



Lions raw on Southbank

More than 10,000 gathered along Southbank on June 22 for the 2024 International Parade of Nations, kicking off the 106th Lions International Convention at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. More on page 14.

“Southbank in limbo”: concern as major developments stall

“
Southbank’s local business association has questioned the status of major local developments at Southgate and STH BNK by Beulah, raising concerns over the impact of ongoing delays on the surrounding community.”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR & JON FLEETWOOD



Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) executive officer Tim Bracher said that after 30 years of rapid development in the precinct “Southbank is in limbo” as the transformation of Southgate and Beulah’s \$2 billion project remain at a standstill, with question marks also hanging over the former Exxon Mobil building.

Mr Bracher said the net effect, together with the City of Melbourne’s own delays in revitalising Southbank Promenade, Queensbridge Square, and stage six of Southbank Boulevard, could mean at least another decade of paralysis in the precinct.

The YRBA has led calls for badly needed upgrades

to the promenade and Queensbridge Square, including the removal of the “eyesore” red stairs amphitheatre, with Mr Bracher arguing Melbourne’s prime tourist strip had been neglected for too long.

Last month, ESR Australia, which manages Southgate on behalf of Peninsula Investment Partners and Singapore-based Suntec Real Estate Investment Trust, confirmed that it was injecting \$4.5 million into upgrading the precinct’s lobby area, which it told Southbank News would begin in July.

This is despite holding a planning approval from the state government since 2021 for a \$470 million redevelopment of Southgate, which includes plans for new bars, restaurants, shops, and a 26-storey office building.

In a statement, an ESR spokesperson said, “As an active asset manager working alongside the current owners, ESR Australia has been involved in reviewing the plans for Southgate to ensure any future development caters to the needs of retailers, the local community, and visitors in a commercial market currently under pressure.”

“We have consultants engaged and are working through planning and design of a potential future development which remains subject to several conditions per the approval granted.”

Last year, then Lord Mayor Sally Capp described delays with the redevelopment as “really unacceptable” as the council continued to await further information from ESR that would allow it to fully complete upgrades to Southbank Promenade.

Continued on page 5.

SAFETY & SECURITY, PAGE 07

A new Neighbourhood Watch group for Southbank amid rising crime

ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 09

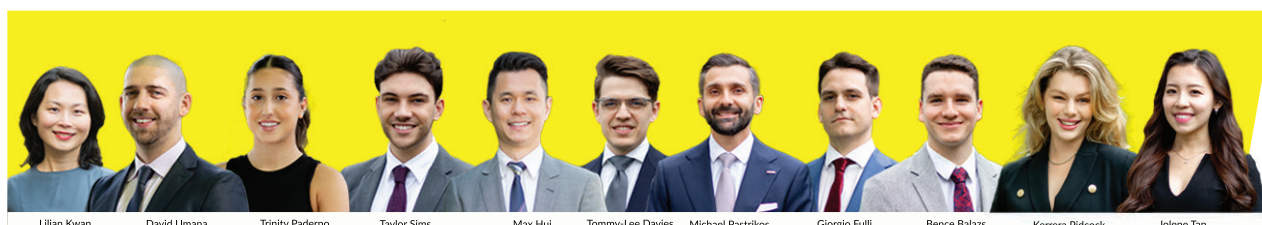
Construction of Melbourne Square’s new tower is under way



PET’S CORNER, PAGE 11

A Hoppy ending for this furry Southbanker

Meet Hoppy; the first rabbit to ever feature in Pet’s Corner for Southbank News, and who has given one local resident a huge reason to smile since moving into his Southbank apartment from the RSPCA six months ago.



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What's on in the Arts Precinct for Open House Melbourne weekend

Open House Melbourne has launched its 2024 program and theme for the year, *RE/DISCOVER your City* inviting audiences to see Melbourne in a new light and celebrate the importance of good design in shaping our communities.

More than 60,000 people are expected to attend this year's Open House Melbourne Weekend (July 27 and 28) and explore more than 170 unique and intriguing spaces and experiences in every corner of Melbourne. Across the city, buildings and spaces will open for walking tours, talks, presentations, and exhibitions, encouraging Victorians and visitors to seek out new places and reconnect with old favorites.

This year's program offers six precincts to explore, including the Melbourne Arts Precinct, City of Melbourne, Melbourne School of Design, City of Maribyrnong, City of Hobsons Bay, City of Port Phillip, and City of Yarra.

A total of 13 events and programs are available to explore in the Melbourne Arts Precinct, offering a glimpse into some of the iconic design, award-winning architecture, and heritage buildings. Visitors can sign up for a behind-the-scenes tour of Fed Square, building tours of the Southbank Theatre, Melbourne Recital Centre and Shrine of Remembrance, exhibitions at the Koorie Heritage Trust, ACCA, and Buxton Contemporary, a documentary screening at ACMI, or a walking tour of the city-shaping Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation (MAPT) project.

Participants on the MAPT tour will visit key sites that are part of the major project



that is transforming Southbank and the city and will hear from experts involved with delivering the project – including the new 18,000sqm urban garden, significant upgrades to Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building and the new contemporary art and design gallery The Fox: NGV Contemporary.

Bookings for the Open House Melbourne Weekend will be released in two stages on Wednesday, July 3 at 12pm and Saturday, July 6 at 12pm. Tours of Fed Square and MAPT are free to attend, but places are likely to fill up quickly. Visit openhouse-melbourne.org/melbourne-arts-precinct for more information and to register for tickets.

For those who are keen to make the most of exploring the Arts Precinct during the Open House Melbourne weekend, there's plenty of extraordinary art, architecture, design, and creativity to enjoy.

Visitors can take a stroll through the expansive Royal Botanic Gardens or visit

world-renowned architect Tadao Ando-designed MPavilion in the Queen Victoria Gardens.

Across St Kilda Rd, NGV International and Arts Centre Melbourne present a year-round calendar of exceptional performances and exhibitions.

To cap off the weekend, visitors can take in a show at Southbank Theatre, Malthouse Theatre or Melbourne Recital Centre – each venue has its own unique design features and architectural identity.

This year's Open House Melbourne Weekend encourages us to explore, enjoy and immerse ourselves in the places and spaces that make up our city and its exceptional precincts. ●

For more information: artsprecinct.melbourne



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Sally Capp: one last chat as Lord Mayor of Melbourne

In her final days as Lord Mayor, Sally Capp caught up with *Southbank News* one last time to reflect on her “extraordinary” journey leading the City of Melbourne through the most challenging period in its history.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



For some it will take a bit of time to adjust to the idea of Melbourne without Sally at the helm, such is the energy, drive, and passion she brought into leading it out of some of its darkest times.

In many ways, she’s given new meaning to what it means to be Lord Mayor having very much made the position her own. As she put it, “it’s consumed my life for six years, and I’ve loved that.”

Speaking just days before her official end date on Sunday, June 30, she said that while she felt “really sad” to be finishing, she also felt “very happy” to have been part of what’s been an incredible time for Melbourne.

“It’s a real feeling of, ‘WOW,’” she said. “We have been through the most extraordinary times.”

“You don’t always get a chance to stop in the busy day-to-day and reflect, but of course, these are the times for doing that when you transition onto something else.”

While it’s not known what that “something else” is on a professional level yet, she said she had planned a break with her husband Andrew Sutherland in July to spend some time with their son Will who lives in the UK.

When she returns home, don’t expect her to be a stranger in the community. She said the parts of being Lord Mayor that she found “intoxicating” were being “engaged, informed and connected”.

As a Carlton resident she anticipates that she’ll still be playing an active role in helping shape the city, only this time as a local.

“Being a responsible citizen and all of those things which I’ve come to really appreciate through this role aren’t going to go away, so I’m going to find different ways in which I can continue to be fueled by all of those things,” she told *Southbank News*.

And while her legacy will be judged differently right across Melbourne, it’s that way in which she helped bring the role of Lord Mayor back to its foundations – the local community – that will be looked back on favourably by many.

So too, her desire to drive change within the City of Melbourne, no matter how “risk adverse” she found local government to be after switching over from a career in the private sector.



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp with Sean Car. Photos by Hanna Komissarova.



From her early days as Lord Mayor in 2018, she made no secret of her love for “big ideas”. Her signature Greenline project is a testament to that ambition – something she said she hoped would form part of her legacy.

“This job’s helped me push my own personal and professional barriers, and it’s been a fantastic and extraordinary environment,” she said, adding that the change of mindset within the council had “unleashed the team”.

Among the many big-ticket items she’s proud to have been a part of include bringing renewable energy to more residents and businesses through Power Melbourne, and providing accommodation for rough sleepers through the Make Room project.

The renewal of Queen Victoria Market is another project she highlights, which she said “was at a standstill” when she came to office and was now 65 per cent complete. “It’s just stunning to stand there on the weekends as a customer of the market and enjoy all of the new features,” she said.

But beneath all the larger stuff, she’s just as proud to have had a hand in providing the everyday amenities, such as community and sporting facilities, parks, playgrounds, trees and keeping the city clean, that makes Melbourne the city it is.

“On the whole we’re just so lucky in Melbourne; it’s an awesome city.”

While the COVID pandemic marked

some of the toughest times our city has ever endured, she said the need to “operate without a rule book” was one positive aspect of this period that had helped change the culture at Town Hall for the better.

“We needed to respond with care and with speed, and we had to take more risks and that’s where ‘city of yes’ came from as a cultural theme here,” she said.

“We’re really trying to do more and more of that to acknowledge that, yes, red tape is necessary sometimes, but that it can’t be the reason why we do things – we’ve got to stay focused on the outcome and delivery for our community.”

But perhaps the most important part of her legacy, and one which is often overlooked, is the way in which she so quickly helped to repair the broken City of Melbourne reputation she inherited from her predecessor Robert Doyle, who was forced to resign amid claims of sexual misconduct made against him by multiple women.

“It doesn’t often get talked about because so many other things have happened since then. But for me personally, it’s why I put my hand up,” she said.

“We have not just recovered or responded to that, but we’ve taken so many big steps forward in culture and performance – that is something I’m proud of. I can walk away from this organisation, which is a really important institution, and feel that I’ve played a positive leadership role, which we’ll see play out into the future as well.”

With her now former deputy Nicholas Reece being sworn in as Melbourne’s 105th Lord Mayor on July 2 for just a few months ahead of the elections in October, she also paid tribute to her “terrific” councillor colleagues, who she said had been a “very collegiate and respectful” group.

While there are “so many things” she’ll miss about being Lord Mayor, it’s “the interactions with community” and being “the number one champion for the city” she told *Southbank News* tearfully that she’d miss the most.

“I’ve said this a little bit towards the end of my term, but I’m an introvert on the Myers-Biggs spectrum and some people find that very hard to believe. I’ve been highly energised by the passion of the people who have given me this inner sort of resolve and fortitude to get out there to be the champion on their behalf, because I see the work that they’re doing and the ambitions that they have and their own selflessness,” she said.

“I talked about big stuff earlier, but I’ve also come to understand that little things can create ripples that turn into waves, and all of those combined efforts have resulted in wonderful outcomes for the City of Melbourne.”

“That’s what I feel when I’m out there and it’s not that I won’t feel that anymore – it’ll just be different in that I won’t be the number one champion for the city, and I’ve really loved that.” ●

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(Left) The Southgate complex, (above) a render of the redevelopment of Southgate which was approved by the state government in 2021, and (right) the STH BNK by Beulah development, which is now expected to begin demolition works later this year.

“Southbank in limbo”: concern as major developments stall

Continued from page 1.

The council told *Southbank News* last month that it was “getting on with the Southbank Promenade upgrade – with funding in this year’s budget for planning, as well as further engagement with the Southbank Traders’ and Residents’ Associations.”

“The upgrade has been coordinated alongside the redevelopment of the Southgate complex – to help minimise disruption for residents and traders,” the spokesperson said. “We want to thank local businesses and the community for their patience while this work progresses.”

However, the council has only pledged \$500,000 in this year’s budget, \$250,000 of which has been brought forward from the 2023/24 budget to progress planning for the promenade upgrades, and a further \$250,000 for stage six of Southbank Boulevard.

Having spent \$3.8 million in 2023 on stage one of upgrading Southbank Promenade between Princes and Evan Walker Bridges, except for the section located out the front of Southgate’s foodcourt, Mr Bracher said this latest funding wouldn’t go very far.

He added that the redevelopment of the neighbouring former Exxon Mobil building, ESSO House, which is currently being demolished, wasn’t expected to begin construction for some years, also leaving stage two of the promenade upgrades to Queensbridge Square up in the air.

As reported in *Southbank News*, Mr Bracher implored the council in November last year to proceed with the “much-needed

refurbishment of the promenade” and then require any developer “to reinstate exactly to the quality and standard”.

“So, in other words, instead of sitting around waiting for the private sector to get their act together, let’s get the public stuff done and then make the private sector pay for any disturbance they need to make on that promenade,” Mr Bracher said.

Southbank Residents’ Association president Tony Penna said Southbank Promenade and Southbank Boulevard were “classic examples of the council dragging its feet.”

“The promenade is one of the main go-to areas for tourists visiting our city, yet it is so tired,” Mr Penna said. “In comparison to other waterside precincts around Australia, it makes us look like a joke.”

Residents living in the adjoining Quay West building, which shares an easement with Southgate, Hamer Hall, and St John’s Southgate church, say they are still awaiting information from ESR regarding potential impacts of any redevelopment.

Works on the neighbouring Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation are also expected to present further challenges for Southgate, fuelling speculation that its owners could be destined for a return to the drawing board given current uncertainty gripping the commercial property market.

Head of asset management at ESR Australia Rob Ewing told *Southbank News* last year that it had offered leases of three or four years to tenants as part of a \$250,000 (phase 1) refurbishment of the food court, which has seen a recent spike in trade.

While new life emerges in the precinct,

with franchise San Churro and Mexican restaurant Hacienda both scheduled to open their doors in Southgate later this year, many existing traders remain in limbo, with some engaged in legal disputes.

In June, the *Herald Sun* reported that restaurant Bluetrain had been in a “long-running legal battle” with Southgate’s owners as it continues to seek “recognition and compensation for loss as a result of [the landlord’s] failure to maintain an adequate and enjoyable trading environment.”

One of the owners of Bluetrain Xavier DiMattina slammed the condition of the precinct, telling the *Herald Sun* Southgate was “literally falling apart”.

Southbank News also contacted Metropolitan director Eddie Muto, who said he was unable to comment on the business’s current situation as it was also engaged in a legal dispute with Southgate’s operators.

Mr Bracher said the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the future of Southgate continued to prove damaging for traders.

“It’s the great unknown of Southbank,” Mr Bracher said. “It would be nice to have a timeline around Southgate so vendors know when they will have to vacate their businesses. It’s fine if plans are changing, but it’s important Southgate’s owners are upfront with the community about it.”

Meanwhile, Mr Bracher also questioned the timeline surrounding the completion of the nearby STH BNK by Beulah project, which he said had become “hazy”.

The twin-tower development is due to deliver the Southern Hemisphere’s tallest high-rise at the site of the former BMW showroom and Hanover House bordered

by City Rd, Southbank Boulevard and Power St.

The developer announced last year that it had appointed Multiplex to complete the build. As *Southbank News* reported in August, this was expected to take five years, with construction due to start in “late 2023 or early 2024”.

Since the project was originally approved in 2020, Beulah has announced several initiatives as part of its project as well as various activations of its site, namely the repurposing of Hanover House into “BETA” – an arts, cultural and community “testing area”.

Last year, it commissioned an artist to paint a giant mural on top of the former BMW showroom, and more recently it engaged vertical farming business Greenspace to establish a hydroponic macrofarm.

But despite reporting “skyrocketing” sales in November last year, with more than 80 per cent of apartments confirmed to have been sold at the time, the sod remains unturned on the \$2 billion mixed-use project.

A spokesperson for Beulah reaffirmed these figures in July, and told *Southbank News* that demolition was now forecast to begin “in late Q3/early Q4 of this year.”

“Since the project’s launch in 2022, more than 80 per cent of apartments have sold to date,” the Beulah spokesperson said.

The council has previously indicated that completion of stage six of Southbank Boulevard partially hinges on Beulah’s project, however the developer is understood to have made it clear to the council not to hold up delivering its upgrades to the street. ●

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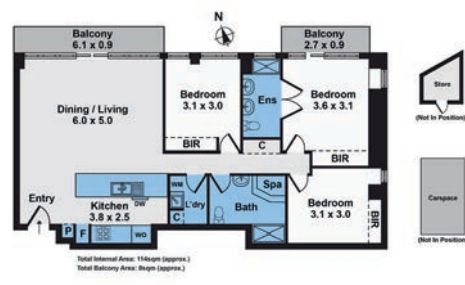
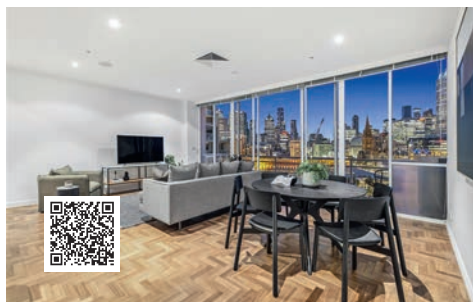
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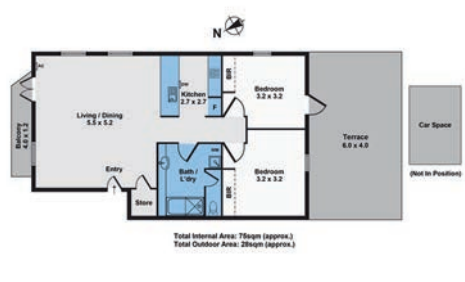
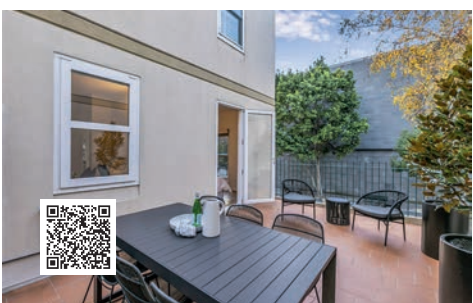
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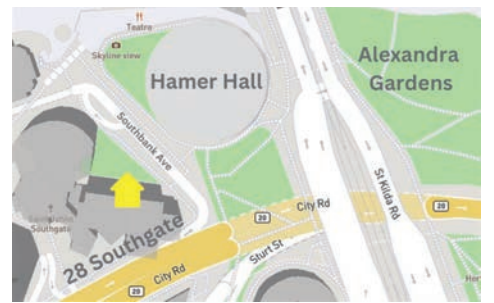
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A new Neighbourhood Watch group for Southbank

Organisers behind a new Neighbourhood Watch group are calling on Southbank residents to join and help combat increasing crime rates in the area.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



Watch group was needed. He said that should enough members join, it would be first group of its kind in the City of Melbourne municipality.

Manager of administration and members' services at Neighbourhood Watch Victoria Nikoll Peschek said that Neighbourhood Watch groups were essential in helping educate residents on how to prevent crime.

According to Ms Peschek, areas such as Southbank that were predominately made up of apartments were prone to storage area break-ins, bike theft, car crime and mail theft.

"The number one thing to prevent crime is knowing your neighbour," she said. "It's the best way for abnormal behaviour to be detected."

To help increase participation and raise awareness about Southbank's Neighbourhood Watch group Mr Milner, with the support of a \$2000 Connected Neighbourhood grant from the City of Melbourne, is organising a community event on October 20 at Sturt Street Reserve.

The event will allow community members to connect and provide information on how to join the group.

"If nobody joins up, I can't do it on my own," Mr Milner said. ●

The organiser of the group, Christopher Milner, said the impetus for establishing the initiative was a series of break-ins which occurred in Southbank in October 2024.

Within his apartment complex, he told *Southbank News* there were multiple cases of people breaking into the basement and cutting into storage units with angle grinders and stealing "whatever they could find".

"The last straw" for Mr Milner was when he was woken up by someone attempting to break into an apartment below him.

It was found to be a former tenant attempting to use a fire extinguisher to break into the apartment they were evicted from.

According to the Crime Statistics Agency, there has been an 11.3 per cent increase in crime incidents in the City of Melbourne with 27,835 incidents recorded in 2024 compared to 25,019 in 2023.

In Southbank, there have so far been 2671 criminal incidents recorded in 2024.

Mr Milner is concerned that the area has changed and said that the Neighbourhood



Construction of new park at ACCA pushed back to late 2025

The City of Melbourne says works to transform the forecourt in front of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) into a new park will begin later next year as planning continues with the site's owner Creative Victoria.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



In August last year, *Southbank News* reported that construction was expected to begin in early 2024, however its understood negotiations between the council and Creative Victoria surrounding maintenance of the new park has contributed to the delays.

State MP for Albert Park Nina Taylor confirmed last year that \$1.5 million was to be invested in the design and delivery of the green space, which spans more than a hectare, after the proposal was made in a commitment at the 2022 state election.

Ms Taylor joined residents and Deputy Lord Mayor Nick Reece in celebrating the news on August 8, with the project being undertaken between the council, Creative Victoria, and ACCA.

The council confirmed last month that it was delivering the project in a design and project management capacity on behalf of

Creative Victoria, which will be responsible for maintenance of the site upon completion.

Creative Victoria, which has responsibility for the 111 Sturt St site, said discussions around future maintenance were a regular part of planning with all project partners.

"The ACCA green space project will be a great addition to the 111 Sturt St site and will complement the broader Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation project," a Creative Victoria spokesperson said.

"As the owner of the site, Creative Victoria, is working with project partners to bring this new space to fruition."

The new park at ACCA is being funded by the Victorian Government, including through the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, as part of the Better Parks and Playgrounds Program.

The council's environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said that parks and gardens were "a key part of what makes Melbourne the most liveable city in Australia – that's why we're making sure we continue to preserve and create even more green spaces."

"In our Budget 2024–25, we committed \$29.5 million for open spaces, with work progressing on nine new parks and open spaces across the municipality," Cr Leppert said.

"Our significant investment will ensure nature in our city flourishes – improving the wellbeing of our community and creating a more resilient city in the face of climate change." ●

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El plazo para empadronarse vence el 6 de agosto. Si usted está empadronado/a, deberá votar.

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La información para empadronarse a fin de poder votar está disponible en varios idiomas.

Melbourne City Council 선거

8월 6일에 등록이 마감됩니다. 등록된 경우 투표는 의무입니다.

투표하기 위해 호주 시민일 필요는 없습니다.

투표를 위한 등록 방법에 대한 정보는 여러 언어로 가능합니다.

การเลือกตั้ง Melbourne City Council

คุณสามารถลงทะเบียนได้จนถึงวันที่ 6 สิงหาคม หากคุณลงทะเบียน คุณจะต้องลงคะแนนเสียง

คุณไม่จำเป็นต้องเป็นพลเมืองออสเตรเลีย

มีข้อมูลเกี่ยวกับวิธีการลงทะเบียนเพื่อลงคะแนนเสียงเลือกตั้งในหลายภาษา

Các cuộc bầu cử Melbourne City Council

Quý vị có đến ngày 6 tháng 8 để ghi tên vào danh sách cử tri. Nếu là cử tri, quý vị phải bỏ phiếu.

Quý vị không cần phải là công dân Úc.

Thông tin về cách thức ghi tên vào danh sách cử tri có sẵn bằng nhiều ngôn ngữ.

Melbourne City Council انتخابات بلدية مدينة

لديك حتى 6 أغسطس/آب للتسجيل في قائمة الناخبين. يجب أن تُصوّت إذا كان اسمك مسجلاً في قائمة الناخبين.

لا داع لأن تكون مواطناً أسترالياً كي تُصوّت.

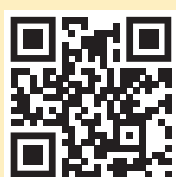
تتوافر المعلومات حول كيفية التسجيل للاقتراع بالعديد من اللغات.

Doorashooyinka Melbourne City Council

Waxaad haysataa ilaa 6 Agoosto si aad isu qorto. Haddii aadan isqorin, waxaa waajib kugu ah inaad codka bixiso.

Uma baahnid inaad tahay muwaadin Australiyaana.

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Scan the QR code for more information, visit elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au or call 1300 735 427.



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Construction of Melbourne Square's new tower is under way

Developer OSK Property has broken ground on BLVD – the latest tower as part of its \$3 billion Melbourne Square precinct in Southbank.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The 74-storey residential tower is expected to be completed in early 2028 at the site's eastern corner between Power St and Hoff Boulevard and will be built by Multiplex, which delivered the project's first two towers as part of Stage 1 of Melbourne Square in 2021.

The developer has already sold 50 per cent of the 602 apartments offered in its latest tower, which will provide much-needed residential stock to Southbank, as well as a range of amenities.

The project comprises private dining rooms, state-of-the-art gyms, a 25-metre indoor swimming pool, spa, sauna, golf simulator, entertainment and lounge spaces, and a double-storey co-working area on levels 55 and 56.

City of Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece appeared alongside representatives from OSK Property and Multiplex for an official sod turning at the site on June 13.

Cr Reece said the latest milestone for the Melbourne Square project signified "a



monumental moment for the city."

"Melbourne Square homes give residents access to all that we love about Southbank," he said.

"Arts institutions that are second to none. Proximity to the central city and to the beach – to the Botanic Gardens and, importantly, to community facilities already enjoyed by those who live in Southbank."

"BLVD will be a transformational development for Melbourne's CBD, adding critical housing stock to the market as well as important residential and local amenities."

The Melbourne Square precinct is already home to two residential towers, the



◀ Incoming Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece.

3745sqm Kennedy Park, Southbank's first full-line Woolworths supermarket, an early learning centre and a growing range of retail destinations.

A temporary basketball court has also been established at the site near the corner of Kavanagh and Balston streets for the community to enjoy while the council

finalises plans for a permanent court at the Kings Way northern undercroft.

Elsewhere in Melbourne Square, OSK Property recently unveiled *Guardian Lion* by Troy Emery – the development's newest "captivating public art installation set to grace the skies of Melbourne later this year".

OSK group executive chairman Tan Sri Ong Leong Huat said BLVD represented a major milestone for Melbourne Square, which would also feature a build-to-rent tower as part of its final stages.

The entire project will comprise six towers upon completion, with a hotel and commercial office tower also mooted.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, esteemed project partners, and diligent sales agents for their incredible work across BLVD to date and are looking forward to seeing this tower come to life," Tan Sri Ong Leong Huat said.

Regional managing director of Multiplex in Victoria and South Australia Ross Snowball said, "After delivering the first two towers, we are excited to deliver the third tower, BLVD – continuing the same community legacy we started back in 2017."

The new tower will also include carbon-neutral operation-enabled residences, gas-free design, EV charging stations and a zen garden.

BLVD is in pre-registration to pursue WELL Certification – a rating system that certifies a building's impact on health and wellbeing, and that demonstrates industry excellence in meeting stringent sustainability goals. •

Ray White Southbank team braves the winter cold in support of Vinnies CEO Sleepout

The Ray White Southbank team has made its community proud, raising more than \$19k for the St Vincent de Paul Society as part of the annual Vinnies CEO Sleepout on June 20.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Among the 253 CEOs, business owners, and community leaders braving the longest and coldest night of the year at the Timber Yard in Port Melbourne were Alex Mees, Andrew Salvo, and Michael Pastrokos from Ray White Southbank | Melbourne City.

During the event, every participant pledges to raise a minimum

sum of money to aid Vinnies in delivering vital services to those who require them, with the Ray White Southbank team surpassing their initial target of \$15k.

"It's one night for us, but it really isn't that much of a sacrifice compared to people that actually have to do this every night without choice," Alex told *Southbank News*.

"Working in the housing industry, we see one really different side of the scale compared to some less fortunate people out there who are in positions where they can't get a home, so we really wanted to get behind it and it was something we were really passionate about."

The CEO Sleepout not only raises essential funds, but also gives participants an opportunity on the night to hear from people who have utilised Vinnies services.



Participants also engage in meaningful discussions with other business owners and Vinnies volunteers, reflecting on more ways to support people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

"It's rewarding seeing what the money we raised was going

towards," Alex said.

"There was a lot of really tough conversations that make you really reassess your life, but the atmosphere was good. Everyone just wanted to learn and do better and was already talking about next year."

For Alex and her team, participating in the event was an important way of "representing the real estate industry" and to help drive change in the community.

"There's so much more we can be doing, what we raised compared to what's needed is just a drop in the ocean. We just felt that it was important for us as the leaders of our business to just step up and try and get as many people involved and let people know that change needs to happen," she said.

The Southbank community also rallied behind the Ray White team, with clients, tenants, and local contractors generously contributing to their cause.

"We are in a housing crisis and the cost-of-living has gone up, but it was really warming to see how many of our community members and clients stepped up and helped us out." •

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Authorised by: S. Hodgins-May, Australian Greens, Canberra

Council short-stay rental cap plan scrapped as government to introduce levy

The City of Melbourne will call on the state government to provide concrete evidence of how its policy to introduce a short-term accommodation rental levy would address the housing crisis.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The move comes as the council had no option but to pause moving forward with its proposal to cap the number of days a property can be rented out for short stays as it would be trumped by the state government's plan to implement a 7.5 per cent levy on short-stay bookings in Victoria starting January 1 next year.

The council had been working on its own policy since last year amid growing concerns that short-term rentals, which involved more than 4100 residential properties in Melbourne (the biggest short-term rental market in the country), was significantly impacting housing supply.

But the proposed policy was put on the backburner at the council's June 11 Future Melbourne Committee meeting after recognising the state government's levy on short-stay accommodation would effectively remove the power of local government to make laws to also regulate the same residential properties.

A motion was, however, unanimously supported by councillors to continue to engage with the state government as the levy was finalised and to monitor its impact in achieving the council's goal of relieving a tight housing rental market.

In addressing the meeting, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said short stays were having a direct effect on housing

affordability, noting "renters across Melbourne are feeling the squeeze of higher living costs [with] only four per cent of rentals costing less than \$400 a week."

"We recognise something needed to be done and we developed a local law that's almost ready to go, which, if enacted would see the City of Melbourne bring about a charge for short stays as well as implement a cap on the number of days that a property can be used," he said.

"There are fundamental issues with the housing market across this country, and Melbourne is no exception. A significant portion of the short stays are listed for month-long stays at inflated prices well above market rent, which then puts extra pressure on their traditional rental market."

Cr Reece said the council's research had shown that a regulatory approach, not a taxation approach, was "the better way to go to get the public policy outcome, which is more houses coming back into the rental market, meaning more Australians will have a roof over their head".

"We encourage the state government to release the policy work that they've done on this in this field ... let's put their policy evidence alongside the work we've done and see which is the most compelling and so then Victorians can have certainty that the approach that is being taken by the government is the right way to go."

Cr Reece added, "in the event the Victorian Government does get the passage of the new tax through the Victorian Parliament, we would ask that any revenue raised in this municipality is returned to this municipality to help us with housing."

The council's motion will also see Lord Mayor Sally Capp write to Treasurer Tim Pallas to ensure the levy legislation included a register of the location of short-stay accommodation properties and the days each are rented out.

Airbnb Australia and New Zealand head of public policy Michael Crosby said it supported a sustainable and evidence-based regulation of the short-term rental sector.

"Something needs to be done about housing – more homes need to be built – and we believe a small levy, paid for by the guest, that is funnelled into affordable housing infrastructure projects is a fair measure to help address the issue," he said.

"There is no evidence of caps or bans working – you only need to look to New York where we have seen short-term rentals effectively banned without any improvement in rental availability or affordability while costs of hotels have soared."

Mr Crosby added the state government was best placed to manage the sector "rather than 79 local government areas around Victoria coming up with their own approach."

"It is important to get the balance right, so the core issue of housing affordability is addressed, without jeopardising the economic benefits that flow from short-term rentals, with Airbnb contributing billions to the Victorian economy and helping support tens of thousands of jobs."

Also speaking last year, Strata Title Lawyers principal Tom Bacon said the new levy did nothing other than "further legitimise and entrench the practice of short-term letting in Victoria for 365 days of the year."

"Let's not mince words here – the new tax does nothing to curb the popularity of Airbnb, nor does it do anything to improve the liveability of neighbours and owners' corporations (OCs) that have a desperate problem with the noise and disruption of amenity that short-term stays bring with them," Mr Bacon said. "The new 7.5 per cent tax will be passed on to guests staying in the accommodation. The tax is modest enough to not be too expensive to dissuade customers. Airbnb know this, as do the hosts. As does the Labor government. It will

simply be business as usual."

RMIT's Centre for Urban Research Dr Liam Davies, an expert in affordable housing, primarily in rental policy, said he had reservations about whether a proposed levy on short-stay accommodation would impact the rental market or affordability, particularly in the CBD.

"Even if you got all 4000 into the system, that's not going to flood the market enough to reduce prices," he said.

"I guess we've got a question of how do we regulate this, and I think that the current approach has been we don't regulate it and we just assume that it'll sort itself out. And I don't think that's good enough - I don't think that is actually working."

Dr Davies said another question was how the government wanted to use residential housing stock, and if it was "for housing people on permanent secure basis, should we be allowing this in a free market way at all?"

"I think that maybe we should change the planning regulation and say if you want to open a bed and breakfast like any other form of business, you need a planning permit and that we're not going issue planning permits in areas that have a rental shortage," he said, adding it would be a "more legible, longer-term approach".

In Victoria, businesses covered by accommodation regulations are those accommodating more than five people, including bed and breakfasts, hotels and motels, guesthouses, self-contained accommodation, and farm stays.

Dr Davies said in terms of the City of Melbourne there would be a "variety of impacts on to the residents and the local housing markets" if short stays were to remain.

"We probably don't want them here. We have a really strong hotel sector, we have hostels. Maybe that's what we should be trying to encourage people to stay at." •

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Meet the new Lord Mayor

**CITY OF POSSIBILITIES:
AN EVENING WITH
LORD MAYOR NICHOLAS REECE**

Thursday, August 1st at 6pm
Holiday Inn Southbank, 35-47 City Rd. 7th fl.

What is Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece's Vision for Southbank?

Ask Nicholas Reece about issues impacting our community including:

- Pedestrian safety
- Traffic on Power and City Road & neighbourhood traffic plan
- Open spaces
- Safety
- Community meeting places
- Support for the local economy
- Building community connections
- Diversity and inclusivity

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Pet's Corner

A Hoppy ending

Meet Hoppy; the first rabbit to ever feature in Pet's Corner for Southbank News.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Having previously owned Shetland sheepdogs, local resident Glenn was looking for some companionship without the hassle of training a new puppy.

After doing some research, he "fell in love" with the idea of a rabbit for his Southbank apartment and headed down to the RSPCA six months ago to adopt his new friend, Hoppy.

"There were a few brown rabbits, a couple of spotty ones and another white one, but the girl there said if I took him everyone would hate me because he's their favourite," Glenn told Southbank News.

"They let Hoppy run around a bit, and I could tell by the look on his face that he was a good boy and was going to be a good friend."

While Hoppy isn't exactly a "snuggle bunny", Glenn said that it didn't take long for him to get comfortable in his new home.

"He started chewing records on day one," he said.

"I kind of know his comfort zone. I don't chase him, I don't try and pick him up, I just let him come to me. But he does jump up on the bed and wakes me up in the morning to say, 'I'm hungry now, get up!'"

Although Glenn can't take him outside due to his "squiggly, squirmy" nature, one of Hoppy's favourite spots in the apartment is out on the balcony.

"I take him out on the balcony every day and he's got a box full of dirt and straw for him to dig. He occasionally stands up on his legs and looks out through the glass," Glenn said.

"He's happy and he's confident, and that means he feels safe with me and with this place. That's the most important thing to me."

Before welcoming Hoppy into his home, Glenn was already a regular donor to the RSPCA.

Now that Hoppy has settled into life in Southbank, Glenn hopes to inspire others to consider the RSPCA when they're thinking of getting a new pet.

"Go down to the RSPCA and check out what they've got. They're fabulous people and they really look after all the pets that they have and they're keen on making sure they go to a good home," Glenn said.

"Rabbits are amazing pets, they really are. It was a brilliant decision, I'm not lonely anymore." •



Michael Pastrikos - the most recommended agent in Southbank

If you want to see your property's sale price soar far beyond your expectations, Michael is your man. He doesn't just sell homes; he orchestrates record-breaking results. His secret weapon? An extensive network of eager buyers, meticulously cultivated through genuine connections and unwavering trust. Michael's deep knowledge of the Southbank market is matched only by his dedication to his clients. He'll craft a bespoke strategy tailored to your property's unique strengths and your personal goals. He's not just a real estate agent; he's a partner in your property journey, a trusted advisor, and a fierce advocate for your best interests. Thank you Michael, for all you did for us! If you want to experience the "Michael effect" and watch your property price skyrocket above the reserve, don't hesitate. Contact the King of Southbank today. **Vendors - 307/102 Wells Street, Southbank**



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SOUTHBANK AGENT OF THE YEAR 2017. 2020. 2021. 2022. 2023 + 2024



MORE GREENERY AND OPEN SPACES TOP PRIORITY FOR SOUTHBANK COMMUNITY

Staff went out into the community to speak to people about their priorities for Southbank

What would you like to see in your neighbourhood?

Is it better roads and public transport, or cleaner streets? Perhaps it's housing support, more trees and city greening, or more cultural events.

For people in Southbank, as well as Docklands and West Melbourne, the majority of people said that increasing the number of plants, trees and better open spaces was the top priority in their neighbourhood over the next four years.

This was closely followed by the community's call for better roads, paths, public transport and parking, as well as cleaner streets, waste and graffiti in Southbank.

Across our city more than 4000 people took City of Melbourne's neighbourhood survey, sharing the issues they want prioritised in their community.

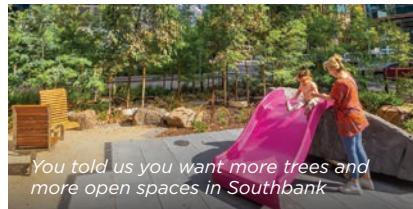
It was a record response for community consultation by City of Melbourne, demonstrating how much our communities care about the future of the neighbourhoods they live, work, study and play in.

We ran the pulse check survey in our 10 neighbourhoods to find out what mattered most to each community - giving you the chance to help shape the future of your area and guide the Council projects and services you and your neighbours value.

In Southbank, you also told us you want more focus on cleaner streets, waste and graffiti removal, and greening our city with plants, trees and improved open spaces.

Knowing what's important to our Southbank community will help us focus our efforts on these services and projects.

Some of the work that is already underway includes delivering new bicycle infrastructure, neighbourhood



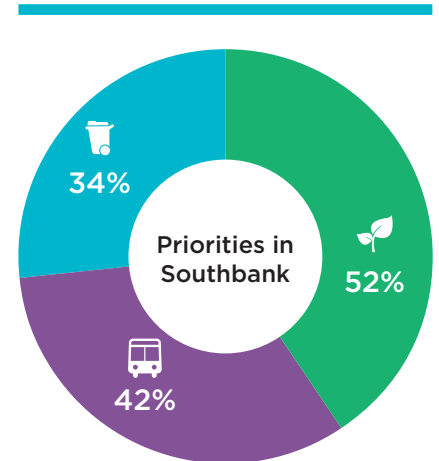
You told us you want more trees and more open spaces in Southbank

pedestrian and road safety improvements, and rolling out the Parking and Kerbside Management Plan, along with delivering a Graffiti Prevention and Management Plan which is helping keep our streets cleaner - and we know there's always more we can do.

We'll now use your priorities, ideas and feedback to inform Council's future budgets and the next four-year Council Plan 2025-2029.



Our Neighbourhood Partners at a community pop-up



- Better roads, paths, public transport and parking
- Cleaner streets, waste and graffiti removal
- More plants, trees and open spaces

* Survey participants were asked to pick their top three priorities.

What we heard across the neighbourhoods

Affordable housing and homelessness support emerged as the highest priority across all neighbourhoods. Better roads, paths, public transport and parking was also a popular priority across the board.

For more insight into the Neighbourhood Survey results, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank

Discover your Neighbourhood Portal



Find local news and events in Southbank and read more about the Neighbourhood Survey results at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank





GUIDE TO WINTER WELLBEING

Take a dip in one of our heated pools

Nurture your mind, body and spirit during the cooler months by making the most of the City of Melbourne's free and low-cost facilities and activities.

Physical activity is more than just organised exercise. Little changes like riding to work, walking to a meeting or taking the stairs can make a huge difference to your physical and mental health.

National guidelines tell us that adults should ideally be active every day. Every week, we should undertake at least 2.5 to 5 hours of moderate-intensity activity, or 1.25 to 2.5 hours of vigorous activity, or a combination of the two.

Here's how to move it your way in your neighbourhood:

WALKING OR CYCLING

Rug up and explore our parks and gardens on a leisurely walk, jog or fast-paced run. You can find maps of popular tracks, plus 135 km of on and off-road cycle paths on our website.

POOLS AND GYMS

Our recreation centres in the CBD, Carlton and North Melbourne offer a unique community vibe with friendly staff members to support your fitness journey. Explore them all to discover heated pools and top-notch gyms.

GROUP FITNESS CLASSES

Take your pick from classes for all ages and abilities including reformer pilates, circuit training, spin, dance, boxing,



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HIIT, BodyPump, yoga, meditation, AquaFit, tai chi and more at your local recreation centre.

ACCESSIBLE EXERCISE

Whether you're seeking a female-only gym session, accessible change rooms, or swimming pool hoists, our services and facilities are designed to offer everyone a welcoming workout.

Reach out to explore inclusive programs like adult swimming lessons, all-abilities touch football, tennis and cricket for people with vision impairment, and the FitSkills program for people with Down Syndrome.

TEAM SPORTS, MARTIAL ARTS, SWORDCRAFT AND MORE

Did you know there are regular swordcraft sessions in the city, with live-action battles? Search our Active Melbourne directory to find team sports galore, including basketball and volleyball.

You can even try your hand at martial arts, ultimate frisbee and dragon boating, or have a round of golf in the beautiful surrounds of Royal Park.

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We have affordable options to suit you, whether you want to enjoy casual entry, unlimited swims, personalised gym consultations or reciprocal access to all our recreation centre locations.

Members can also access hundreds of virtual classes, tailored programs, daily workouts, progress-tracking and bookings on the **Active Melbourne app**.

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.



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Council switches on Power Melbourne; Southbank up next

The City of Melbourne has installed its first community battery in the CBD as part of its Power Melbourne renewable energy program for residents and businesses, with the Boyd Community Hub in Southbank to receive the next one in July.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



Outgoing Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio attended a ceremony on Wednesday, June 26 where the first community battery at Council House on Little Collins St was officially switched on.

The council's Power Melbourne energy storage solution seeks to accelerate the city's transition to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 as it works towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2040.

The council says the initiative will also improve access to more affordable renewable energy for residents and businesses, with more batteries to be installed at Boyd Community Hub in July and Docklands' Library at the Dock later this year.

The Lord Mayor said the program was driven at giving "residents and businesses access to the benefits of renewable energy, no matter where they live."

"Power Melbourne aims to deliver lower power bills and greener energy for businesses and residents in the City of Melbourne by capturing solar energy, storing it and feeding it back into the community," Cr Capp said.

"Approximately 83 per cent of City of Melbourne residents live in apartments, without the means to install their own solar panels. This is the next step in empowering individuals to access clean, renewable, and cheaper energy."

Power Melbourne is supported through the Victorian Government's Neighbourhood Batteries

initiative and the Australian Government Community Batteries for Household Solar program.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio said, "we're empowering local communities to get the most out of their local renewable energy – strengthening their energy reliability and driving down electricity prices."

The batteries will initially be linked to a Community Benefit Fund to support local renewable projects. The pilot phase of the project will run for about 18 months and will test Power Melbourne's local energy storage model in partnership with Origin Energy – gathering insights to inform the expansion of the battery network and future retail offerings.

Executive general manager Origin Zero James Magill said battery storage would play an important role in Australia's energy transition.

"Power Melbourne is an innovative program, and we look forward to seeing the impact these three batteries can have as part of this trial," Mr Magill said.

With a combined capacity of 1.1MWh, the batteries will charge during the day when there is a higher proportion of renewable energy in the grid. Stored energy will then be released back into the grid when it's needed most – helping to support the transition to renewable energy.

Each Power Melbourne battery will be brought to life with bespoke artwork, designed by local Melbourne creatives. The first Power Melbourne battery is adorned with Let's get energised by contemporary artist Mysterious AL – a reflection on the city's urban and natural forms.

Batteries at the Boyd Community Hub and Library at the Dock will feature works by award-winning comic and printmaking artist Michael Fikaris and Amina Briggs, a young Boonwurrung/Erub/Ugar woman and emerging artist. •

For more information: participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au



Lions roar at 2024 International Parade of Nations

The 2024 International Parade of Nations took over the King's Domain parkland on June 22, kicking off the 106th Lions International Convention in Melbourne.

WORDS BY GEORGIE ATKINS



Thousands of Lions members from more than 200 different countries came together to commemorate a year of extensive community service and to showcase the diverse array of cultures, traditions, and talents that enrich the global community.

The parkland was transformed into a vibrant spectacle of colourful costumes, elaborate floats, and lively music, with a crowd of 11,000 participants coming together on the day.

The convention, a yearly gathering of Lion leaders and global influencers, provides a platform for sharing insights, reconnecting with colleagues, forging new friendships, and celebrating their collective dedication to service. •

ALPHABARBERS

ALPHA BARBERS

ALPHA BARBERS has now re-opened on Scott Alley after a brief break while construction works took place.

Just a short walk from Swanston Street, head down Flinders Lane, then onto Scott Alley to find yourself traditional, quality men's grooming services - no appointments necessary!

📍 Shop 6 Scott Alley, 241 Flinders Ln

📘 [alphabarbersmelbourne](https://www.alphabarbersmelbourne.com.au)

📷 [@alphabarbersmelbourne](https://www.instagram.com/alphabarbersmelbourne)

☎ 03 9042 1154

Construction partner:

CYP-BS00417

City of Melbourne and Citywide sell waste business to Cleanaway

The City of Melbourne and Citywide have announced their decision to sell the cleaning operator's waste business to Cleanaway Waste Management Limited (Cleanaway).

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Lord Mayor Sally Capp appeared alongside Citywide CEO Chris Campbell and Cleanaway's CEO and managing director Mark Schubert on June 24 at the Dynon Rd Waste Transfer Station in West Melbourne.

The council, which owns Citywide, said it had worked with the company's board to identify a buyer for the business, with Melbourne-based Cleanaway chosen as the best operator to deliver world-class waste collection services.

The deal includes Cleanaway's \$110 million purchase of Citywide's waste and recycling business and assets, and a \$35 million investment to redevelop the aging waste transfer station at Dynon Rd in West Melbourne. The redevelopment will be boosted by a further \$10 million from the

City of Melbourne.

The sale is subject to customary conditions precedents, including Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) regulatory approval.

The council said the surplus proceeds from the sale to Cleanaway would provide "a once-in-a-generation opportunity" to establish a City of Melbourne Future Fund, which will deliver strategic projects that benefit the community for decades to come.

The Lord Mayor said the creation of a future fund was "a milestone for our city – a fund that will help deliver intergenerational

city projects."

"High-quality waste and recycling management is essential for our city – and we're confident Cleanaway can ensure that Melbourne remains a clean and welcoming place for our community," Cr Capp said.

"Through this sale, we will partner with Cleanaway to build the best state-of-the-art waste transfer hub in the country to meet the needs of the fastest-growing city in Australia."

"We don't take this decision lightly and have undertaken extensive analysis to ensure that benefits will flow back to the community."

As a condition of the sale, Cleanaway will enter into a 35-year lease of the Dynon Rd waste transfer station and partner with the council to deliver a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility with environmentally sustainable design.

The Dynon Rd waste transfer station is one of the largest of its kind in Victoria – and the City of Melbourne said it is working to ensure it remains at the forefront of waste management and recycling in Australia.

Cleanaway specialises in managing municipal, commercial, and industrial waste services in Melbourne, and the council said that services for residents would be improved through investments in new technology to "better accept and consoli-

date waste", including general household rubbish, organics, glass, and electronics.

"We are looking forward to welcoming the Citywide waste team to Cleanaway and building strong partnerships with their customers and councils," Mr Schubert said.

"As Australia's largest resource recovery and waste management business, we will support these efforts through our extensive experience, commitment to safety, advanced facilities, and technology."

"Redeveloping the Dynon Rd site into a modern, community-friendly waste transfer station in partnership with the City of Melbourne will create a best-in-class facility. This will serve residents and businesses while enhancing sustainability and waste circularity in the Melbourne area."

Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the City of Melbourne, which was established in 1995.

Its CEO Chris Campbell said its waste and recycling business had been an integral part of the company and its culture since it was formed, with a number of the current team transferring from the City of Melbourne then as inaugural employees.

"We are pleased that employees will be able to continue their career, and bring their experience, know-how and commitment to servicing Melbourne's inner-city amenity, with a leader in the sector," Mr Campbell said. ●

The words we use matter

Two weeks ago, my office in St Kilda was vandalised.

WORDS BY
JOSH BURNS



Windows were smashed, and two fires were recklessly lit outside on the street.

Those fires seriously put the residents who live in apartments above my office at risk.

Local businesses on Barkly St were unable to trade the following days, as they didn't have Wi-Fi or phone connection due to the damage.

For the Jewish community – the devil horns drawn on my head were reminiscent of awful historical memories.

The broader St Kilda community was left shocked and appalled.

The attack demonstrated a confronting truth in modern Australian politics.

There is a difference between reaching out to your MP to

discuss political disagreements or issues that matter to you and committing acts of violence or intimidation.

We are so lucky to live in a vibrant and multicultural community like Macnamara.

My own grandparents came to Australia as refugees in search of opportunity, freedom, and community. They got that and so much more.

People move to Australia from all across the world. They come here because they know they are free to be who they are and participate in our wonderful democracy.

Our community of Macnamara is a beautiful example of that.

I want to make a few things clear:

Vandalising my office or any of my colleagues, is not going to bring us closer to peace in the Middle East.

The confronting reality is, we don't have that kind of leverage here in Australia.

Nothing changed except that we now need to clean broken glass and red paint off the inside walls of the office.

What the vandalism of my office did do is scare the local community, harm political debate and block that people in Macnamara who need urgent assistance with government services from accessing myself or my staff.

Looking at the world today it's very easy to feel defeated.

While it sometimes feels like there's not much in our control, the one thing that we can do to make a difference is treat one another with kindness, respect, and empathy.

As a leader I see that as my responsibility. The words we use as political leaders matter. The



language we use to discuss issues which are so personal to so many Australians matters.

Most importantly, the way we treat one another in Canberra should reflect the best of our diverse and multicultural society – embracing our differences through respect, understanding and compassion.

Parliament should set an example to the Australian community, that we can be better at listening, better at understanding and better at respecting different views and opinions.

While peace in the Middle East seems further away than ever, we must hold onto hope for better days.

While our social media feeds are echo chambers, we can lead by example and reject the idea that political debates must be in absolutes.

We must not forget what Australia means to so many people, a place of understanding, acceptance, and respect.

That is what I try to hold onto. Even though it seems so simple, it's essential.

As always, my office and my team are always able to discuss issues which matter to you, and please feel free to send me an email.

Josh Burns MP is the Federal Member for Macnamara.

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NGV unveils blockbuster ancient Egyptian exhibition

The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) presents *Pharaoh*, a landmark exhibition celebrating ancient Egyptian art and culture spanning 3000 years, running until October 6.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



In collaboration with the British Museum as part of NGV's *Melbourne Winter Masterpieces*, the exhibition features more than 500 artefacts loaned from the British Museum's prestigious collection, including sculptures, tomb and temple structures, coffins, funerary objects, and a display ancient Egyptian jewellery.

Curated specifically for the NGV, *Pharaoh* is the British Museum's largest international exhibition in its 270-year history, with many of the works on display in Australia for the first time.

"*Pharaoh* will introduce a new generation of visitors to the perennially fascinating visual culture of ancient Egypt through an unprecedented exhibition of sculpture, architecture, jewellery and more from the British Museum in London," NGV director, Tony Elmwood AM said.

"The NGV's exhibition places precedence on the exceptional craftsmanship of the ancient Egyptians, highlighting their refined artistic sensibility and tech-



nical skill."

Covering the period from the first Dynasty to the Roman era, *Pharaoh* delves into the lives, myths, and iconography of Egypt's successive rulers such as Tutankhamun, Ramses II, Queen Nefertari, Khufu (builder of the Great Pyramid of Giza), and foreign leaders such as Alexander the Great.

In addition to *Pharaoh*, the NGV has curated the free exhibition, *Ancient Egypt for Kids*, designed to engage young audiences through interactive activities exploring Egyptian art and culture.



The gallery will also host NGV *Friday Nights* throughout the exhibition period, offering a unique, after-dark experiences for visitors each week from June to October.

"*Pharaoh* is the largest ancient Egyptian exhibition ever mounted in this country, and we are proud to showcase this international exclusive in Melbourne," Minister for Tourism, Sport, and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos said.

"We're proud to back this monumental exhibition, which marks 20 years of backing blockbuster art and culture exhibitions that have captivated audiences of all ages and drawn millions of visitors from across the state, country and beyond." •

For more information:
ngv.vic.gov.au



Acclaimed Shakespeare reimagining premieres at Malthouse

Following successful seasons internationally, *Macbeth (An Undoing)* is set to debut in Australia at Malthouse Theatre on July 5.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



While Shakespeare's *Macbeth* is widely known, this adaptation by playwright Zinnie Harris offers a fresh perspective, focusing on Lady Macbeth.

In Shakespeare's original, Lady Macbeth begins as a driving force of the story, but later grapples with guilt, hallucinations, and sleepless torment.

Starring Bojana Novakovic as Lady Macbeth and Johnny Carr as Macbeth, *Macbeth (An Undoing)* aims to bridge the gap for audiences.

"Whether or not you've done the play before, you don't realise how embedded plays are in your subconscious, so there's



these new kind of opportunities presenting themselves and lots of discussions around what's intended," Johnny Carr told *Southbank News*.

A multi-award-winning playwright renowned for her feminist reinterpretations of theatrical classics, Mr Carr said that he hoped Ms Harris's production served as a "conversation starter".

"I really think it's going to engage a lot of people, and I think there's going to be a lot of rich discourse and debate around this work," Johnny said.

"The original is such a popular play, it makes sense to crack it open and interrogate it. I think it's a very brave undertaking to essentially take this beloved piece of theatre and think about how else we can view this in 2024 – it's a really rich offering to the Australian theatre landscape."

Directed by Malthouse's artistic director Matt Lutton, this production also marks his 30th directing effort for the theatre.

"It's a brilliant ensemble, we've got a really varied range of backgrounds and ranges and experience levels, which is great." •

For more information:
malthousetheatre.com.au





 **PHOTOGRAPHY
STUDIES COLLEGE**

LEITH YOUNG

Leith Young embarks on new chapter at PSC

While Leith Young has worked in trades for most of his life, he has finally chosen to follow his passion and embark on a photography career.

**WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS**



Currently enrolled in his first semester at Photography Studies College (PSC), Leith is balancing his studies remotely while running his business from Hobart.

"I used to do a bit of photography in college when we were using black and white film. But since my daughter was born in 2011, it's been more of a focus," Leith said.

"Street photography is what I like to do for fun, I like black and white, high contrast things. I think in my photos you can sort of recognise what it is, but it's abstracted with light and shadow. It's just about creating something beautiful."

For Leith, photography has served as an outlet for expressing his creativity while managing the demands of work and family.

Now, he aims to hone his skills at PSC in pursuit of a professional photography career.

"It's kind of like a little break from reality. If I've got a Saturday where I can just go and shoot and spend time out in the city, it's just really relaxing," Leith told *Southbank News*.

"I've worked full-time since I was 17 and I'm 42 now, and I've never really had something to go and do to bring me out of that world. So doing this, it's a nice respite. There's no deadline, there's no expectations, I can just do what I want."

Despite the challenges of remote study, Leith enjoys the occasional visit to Melbourne for student exhibitions.

The latest showcase from Leith's cohort, titled *FRESH 2024*, is currently being exhibited at the PSC Captured Gallery in Southgate.

"I've learned a lot of stuff just by myself, but there's a huge amount that I still need to learn so this is great for a bit of networking and feedback from people that understand the industry, and to give me the confidence to go forward into a career," he said.

"At the end of the day, it's nice to just get feedback that I'm headed in the right direction. Even though I enjoy what I create, it's nice to have a bit of validation from people that I should keep going."

FRESH 2024 will run at the PSC Captured Gallery until July 9. •



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Image by Fiona Cull

 **PHOTOGRAPHY
STUDIES COLLEGE**

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COURSES**



Sky-high approval

The green light has again been given to construct Melbourne's tallest building in Southbank.

A revamped design of Australia 108 was approved by Planning Minister Matthew Guy last month, after the original approval design was found to be intruding into airspace for aircraft using Essendon Airport.

The building was one of two approved by Mr Guy in Southbank in June, having also given the green light to a new tower at 84-90 Queensbridge St.

While Mr Guy referred to the building in his press release as Australia 108, it is set to become "the building formally known as Australia 108", given it is no longer a 108-storey structure.

Developer World Class Land avoided using the name in its press release.

In describing the new version of Australia 108, Mr Guy said the central city was the right place for buildings of this nature.

"Australia 108 will be the first 100-storey building in the Southern Hemisphere. At a height of 319 metres above ground it fits within relevant aviation regulations, and will include 1105 apartments," Mr Guy said.

"When completed Australia 108 will be the most striking building on Melbourne's skyline and a great example of the strength of homegrown Melbourne architecture." •



Metro Tunnel architecture in the spotlight

Melbourne architecture enthusiasts were treated to an insiders' view of the Metro Tunnel's spectacular new train stations during Melbourne's Open House weekend.

The project is the biggest upgrade to Melbourne's train network since the City Loop opened in 1981.

But it also involves the creation of five major new buildings that will become city landmarks – the tunnel's five new underground train stations – designed by leading Australian and international architects.

The stations' lead designer Ivan Harbour, from RSHP, and Melbourne architect Ingrid Bakker, of Hassel, were on hand to talk about what the stations aimed to give back to Melbourne before an audience of more than 400 people.

The duo talked about collaborating to design the stations and their surrounding areas, which aim to give Melbournians a sense of pride and place in these newly created public spaces.

Each station is designed to fit within its particular location. For example, Anzac Station's timber and green canopy reflects the leafy surrounds of St Kilda Rd, while Arden Station's massive brick arched entrance is a nod to the suburb's industrial past.

State Library Station entrance's grand columns reflect its namesake building opposite, while passengers entering Town Hall Station from City Square will step into a public "square" beneath a square.

The stations will also feature major artworks from renowned Australian artists including Patricia Piccinini and Maree Clarke.

The architects spoke about designing the stations to be durable parts of the city's built environment, not just "of the moment".

Despite being mostly underground, the stations have been designed to be open and airy, flooded with natural light from the streets above.

In response to a question from the audience, Harbour explained the stations' colour palette was picked as a tribute to a Melbourne sunrise.

The vibrant pinks, yellows and oranges can be seen throughout all of the stations along the new line in features such as the huge yellow drum lights and pink noise reduction baffles.

When asked what their favourite station was, Bakker and Harbour agreed saying "They're like kids, they're all good".

With two stations – Arden and Parkville – already complete, the Metro Tunnel is set to open in 2025, one year ahead of schedule. •

South Melbourne Market's success: a tale of community

“

Why is the South Melbourne Market flourishing when others like Prahran and Queen Victoria Market (QVM) seem to be losing their way and their local visitors?

”

The South Melbourne Market is slowly becoming the best village market in Melbourne, and it's a testament to the vibrancy of the community of traders that make South Melbourne unique.

There is still a long way to go to realise the potential of the South Melbourne Market, but our visitor numbers and feedback in our surveys indicate that we are on the right track.

While the City of Melbourne's new development of QVM seems focused on attracting international tourist attention, South Melbourne focuses on serving the local community and Melbourne shoppers. This principle lies at the heart of our decisions, ensuring the market's relevance and appeal to those who call South Melbourne and the surrounding areas home.

The traders have a community-centric approach that brings a sense of belonging and ensures a consistent and loyal custom-



er base, creating a sustainable and thriving marketplace.

Sustainability is another cornerstone of our approach. We maintain high occupancy rates and support an eclectic retail mix by ensuring that rents remain manageable. This balance ensures something for everyone at the market, from everyday essentials to unique artisanal products. We don't always get this right, but over the past four years, traders have received unprecedented levels of support from the community and ratepayers.

The charm of the South Melbourne Market lies in its unique character. The old, quirky building, with its strange slopes and non-compliant features, adds to the market's shopping adventure. It creates an unforgettable shopping experience, full of nostalgia and vibrancy. Our market's quirks have become part of its identity and charm, evoking a sense of history and tradition.

Our traders are the heart and soul of the market. From family-run businesses like Georgie's Harvest to standout cafes such as Proper & Sons and Canteen, and generational favourites like Rod's, SM Dim Sims and Moses & Co. These traders and their connections to the community provide great products and services, making the South Melbourne Market what it is. No-one can take credit for the brilliance they bring.

But let's not drink the Kool-Aid too strongly – challenges remain. Overcrowding during peak times, traffic congestion,

and concerns about the market becoming too upscale amid a cost-of-living crisis are issues the market's board must address.

In my view, the next step is to enhance accessibility and connectivity. Critical projects include extending and connecting the tram stop to the market, opening up the north-facing York St side, and developing the York St car park with Melbourne's best food hall. These initiatives will set the standard and widen the increasing gap between South Melbourne and QVM and Prahran Market.

The success of the South Melbourne Market is one of continuous improvement and focused traders. When we keep our vision for the future simple and stay out of the way of the traders, great things will come. We value your input and encourage you to share your ideas for improving the market. Together, we can make the South Melbourne Market even better. •

Marcus Pearl is a board member of the South Melbourne Market, a Councillor of the City of Port Phillip and former Mayor.

Cr Marcus Pearl

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP
HELLO@MARCUSPEARL.COM



Southbank's winter wonderland with gardening, games, and green fashion

Winter has well and truly arrived in our neighbourhood, and the Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) community gardeners have welcomed it.

WORDS BY RAHUL SUJAN
& SEEMA MISRA THAKUR

After a few weeks of rest and rejuvenation, our garden beds are now ready for winter planting. The gardening team has been busy raking and sweeping leaves from around the beds, weeding, applying mulch, and fertilising seedlings with worm juice in preparation for winter.

To make our worm farms more comfortable during the colder months, we have added two new worm mats. We welcome all suggestions and comments and look forward to catching up.

Winter days call for indoor activities and warm interactions with friends, accompanied by the ubiquitous Melbourne coffee and hot chocolate. In the winter spirit, on the first Saturday of the month, 16 members of the SSG gathered to play the Adaptation Game (TAG) while our dedicated gardeners tended to the outdoor gardens.

The TAG game is a playful and interactive way to discuss climate adaptation in extreme weather situations and educate us on preparedness for weather-related emergencies.

During the two-and-a-half-hour gameplay, the four teams role-played, time-travelled a few decades into the future, and worked out the best ways to address climate events and connect with our neighbours in high-rise buildings. In the coming months, this game will be open to more community members and all residents of the buildings.

On June 22, Jo Carney of the sustainable fashion brand Audrey and Grace presented an enlightening session on ethical and environmentally friendly fashion choices. The event delved into the realities of the fast fashion industry, offering insights on adopting slow fashion practices and supporting a predominantly female workforce.

Jo Carney covered topics such as the definition of sustainable fashion, her journey towards it, the contrast between fast and slow fashion, and the impact of choices and mindset on sustainability. She highlighted that Australians buy an average of 56 new clothing items annually, making Australia the world's largest per capita consumer of textiles, with over 200,000 tonnes of clothing ending up in landfills each year.

The event featured a display of sustainable clothing options and concluded with



a Q&A session, encouraging participants to make conscious fashion choices and be part of the solution to fast fashion.

Focusing on sustainability and fashion, here are eight simple tips for staying stylish and sustainable with your winter fashion in Melbourne:

Use natural fibres: wool, cotton, bamboo for warmth and sustainability.

Shop second-hand: explore op-shops and vintage stores for unique finds.

Support local designers: buy from ethical, local fashion brands and designers.

Invest in quality: choose durable, long-lasting winter clothing pieces.

Repair and upcycle: fix or transform old garments into new favourites.

Wash with care: wash less, use cold water, and air dry.

Host clothing swaps: swap clothes with friends to refresh your wardrobe.

Responsible decluttering: donate or recycle unwanted clothes responsibly in Melbourne.

Upcoming events

We have no scheduled events for July but stay tuned for events in August to round out the winter.

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



STATE MP (ALBERT PARK)

Pill testing trial to keep people safe – and save lives

Our Victorian Government will trial pill testing, also known as drug checking, starting this summer.

Pill testing is all about saving lives and changing behaviour by providing people with the health and safety information they need. It's especially urgent now.

In 2022, Victoria experienced a rise in drug-related emergency department admissions and 46 overdose deaths involving novel synthetic drugs. Additionally, Victorian paramedics responded to

more drug overdoses at festivals in the first three months of this year than in all of last year.

The mobile service will launch at the start of the festival season and will attend up to 10 music festivals and events throughout the trial period. Participants will not be told that any drug is safe to consume. Instead, they will be informed about the drug's contents and have a conversation with an expert about the consequences and choices they face.

These conversations are crucial for reducing harm. Most clients using pill testing services in the

ACT had never previously discussed drug use with a professional, and 90 per cent said they would share the information with their peers.

Amendments to the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* will allow the trial to proceed with protections for the service, its staff, and its clients, ensuring no-one is breaking the law by operating or using the testing service.

The possession and supply of illicit drugs will not be decriminalised outside the service. Police powers outside the drug-checking

service will remain unchanged.

Victoria will consult with police and other authorities to establish a fair and feasible arrangement that encourages people to use the service. Relevant guidelines and policies will be clearly communicated before the trial starts.

While the trial aims to save lives, reduce drug harm, and improve public health at music festivals, it also seeks to reduce pressure on frontline services and enhance Victoria's drug surveillance capabilities. Pill testing offers real-time surveillance, boosting our existing programs

and enabling early detection and rapid assessment of new synthetic drugs.

The Department of Health will collaborate with agencies and major events to develop a Safer Music Festivals Framework, helping organisers and providers understand their responsibilities in keeping patrons safe.

This trial is one of many health-led drug harm initiatives being delivered by the Labor Government, with the state's multi-year \$95 million State-wide Action Plan to reduce opiate drug deaths and harm now under way. •

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Marble in Melbourne



One of Melbourne's classic interwar buildings is the Manchester Unity, which still dominates the corner of Collins and Swanston streets. Designed in 1932 for a major commercial organisation, it combines commercial gothic and Art Deco styling.

On the ground floor is a shopping arcade, distinguished by a series of friezes, as well as the first escalator in Melbourne which displays more friezes as shoppers arise to the upper floor (now enclosed).

The figures in the friezes were in severe black and white flat-relief carving on marble. They were all finished in a Greco-Roman style and the male figures were nude (with strategically placed fig leaves) and depicted such items as a loan for a home, education, rendering public service, strength, social, self-dependence, tending the sick and defending widows and orphans.

The frieze "financial security", shown here, depicts golden coins cascading generously from the Horn of Plenty.

The building contained 125 tons of marble, and some of the blocks, weighing seven tonnes each, were hoisted by compressed air cranes, a massive job at the time.

This specialist task was carried out by the firm of Wm Train of Sturt St, experts in marble, slate, granite and stone from Australian quarries.

Train had relocated from Adelaide in

1889 and set up business in Moray St and City Rd, but then moved to Sturt St as demand for building materials increased in a booming Melbourne.

Sturt Street, near the military reserve, was very primitive at the time, not long since it had been a swamp that consisted of a corduroy (or logs) road, similar to a plank road (or raised wooden pathway).

Train developed various marble granite, slate deposits, used on many of the fine public and private buildings in Australian capital cities, New Zealand, London, and China. Train relocated to Footscray in 1938 but left behind a great legacy of commercial, humanitarian and industrial works from his premises in Southbank.

"Meet you at the M.U corner at quarter to eight", became a catchcry for shoppers and friends in Melbourne. ●

Robin Grow

PRESIDENT - AUSTRALIAN ART DECO & MODERNISM SOCIETY

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OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Here today, and gone tomorrow

More builders and developers will choose to "go bust" instead of being held accountable to owners' corporations (OCs) for dodgy building defects.

More consumer protection is required for Victoria's \$343 billion property sector in these uncertain times, as higher construction materials costs begin to bite, and higher interest rates continues to take the wind out of the sails of the booming property market.

More than 1.6 million Victorians (25 per cent of the population) now live or work in an OC building. However, light-touch building standards and the Victorian Building Authority's failure to use its enforcement powers over the past 20 years has led to a decline in building standards for high-rise

apartment buildings.

An OC recently found out the hard way, when the builder it had taken to VCAT for building defects slipped into voluntary liquidation shortly before the hearing commenced, leaving the OC out of pocket and unable to chase any other wrongdoers in the matter.

In my view, this is a cautionary tale for consumers and investors of apartment buildings and the lessons ought to be heeded by other OCs, otherwise the same thing could happen to them.

Ascot Constructions Pty Ltd [In Liq.] constructed a three-storey residential apartment building at Caroline Springs in 2011. Soon after the occupancy of the brand-new building, complaints about defects, including water leaks, blocked pipes and flammable cladding emerged.

It took the OC three years to bring proceedings against the builder for damages

in respect to the defects and a further three years before the claim was finally set to be determined at a hearing in VCAT.

The architect and building surveyor had also been joined to the claim but had ultimately acted to settle their share of the liability before the hearing outside of the proceedings.

The OC was left with around \$2 million in out-of-pocket costs, and the building company tipped itself into voluntary liquidation shortly before the commencement of the VCAT hearing.

This meant that VCAT was left with no option but to strike out the OC's claim, leaving it with no way of recovering the outstanding costs from the builder.

In any building defects dispute with a builder, the homeowner should ensure to file proceedings as soon as possible, and to prepare all expert reports so as to be ready for a final hearing as soon as possible too.

However, it is important during the proceedings to be open and flexible in negotiations and settlements because of the unavoidable danger of the respondents going into liquidation.

In the meantime, if a defect arises in your building be sure to use the small window of opportunity to bring a claim, do your due diligence on the ability of the builder and other concurrent wrongdoers to meet the costs of the claim, and remain open minded and practical when conducting negotiations and settlements. ●

Tom Bacon

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SOUTHBANK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Southbank receives more lip service from the council

Well, here we are at the end of the financial year and the City of Melbourne has handed down its budget for 2024/25. And, once again, it's somewhat underwhelming from a Southbank perspective.

The key projects for Southbank are again given a cursory allotment for so called "consultation and design". The key areas which have incessantly been overlooked for many years is the final stage six of Southbank Boulevard (join-

ing the boulevard to the river), Southbank Promenade and the elephant in the room – the City Rd upgrades.

Year in, year out cursory amounts are allocated for this so called "design". But your Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) committee is becoming increasingly frustrated with the lip service the council is giving us. Needless to say, we will keep calling them out and holding them to account.

Southbank Promenade and Southbank Boulevard are classic examples of the council dragging its feet. The promenade is one of

the main go-to areas for tourists visiting our city, yet it is so tired.

In comparison to other waterside precincts around Australia, it makes us look like a joke. It's very disappointing that the council doesn't see this. I wonder if there will be any vigour from the potential new council at the end of this year to actually give it the attention it deserves.

While there are significant allocations for the new Normanby Road Reserve proposal, these funds were already assigned over the past few budgets. However, it will be interesting to see how long it takes the council to actual-

ly bring that project to fruition.

Since the budget council meeting was the last for Lord Mayor Sally Capp, we thanked her for her contributions and easy access for our group. We were able to reach her on her personal mobile when we needed her.

Sally also established the quarterly meeting with residents group presidents, which was an initiative SRA promoted to her when she was running for Lord Mayor two terms ago. We were delighted she took that on board and established the group.


Our SRA app is nearing completion. The business community

is itching to be able to get their offers in front of our community. Watch this space.

Without membership our advocacy falls on deaf ears. If you are wanting to support us, we would love you to join. The link can be found on our website: southbank-residents.org.au ●

Tony Penna

PRESIDENT

 Southbank Residents' Association



Join Southbank3006 for an evening with Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

Southbank3006 will host new Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece as part of the "Making Southbank A Neighbourhood of Possibilities" event on August 1 at 6pm.

Cr Reece has taken over as our Lord Mayor following Sally Capp's decision to stand down. We are entering a critical period as the council embarks upon the final months of its planning framework ahead of the next election. The existing plan has at its core, the creation of a "city of possibilities" – this plan was developed before COVID struck, derailing much of it. The original concept is as relevant today as ever and perhaps more so.

In today's fast-paced world, it often feels like we're bombarded with crises from every direction. Cost of living, climate change, mental health, aged care, political unrest, or global pandemics, the constant barrage of alarming headlines can leave us feeling overwhelmed and powerless. Victims of "click bait" fodder.

This "crisis fatigue," erodes our sense of resilience and leaves us feeling disheartened. However, amid the chaos lies the opportunity for communities to come together, build resilience, and navigate turbulent times with strength and solidarity.

So how do we cultivate resilience when everything around us seems like a crisis?

Our goal should be to transform Southbank into a resilient neighbourhood of possibilities, where everyone can thrive, innovate, and contribute to a prosperous, inclusive community. On August, Southbank3006 will host an opportunity for the community to hear from and respond to Nick about his vision for City of Possibilities including:

Delivering public open spaces whether it is the ACCA Forecourt, Normanby Rd project or the undercroft.

Promoting sustainable living by finding achievable solutions for strata living whether waste management, renewable energy, and transport.

Embracing low traffic neighbourhoods and a traffic management plan for Southbank.

Pedestrian safety – balancing personal mobility, cars, and pedestrians.

Delivering the basics – garbage, graffiti, safety, roads and drains when the costs are rising, and the rates are capped.

Supporting local businesses and innovation to create the economy of the future. What resources are needed, can Council work to stimulate this locally?

Prioritising education and lifelong learning – unlocking the power of the major education and arts facilities in Southbank to engage with the Southbank community particularly for long term older residents. How can council assist?

Building strong community connections – strong community connections are vital for a resilient neighbourhood. The Council's Neighbourhood model is providing the green shoots to stimulate that, but it cannot be a passive activity. We all need to actively engage with it enabling its potential to bridge the service delivery gaps in our community and within the vertical villages in which we live. Taking the neighbourhood model to the next level and what that involves.



Promoting diversity, inclusivity, learning and understanding by experiencing the history and culture bringing our community alive. How can we make this happen?

Nick Reece, as Lord Mayor, is joining us on August 1 at 6pm at the Holiday Inn Southbank (35-47 City Rd) to discuss how the council can deliver its goals for another four years in Southbank.

Making Southbank a neighbourhood of possibilities requires vision, commitment, and collaboration by residents and the council. Come learn and let your voice be heard. •

David Hamilton

PRESIDENT
COMMUNITY@
SOUTHBANK3006.COM



APARTMENT LIVING

Living in an apartment is complex, so ask Commercial Facility Services a question

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

WORDS BY
VAN HUYNH - CONTRIBUTOR
COMMERCIAL FACILITY SERVICES

Dulan asked us: The AirBnB next door is annoying me what should I do?

A: If the AirbnB is breaking apartment complex rules, like having parties, making excessive noise beyond EPA guidelines or even vaping/smoking in the common areas, we suggest lodging a complaint directly to AirbnB to take appropriate disciplinary action on the guests and/or it's host. If AirbnB isn't able to solve your complaint, you may need to lodge a formal complaint via the owners' corporation (OC) manager.

Alma asked us: Our rubbish chutes are constantly getting blocked. How do we avoid this from happening all the time?

A: From our experience, most bin chute blockages are avoidable. Unfortunately, many blockages are a result of residents taking shortcuts to dispose of their rubbish or aren't clear on how to use it. As a start, educating residents with signage on the bin chute doors (with photos) and in different languages on what not to do can be coupled with email notifications (via your building's resident portal) can prevent many blockages. The signs and emails should mention not overloading the bin chute, to use the appropriate bagging, refrain from disposing bulky items down the chutes and ensuring cardboard is flat-packed and taken to the ground level. If you feel that your rubbish may get stuck in the bin chute, it's best to take it down to the bin room manually. It's better to be safe than sorry. If you notice residents using the bin chute incorrectly, it's helpful to kindly point it out to make them aware of the issue and to prevent inconveniencing everyone else. It's a community after all.

Gabriel asked us: I am about to move into an apartment. Are pets allowed?

A: OCs can't object to residents having pets, however they can ask you to fill out a form to "register" your pet for administration, OH&S and complaint management purposes. The type of information requested can vary from building to building but typically include breed, type of pet, age, vaccination status and the like. The forms are usually simple and are intended to assist with managing and administering pets within the building. It's good to note separately your local council's mandate registration of dogs and cats. If you have any enquiries regarding this process, it's best to contact your local council.

True story

Our team was completing a building inspection and nearly completed it in record time until they got to level 2. The team walked through the hallway and enjoyed the rain falling on their head and tropical rainforest weather like until they realised:

1. They weren't in the external communal courtyard area
2. Raindrops shouldn't be falling from the hallway
3. It was 12pm but pitch black

The building management team immediately thought to check the floor above. It turns out a resident who recently moved in didn't have their drain hose connected correctly to their washing machine. Building management arranged an electrician to complete a make safe, due to water seeping through the light fitting, a plumber to install the drain hose professionally and structural drying to prevent mould and rising damp in the hallway. Our brief encounter with a man-made rain forest was short-lived but very interesting.

Have a question that you would like answered? Submit yours to admin@commercialfs.net. •

FEDERAL POLITICS

From Southbank to Canberra, it's an honour to represent you

I'm Steph Hodgins-May, and I've recently been sworn in as your new federal Greens Senator.



I'm thrilled to be representing you and bringing forward the issues that are most important to the Southbank community.

I have lived in the inner south for more than 10 years now, raising my two young kids. My family and I love the diversity of the community and everything it has to offer, from the Arts Precinct to Southbank Promenade, and all of our local parks and markets.

Our community really is one of the best places in the world to live. As your representative, I will work together with you to keep it that way, to improve the liveability of our area, protect our essential community services and make housing affordable in our community.

As a Greens senator, I am fighting to tackle the big issues affecting us all. It's never been clearer that while you struggle to afford rent, groceries, dental care, childcare and keep your head above water in a cost-of-living crisis, the major parties continue to back big corporations and billionaires.

We need bold solutions to these systemic problems, which is why we're proudly taking up the fight for a rent freeze, for free childcare, to drive down grocery prices, to get dental and mental healthcare into Medicare, and to end handouts to fossil fuel corporations and wealthy property investors.

I've taken up the role of Greens federal spokesperson for early childhood education and care. I'll be focusing on fixing a system that has long been broken, where parents and carers are paying exorbitant fees and waitlists are too long. Childcare should be free and accessible for all (just like school is!) not just for those who can afford it. The Greens are the only party

standing up for free and universal early childhood education and care, and fighting for a better deal for educators who do the important work of caring for and educating our littlest ones.

Let's work together – please contact me, I want to understand what matters to you and your family. Together we can build a better future for our children and our community.

You can find my contact details at senatorsteph.com. I look forward to hearing from you. •

For more information:
senatorsteph.com



Quiz



1. What was the title of the political magazine founded by John F. Kennedy Jr.?
2. America Ferrera (pictured) starred as the titular character in which 2006 comedy drama series?
3. On what date will the Melbourne City Council elections take place?
4. Responsible for an artwork chosen as 'the Face of Melbourne' by Tourism Victoria in 1996, Southbank's *Ophelia* was created by which artist?
5. *I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here* and *Easy Street* are songs from which Broadway musical?
6. According to the City of Melbourne, how many people live in Southbank: A) 26,166 B) 27,724 or C) 29,134?
7. Which US jazz musician had the nickname 'Bird' or 'Yardbird'?
8. NGV International's Winter Masterpieces celebrates 3,000 years of art and culture from which nation?
9. Edward Rochester is a central character in which 19th-century novel?
10. Which musical duo recorded the soundtrack to the 1968 film *The Graduate*?
11. The Arts Centre Sunday Market is moving to what location on July 7?
12. Who or what is the 'Penna bear', as described by City of Melbourne Councillor Rohan Leppert?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. George Z. Ugly Betty 3, October 26
 2. Deborah Halpern 5, Annie 6, A) 26,166
 3. Charlie Parker 8, Egypt 9, Jane Eyre
 10. Simon & Garfunkel 11, Southgate
 Shopping Centre 12, Southbank
 Residents' Association (SRA) president
 Tony Penna

5x5

No. 302

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

L	N		D
	N	L	
M	V		N
	N	C	
R	S		S

SOLUTIONS

Across: lined, Anole, Moven, Enact, Rests.
 Down: lamer, Inane, Novas, Elect, Dents.

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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July, 2024

Sudoku

No. 037

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

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Weather

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| AIR | ISOBAR |
| BLIZZARD | METEOROLOGY |
| CLIMATE | MONSOON |
| CLOUD | RAIN |
| DROUGHT | SLEET |
| FLOOD | STORM |
| FORECAST | SUN |
| FROST | TEMPERATURE |
| HEAT | THUNDER |
| HUMIDITY | |

Secret message: Cumulonimbus

Crossword

No. 037

ACROSS

- 1 Waiflike (4)
- 3 Helpers (10)
- 10 Premise (11)
- 11 Slash (3)
- 12 On the seashore (7)
- 13 Hurricane (7)
- 14 Compelled (7)
- 15 Compress (7)
- 17 Denial (7)
- 20 Hang (7)
- 22 Ocean creature (3,4)
- 24 Maybe (7)
- 26 Greeted (3)
- 27 Chaos (11)
- 28 Shades (10)
- 29 Prefix meaning million (4)

DOWN

- 1 Issue (5)
- 2 Detach (7)
- 4 Adept (7)
- 5 Nutty (7)
- 6 Piano professional (5)
- 7 Transcendent state (7)
- 8 Propped up (9)
- 9 Gets in touch with (8)
- 14 Christian holiday (9)
- 16 Fungus (8)
- 18 Level (7)
- 19 Myths (7)
- 20 Most excellent (7)
- 21 Scrutinise (7)
- 23 Part of a jacket (5)
- 25 Dance (5)

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		

SOLUTION

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

Codeword

No. 037

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

SOLUTIONS

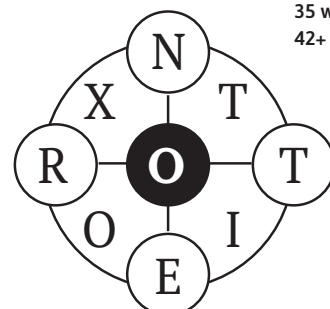
R	G	L	T	E	C	K	V	N	O	M	F	B
S	Z	D	Y	A	O	H	W	U	I	J	X	P

9-Letter

No. 037

Today's Focus:
 22 words: Good
 35 words: Very good
 42+ 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
 enroot, extort, EXTORTION, into, intort, intro, iron, irone, nitro, noir, noter, nori, note, onto, oont, ortent, otter, oxeo, oxer, rot, roneo, root, rote, rotten, rotl, roto, tenor, toner, tonite, toon, toot, tooter, tore, tort, torn, tort, torte, tote, toxin, trio, triton, tritone, trot

WHAT'S ON July



It might be cold but there's still plenty on offer this month in Southbank, including the long awaited relaunch of the Sunday Markets at Southgate and ACCA's Family Art Day.



TOASTMASTERS SOUTHBANK
 Are you interested in public speaking? Our Toastmaster club is waiting for you in Southbank Library at Boyd every 1st & 3rd Thursday at 6:30pm. Guests welcome, it's free of charge!
southbank.toastmastersclubs.org
FIRST & THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH



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
UNTIL OCTOBER 6



PIRATE DAY AT POLLY WOODSIDE
 Dress up and participate in *Fashions on the Plank*, receive your pirate tattoo (washable) and your very own pirate name. The captain will have the kids scrubbing the deck, swinging the rope and going on a treasure hunt.
21 South Wharf Promenade
SUNDAY, JULY 21



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
FROM 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



TECH HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE
 FREE weekly one-on-one hour sessions and monthly group workshops with trained "Lively Tech Helpers". Bookings essential.
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healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au
 9820 2760 | trybooking.com/CLFRG
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POLITICIAN

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

Your Federal MP for Southbank.

Josh Burns MP
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACNAMARA

joshburns.com.au
 josh.burns.mp@aph.gov.au
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 たくさんの美しい女性
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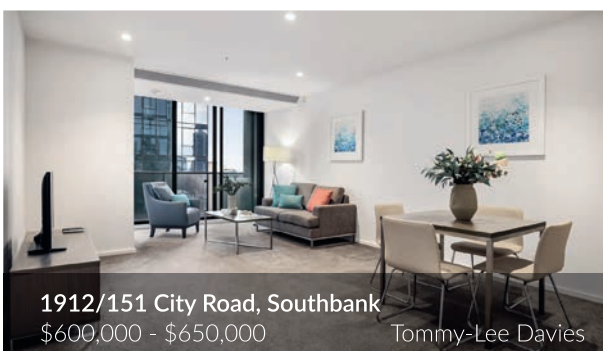
Here today, gone tomorrow.

RayWhite

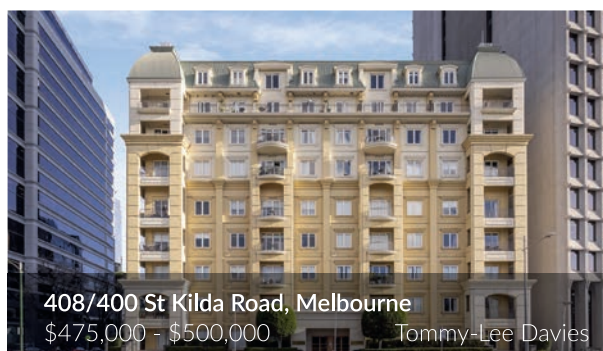
Scan the QR code



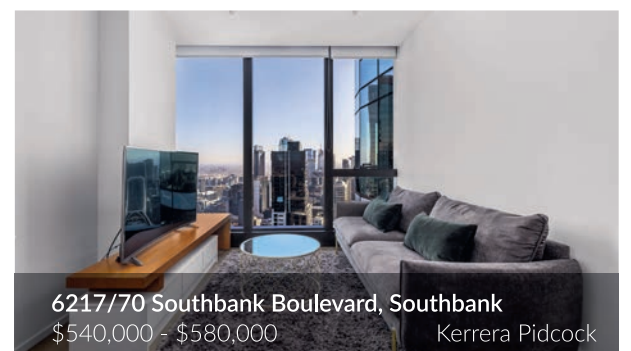
Call us on 8102 0200 or email us via southbank.vic@raywhite.com to book an appraisal for sale or rental. Visit raywhitesouthbank.com.au for more details.



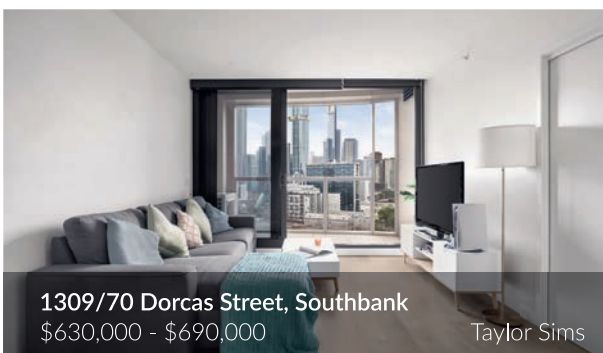
1912/151 City Road, Southbank
\$600,000 - \$650,000
Tommy-Lee Davies



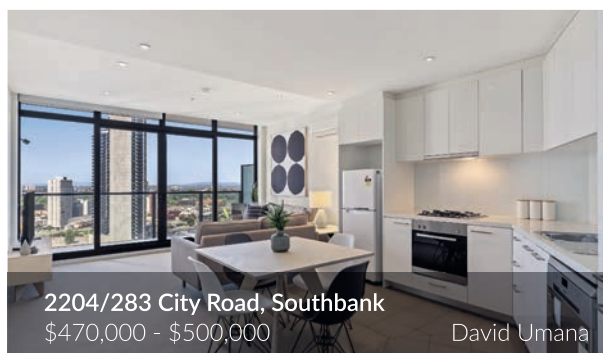
408/400 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
\$475,000 - \$500,000
Tommy-Lee Davies



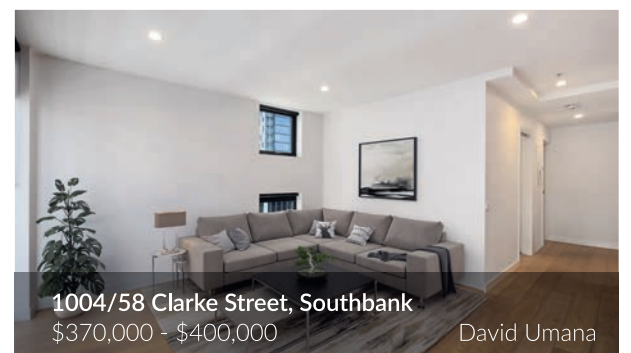
6217/70 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank
\$540,000 - \$580,000
Kerrera Pidcock



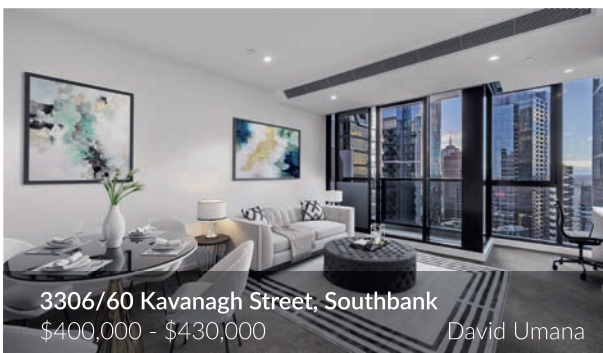
1309/70 Dorcas Street, Southbank
\$630,000 - \$690,000
Taylor Sims



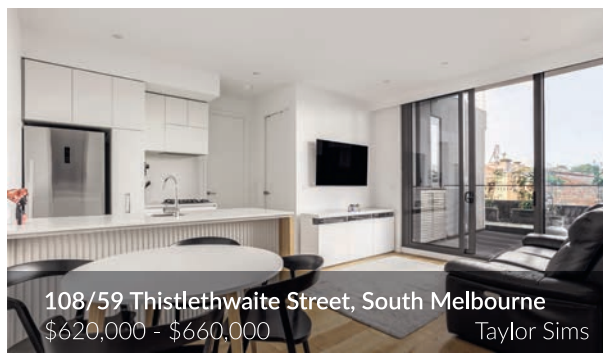
2204/283 City Road, Southbank
\$470,000 - \$500,000
David Umana



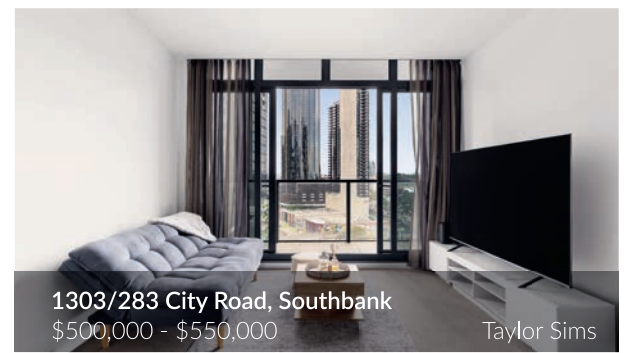
1004/58 Clarke Street, Southbank
\$370,000 - \$400,000
David Umana



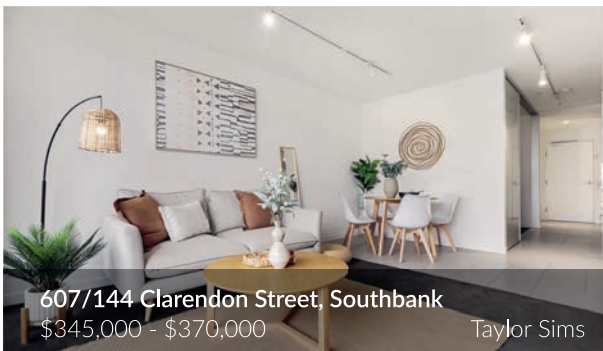
3306/60 Kavanagh Street, Southbank
\$400,000 - \$430,000
David Umana



108/59 Thistlethwaite Street, South Melbourne
\$620,000 - \$660,000
Taylor Sims



1303/283 City Road, Southbank
\$500,000 - \$550,000
Taylor Sims



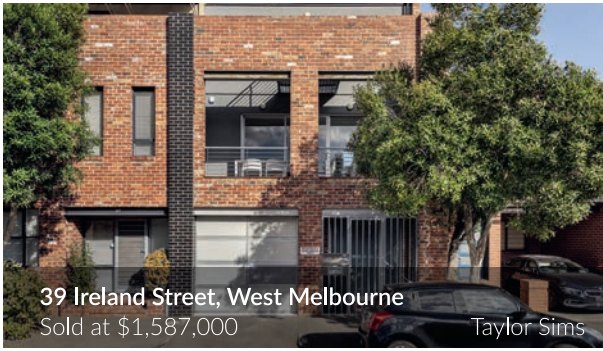
607/144 Clarendon Street, Southbank
\$345,000 - \$370,000
Taylor Sims



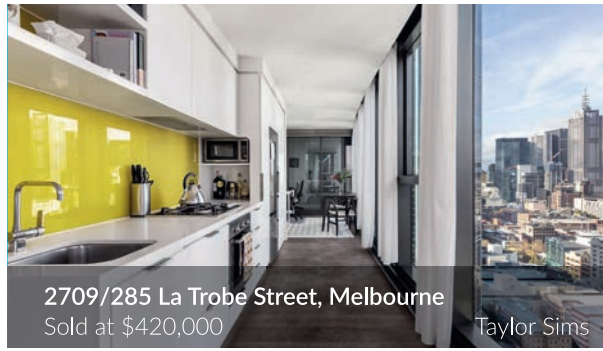
609/1 Queensbridge Square, Southbank
\$790,000 - \$868,000
Taylor Sims



1508/605 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
\$475,000 - \$510,000
Tommy-lee Davies



39 Ireland Street, West Melbourne
Sold at \$1,587,000
Taylor Sims



2709/285 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
Sold at \$420,000
Taylor Sims

Michael Pastrokis: 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: 0422 261 527
Bence Balazs: 0411 758 859

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