.

6. Lower waste collection charge

Our hardworking team will continue to empty bins from homes and businesses on time, while reducing the waste charge for residents this year. Owners of properties valued above \$515,000 will receive a \$53 reduction, with owners of properties valued below \$515,000 receiving a \$15 reduction.



Lower fees for waste collection

7. Making it easier to do business

We're expanding our Business Concierge service with \$1.6 million to provide more support for our small businesses and traders. A new-look, highly visible team will provide tools and advice for more new businesses beyond the CBD to start and succeed.



Local business owner Hakim Halim



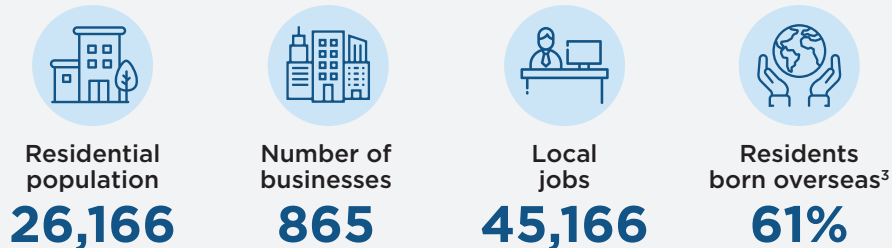
Our Clean Team is out removing graffiti 24/7

Read more about the City of Melbourne draft Budget 2024-25 at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans-2024-25

INVESTING IN SOUTHBANK IN 2024-25

The City of Melbourne is a dynamic municipality with 11 diverse neighbourhoods. While we're all Melburnians at heart, the support and services naturally differ for each area.

Our draft Annual Plan and Budget 2024-25 set out how we plan to invest in Southbank to deliver core services, maintain and improve parks, public spaces and recreational facilities, and fund events that will boost community connection as well as Melbourne as a world-class city.



Building better infrastructure



The City of Melbourne will invest \$224.7 million in 2024-25 to deliver new parks and better community facilities to ensure Melbourne remains a liveable and attractive city for residents, businesses and traders.

New infrastructure investments and upgrades in Southbank include:

- \$3.5 million for City Road Master Plan
- \$500,000 for Queens Bridge Square
- \$350,000 for Miles and Dodds Street Reserve
- \$250,000 for Southbank Boulevard
- \$250,000 for Southbank Promenade
- \$550,000 for the Normanby Road Reserve expansion

- \$119,500 for Boyd fitout and refurbishment

Renewal and maintenance works to be carried out in Southbank include:

- \$5.1 million for Princes Bridge bluestone repair works
- \$1 million for parks and city greening
- \$2 million for infrastructure
- \$772,000 for buildings and properties
- \$347,000 for plant, equipment, fixtures and furniture
- \$17,000 for other assets
- \$1.1 million for all other maintenance works



Grants support

Southbank businesses and community groups will be able to apply for their share of funding in 2024-25 with:

- Up to \$100,000 to support community-led activities and initiatives through the Connected Neighbourhoods Small Grants.
- \$1.2 million in business support, activations and marketing through our Business Precinct Program.
- \$100,000 in our Business Event Sponsorship Program for hosting business events.
- \$500,000 in Small Business Grants to support new businesses to get started and for existing businesses to expand and grow.
- \$200,000 in our Social Enterprise Grants to support local social enterprises.



Delivering vital local services

We're providing the highest level of services to our community.

Community services

The family services team based at Boyd Hub offers maternal and child health, immunisation, family support and counselling, and parenting services.

At Southbank Library we have about 19,000 items for loan and welcome 65,000 visitors a year. We offer study space, access to computers and wi-fi, and online access to books, film, music

and learning resources, as well as a new community space which will open soon.

Parks and open spaces

We manage and maintain 13 public open spaces and three playgrounds in Southbank. These include Rocks on Wheels play space on Southbank Boulevard.

Cultural venues

We manage three venues in Southbank: Assembly Point, the Guild and Boyd Studios.

YOUR SAY MATTERS

Earlier this year, we surveyed more than 4400 people across all neighbourhoods, checking in on priorities and making sure we're doing

what counts as we head into the final year of our four-year Council Plan.

The resounding feedback across the community is to continue to focus on improving safety, wellbeing, access, affordability and sustainability.




To find out more about what we're doing in Southbank over the next 12 months, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans-2024-25

Visit the Neighbourhood Portals to learn more about each neighbourhood at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods

KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne News* at news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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Greening Southbank: seeding community pride and ownership

“ In the lively streets of Venice, community gardens bloom with more than just flowers; they blossom with pride and a palpable sense of ownership among the residents who tend them.

”

Whether it's in a coop building, public housing or a private residence, each garden is a testament to community spirit, where locals not only cultivate plants but also nurture deep connections with their environment and each other.

That's what I saw during my visit to Venice last year when I took a day out of my holidays to meet with the local council,

planners and community and to learn how they do things differently.

At home, I spoke with members of the Southbank community to explore how we can infuse this same spirit into our own neighbourhoods. The challenges of green space in Southbank and the Hoddle Grid mean we must think outside the box, even when the City of Melbourne's commitment to an urban park is delivered in the future.

The concept is simple yet transformative: empower residents and owners' corporations to take the lead in greening the spaces in front of their buildings and throughout the neighbourhood.

Imagine stepping out of your home to a space you've planted and nurtured – a patch of green that's yours not just in responsibility but in pride. This initiative aims to foster a welcoming, vibrant community space that reflects our collective commitment to environmental stewardship and community wellbeing.

This isn't new, and there are successful and not-so-successful examples across the state. Some of the successes come in the form of community gardens, with examples

in Southbank, Docklands and Kensington among others. Others include more progressive coop building initiatives or resident-led initiatives as part of the council's urban forest program.

However, how can we do this more regularly and more effectively? Yes, there's a quagmire of obstacles that need to be resolved, including insurance, legal, and costs – but the outcomes could be significant – community connection, pride, and wellbeing.

During my discussions, the enthusiasm was evident. Community members are eager to reclaim their civic spaces, to break from the cycle of stringent rules that often distance us from a true relationship with our public areas.

In Venice, the freedom to engage with communal spaces has cultivated a strong community bond and a shared responsibility for the local environment; it's a model ripe for adaptation in Southbank and beyond.

This could be a shift towards community-led urban greening – it is not just about beautification, but rekindling a sense of ownership and pride in our public spaces

that seems to have diminished over time. By involving everyone in the process, from planning stages to the planting of the last shrub (and its care), we can cultivate a more connected and engaged community.

I am committed to following up on this initiative and exploring all avenues to support it. I am curious to hear more from you on this call from community for action. What other changes do you wish to see in your neighbourhood? How else can we enhance the sense of community and belonging in our shared spaces?

Let's rethink our public spaces together, turning Southbank into a lush, vibrant extension of our homes, where every corner reflects the people who live here. ●

Cr Jamal Hakim

CITY OF MELBOURNE

JAMAL.HAKIM@MELBOURNE.VIC.GOV.AU



Funding plan for Greenline completed as construction gets under way

The City of Melbourne has finalised an all-important plan for funding its \$315 million “city-shaping” Greenline project as Lord Mayor Sally Capp helped mark the beginning of construction at Birrarung Marr on May 23.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



Councillors approved the Greenline Partnership and Funding Strategy at their May 21 meeting, which sets out how the revitalisation of the north bank of the Yarra River between Birrarung Marr and the Bolte Bridge would be achieved.

While the council had originally sought a matched contribution of \$100 million from their Victorian and Commonwealth Government counterparts, it has so far only managed to secure \$20 million from the federal government.

However, with partnerships having always been an “essential component” of the project, the council has already collaborated with private developers and other levels of governments on several Greenline projects to date.

This includes the construction of Seafarers Rest Park within Greenline's “Maritime Precinct” near the Mission to Seafarers building at North Wharf, which is being

delivered in partnership with developer Riverlee as part of its Seafarers project.

The strategy identifies six potential funding sources, including direct budget funding across all levels of government, partnerships, grants, philanthropy, loans and value capture and commercialisation.

For the Greenline precincts which sit opposite the Southbank and South Wharf areas – Maritime, River Park and The Falls – the plan aims to fund a majority of these projects through partnerships, with the bulk of the remaining funds to be provided by direct funding and grants.

The Falls Precinct, which will revitalise the section of north bank opposite most of Southbank between Evan Walker Bridge and Enterprize Park, including the Banana Alley Vaults, relies heavily on a funding partnership with VicTrack, which is the

principal landowner in this precinct.

In what was her last time speaking on a major strategy for Greenline at Town Hall, Lord Mayor Sally Capp paid tribute to everyone who had contributed to the “enormous effort” so far but admitted “there's still plenty of work ahead”.

Despite a considerable 44 different planning overlays that cover the breadth of Greenline, Cr Capp, who will resign as Lord Mayor at the end of June, said the strategy set the project up “in the best way we can for success”.

“Difficult things are often the most worthwhile projects. I note that there are heritage overlays, environmental overlays, water overlays, and Indigenous cultural heritage overlays,” the Lord Mayor said.

“Navigating a path through these rules and requirements requires an unprece-

dent level of coordination, cooperation and collaboration and this is reflected in the partnership and funding strategy.”

“We're also, of course, realistic that we can't rely solely on government for delivering this project, and this is really similar to projects in other cities.”

Cr Rohan Leppert said the funding plan represented the final strategic step in allowing Greenline to realise its “maximum potential”, and he looked forward to “continuing to watch an extraordinary project evolve.”

“When we adopted the [Greenline] master plan at the end of last year, which was an exciting moment, my remarks at that time were that the master plan can be considered complete when the funding and partnership plan is endorsed alongside it,” he said.

“That's what we're doing tonight. And so, I do think that the master plan now with this funding and partnership plan paints that full picture and sets Greenline up for its maximum potential.”

On May 23, the Lord Mayor appeared alongside Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King to mark the beginning of construction at Birrarung Marr.

The Federal Government has contributed \$20 million under its Priority Community Infrastructure Program to deliver the works in Birrarung Marr as well as the now completed master plan, with the council jointly funding both projects. ●



Heartbaker Bun Mee

Located in the heart of Melbourne, Heartbaker Bun Mee is a must-visit eatery that combines traditional Vietnamese flavours with creative twists.

From classic banh mis to flavourful pho, this hidden gem offers a diverse menu that will satisfy all your Vietnamese food cravings.

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FEDERAL MP

Delivering financial relief for students, graduates in Macnamara

This year's Budget brings significant relief to students across our community, and I've heard from many of you about how vital HECS support is.

WORDS BY
JOSH BURNS
FEDERAL MP FOR MACNAMARA

The burden of HECS debt has been a constant worry for many, and I understand the struggle it brings.

This year, around \$3 billion will be wiped from student HECS debt, providing much-needed relief to around three million Australians, including nearly 27,000 people in Macnamara.

For a student with an average HECS debt of about \$26,000, this will mean a reduction of approximately \$1200. Those with a HECS debt of \$40,000 will see their debt cut by about \$1800.

This reform will make the HECS system fairer for everyone with a HECS debt, much like our approach to tax cuts, benefitting all taxpayers.

We've made this possible by adjusting HECS indexation to be based on either inflation or wages, whichever is lower, and backdating this change to last year. This change reflects our commitment to easing financial pressures for students and graduates.

In my conversations with students, I've also heard about the challenges of unpaid practical placements. Many students are required to work for weeks without pay, often far from home, forcing them to give up part-time jobs that support their education. I know this financial strain is a barrier for students to complete their degrees.

To address this, the government is introducing the Commonwealth Prac Payment, providing \$319.50 per week to around 73,000 eligible students. This is particularly crucial in fields facing skills shortages, such as teaching, nursing, midwifery, and social work.

I know that cost-of-living has been a major concern for many in our community. From increasing rent to the rising costs of groceries and childcare, these pressures are felt by everyone.

Our government is committed to addressing these issues head-on. HECS debt relief and the Commonwealth Prac Payment are part of a broader effort that includes tax cuts, cheaper medicines, energy bill relief and more affordable childcare. ●

YARRA RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



Now more than ever, love your local

Most of us take for granted our high standard and variety of dining and refreshment venues in Southbank.

They are largely kept afloat by the tourist dollar, but they also provide the vibrancy for residents of 3006 to enjoy. Without them, Southbank and Crown Promenades would be very dull places.

After weathering the COVID lockdowns, increased costs and rent, and staff shortages, our food and beverage operators are now facing the tsunami of cost-of-living effects. Across the country restaurateurs are facing another cliff of uncertainty because of declining consumer confidence and reduced spending in the community.

NAB's Consumer Sentiment Survey for the first quarter of 2024 reveals that more Aussies are cutting back and eating out is the most common area of saving. Fifty-seven per cent of consumers spent less on dining than the 54 per cent in the previous quarter, with the biggest reduction in the 30 to 49 age group where 63 per cent had reduced disposable income because of cost-of-living expenses.

There was a "sugar hit" in F&B spending after the pandemic, as people flocked back to their favourite eateries. But it is predicted that one in every 13 restaurants across Australia may close in the next 12 months as household belts are severely tightened until tax cuts and interest rate reductions start to loosen things up again.

Just at a time when locals and Melburnians are more than ever seeking

value for money, F&B venues' costs keep rising steadily. Restaurants have always operated on slim margins. Sometimes the difference in profit or loss on a booking is whether the group buys a coffee each at the end of the night, or a glass of wine with their meals.

F&B is a labour-intensive industry and in quiet times wages can comprise 50 per cent of costs for a business. Some F&B businesses are reporting huge rises in electricity and lifts in insurance costs by as much as 1000 percent.

I know that most people are doing it tough at the moment, especially those raising families and on fixed incomes, but my appeal to residents is to support their local eateries when they can, because it is these family businesses that contribute to the amenity of the area. Imagine if your street or block without its local café, or if your favourite restaurant suddenly disappeared from the river landscape?

Ordering-in via the delivery apps cuts deeply into the profit margins of F&B businesses, so instead, rug up and head out to your favourite venue to enjoy their food and, at the same time, interact with the staff and owners. It will boost their working day and add to your sense of community.

Make this winter more enjoyable by eating out and putting a smile on everyone's faces. ●

Jeremy Vincent

PRESIDENT

yarrariver.melbourne



"Lives will continue to be lost": lobby group calls for safe injecting room in City of Port Phillip

A lobby group advocating for a safe injecting room in the CBD has shifted its focus to the City of Port Phillip after facing resistance from the state government.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The group, known as Keep Our City Alive (KOCA), a group of CBD residents, business owners, and workers, had been campaigning to establish a safe injecting room in the city to help the growing issue of drug-related harm and connect people to the support services they need.

However, their efforts were met with opposition from the government after it rejected a proposed supervised injecting service in the CBD because it was "unable to identify a suitable site that balances the needs of people who use drugs with the needs of the broader CBD community".

Instead, the government plans to establish a community health centre at 244 Flinders St, connecting GPs, counsellors, allied health, and addiction medicine specialists, as well as expanded drug treatment.

In a statement, KOCA said it was "saddened and disappointed by the Victorian Government's decision" and that "lives will continue to be lost unnecessarily to overdose in our city".

But KOCA confirmed it would regroup and "continue to hold decision makers accountable for their actions and shine a light on a better way to support vulnerable people in our community".

"The government must now explore options for a second safe injecting service in other areas of need such as the City of Port Phillip," it said.

The group confirmed it would not advocate for Southbank to be a potential site for an injecting room, however, it believed the location of supervised injecting services should be informed by the coroner's data.

"In November 2023, the Coroner's Court of Victoria released the latest overdose deaths data which showed that the City of Melbourne continues to record the highest number of overdose deaths for a local government area in Victoria, with heroin causing 24 deaths in 2022, up from nine deaths in 2021," it said.

While KOCA was unable to provide comment on exact locations outside of the City of Melbourne, it said "based on international and local experience, supervised injecting services should be located in areas with high rates of drug use and public overdoses".

Continued: southbanklocalnews.com.au ●

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Southgate

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Melbourne comes alive with *RISING* 2024



Melbourne's premier celebration of cutting-edge music, art, and performance, *RISING* 2024, is set to captivate the city once again from June 1 to 16.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Over 16 nights and spanning three thrilling weekends, *RISING* will animate Swanston St and beyond with striking installations, free public events, and world-class contemporary entertainment.

Featuring an array of local and international talent, *RISING* invites locals to rediscover Melbourne through transformed landmarks and hidden gems, from its laneways to larger public spaces.

"*RISING* 2024 is a festival that belongs to Naarm, Melbourne. Some of the most exciting voices in art, music and performance offer moments of catharsis and reflection with mass music-making in a church, or summoning the cosmos in our town square," *RISING* co-artistic directors Hannah Fox and Gideon Obarzanek said.

"The most important part is coming together to be thrilled, bemused, shaken or delighted."

In collaboration with MAPCO, Fed Square will transform into a bustling hub celebrating First Peoples' art, politics, and cosmic affinities with *The Blak Infinite*, curated by Kimberley Moulton and Kate ten Buuren.



This immersive exhibition and accompanying public events, nestled at the core of the festival, promise to offer a profound exploration of Indigenous culture and its intersection with contemporary society.

Complementing *The Blak Infinite* is Richard Bell's installation, *EMBASSY*, which draws inspiration from the historic Aboriginal Tent Embassy established at the grounds of Canberra's Parliament House in 1972.

In exclusive, Australian debut, global dance-floor sensation SHOUSE brings *In Communitas* to Melbourne, an electrifying



event that will lead over a thousand participants to form a mass choir and sing, dance and create sonic vibrations.

Melbourne Town Hall will also be reimagined to host *Day Tripper* in collaboration with beloved community radio station Triple R, a day party event that will take over the hall and surrounding venues.

"A packed program of amazing cultural experiences will see *RISING* ignite Melbourne's winter again in 2024, bringing visitors into the city to revel in this major event filled with art, music and performance," Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos said.

With the festival now in full swing, individual event details are now available. ●

For more information:
2024.rising.melbourne



Unleash your creativity at ACCA's Family Art Day

This July, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) will host a Family Art Day packed with creativity and fun.

WORDS BY
RUIXUE SU



This exciting event on July 11 offers a unique opportunity for families to engage in art inspired by ACCA's current exhibitions.

Suitable for almost all ages, the event is geared towards children ideally aged between three and 10 years old and accompanied by a guardian, who will all have the opportunity to create their own artwork.

All activities are designed to be easy for both children and adults to enjoy.

Participants will find inspiration from the thought-provoking works on display as part of ACCA's new exhibition

Future Remains: The 2024 Macfarlane Commissions and are encouraged to express their interpretations of it through their own art.

Opening on June 29, *Future Remains* is the fourth edition of the multi-year collaborative program, which aims to support ambitious new projects by emerging to mid-range artists.

In different ways, seven artists recycle, re-display, and reframe specific material, cultural, or ideological heritage in an effort not only to better understand the past, but also to open new possibilities for our present and future world.

One of the highlights of ACCA's Family Art Day is the opportunity to "showcase" your work – an aspect that has been particularly appreciated by past participants.

As one parent said, "Alice (eight-year-old daughter) enjoyed the activity after the show. She creates works that echo the content of the exhibition."

The event fosters a sense of community, bringing families from different backgrounds together to share their creative experiences. As another participant put it, "I love everything, inspiration, art, people, and a low-waste, low-impact approach."

Don't miss out on ACCA's rich family experience. Mark July 11 in your calendar and get ready to explore, create and connect. ●

For more information:
acca.melbourne





 **PHOTOGRAPHY
STUDIES COLLEGE**

JHONNY SCORPANITI

From Italy to Melbourne: a photographic journey Down Under

After five years of travelling Australia from Italy, Jhonny Scorpaniti has embraced a new chapter of life in Melbourne, committing to his passion for photography at the Photography Studies College (PSC).

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Although his personal journey in photography spans nine years, Jhonny decided to undertake an undergraduate certificate at PSC to refine his skills and transition into taking his work "more seriously".

Starting classes from Western Australia while making his way to Melbourne, battling wi-fi issues along the way, Jhonny's determination propelled him forward, undeterred.

"I thought it was probably time to try and I didn't want to have regrets one day," Jhonny told *Southbank News*.

Describing himself as inherently curious, Jhonny draws inspiration from his extensive travels, infusing his work with diverse narratives.

Settling into urban life after years of being on the move has posed its own set of challenges, yet Jhonny's optimistic outlook and dedication to his craft have allowed him to navigate this new chapter with a creative approach.

"For me, photography has always been about travelling to a new country and finding a storyline – I'm always looking for diversity," he said.

"Now that I'm in Melbourne, I'm already struggling to stay in one place. But here (at PSC), they're pushing me to find different stories which is good, because I've got to work with what I've got."

Jhonny is currently engrossed in his final semester project, which focuses on the hostel that he has been living in since arriving in February.

While he admits that his situation and the project has "taken its toll" on him, Jhonny remains inspired by the fact that his work is "pushing me to achieve what I set to do".

"Sometimes, something hard hides something beautiful and meaningful. I've been hating this place [the hostel], but at the same time, every day is like I'm travelling the world through the people I'm passing by."

Looking ahead, Jhonny is determined to further his education at PSC, having already made plans to keep pushing himself and continue his Bachelor's degree.

"It's the first time in my life where I'm in a safe place and I can show my art. It's a really good environment to come out of your comfort zone, you start to believe in yourself," he said. "I'm super happy about this experience. All the teachers have been really supportive, so I have to say thanks to all these guys." ●



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**PHOTOGRAPHY
STUDIES COLLEGE**

Landmark shortstay decision

A landmark decision made against a short-stay apartment operator in Southbank is set to have repercussions for many apartment complexes.

On May 13, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) upheld its November decision that the short-stay operator had breached the owners' corporation (OC) rules and must stop operating as a serviced apartment business, at 38 Wells St, quashing the operator's appeal.

The decision will affect apartment complexes in Southbank and surrounding areas like Docklands and the CBD. VCAT's final decision was that the operator had indeed broken an existing OC rule, rule 2(d) that states members must not: "Use or occupy any lot or lots or any part thereof as a shop or other place for carrying on any trade or business."

A spokesperson for the OC's lawyers, Tisher Liner FC Law, said the VCAT order was the first of its kind against a short-stay operator and may prompt other OCs into action.

Tisher Liner FC Law's Nicole Wilde told *Southbank Local News* that the case showed OCs that if they want action on short-stay operators, they have to take it on themselves. "This case proves you can't just wait for the council to act. Yes, it will cost you for a lawyer, but our clients have found, and this is certainly the case here, that the benefit outweighs the cost," Ms Wilde said.

Ms Wilde explained that the evidence of owner residents against short-stays was vital in winning the case.

"What really got this decision over the line was not only that we proved the defendant was running a business, but that the business was causing distress to other residents, over a long period of time," she said.

This case began when the OC issued a notice to the operator. It then entered into mediation before it went to VCAT. VCAT issued a cease-and-desist order in November, which was subsequently challenged but ultimately lost by the short-stay operator.

Ms Wilde also said the decision may lead to rules specifically outlawing short-stay operations.

"In Southbank especially, OCs should check their existing rules to find out what their rules are. They may find short-stays are already breaking a rule." ●

METRO TUNNEL



South Yarra park now open after Metro Tunnel upgrades

For the first time in six years South Yarra's Siding Reserve has reopened, to the delight of locals and their pets.

The reserve was closed in 2018 to allow for the Metro Tunnel's eastern entrance to be built. Since then, Siding Reserve has been transformed with new landscaping, pedestrian and bike paths, a picnic area, seating, and improved lighting.

The new park will provide much-needed open green space for the community and is an on-leash dog park, so even four-legged friends can enjoy a day out for a picnic.

The reserve features artworks from two First Nations artists, *Where We Walk* by Barkindji man Kent Morris, and *Murrup Biik* by Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Kim Wandin with collaborating artist Christine Joy. Aunty Kim's work extends to the nearby Arthur Street pocket park.

Two pocket parks were also created by the project, returning what was once a Metro Tunnel work site back to the local community on William and Arthur streets.

Arthur Street pocket park opened with Siding Reserve in May. William Street pocket park, the William St Bridge, and Lovers



Walk – a pedestrian link between Chapel St and Toorak Rd – reopened in late 2023.

More than 160 trees have been planted at the reserve and pocket parks. This is around a 40 per cent increase of trees in the area, creating greener spaces for the community.

Beneath the park lives the South Yarra Substation – the first in Victoria to be built underground. The substation provides the extra power needed for the new bigger, better trains running through the Metro Tunnel and on the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines.

For the eastern entrance of the tunnel to be constructed, crews widened the rail corridor and created an emergency exit building on Osbourne St, enabling trains to continue running on the surface while construction on the nine-kilometre twin tunnels continued below.

The Metro Tunnel will connect the busy Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham lines via a new tunnel under the city, creating an end-to-end rail line from the north-west to the south-east, freeing up space in the City Loop and better connecting all Victorians to jobs, healthcare, and education. ●

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Reckless riders targeted in e-scooter crackdown in Southbank and the CBD

E-scooter riders have been held to account, with Victoria Police issuing almost 300 infringements to those caught flouting the rules during recent blitzes across Melbourne throughout May.

Melbourne East Local Area Commander Inspector Dale Huntington highlighted that State Highway Patrol officers, Transit Safety Division and local police teamed up to conduct proactive patrols in the CBD and Southbank and stop e-scooter riders putting others at risk.

A majority of the infringements issued were for e-scooter riders failing to wear an approved bicycle helmet, which carries a penalty of \$240.

Many e-scooter riders were also caught using the footpath to get around, which is extremely dangerous and prohibited, carrying a penalty of \$192.

There were also infringements issued to e-scooter riders for failing to obey a red traffic light, carrying more than one person, and using an unregistered vehicle.

E-scooter riders who exceed 0.05 blood alcohol level or are caught riding under the influence of drugs are liable for the same drink and drug driving penalties as all other motorists.

Police are urging all riders to ensure they understand and comply with the e-scooter trial rules, including not riding on the footpath, always wearing a helmet, not using a mobile phone while riding, only one person riding on the e-scooter, only riding if you are over 16 years old, and not exceeding the maximum speed limit of 20km/h.

Operations targeting e-scooter non-compliance will continue to be a focus for police over the coming months to improve safety for all Melbourne and Southbank residents and workers.

For more information on the e-scooter rules, scan the QR code below: ●



Leadership, unity, and a vision for Melbourne: the 2024 election

The City of Melbourne stands at a pivotal moment as we approach the 2024 local government elections.

Our city faces significant challenges and opportunities that require immediate attention and decisive action. It's time for leadership that embodies discipline, unity, and a forward-thinking vision.

At the 2020 City of Melbourne election, only 67 per cent of eligible voters in the municipality cast their ballots. This low turnout reflects a troubling disconnect between the electorate and the political process, a gap we can no longer afford.

The business community needs to step up and ensure that the City of Melbourne is composed of representatives who deeply understand the needs and aspirations of our capital city from a commercial and social viewpoint.

Our iconic Central Business District is under threat. The CBRE CBD Return to Office Indicator reveals a stark reality:

Melbourne's office occupancy stands at 62 per cent, significantly lagging behind Sydney at 77 per cent, Adelaide at 88 per cent, and Perth at 93 per cent.

This is a clear signal that our businesses are struggling, and that the vibrancy of our CBD is fading. The heart of Melbourne is beating slower, and it needs vision, action, and unity to get us back on track.

One radical yet necessary idea is for the Victorian Government to consider shrinking the size of the City of Melbourne.

Allocating areas like Port Melbourne, Fishermans Bend, Kensington, and Flemington to neighbouring councils could allow the City of Melbourne to focus more exclusively on the CBD and immediate surrounds. This would enable more targeted and effective governance, free from the distractions of managing areas outside the City of Melbourne's core expertise of the CBD.

Our business community must stand up and be counted in the 2024 election. We need a council that understands our city, has a vision for our CBD, comprehends the dynamics of business, and has a proven



track record of driving results. The future of Melbourne as a financial services hub, a vibrant place to work, and a city that cares for its people will be determined at this election.

Ten years from now, we should look back with pride on a city that has realised its full potential. A Melbourne that is not only

a financial powerhouse but also a place where people can live, work, and thrive in an environment of care and opportunity. Achieving this vision requires commitment and active participation, especially from those who operate businesses, large or small.

It is time for leadership, unity, and a shared vision for the Melbourne we all love and are proud to call our capital. It's time for businesses in the City of Melbourne to roll up their sleeves and elect a team that will work for our city, not themselves.

Marcus Pearl is a Melbourne-based CEO, and is a current councillor, and former Mayor, of the City of Port Phillip. ●

Cr Marcus Pearl

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP
HELLO@MARCUSPEARL.COM



Autumn highlights Southbank's community and nature

The Boyd Community Hub gardens have lit up with the warm golden glow of autumn and early winter, a heart-warming sight to capture.

WORDS BY RAHUL SUJAN
& SEEMA MISRA THAKUR

Passers-by have been left awestruck by the beauty of nature at the busy City Rd and Kings Way junction. Our Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) volunteers have worked hard to keep the garden beds free of fallen leaves.

Keeping the arrival of winter in mind, our volunteers planted winter-specific vegetables and flowering plants. In the first fortnight of May, garden beds were prepared with edible winter vegetables such as spinach, kale, peas, silver beet, and broad beans, which are growing well.

We also took requests for new herbs to make them more accessible to the community. For example, mint was moved to a bed in an open space.

We are happy to accommodate your requests and grow these seasonal herbs for you. Please note that with weather changes and growing conditions, these herbs may be in short supply. A Young Joeys Scouts Group recently reached out to SSG for some of our discarded flower petals to paint scarves for their mums on Mother's Day. It was great to hear this activity was a success, making some mums proud to receive such beautiful handmade scarves. The Young Joeys learnt about recycling, sustainability, and natural dye usage in this one activity.

At SSG, community connection and reaching out to Southbankers has always been joyful. It is our joy when you walk up to us on a Saturday morning and say hello. Just as our plants grow and flourish, at every fortnightly gardening session, we have a few new members join in and express interest in being part of the SSG community. There is always plenty to do beyond helping

at the fortnightly Saturday gardening sessions; help is often needed on weekdays too. The watering roster always has places for volunteers: we welcome new volunteers for this activity, and senior members will provide training and help to get you started.

The events team has been busy in May with two major activities hosted by SSG. First, SSG participated in the successful inaugural Festival @ Boyd, where volunteers led a "traffic signal" rock painting event for kids and parents.

These rocks (red, yellow, green) indicate the readiness of our garden produce. This activity helped young community members learn about garden critters, pollinators, and connect to the environment. Our senior volunteers, Faye, Cheryl, and Lynn guided the young participants in painting and expressing their creativity on stones. Look out for these new "traffic signal" rock art creations in our garden beds.

SSG members also supported the Active Southbank Community Association (ASCA) broadly throughout the Festival @ Boyd, highlighting the importance of inter-organisational collaboration in the City of Melbourne. As we move into the final few days of autumn, we hosted a workshop on Food Sustainability and Food Insecurity.

Presenters included Bonnie, a public health nutritionist with a PhD in lifestyle management and behaviour change, and Adeline from Empower Australia, a food relief charity in Southbank.

Bonnie and Adeline discussed small, meaningful changes to improve health and reduce environmental impact. They shared practical tips on shopping, food preparation, and overall wellbeing. In the spirit of this event, here are some tips on eating well with sustainability in mind throughout the winter months:

Winter produce picks: choose local winter vegetables, squashes, leafy greens, and citrus fruits.

Hearty winter stews: Make soups and stews with local winter produce.

Local market love: Support local farmers and buy fresh, seasonal produce.

Waste-free winter: Plan meals, use leftovers, and minimise food waste.



Warm hydration: Drink water and local herbal teas for hydration.

Efficient cooking: Use slow cookers or pressure cookers for hearty meals.

Reusable storage: Store food in reusable containers to reduce plastic waste.

Winter composting: Compost kitchen scraps with an indoor bin or worm farm.

Upcoming events in June

Our next event will focus on the recycling and upcycling of clothes at Boyd Community Hub on June 22. Keep an eye on the Facebook page for further details on signing up to attend.

About the group

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

For more information:

facebook.com/southbank-sustainabilitygroup or email southbanksustainability@gmail.com



SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

"Don't poke the Penna bear!"

This was the response from Cr Rohan Leppert at the City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne Committee meeting last month to discuss items in Southbank. I didn't hold back in that meeting, and I make no apologies for calling them out.

As outlined in last month's column, I was scathing of the council's proposal to arbitrarily remove seven hectares of promulgated open space in Southbank; namely, the Citylink deck, which was central to the 2010 Southbank Structure Plan.

Instead, the council has offered one hectare of open space on Normanby Rd to replace it, which essentially, results in a net loss of six hectares.

The council thought they could just slip this onto its agenda and, with a single sentence in a motion, see the Citylink decking gone, and probably hope the community wouldn't notice.

Well, sorry, but Southbank Residents' Association (SRA), with its 25 years of history advocating for Southbank, was never going to let this go unnoticed.

We also learned that, apparently, the council had the Citylink deck costed in 2021 and based on that it was deemed prohibitive to its budget. SRA asked the council in April 2023 when the Citylink deck was going to be costed, and we were told the project would be delivered by the state government.

There was no mention of the council reviewing the project, nor that they did indeed have it costed. We have now asked council to explain why they weren't forthcoming with us in April 2023 and advise at that time that the project had indeed been costed, when that was what we were asking.

We are also asking if the state government officially advised that it would not be funding the project or if the council just took it upon itself to remove the project and drop it from the Southbank agenda. Hopefully we will have some answers soon.

At that same meeting, the council also tried to claim they were providing an

"update" on the City Road Master Plan, except its "update" was essentially only on the Kings Way undercroft. Yes, the master plan encompasses so much more.

Sadly, it tried to claim "Action 6" – expand the bicycle network – was complete. We called them out on this and highlighted that not a single item of the City Rd bicycle network had been touched, as per the master plan.

Cr Rohan Leppert was instrumental in amending the motion to specifically highlight that this action had yet to be completed. While it is promising we are making progress on the undercroft, it is disappointing the remainder of the City Road Master Plan appears to have fallen off the council's radar. We will be lobbying to get this back on the agenda.

The draft budget has just been promulgated and we will be highlighting some items in there. Specifically, we note they are taking the \$25 million, which was allocated to source open space in Southbank and applying that to the Normanby Rd redesign.

We feel this money should remain in the fund to source land in Southbank and

instead they take funds from the open space fund to fund Normanby Rd.

Afterall, the council has indicated it was still in negotiations with two developers for two different sites in Southbank. If these funds are used on Normanby Rd, then there will be no funds to purchase those sites.

We feel leaving the money where it is will allow the council to act quickly, should negotiations become favourable, while also keeping sourcing new open space on their agenda.

Remember SRA relies on membership to allow our voice to be effective with our lobbying efforts. You can join via our website southbankresidents.org.au or via our Facebook page: **Southbank Residents.** ●

Tony Penna
PRESIDENT





QUESTION:
What are you looking forward to this winter?

Faces of Southbank



JAMES
Going to the football.



JHULYANA
Snowboarding.



ANGEL
Spending more time with family.



TRINE
Taking long lazy walks.



OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Renewing an owners' corporation's policy of insurance just got harder

It is compulsory under the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006* for a strata building with areas of common property to have a policy of insurance for reinstatement and replacement, and must hold a policy for public liability insurance as well, for a minimum of \$20 million.

However, the strata insurance market is becoming tighter and tighter. There are only a dozen local insurance companies that offer a policy for residential or commercial strata schemes in Australia.

And of these insurance providers, three of them only specialise in smaller schemes where the value of the building is less than \$20 million.

Of the remaining companies, at least five of those insurance providers have had their underwriters adjust their risk policies so that they are unable to insure any owners' corporation (OC) that has reported water ingress damage, combustible cladding or unresolved building defect issues within the building.

Just to make it harder still, several of the insurance providers have also adjusted their risk policies so that they will not extend any insurance coverage to any building where a risky business activity is being conducted. This may extend to a tobacconist shop, or tattoo parlour, massage parlour and even to some industrial uses where chemical treatments are being used or stored onsite.

So, it is no longer the case that insurance companies will increase their policy premiums by a percentage to cover the increased risk, or to decline to pay any claims related to certain subject matters. Instead, we have a situation where the local insurance market simply won't insure certain buildings at all.

This situation forces insurance brokers to consider the international insurance market, which is a very expensive option, and can leave some apartment buildings with policy premiums that are 200 to 300 per cent more expensive year-on-year.

The Victorian government enacted amendments to the *Owners' Corporation Act* in 2021 to permit the passing on of higher insurance premiums to certain lots if it were to be determined that the use of

the lot caused the insurance premium to increase. That is a good amendment but does not help a building if the insurance market just won't insure the building at all.

To avoid this situation from occurring, OCs are being pressured by their current insurers to take all steps to repair outstanding building defect issues, and to replace any combustible cladding within the current period of insurance.

In doing so, these insurers are enforcing OCs to act incredibly quickly (and sometimes too quickly) to carry out repairs, without allowing for sufficient time for legal proceedings to be concluded, or for proper scopes of work for holistic or staged repairs to be developed, or for competitive tenders to be undertaken.

The current situation is driving up levies, and trapping some apartment owners in debt recovery limbo if they cannot keep up with their costs.

The situation is fast approaching what some might describe as an "insurance crisis."

It may not be too long before the Victorian Government is requested to underwrite the strata insurance industry. Let's all hope it does not get that far. ●



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JOSH BURNS MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACNAMARA

f t i y joshburnsmp



Southbank's hidden community

It has been great to walk around the whole of Southbank during the past three years and observe how much amenity has been put in place for families and young people.

The amazing playground on the corner of Southbank Boulevard and Kavanagh St, the temporary basketball court at Melbourne Square and the family and children's services at the Boyd Community Hub are fabulous, and we at Southbank3006 welcome these initiatives with open arms.

In fact, we are the first community group to provide a family-focused end-of-year celebration through our annual Merry Friend-Mas which attracts up to 1000 people and families to celebrate a non-denominational, and multicultural festive event.

However, if we were to look at the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics census data, we would note that in 2024/25 the numbers of residents over 55 years would be around 4500 – around 20 per cent of the overall Southbank population. Interesting, huh!

So, what could the state government and the City of Melbourne do to provide greater amenities and improve liveability among this cohort, or are those of us over-55s, Southbank's hidden community?

If we were to compare the amenity of this cohort to our closest non-CBD neighbouring suburbs, e.g. South Melbourne and South Yarra, what is the difference?

These suburbs have bowls clubs, public tennis courts, a community leisure centre with allied health facilities, restaurants frequented predominantly by local residents and great dog parks, which encourage engagement and connection between locals.

So, I hear you say, dear reader, "well what about the fabulous restaurants at Crown and along the river?"

However, these are tourist attractions, and we rightly acknowledge how fortunate we are to have these opportunities, as well as our amazing Arts Precinct and the CBD, on our doorstep. But do these amenities encourage local engagement among the over-55s?

A healthy community requires connection, and that is what has developed over the past few years for families and younger people in Southbank, and we are so glad about it. It is truly wonderful to see families engaging together, and Southbank3006 will always support and encourage these developments and interactions.

But what of this hidden 20 per cent of Southbank? Yes, they are "boomers", but looking at you too, "Gen-X", some of you are now over 55!

So, what of our shared needs for

community connection? Would you like community leisure centres, the bowls clubs, restaurants, and coffee shops specifically for the 4500 of us that reflect our local precincts?

Of course, we know some of our buildings have great cafes and provide that connection, but just not enough to make the whole suburb feel that localised dynamic connection and focus for the over-55s.

It is true that there is a significant age range between say 55s to 85s, as there is between the infant to 30-year-old Southbankers, but as described here, a lot of work and focus has been placed on this cohort.

Hence, wouldn't it be beneficial to find out what is needed to serve the community amenity of this older group? It's worth noting that in the ABS data this group is mostly owner occupiers and, therefore, it could be presumed that they are in Southbank for the long term, so let's enhance Southbank's liveability for them.

We think it's time the City of Melbourne engages with this cohort more precisely, not just to offer more open space and diverse sporting facilities, such as the ACCA forecourt park plans, Dodds Street Linear Park and the potential recreational precinct of the Kings Way undercroft, but to support more local businesses that target Southbank's mature residents.



For example, could subsidies be offered to local cafes and retail, allied health and community groups to engage this dynamic group of our community and to bring a more localised focus to Southbank?

Let's create a real community suburb, like South Melbourne and South Yarra (both of which have vertical living communities), which caters for all age ranges and interests.

We welcome your thoughts on this and any other ideas you might like Southbank3006 to focus on. Please find our details at southbank3006.com or our Facebook and Instagram pages. ●

Trisha Avery

COMMUNITY@
SOUTHBANK3006.COM



APARTMENT LIVING

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

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

WORDS BY
VAN HUYNH - CONTRIBUTOR
COMMERCIAL FACILITY SERVICES

Kai asked us: I would like to join the committee to assist with the decision-making process for owners' corporation (OC) related matters like improvements to amenities. How do I join?

A: A lot owner or proxy for a lot owner may join the committee by way of nomination at a general meeting subject to the owner not being in arrears for any amount owing to the OC. Once elected, committee members will typically hold office until a new committee is elected which is usually at the next general meeting (a meeting occurs in a 12- to 15-month timeframe).

It's good to note that the position is a voluntary unpaid position and there are many important decisions that need to be made and governance to ensure the OC is running as intended, such as:

- payment to contractors
- quote approvals
- contract renewals
- complaints management
- compliance
- budgets
- maintaining common property
- insurance, etc.

A working relationship with your strata manager and building/facilities manager can add assistance and value to the duties of the OC committee.

Summer asked us: I'm already paying OC

fees, but I still receive council rates notices. Why?

A: OC fees pertain exclusively to the building itself, covering maintenance, insurance, and upkeep, including essential service maintenance. Council rates notices, on the other hand, fund community infrastructure like waste management, parks, OH&S, and local roads.

In summary, as a member of the OC, your levies contribute to your building, while council rates support the broader community's infrastructure and running costs beyond your home.

True story

A guest who had been staying at one of our managed buildings had only two hours before their flight departed. Unfortunately, they lost their AirPods and we faced an additional challenge as they couldn't communicate in English to describe them.

Coincidentally, our building management had found three sets of AirPods that week in various communal areas, all of which were placed in lost property. To make matters worse, each set of headphones looked identical.

However, our quick thinking prevailed when we asked the guest to play some music, which connected to their AirPods. With Filipino rap music now making its mark on our playlists, the guest's flight wasn't missed, and the AirPods found their way back to their rightful owner.

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



Pet's Corner

Southbank's athletic stalwart

The two-and-a-half-year-old, and very obedient, German Short-haired Pointer Zee may look a little fierce, but he is actually very friendly.

WORDS BY
RUIXUE SU

According to his owner Rory, when people walk by Zee some are put off by his looks, but he

just wants to play with people.

"We usually take walks here," Rory told to *Southbank News* as the pair strolled along Southbank Promenade. "Zee is a very social dog, he is friendly to people and other dogs and likes to play with them," Rory said.

Zee will go for a walk every morning with Rory, who said he was a very well-trained dog, and "an athletic guy" who is a master at playing fetch.

Asked to describe his dog in one sentence, Rory said, "love of my life." ●



Quiz



1. What is a brouhaha?
2. Before the invention of the wooden tee, what did golfers use instead?
3. In which fictional country does George Orwell's 1984 take place in?
4. The City of Melbourne has announced \$22.5 million to expand what?
5. Locals are fighting plans for an application to convert a two-storey building at 427 City Rd into what kind of 'meeting place'?
6. True or false: identical twins have the same fingerprints?
7. In what year were the first Levi's jeans invented?
8. Which iconic Southbank Restaurant celebrates 25 years at Southgate this year?
9. Despite a formal announcement from the City of Melbourne, what pop-up facility has opened at Melbourne Square?
10. For which 2001 Richard Eyre film did Jim Broadbent (pictured) win an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor?
11. Who are the two State MP's with lower house seats in Southbank?
12. According to the Old Treasury Building, in what year did trams first continuously run in Melbourne?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. A disturbance 2. A pile of sand
 3. Oceania 4. Normandy Rd Reserve
 5. Adult lifestyle meeting place 6. False
 7. 1873 8. La Camera 9. Pop-up basketball courts 10. Mrs 11. Nina Taylor (Albert Park) and Sam Hibbins (Prahran) 12. 1885

5x5 No. 301

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

C		U		T
	I		H	
A		I		N
	A		V	
S		E		T

SOLUTIONS
 ACROSS: CRUST, LITHE, AVIAN, SALVE, SLEET, DOWN: CLASS, RIVAL, UTILE, SHAVE, TENET.

Sudoku

No. 036

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Police

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| ARREST | GUN |
| CONSTABLE | HANDCUFFS |
| COPS | HOMICIDE |
| CRIME | NARCOTICS |
| CRIMINAL | OFFICER |
| CUSTODY | ROBBERY |
| DETECTIVE | SERGEANT |
| FORENSIC | STATION |

Secret message: Upholding the law

Crossword

No. 036

ACROSS

- 1 Town leader (5)
- 4 Displaying bad posture (9)
- 9 Defrosts (5)
- 10 Awe (9)
- 11 Democracy participant (5)
- 12 Rareness (8)
- 14 Cigarette filling (7)
- 16 Join (7)
- 18 Particulars (7)
- 19 Famous painter (7)
- 20 Christmas animal (8)
- 22 Adult male deer (plural) (5)
- 25 Influencing (9)
- 27 Cloth (5)
- 28 Boxing category (9)
- 29 Eyelid inflammations (5)

DOWN

- 1 Driven (9)
- 2 Microbial bread additive (5)
- 3 Limitation (11)
- 4 Photos (9)
- 5 Japanese seaport (5)
- 6 - Guevara (3)
- 7 Incompetency (9)
- 8 Entrance (4)
- 13 Things built on beaches (11)
- 15 Insect similar to a moth (9)

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

- 16 Creator's protection (9)
- 17 Hundreds and - (9)
- 21 Skimming (5)
- 23 Perturb (5)
- 24 Semi (4)
- 26 Billiard rod (3)

SOLUTION

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

Codeword

No. 036

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

SOLUTIONS

U	F	J	W	O	C	I	X	L	I	D	M	G	P
10	13	15	12	13	11	5			12	10	21	13	4
L	B	H	I	K	O	X	A	S	R	E			
11	14	4		G	6		1	12	10	P	13	3	13

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

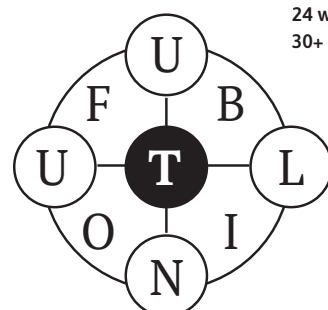
9-Letter

No. 036

Today's Focus:

- 17 words: Good
- 24 words: Very good
- 30+ words: Excellent

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



Reference:

Collins Concise English Dictionary

SOLUTIONS

blat, blot, blot, blunt, bolt, bottle, BOUNTIFUL, bout, built, burnt, flint, flit, float, font, fountain, futon, into, lift, lint, left, lout, obit, ofit, toft, toll, toul, unbolt, unbuild, unftit, unlit, unlit, until, unto

WHAT'S ON June



June in Southbank is bustling with exciting events, from the *RISING* festival to the *Winter Masterpieces*, there's something for everyone to enjoy.



RISING
RISING is a festival of new art, music, and performance, in the heart of Naarm/ Melbourne.
rising.melbourne

UNTIL JUNE 16



NGV WINTER MASTERPIECES: PHARAOH
 The NGV has partnered with the British Museum to present Pharaoh, a landmark exhibition that celebrates three thousand years of ancient Egyptian art and culture.
 NGV International, 180 St Kilda Rd

BEGINNING JUNE 14



PURE SOUTH DINING'S 20TH BIRTHDAY CONSUMER DINNER SERIES
 This June, Pure South Dining is launching their limited-edition dinner series, 'A Chef's Tour of Tasmania,' in celebration of their 20th birthday.
 Southgate Ave, Southbank
puresouth.com.au

EVERY FRI AND SAT, JUNE 28 - JULY 31



SOUTHGATE SUNDAY MARKET
 The famous Arts Centre Sunday Market is moving to Southgate shopping centre in July. The same traders you've known and loved for over 20 years, all under cover at their new home at Southgate.
southgatemelbourne.com.au

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 10AM - 4PM



ACCA FAMILY ART DAY: FUTURE REMAINS: THE 2024 MACFARLANE COMMISSIONS
 Join Australian Centre for Contemporary Art Education for its free, drop-in program for children and families to enjoy art-making in the galleries.
 111 Sturt St, Southbank

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 10AM



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

STARTING JULY 19 (DAY) + JULY 22 (EVENING)



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Josh Burns MP
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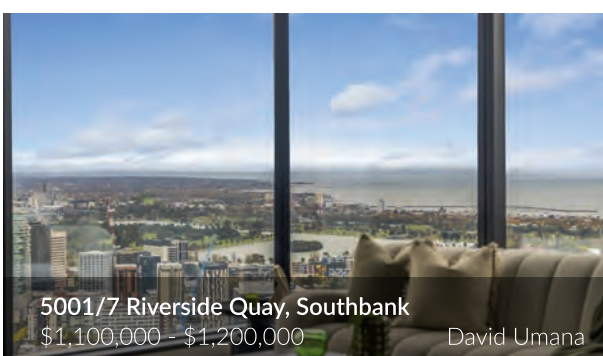
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RayWhite

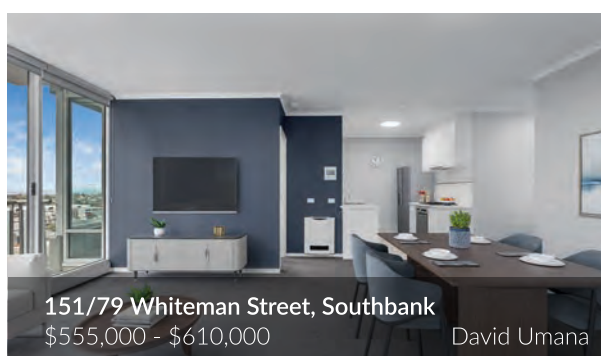
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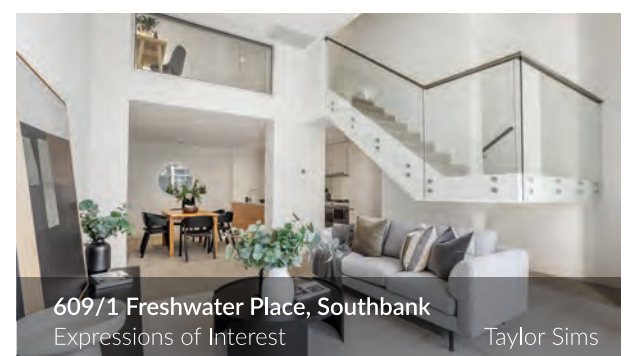
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\$1,100,000 - \$1,200,000 David Umana



151/79 Whiteman Street, Southbank
\$555,000 - \$610,000 David Umana



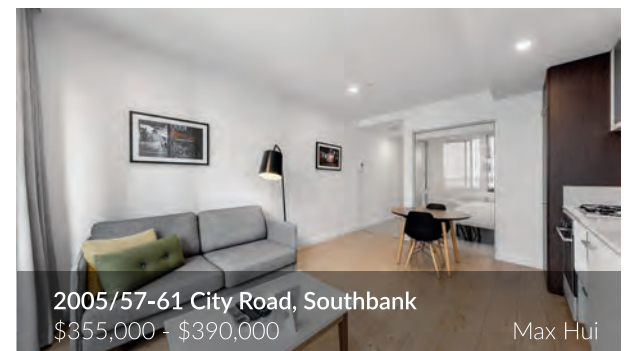
609/1 Freshwater Place, Southbank
Expressions of Interest Taylor Sims



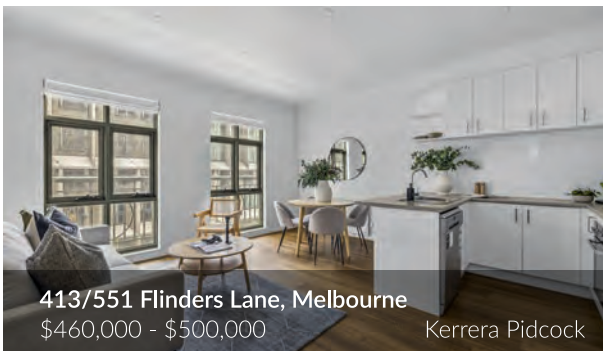
249/183 City Road, Southbank
\$625,000 - \$665,000 Tommy-Lee Davies



903/245 City Road, Southbank
\$780,000 - \$830,000 Max Hui



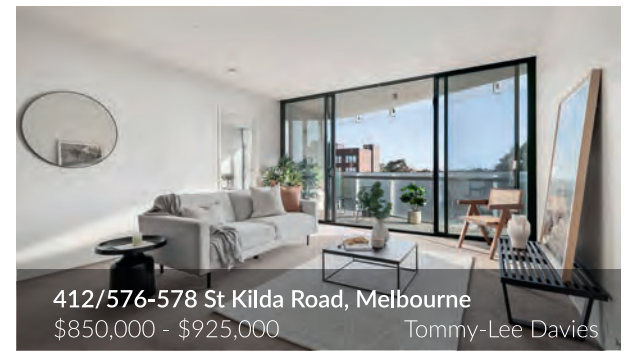
2005/57-61 City Road, Southbank
\$355,000 - \$390,000 Max Hui



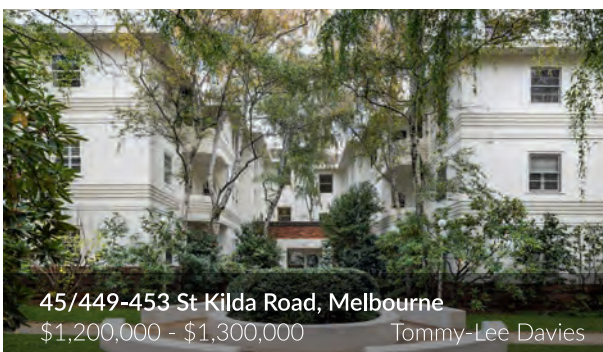
413/551 Flinders Lane, Melbourne
\$460,000 - \$500,000 Kerrera Pidcock



915/12 Queens Road, Melbourne
\$600,000 - \$630,000 Tommy-Lee Davies



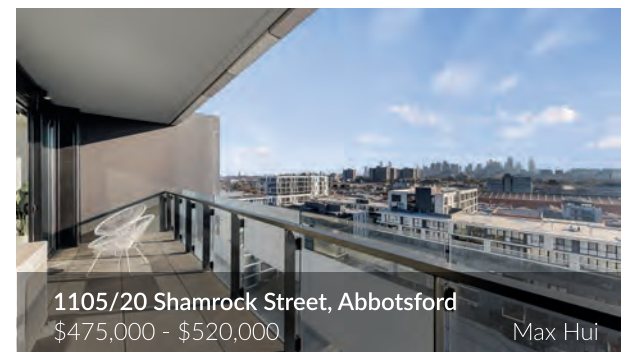
412/576-578 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
\$850,000 - \$925,000 Tommy-Lee Davies



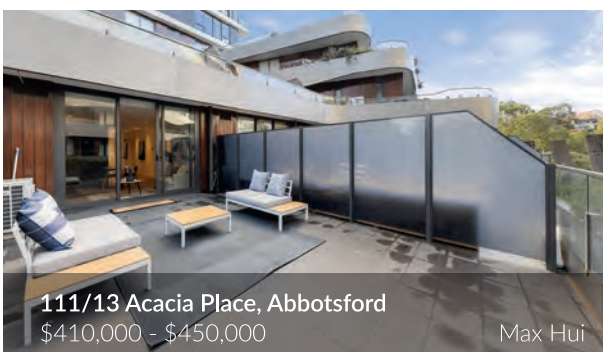
45/449-453 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
\$1,200,000 - \$1,300,000 Tommy-Lee Davies



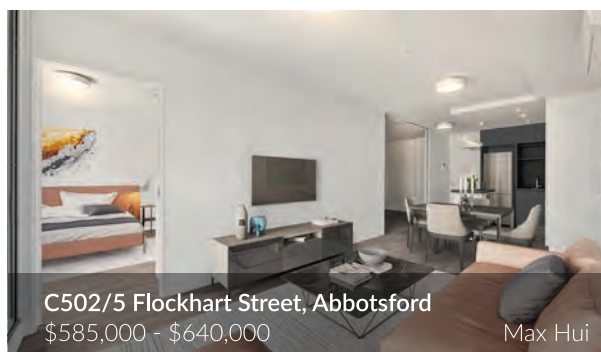
413/118 Dudley Street, West Melbourne
\$510,000 - \$530,000 Kerrera Pidcock



1105/20 Shamrock Street, Abbotsford
\$475,000 - \$520,000 Max Hui



111/13 Acacia Place, Abbotsford
\$410,000 - \$450,000 Max Hui



C502/5 Flockhart Street, Abbotsford
\$585,000 - \$640,000 Max Hui

Michael Pastrikos: 0404 282 864
Max Hui: 0430 238 021
Tommy-Lee Davies: 0416 823 173
Taylor Sims: 0403 485 210
David Umana: 0481 222 376
Kerrera Pidcock: 0448 353 478

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