

Heritage Victoria
greenlights Robur
Tea House
development

Locals to fight
“sex-on-premises”
venue on City Rd
at VCAT

NEWS



A slam dunk
for Southbank

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece (centre) pulled on his Nikes on July 31 to try out Southbank’s new pop-up basketball courts at Melbourne Square ahead of a community event featuring players from Melbourne National Basketball League Southside Flyers on August 24. More on page 7. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

Cloud hangs over STH BNK by Beulah, but developer remains “committed to delivering our vision”

“

Uncertainty continues to loom over the future of Australia’s largest high-rise development STH BNK by Beulah, with the developer understood to be desperately cutting costs in order to save its project.

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



With one of the project’s twin towers expected to soar 366 metres high, it would be the nation’s tallest if completed, with the developer also promising world-class retail and wellness precincts, a childcare centre, and more than 7000sqm of public green spaces.

In addition to apartments, commercial offices and a

conference and entertainment centre, the proposed development also comprises plans for a Four Seasons Hotel and an innovative cultural centre in partnership with France’s revered Centre Pompidou.

As reported by Southbank News last month, Beulah reaffirmed that it had sold more than 80 per cent of apartments, however sources close to the project say these have been “undersold” amid rising construction costs.

A source within the property industry, who wished to remain anonymous, told Southbank News that the STH BNK by Beulah project as we know it “was not going to work” claiming that it was no longer able to finance its completion.

It added that the developer had been undertaking an ongoing series of amendments to the building’s design as it desperately find ways of reducing costs on its multi-billion-dollar project.

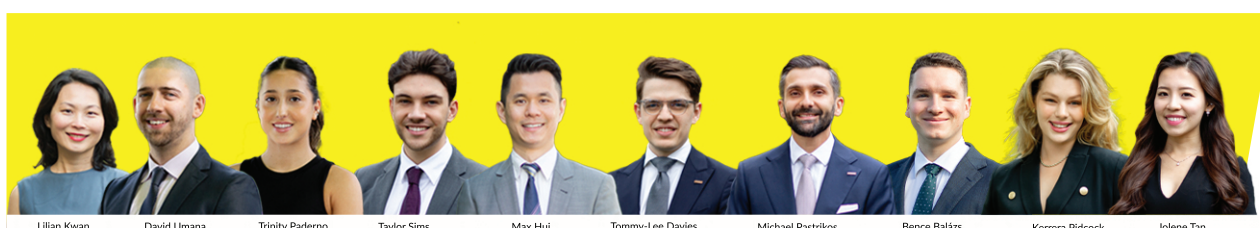
Another source, who also wished to remain anonymous, claimed that some apartment buyers had pulled out of the development amid increasing uncertainty over the project’s future.

Continued on page 5.



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a futuristic program for
deaf and disabled artists

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Jamal Hakim to run for Lord Mayor

A “democratic, welcoming and flourishing city” is the vision Cr Jamal Hakim is striving for after announcing his candidacy for Lord Mayor ahead of the City of Melbourne elections in October.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Cr Hakim’s decision to throw his hat into the ring has raised the stakes for Lord Mayoral favourites in current Lord Mayor Nick Reece and former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood, who have both already announced their campaigns.

While the weight of the City of Melbourne’s gerrymander, where businesses are each given two votes to residents’ one, will present a challenge for Team Hakim, preferences will prove the key in who ends up in the Lord Mayoral robes.

During his four years on council, Cr Hakim has proven to be an effective and active leader who has regularly engaged with local communities right across the city, which puts him in good stead with the municipality’s many residents.

And this theme was central to his campaign announcement in North Melbourne on August 2, pledging that Team Hakim would “shape a future for Melbourne that prioritises people, not politics”.

“I believe in the power of representation driving real progress for Melbourne,” Cr Hakim said.

“Team Hakim has a vision for Melbourne as a democratic, welcoming, and flourishing city. Join us. It’s time to move Melbourne forward.”

With a proven track record as a “dedicat-



ed, connected and impactful” community leader, Cr Hakim currently leads the council’s Creative Melbourne portfolio and is the deputy lead of the City’s activation and health, wellbeing and belonging portfolios.

Away from council, he runs his own consulting business and is on the board of Democracy in Colour, and served as managing director of Marie Stopes Australia prior to becoming a councillor.

He was previously on the board of Midsumma Festival and served as chair of the finance risk and audit committee for the Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM).

Cr Hakim said that with a “democratic Melbourne” at the heart of his campaign for Lord Mayor, he was committed to disclosing all donations, both cash and in-kind, during the course of the campaign, rather than after the elections.

“Donation disclosures are weak, and the Victorian Government has failed to reform

legislation governing election donations, despite the recommendations in the Sandton report,” Cr Hakim said.

At the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on August 6, Cr Hakim tabled a motion calling on all candidates to do the same.

As per previous elections, Hyperlocal News (publisher of Southbank News) will host a donations register on its website inviting all candidates to declare their donations during the campaign.

While the remainder of his team and policies are yet to be revealed, Cr Hakim pledged \$10 million on August 2 for community-led celebrations for Diwali, Eid and Hanukkah as part of his vision for an even more “welcoming” Melbourne.

“We’re a global city. Our community is made up of more than 180 cultures, 150 countries and 80 religions. The city’s major events have contributed significantly to bringing people back into our city, yet the calendar does not reflect our community.” ●

Melbourne City Council postal election

My council, my vote



You must be enrolled to vote

A general election for Melbourne City Council will be held in October 2024. To be able to vote in the election, you must be enrolled by the close of roll at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024. Two categories of voters can be enrolled to vote in the Melbourne City Council election: State-enrolled voters and Council-enrolled voters.

State-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

You are automatically enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- you live in the City of Melbourne and you are on the State electoral roll for your current address.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- you live in the City of Melbourne and you are not on the State electoral roll or
- you have lived at your current residential address within the City of Melbourne for at least a month and have not yet updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

How do I enrol?

You can enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au

You can also download an enrolment form from the website.

All enrolment applications must be received by the Victorian Electoral Commission by the close of roll at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024.

How can I check my State enrolment?

You can check your enrolment details online at vec.vic.gov.au at any time, or call 131 832.

Council-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

You are already enrolled for this election if you own or occupy a rateable property within the City of Melbourne and live in Australia, but you are not a resident of the municipality. A maximum of 2 owners and 2 occupiers can be enrolled as council-enrolled voters for any one property.

Who else can enrol & vote?

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you have purchased a rateable property in the City of Melbourne and reside in the council area, but are not an Australian citizen, or
- you reside in a rateable property in the City of Melbourne, but are not an Australian citizen, or
- you own a rateable property in the City of Melbourne but live outside Australia, or
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation (or hold an equivalent position in an Association) that occupies a rateable property solely or jointly within the City of Melbourne*.
 - * If a corporation that solely owns or occupies rateable property in the City of Melbourne does not validly appoint 2 voting representatives by 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024, Melbourne City Council is required by law to enrol the first 2 of the following (to be taken in alphabetical order):
 - the company secretaries whose postal addresses are in Victoria
 - the company secretaries whose postal addresses are elsewhere in Australia
 - the directors whose postal addresses are in Victoria
 - the directors whose postal addresses are elsewhere in Australia.

How do I apply to be a Council-enrolled voter?

If you meet any of the criteria above and wish to enrol, contact Melbourne City Council on 1300 735 427 or visit elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au for a council enrolment form. Council enrolment forms must be received by the Council by the close of roll at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024.

How can I check if I am Council-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details now at elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au or by contacting Melbourne City Council on 1300 735 427.

Thinking about standing for election?

Melbourne City Council general elections involve 2 elections, one for the Leadership team of lord mayor and deputy lord mayor, and one for the 9 councillors. To nominate as a candidate for either of these elections, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters roll for Melbourne City Council and
- be eligible to become a councillor and
- have completed the mandatory candidate training provided by Local Government Victoria before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

For further information, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Enrolment closes

4 pm Wednesday 7 August 2024

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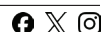
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Authorised by S. Bluemel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic



Heritage Victoria greenlights Robur Tea House development

The site surrounding Southbank's iconic 135-year-old Robur Tea House is finally set to be redeveloped by a Melbourne-based developer after Heritage Victoria approved amended plans last month.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The original scheme proposed by design-led real estate developer, MONNO, was rejected by Heritage Victoria in late 2023.

But since then, MONNO has worked with Heritage Victoria, The Office of the Victorian Government Architect and The Department of Transport and Planning to facilitate a positive outcome for the heritage-listed building located at 28 Clarendon St.

"The proposed works to the Robur Tea Building will add to the protection and conservation of the place, which is of historical, architectural and scientific significance to the State of Victoria," a Heritage Victoria spokesperson said.

The redevelopment will see the historical warehouse that was built in the 1880s transformed into a "world-class lifestyle precinct" that is anchored by a 221-room upscale hotel, according to MONNO managing director Geno Hubay.

Mr Hubay said the company had scouted the globe to find the world's best designers and hotel operators to deliver a reimagined Tea House that honoured the heritage of the building and created an icon for the future.

The Tea House has been designed by acclaimed Norwegian architecture practice,



Snohetta, which has adopted a highly considered and respectful design.

The plans just approved see a highly resolved scheme, which was amended to include an increased setback on the tower component of the corner of Clarendon St and Normanby Rd, with this offset by an additional three levels in height.

The day-to-night precinct will be further enhanced by a combination of world-class commercial, hospitality and dining spaces.

It will be made up of 5000sqm of premium-grade offices and serviced by a curated range of global and local food and beverage, and retail offerings, including a signature restaurant on the ground floor and an exceptional rooftop experience.

A new north-facing landscaped public forecourt will also be built to connect the Tea House, MCEC and the Yarra River promenade.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece supports Herit-

age Victoria's changes to the application on the grounds that Tea House's legacy will be protected.

"Built in the 1880s, this historic warehouse embraced revolutionary new methods of construction and is one of the longest-standing buildings of its kind anywhere in Australia," Cr Reece said.

"It's an excellent outcome for everyone involved – and goes to show that Melbourne can continue to grow while respecting our history."

Mr Hubay said that the efforts poured into the permit were worthwhile given what the group was now able to deliver.

"Since acquiring this site, I would say it's become an obsession to deliver something exceptional. This will be a legacy project for MONNO and for Melbourne," Mr Hubay told *Southbank News*.

MONNO has conducted an international expression of interest campaign, which received submissions from 15 of the world's best hotel groups, prior to appointing the preferred operator.

The developer is now in advanced talks with a group yet to enter the Australian market, and one which will allow this pocket of Melbourne to play on a global stage.

MONNO's vision for the Tea House is for it to become a new landmark and urban marker for Melbourne on the last undeveloped gateway site into the Melbourne CBD.

Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna said that despite some residents thinking that it shouldn't be developed, he had faith in Heritage Victoria and the City of Melbourne's decisions.

"We've dealt with Heritage Victoria a lot, and we know if something's not okay, they'll be very worried about that," Mr Penna said. "If you don't tick all the boxes according to the planning scheme, well, it just doesn't get up." ●

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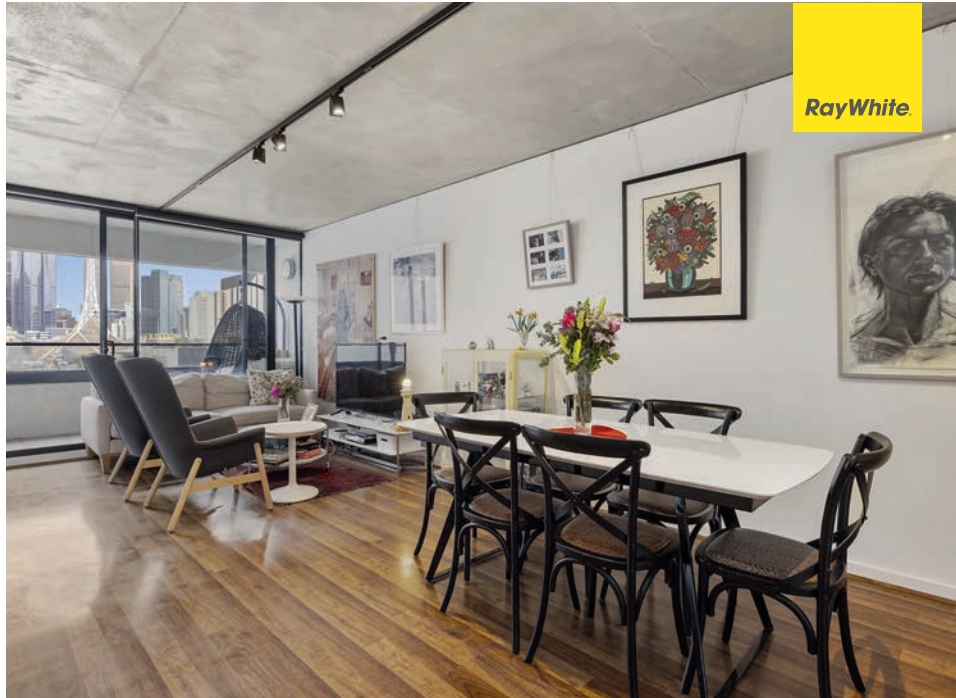
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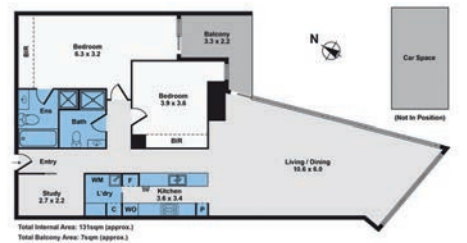
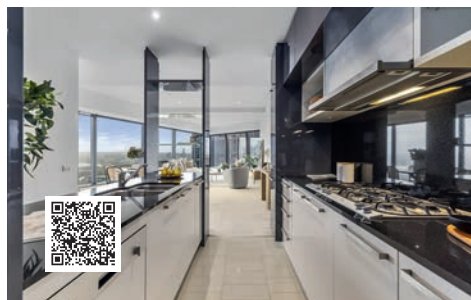
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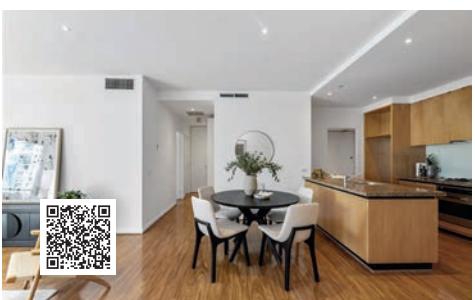
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Cloud hangs over STH BNK by Beulah, but developer remains “committed to delivering our vision”

Continued from page 1.

Southbank News put a series of questions to Beulah, including whether it was no longer able to finance its project; whether it had made approaches to other developers to acquire the site, and if apartments had been undersold.

A question was also put to the developer as to if it eventually found itself in a position where it was forced to flip its site, whether it was hoping to sell with the active permit to ensure its current vision was fulfilled.

A Beulah spokesperson didn't respond directly to any of the questions provided by Southbank News, but in a statement, it said it remained “committed to delivering our vision”.

“Construction costs have continued to experience unprecedented escalation over the past few years and STH BNK By Beulah is not immune to market fluctuations, but we remain committed to delivering our vision,” the Beulah spokesperson said.

“We have responded to the market conditions by modifying the number of basement levels while maintaining the overall integrity of the design, function, and vision. These amendments have been submitted, and we are actively working with the Department of Transport and Planning, the City of Melbourne, and the Office of Victorian Government Architects, all of which have been supportive as we navigate these changes.”

“For the past six months, we have also been working with our demolition contractor, Delta Group, who have been busy working with the City of Melbourne and adjoining owners on the Protection Works notices, with our demolition permit now imminent.”

“We remain committed to delivering this project and look forward to commencing early works.”

On background, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) confirmed with Southbank News that a planning permit was issued on April 20, 2020 under delegation from the then Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for the construction of two mixed-use, multi-storey buildings at 118 City Rd.

On April 11, 2023, an amended permit was issued by current Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkeny to incorporate the land at Hanover House at 158 City Rd into the site, resulting in changes to the built form and new access arrangements via Power St.

On December 22, 2023, an application



was received to further amend the basement and podium levels.

Further changes to the amended application were recently presented to the Office of the Victorian Government Architect, the City of Melbourne and DTP officers.

The DTP said that Beulah was currently reviewing advice and would submit a revised scheme for further assessment.

But it added that an extension of time to the permit was only issued on March 4, 2024. The development is required to commence construction by April 20, 2025 or the permit will expire, however the applicant may apply to further extend the expiry date.

Since purchasing the BMW showroom site for more than \$100 million in 2017, Beulah has undertaken an approach never seen before in Australia to market its Southbank project, generating a great deal of public excitement as a result.

In May of 2018, architects from six of the globe's most prestigious firms were invited by Beulah to tour the site as part of a design competition where they were teamed

up with the best in Australian architecture.

This culminated in a “design symposium” in July that year, with Treasurer Tim Pallas addressing an audience of around 500 guests, including Southbank News, at the Planetshakers auditorium on City Rd.

The local-international architectural teams each presented their visions, and at another special event held in the CBD a few months later, the winning team was announced as UN Studio x Cox Architecture for their “Green Spine” design.

At the time, the City of Melbourne's deputy chair of planning Cr Rohan Leppert said Mr Pallas's involvement in the design competition prior to an approval being issued created the perception of pre-emptive government support.

“I'm worried that this is the perception that's being developed through an expensive public relations campaign, backed by perceived support from the Victorian Government architect who headed up the jury panel, and the treasurer who opened the ‘symposium’ that launched the shortlisted

designs,” Cr Leppert said.

And since the project was initially approved in 2020, Beulah has staged a litany of activations at its site, including the repurposing of Hanover House into “BETA” – an arts, cultural and community “testing area”.

Other marketing activations have included immersive virtual tours, commissioning an artist to paint the rooftop of the former BMW showroom, and more recently it engaged vertical farming business Greenspace to establish a hydroponic macrofarm at the site.

In 2022, the Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) hosted the developer's general manager of commercial and culture David Monaghan, who spoke about Beulah's plans for “experience-based immersive shopping, harnessing new technologies and embracing sustainability”.

But despite all the activity, YRBA executive officer Tim Bracher said the community had been eagerly waiting for shovels to hit the ground for some time.

“Beulah burst onto our scene a decade ago, with an inspiring design and promises of great community facilities for the residents of 3006,” Mr Bracher said.

“We've now seen the longest and slickest marketing campaign ever for a development in Southbank, but after all these years we're starting to wonder whether anything will actually be delivered.”

“A starting date, instead of constant hype, would be useful for the business community.”

Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna also expressed his concerns with the project, saying “it would be a travesty to the Southbank community” should Beulah's development not proceed.

“There has been much engagement with the community from the developer with regard their vision and offering. This development would transform City Rd and the heart of Southbank,” Mr Penna said.

“We are already concerned with the delays, but a complete cessation of the project would be most disappointing.” ●

Sean Car

EDITOR

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WNBL's Southside Flyers to square off at Southbank's new basketball courts

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece pulled on his Nikes on July 31 to try out Southbank's new pop-up basketball courts at Melbourne Square ahead of a community event on August 24.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



On Saturday, August 24 from 10.30am to 12.30pm, Cr Reece will appear alongside Melbourne National Basketball League Southside Flyers captain Rebecca Cole and teammates Maddison Rocci and Dallas Loughridge to celebrate the new facilities.

It will mark Melbourne Square's first community event at the new pop-up basketball courts, which have been designed for the local community, providing recreational space for residents and the broader Southbank area.

Following the loss of the temporary courts at Boyd Park, which were removed last year to make way for PDG's new Boyd Village development, the council had sought an interim solution until permanent courts are installed as part of the renewal of the Kings Way undercroft.

Melbourne Square developer OSK Property graciously stepped in to provide that solution by temporarily converting land for future development into a landscaped outdoor space, basketball courts and public amenity. The pop-up courts have also been made possible thanks to partial funding from the City of Melbourne.

The \$3 billion Melbourne Square precinct located at 93-119 Kavanagh St has introduced two new half-courts alongside two new four-square courts, all of which will be open for at least the next few years as the development takes shape.

The courts will be open for public use from 9am to 6pm during winter and 9am to 8pm during summer.

"This is a slam dunk for the Southbank community. We're thrilled residents can once again shoot hoops in the heart of our most densely populated suburb," Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said.

"We want to thank OSK Property for coming to the table to deliver this important project with us – as well as the community groups who have advocated so passionately."

"While this is not a permanent solution, it will provide a vital recreation space while



we progress plans to redevelop the northern undercroft."

OSK Property Australia CEO Chong Boon Woon said the new courts were reflective of its joint focus with the council on contributing positively to the Southbank community alongside Melbourne Square residents.

"We're very proud to be delivering this outdoor sports and recreation amenity to locals – we want Melbourne Square to be a member of the Southbank community, and for locals to enjoy access to the amazing outdoor spaces that our team has built," Mr Woon said.

"The new courts are the perfect place for families and friends to come together after work or school and will add another string to Southbank's bow. It's a prime location for a number of different users."

"We have already seen a fantastic response to these basketball courts from both local residents and visitors to Melbourne Square."

"I look forward to seeing everyone working up a sweat at the community open day later this month – and encourage all Southbank residents to come along and enjoy the fun." ●



▲ Lord Mayor Nick Reece goes for a slam dunk in Southbank last month.

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Benson Saulo to contest Macnamara for the Liberal Party

Benson Saulo, an Indigenous man whose career has spanned international finance to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, has been revealed as the Liberal Party's candidate for the federal seat of Macnamara.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



With an incredibly diverse professional background that has seen him work in finance, international relations, and economic development, it's fair to say that Mr Saulo, who was once a member of The Greens, isn't your typical Liberal politician.

The 36-year-old gives the Liberal Party a new lease on life in the seat held by Labor MP Josh Burns, who comfortably retained the seat with a 4.9 per cent swing at the 2022 Federal Election.

While Mr Burns has improved his party's margins since first being elected in 2019, it wasn't all that long ago the seat formerly known as Melbourne Ports was a very close contest.

At the 2016 election, the Liberal candidate at the time, Owen Guest, comfortably won the primary vote count, but it was Labor's Michael Danby who would sneak home on Greens preferences.

With a very strong candidate in Mr Saulo, the Liberal Party is now hoping for a change of fortunes in Macnamara – a seat which has been held by the Labor Party since Federation.

"I think that my experience and the work that I've done over the past 15 years has po-



sitioned me to be a really effective Liberal Member for Macnamara," Mr Benson told *Southbank News*.

"It's going to take a lot of hard work – we know that it is a three-way race. But I think if we can build on momentum and get out in front of people and really engage on issues that they care about, I'm very hopeful that that at the next election we can make history."

Born to an Aboriginal mother and a Papua New Guinean father, he is a proud descendant of the Wemba Wemba and Gunditjima Aboriginal nations of Victoria, and of the New Ireland Province of Papua New Guinea.

Mr Saulo has been making an impact from a young age. Growing up in Tamworth

in New South Wales, he began working as a bank teller at just 15 years old.

He worked in the banking sector for several years before representing Australian interests on the global stage in his roles as a member of the UNESCO National Commission, and as an Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations.

He has previously volunteered for Melbourne-based charities, like the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, and was recently appointed as the chair of The Torch – a charity supporting Indigenous offenders and ex-offenders in Victoria through its Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community programs.

In 2021 he was appointed as Australia's Consul-General and Senior Trade and In-

vestment Commissioner based in Houston – the first Indigenous person to be appointed as a Consul-General in Australia's history.

He also recently held the position of managing partner at First Australians Capital – a national Indigenous-led investment fund manager, where he continues to play a role as a strategic advisor.

While his passion for youth empowerment, Indigenous affairs and climate change saw him briefly become a member of The Greens party, he said after a period of "political homelessness", he found his home with the Liberals.

"I've been a member with the Liberal Party since 2018, and the values really resonate with me," he said.

"It was really on reflection of my personal story and values, and then my parents' story, that I embraced the importance of not waiting for someone to give you permission to be self-determining, but to be able to step into that space."

"It's why shifting and shaping communities and enabling people to participate in enterprises is really at the heart of my approach to Indigenous affairs, but then also more broadly."

Locally, the Elwood-based father of two said he loved the Macnamara community and pledged to fight for both residents and businesses who were struggling with cost-of-living pressures and rising inflation if elected.

As he works to make history at the next election, he added that he hoped to inspire others along the way.

"I'd love to be the first Indigenous Member of Parliament for Macnamara and really show people what's possible and also inspire young Indigenous kids as well to say, 'if you care about something, put your hand up and people will back you.'" ●

Arron Wood returns for another shake at Town Hall

"A fresh start for the City of Melbourne" is the message former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood is urging Melburnians to get behind as he makes a renewed bid for Town Hall.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Mr Wood ended weeks of speculation on July 28 as he announced his candidacy for Lord Mayor of Melbourne in the upcoming October local government elections.

The well-known environmentalist, who was an instrumental part of shaping the City of Melbourne's Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (MREP), finished second to former

Lord Mayor Sally Capp in the 2020 elections.

He was a councillor for eight years after first being elected in 2012, serving as Deputy Lord Mayor in 2016-17 under then Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, and then as Acting Lord Mayor from December 2017 until the May 2018 by-election.

As small business owner and long-term Kensington resident, he said he understood what made Melbourne liveable and knew the challenges businesses were facing.

Mr Wood said he brought "a proven track record" into his campaign and emphasised his reason for running was to give Melbourne the "fresh start it deserves".

"This year's election is a huge opportunity for change - it's time to give our city a fresh start and strong leadership that gets the basics right," Mr Wood said.

"Businesses and residents are not only struggling with increasing cost-of-living pressures but face significant future chal-

lenges, including the ongoing post COVID recovery, more crime across the city and a council budget in dire straits."

"As a local Kensington resident and someone who works in the CBD, I will use my proven track record to bring fresh energy, new ideas and practical solutions where others at Town Hall have failed."

Mr Wood said that if elected he would deliver a "five-point recovery plan to get the city back on track", which included tackling cost-of-living pressures, improving safety, cleanliness, and sustainability, revitalising the economy, and enhancing city planning to support growing populations.

As part of his plan to "revive Melbourne's cultural heartbeat", Mr Wood said he would also work to make Melbourne Australia's "Christmas capital" and "revive Docklands and Southbank precincts in consultation with residents".

For more information: teamwood.com.au ●



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New podcast charts path to a swimmable Yarra River by 2030

A new podcast outlining the 10 steps Melbourne must take towards making the Yarra River swimmable again has been released.

WORDS BY NICOLAS THURN-VALSASSINA



Launched on July 12, the Two Bays podcast *10 Steps Towards a Swimmable Birrarung* (Yarra River), demystifies misconceptions (such as, why is the Yarra brown?) and sparks new conversations about climate resilience, mental health, and urban design.

Across 10 episodes, local business, government, academic and community leaders at the forefront of climate action discuss how Melbourne can reposition the future of the Yarra-Birrarung.

The initiative has been produced by Regeneration Projects, which is also behind the long-mooted plans to establish a swimming pool in the city section of the river, along with the Yarra Riverkeeper Association and RMIT University.

Regeneration Projects founder, podcast host, and co-producer, Matt Sykes, told CBD News that the podcast was important for the creation of new collaborative efforts from stakeholders and activists to achieve a swimmable Yarra by 2030.

"The podcast is about getting the stories of pioneers out there so that more people can become part of



the movement," Mr Sykes said. "We want to start breaking down the preconception that it's a crazy idea and show that it's already happening."

The podcast explains how a Yarra swimming trail from Deep Rock (Abbotsford) to Port Phillip Bay is possible. It clears up misunderstandings about the Yarra River's condition and starts new discussions on a range of topics.

Environmental concerns such

as climate change are recurring topics within the podcast, and Mr Sykes said that the Yarra could play a crucial role in mitigating potential summer heat waves.

"It's so important for people to be able to find spaces to cool off in, and the coldest space in Melbourne is literally the Yarra River," Mr Sykes said.

City of Yarra Cr Sophie Wade participated as a special guest during the final podcast episode,

where she discussed her support for the initiative as a representative of the first Australian local government to sign the "Swimmable Cities Charter".

Thirty cities and 16 countries, including Australia, have signed the Charter, establishing international principles for developing sustainable, swimmable cities globally.

"I think it is achievable if all of the local councils, Melbourne Water, the traditional owners, and the

state government come together," Cr Wade said. "It's something that the communities should demand of their leaders, because what a brilliant city to live in if we had a clean, swimmable Birrarung."

A main source of inspiration behind the campaign is the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, where swimmers are expected to compete in the River Seine.

Mr Sykes believes the event could set a precedent and lead similar ideas being applied to other urban rivers around the globe, including the Yarra River.

"The Paris Olympics and the cleaning up of the River Seine is inspiring decision-makers, leaders and activists around the world. People are thinking about what they can do in their own backyard," Mr Sykes said. ●



ACCA CEO and artistic director to step down

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) CEO and artistic director Max Delany has announced plans to step down from his role by November 2024 after nearly a decade of leadership.

WORDS BY NICOLAS THURN-VALSASSINA



Mr Delany took on his role at ACCA in early 2016, leading a range of significant exhibitions throughout his time that explored contem-

porary art's connection to social, cultural, and political contexts, including *Sovereignty, Unfinished Business: Perspectives on Art and Feminism, On Vulnerability and Doubt, and Who's Afraid of Public Space?*.

"It has been a privilege to lead ACCA over almost a decade," Mr Delany said.

"The work of artists lies at the heart of what we do, and I am immeasurably grateful for their collaboration and trust, and for the visionary, philosophical and transformational role that artists play in our society."

While the gallery's board members and colleagues are saddened to see him depart, ACCA's chair Dr.

Terry Wu acknowledged Mr Delany's profound contributions to the institution.

"While we are all deeply saddened to hear this news, we know Max leaves ACCA in incredible shape after nine years delivering a dynamic and ambitious curatorial vision," Dr Wu said.

ACCA's board said that recruitment for a new artistic director and CEO would soon begin.

"It has been an honour working with such an outstanding, dedicated, and inspiring team, and members of ACCA's board, whose vision, support and counsel have been courageous and unwavering, motivating and enabling," Mr Delany said. ●





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Locals to fight “sex-on-premises” venue on City Rd at VCAT

The City of Port Phillip’s recent approval of an “adult lifestyle meeting place” on City Rd opposite the Montague Precinct will be challenged by locals in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



In May, *Southbank News* reported that 30 residents and business owners had objected to plans for the “swingers’ club” to be established in South Melbourne, labelling the proposal as “inappropriate for the area”.

A planning application from the Pine Bar was submitted to the City of Port Phillip seeking to convert a two-storey building at 427 City Rd into a “burlesque bar” that would operate seven days a week.

Under the plans from applicant Emanuel Cachia of Pine Bar, the new venue comprises a main ground floor area that would host live entertainment events including live music, DJ, comedy, cabaret, and burlesque.

Tony Baenziger, who owns architectural business Baenziger Coles on City Rd, was among those against the plans, arguing the venue would detract from the area and create safety and security concerns.

But on June 19, the City of Port Phillip approved the plans with councillors voting five to three in favour in support of the 200-person sex-on-premises venue as per the recommendation from its planning officers.

Deputy Mayor Louise Crawford, one of the five councillors to vote in favour, told the meeting that the decision was based on applying the planning rules and not “about moralising” a business.

While a permit was granted with a number of conditions, including acoustic works and noise vibration testing prior to opening, locals who opposed the application have since launched a petition which they will take to their appeal at VCAT.

Sue Coles, the other half of Baenziger Coles architects, called on support from locals to oppose the approval.

“This location is entirely inappropriate for such a venue, given its proximity to residential areas,

schools, and family-oriented businesses,” Ms Coles said.

“Despite numerous objections from residents and business owners, the council has granted a permit that disregards the character and values of our neighbourhood and what the area should try to aspire to in the future.”

Mayor Heather Cunsolo told *Southbank News* that the council was aware of the VCAT appeal.

“Our council will advocate at VCAT for its decision to grant a planning permit for 427 City Rd, South Melbourne, to be used for an adult lifestyle meeting place,” Cr Cunsolo said.

“The council report provides the reasoning for the decision, which although wasn’t unanimous, was supported by a majority of councillors.”

Mayor Cunsolo added that a minor amendment was made to parking out the front of venue, including two one-hour street parking spaces to be reallocated as 10- or 15-minute short-stay spaces from 6pm to 8am.

But Cr Marcus Pearl, who voted against the proposal, voiced significant concerns.

“In my view the proposal did not meet acceptable planning or amenity requirements,” Cr Pearl said. “Local residents and businesses are rightly concerned about the impact the venue will have on the local area.”

Cr Pearl further highlighted the strategic importance of the location, adding, “This part of South Melbourne is a key commercial and office area that will be critical for the future employment needs of our city.” ●



Southbank traders are suffering from post-COVID working patterns

The increase in people working from home is leaving Southbank traders in dire straits as they continue to adapt to the market challenges spurred on by the pandemic.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



Lino Scidone, owner of the prized La Camera and Waterslide Bar in Southbank, said that business had taken a turn since COVID-19 due to people’s working habits.

In a report published in July by the Property Council of Australia it was revealed that Melbourne’s CBD still has the highest office vacancy rate in the nation.

The report found that since July 2023 office vacancy in Melbourne increased from 14.9 to 18 per cent.

The effect of this is profound according to Mr Scidone, who said that he had been significantly impacted by a decline in business, with fewer people coming in for lunch throughout the week and the Friday crowd declining.

He said the only day that Southbank traders had seen an increase in patronage at his venues was Saturdays when people chose to spend their day off winning and dining.

But he added that these increases didn’t account for the losses that was suffering throughout the week, particularly between Monday and Thursday.

“Everyone says that Thursday is the new Friday and that’s a lie because the next day is a working day so no-one’s going to have the same attitude to what it was like on Friday,” he said.

At the Meet the Mayor event hosted by residents’ group Southbank3006 in August, Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said he was working to bring back the city economy and that he would urge workers to return to the office.

The Lord Mayor said that while there was no “silver bullet”, the City of Melbourne was actively working to resolve the situation.

A report on the city’s day- and night-time economies tabled at the July 9 Future Melbourne Committee meeting revealed that morning commuter traffic between 6am and 9am at Flinders Street Station underpass was at 69 per cent of May 2019.

The report also brought to light that Melbourne’s shopfront vacancy rate was just over 10 per cent, down from a pandemic peak of 31 per cent.

In light of this report, the council unanimously voted to endorse a motion requesting management to work with stakeholders to develop roadmaps to guide the city’s support for the retail and hospitality sectors.

“Our daytime economy continues to be a key challenge for our city. Although consumer spending is close to pre-pandemic levels, there is no doubt businesses across our city are struggling,” the council’s city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell said.

In November last year, the council established the City Economy Advisory Committee, which brings together industry leaders from sectors like hospitality, retail, tourism to advise councillors on the best way to address the issue.

The advisory committee mooted key actions that could help improve the situation, with the changes to public transport considered to be a priority according to Cr Campbell.

She said that public transport needed to be tailored to meet the changes in demand, exploring options such as variable transport fares and making fares cheaper on “slower days” throughout the week.

Another focus for the council, according to Cr Campbell, was to share pedestrian activity and consumer spending data for different geographic areas in the city.

“This will help shopkeepers and restaurateurs make sure that they’re matching their labour staffing and their industry to the levels of demand,” she said.

While Lino Scidone remains “unsure” about what the future holds, he said he was pleased with the efforts that Lord Mayor Nick Reece and the council were putting into improving the situation that traders in the city were currently facing. ●

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A LOOK AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

MIRACLES CREATED THROUGH COMMUNITY GRANTS

Get support to host events that create community connection

When Rozilah Kamarudin applied for a City of Melbourne grant to hold a series of workshops for young people, she was spurred by a desire to help them reach their potential.

Her idea was to use crafting flower fairies as an ice breaker so people could focus on new possibilities. Rozilah said the practice can help young people manifest what they want to be themselves. An engineer by trade, Rozilah is also a certified coach, supporting people to follow their goals.

“In solutions-focused coaching, the ‘miracle question’ is key. It’s important for people to be able to see the possibility of a miracle and the power of visioning. That’s how the flower fairies workshop came about,” she said.



A grant helped Rozilah run a community craft workshop

“City of Melbourne has been very kind and supportive to me. I moved to Australia from Malaysia in 2022 without any network but City of Melbourne helped me to apply for a Connected Neighbourhoods Small Grant so I could use my skills to help others.”

“I was expecting only 10 people for each of the fairy-making workshops, but it booked up really fast and I had 20 per session.”

The grant Rozilah received covered the cost of materials for participants, as well as promotion of the workshops.

GOT AN IDEA? GET A GRANT TO SUPPORT IT

Get support to host events and projects that create community connection and benefit the people in your neighbourhood.

City of Melbourne offers grants to people, community organisations and businesses in the arts, community, recreation, events and business sectors. We encourage applications that reflect creativity and are inclusive and sustainable.

These grants help our community to deliver quality programs,

both large-scale and community-focused events, and services which benefit Melbourne and its people.

They should also bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the city. Each year, City of Melbourne offers \$12 million in grants for the community. Have a look at how we can support you.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION GRANTS

Do you have an idea that empowers your community to identify and respond to issues? Or one that will increase community connection and belonging?

Apply for a **Community Inclusion Grant** and support your community through access and participation, while promoting equity, diversity and inclusion.

These grants are available to not-for-profit organisations and schools to work in partnership with the City of Melbourne.

Grants available: \$1000 to \$20,000 **Applications close:** Monday 12 August

SOCIAL INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS

Do you have a project which addresses affordable housing or human rights? What about loneliness or community safety?

The **Social Investment Partnerships Grants** support you to partner with City of Melbourne to address social issues. The program promotes projects that enable equitable opportunities and help our diverse neighbourhoods to thrive.

The grants support people to be part of social, cultural, economic and civic life, and contribute to a sustainable, equitable and resilient city. Available to not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises and B Corporations.

Grants available: \$25,000 to \$80,000 each year, for two years **Applications open:** Tuesday 1 October

CONNECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS SMALL GRANTS

Creating connected and inclusive communities in our neighbourhoods is a priority. We provide small grants to support residents and organisations to address local issues and neighbourhood priorities.

These grants empower people to influence change in communities within their own neighbourhoods. Projects should support people to take part and connect, as well as equity, diversity and inclusion.

Applicants can be a not-for-profit constituted organisation, school, community leader, or an individual.

Grants available: Up to \$2000 **Applications open:** Year-round

Discover your Neighbourhood Portal



Access community grants, and find local news and events in Southbank at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/southbank



Find out more information about all City of Melbourne grants at melbourne.vic.gov.au/grantsandsponsorships



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MELBOURNE

Nominate as a candidate for the Melbourne City Council election in October

Do you have ideas for the future of Melbourne? Are you passionate about making a positive contribution to your community and want to make a difference? Now is the time to put your hand up and stand to represent your community as an elected councillor.

We encourage people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the rich diversity of the City of Melbourne community to nominate to run as a candidate in the next elections in October.

Register for one of the free information sessions to learn more about the role and responsibilities of the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors.

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STAND FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION SESSION

Date: Wednesday 31 July
Time: 6.30-8.30pm
Where: St Kilda Town Hall Auditorium, 99A Carlisle Street, St Kilda

CITY OF MELBOURNE RESIDENT-ONLY INFORMATION SESSION

Date: Thursday 15 August
Time: 6-8pm
Where: Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Room, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne

For more information, visit mav.asn.au/stand-for-council-2024

To be a candidate for either election, please ensure you are enrolled to vote within the City of Melbourne by Tuesday 6 August.

To find out more, visit elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au/standing-as-a-candidate



Learn about the role of councillors at an information session



Have your say on our tree-planting plans

URBAN FOREST PRECINCT PLAN

Last year we asked you for your input to help us create tree planting plans for our city.

The drafts of the new Urban Forest Precinct Plans for Carlton, CBD, East Melbourne and South Yarra are available for public comment.

This is an opportunity for community members to influence tree planting in their neighbourhood for the next 10 years.

The draft plans are available for public comment until Thursday 8 August. Share your feedback at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/urban-forest

IN BRIEF

COUNCIL ELECTION

Melbourne City Council elections will be held by postal ballot in October. If you have enrolled, you will receive a ballot pack, and you have until 6pm on 25 October to post back your completed ballot pack. Councils play a major role in delivering services to residents and businesses. Your vote makes a difference. For more information, visit elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au

MAKE IT A MARKET DAY

We're restoring the iconic Queen Victoria Market and adding modern facilities to make the market work better for traders, customers and visitors. With lots of work underway, plan ahead and consider catching the tram, train, bike or scooter to get to and from the market. Your favourite market stalls are still open for business. Learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/qvmrenewal

NOW OR NEVER RETURNS

Our newest festival – Now or Never – is back after an incredible debut last year. From 22 to 31 August, check out 250 leading local and international artists and creatives across a program of groundbreaking music and audio-visual performances, immersive art installations, provocative talks, spectacular technology and much more. Book your tickets at nowornever.melbourne.vic.gov.au

POWERING UP THE GRID

Our first Power Melbourne community battery has been switched on at Russell Place, delivering renewable energy onto the electricity grid. Two more batteries will be switched on soon at Boyd Community Hub and Library at the Dock. Visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne to stay up-to-date.

BUDGET ENDORSED

Our Budget 2024-25 and the Annual Plan 2024-25 were adopted by Council on 25 June. Our \$781 million Budget will help us deliver essential services for our community today while investing for the city's future growth. Read more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/ourplans

AMENDMENT C417

New planning controls are being proposed for parts of Kensington and North Melbourne. Attend an information session or have your say at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/macaulayC417

KEEP IN TOUCH

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news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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Nick Reece picks Roshena Campbell as his running mate

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece has made somewhat of a shock selection for his deputy mayoral candidate at the upcoming City of Melbourne local government elections in current councillor and Liberal Party member Roshena Campbell.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Cr Reece had made it widely known that he was seeking to run with a "unity ticket" at the council elections and had been working to secure a well-known Liberal candidate to join his team.

On July 28, he revealed that person was Roshena Campbell, who ran second on Sally Capp's councillor ticket at the 2020 elections, with Cr Reece running as the former Lord Mayor's deputy on the same team.

However, it was during the last council term that the political divide between Cr Capp and Cr Campbell became increasing apparent on issues such as the council's transport strategy, which she has previously branded as "anti-car measures".

Cr Campbell's continued criticism of the bike lane rollout saw her replaced in her

role as deputy chair of the council's transport portfolio, while she also opposed Cr Capp and Cr Reece's positions on a range of other issues.

In 2023, she went on to unsuccessfully run for the Liberal Party in a federal by-election in the seat of Aston, and many had expected that she would be keeping her options open at the upcoming City of Melbourne elections.

However, at an announcement in Carlton on July 28, where Cr Reece also vowed to double the number of CCTV cameras across the city if elected, it was Cr Campbell who appeared alongside him.

While running as an independent, Cr Reece is a long-time Labor man having worked as a senior advisor for former Prime Minister Julia Gillard, as well as for Victorian Premiers Steve Bracks and John Brumby.

Despite their differences on some issues, he said that Roshena Campbell was someone he had a great deal of respect for and that she was "smart, diligent, and always works hard for the people and local businesses of Melbourne."

"I'm honoured that she has agreed to be my candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor, and I look forward to working closely with her to help make this amazing city of ours even better and fairer," Cr Reece said.

With a "track record of delivering" initiatives such as Melbourne Money during



COVID, boosting the city's events calendar, and getting the council's budget back into surplus, Cr Campbell said she knew how important it was to invest in the community.

"Melbourne has given me so much and it is a privilege to be able to give back. I am running with Nick Reece because I believe that working together, we will deliver the best outcomes for Melbourne's residents and traders," Cr Campbell said.

"As a university student, I fell in love

with this city and made it my home. As a barrister and councillor, I've spent my entire working life listening to and fighting for people."

"As the daughter of small business owners, I know government can make a real difference to whether businesses thrive. I am committed to doing everything I can to make our city's economy fire."

Cr Reece also used the opportunity to reveal Cr Campbell as his running mate to pledge that if elected as Lord Mayor, he would install an additional 200 cameras across Melbourne "to supercharge the city's network of Safe City Cameras to help keep residents, traders, and visitors safe."

The \$13.65m investment will almost double the number of cameras in the city and be the largest ever City of Melbourne investment in the network.

Working closely with Victoria Police to identify the exact camera locations, the new high-tech cameras will prioritise city Hot Spots and Black Spots – areas where crime rates and anti-social behaviour are at their highest, or busy retail areas where there is a gap in the network with no CCTV coverage.

The Safe City Camera Program will also be extended to parts of the city that have not had CCTV previously including busy retail strips and high traffic areas in Southbank, Docklands, Carlton, West Melbourne, North Melbourne, and Kensington. ●

Some Southbankers "fed-up" with new parking changes

Following the implementation of the City of Melbourne's new parking policy in Southbank earlier this year, some residents and business owners are calling for the council to backtrack on its decision.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The Parking and Kerbside Management Plan was endorsed by the City of Melbourne Council on May 17, 2023, and was created with the intent to guide its decisions around parking supply and how it manages demand for kerbside space.

As a part of the plan, new parking signs, meters, line markings and other assets have been rolled out to improve parking conditions across the city.

Since the implementation of the plan in Southbank, some parking conditions have been amended.

In many cases, what were previously all-day spaces have been reduced to three- and

four-hour zones between 7am and 10pm, and parking is no longer free on weekends.

The vision of the plan was to provide reliable parking for all users, support the local economy and to allocate fairly to all users who need it.

However, some residents and business owners feel that the plan has not been "fair" to Southbank.

Ashwyn Donovan, the owner of 8 Miles café in Southbank, claimed that since the parking changes were made earlier this

year, he had lost at least \$10,000.

Mr Donovan's café is located on Miles St and he said that the "biggest blow" for his business had been the decision to replace the three 15-minute parking spaces out the front of his shop with three-hour spaces.

According to the business owner who has lived in Southbank for 15 years, the 15-minute spaces were invaluable, and he would generate around \$200 a day from customers who parked there.

Another change that has impacted Mr Donovan's business is the sparse amount of all-day parking that exists in Southbank due to a lot of spaces being reduced to three- and four-hour zones.

The business owner has noticed a loss in regular customers who used to drive to work but now choose to stay home because of the lack of all-day parking available.

The reduced time of the all-day spaces has also affected guests of people who live in Southbank, and people who are visiting the area to dine or attend events in the Arts Precinct.

Rowena Cowan, an 8 Miles customer who has been a resident of Southbank for 13-years, said, "[before the changes] you could come here and park and go eat and drink and go to the theatre. Now you not

only have to pay but you are limited to a three-hour window."

Due to paid parking on weekends, Ms Cowan believes that it is impacting on their ability to have friends and family visit because they have to pay and their time is limited.

"I'm particularly concerned about the impact on older residents and people with disabilities who rely on carers, who the council is effectively putting a stopwatch on," she said.

According to Tamara Boldiston, a resident and owners' corporation committee member at The Sovereign on Wells St, the City of Melbourne had indicated that it planned to keep the changes for 12 months before amending.

But she added, "We hope they'll see sense and make changes sooner."

When community members raised their concerns to Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece at the Meet the Mayor Event hosted by residents' group Southbank3006 in August, he said "If something isn't working, we'll change it until we get it right."

The Lord Mayor said that the council will seek to find ways to better regulate and optimise this scarce resource.

Southbank News contacted the City of Melbourne for further comment. ●

Your Federal MP for Southbank.

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JOSH BURNS MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACNAMARA

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It's time to move on, time to look to the future

After eight rewarding years as your local councillor at the City of Port Phillip, it is time for me to step aside and pass the baton to a new generation of councillors.



It has been an incredible privilege to serve our community, and I am deeply grateful for the trust and support I have received from the residents and businesspeople of Port Phillip. Thank you!

During my time on council, I've had the privilege of representing Port Phillip on the South Melbourne Market Board, Housing-First Board, as chair of the Multifaith and Grants Committees, and as Mayor.

These positions have been terrifically rewarding and it has been especially inspiring to watch our local market blossom into the best village market in Australia by some margin (and back trading in the black).

Port Melbourne and South Melbourne traditionally played second fiddle to St Kilda and Elwood when it came to the council's attention, but we have seen significant investments in sporting fields and infrastructure in these areas over the past eight years which has transformed these areas. The culmination of this work was the recent purchase of the Australia Post site in Port Melbourne for \$38.8 million and the works at the South Melbourne Town Hall.

Port Phillip is debt-free, with some of the largest cash reserves among councils, ensuring we are well-positioned for future asset purchases, to build much needed infrastructure and the ability to put downward pressure of rates.

Our efforts to support local businesses through the challenges of COVID-19 have been substantial, although the work is far from over given the state of many of our high streets across the city.

There are still many challenges ahead that need to be faced by the next group of councillors. I did my best to serve you and make a positive impact for the future.

I loved almost every minute.

There is no greater way to serve your local area than by participating in local government and making decisions that truly reflect the needs of your neighbours. If you're thinking of running in this year's election, my advice is to put your hand up and give it a go.

Looking ahead, I am excited to leverage my professional experience as a CEO and skills gained across the public sector to focus on the best path for my future. I am committed to making a meaningful impact over the next decade and beyond. It is a very exciting time, filled with promise and potential.

The broader City of Melbourne needs strong leadership to continue its growth and realise its full potential, and I hope to play a role in that journey through my professional and business activities.

Thank you to everyone in Port Phillip for granting me the privilege to serve as your local councillor. The road ahead is bright, and I am excited to see what can be achieved next.

Stay well. ●

Cr Marcus Pearl

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP
HELLO@MARCUSPEARL.COM



SOUTHBANKER

Glenn Inglis reflects on a storied music career

Glenn Inglis, who captured attention in the July edition of *Southbank News* with his pet rabbit, Hoppy, now steps into the spotlight to chat about his extensive career in the music industry.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



With a career spanning the dynamic eras of '70s and '80s Australian bands and international acts, Glenn transitioned to government work around two decades ago, citing significant shifts in the industry.

"I left when things went from talent to profit, it's a very different beast nowadays," Glenn told *Southbank News*.

"I had the pleasure of working with some very talented people, and the more talent the easier it is to get a good sound. These people really knew their craft and how to get good sounds from their instruments."

As a seasoned live sound engineer, Glenn has partnered closely with household names, mastering the art of capturing pristine sound from instruments honed by true craftsmen.

Though primarily known for his expertise in sound engineering, Glenn has also worked in production management.

He fondly recalls his role as the "head roadie", touring extensively with bands like The Seekers and Crowded House, orchestrating back-to-back shows across the globe.

"The last year that I worked was The Seekers tour, I think I did over 100 flights in one year," he said.

"They were fabulous. When you get those three guys and Judith singing together, it sent tingles down your spine. It was impossible to make it sound bad."

Despite his illustrious career, Glenn sensed industry tides shifting by the late '90s, prompting his decision to explore other avenues.

Today, he finds joy in his Southbank studio, accompanied by Hoppy, experimenting with sounds.

"I actually get more fun out of being here and making a bit of noise," he said.

"My whole focus is good quality sound. I get a lot of inspiration from movies and what's going on in the background that they're trying to create a mood from, not necessarily songs. I get a lot out of movies and the emotion that music brings to it."

With a wealth of industry experience, Glenn acknowledges the hurdles facing aspiring musicians, and dedicates time to mentoring and producing demo tapes.

"I'm not here for the money, I'm here for the enjoyment of listening and helping," he said.

"I have plenty of time on my hands and I'm quite happy and patient with people. Usually, it starts with a lunch or a cup of coffee, where they tell me their dreams are and what they'd like to do."

For artists eager to connect with Glenn, they can reach him at: glenn.inglis@gmail.com ●



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The latest from the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation

Construction works on the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation are continuing, with structures going up and coming down marking key milestones across the project.

Construction of the elevated deck in the Kavanagh St/Sturt St intersection has wrapped up, with the deck, civil ground slabs and concrete columns now in place.

This completed structure forms a new covered entrance to the Arts Centre Melbourne Car Park.

It is the first section of the deck that will support the 18,000sqm urban garden,

the new back-of-house facilities for Arts Centre Melbourne, and improved shared services for Arts Centre Melbourne, NGV International and The Fox: NGV Contemporary.

From vantage points around the site, it's possible to envision how the future garden will connect the cultural institutions in the precinct and improve access between St Kilda Rd, Southbank, Sturt St, and beyond.

While construction continues, Arts Centre Melbourne's Car Park can be accessed via both Kavanagh St and Southbank Boulevard. The Australian Ballet car park remains open and accessible through Kavanagh St.

At 77 Southbank Boulevard, decon-

struction of the former CUB building is progressing to make way for the new gallery, The Fox: NGV Contemporary. Following the deconstruction of above-ground levels, the works will shift to focus on the removal of the basement structure.

To help locals and visitors alike navigate the precinct, there's a new Getting around Southbank Village map.

Printed copies of the map will be available at local shops, and a digital version will be on the artsprecinct.melbourne website.

To stay up to date with all the latest project news and updates, follow us on Instagram: [@artsprecinctmelbourne](https://www.instagram.com/artsprecinctmelbourne) and LinkedIn: [@Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/melbourne-arts-precinct-corporation) ●

Alter State returns with a futuristic program for deaf and disabled artists

Arts Melbourne Centre announces the return of *Alter State*, a program dedicated to supporting disabled artists.

WORDS BY
NICOLAS THURN-VALSASSINA 

The program, featuring 100 Australian and New Zealand deaf and disabled artists, will take place from October 2 and 13 in more than 10 venues across 12 days of high entertainment.

The event includes exclusive performances, contemporary art, a film workshop, a two-day symposium, and two parties, starting with the First Nations Deaf and Disabled Yarning Circle under the guidance of Aunty Di Kerr, Wurundjeri Traditional Owner and *Alter State's* inaugural Elder in Residence.

Alter State 2024 creative lead Jodee Mundy, OAM, a CODA (Child of Deaf

Adults) and disabled artist, told *Southbank News* that this year's theme, "Disabled Futures: a Sight of What's to Come," offered new opportunities to question what it meant to be a disabled or deaf artist in Australia and what changes needed to happen in the future.

"*Alter State's* ambition is to alter the current state of the arts and culture we are producing and consuming," Ms Mundy said.

"For too long, we have seen on our stages, books, and screens, stories created and facilitated by people who have no direct lived experience or connection with deaf and disabled people,"

"We can't wait to spend a vital two weeks with Deaf and Disabled artists and audiences."

Arts Access Victoria CEO Joshua Pether said that Access Victoria was proud to co-present *Alter State* in 2024.

"We are signing a manifesto to the future," Pether said. "As Arts Access Victoria celebrates 50 years in 2024, we turn to the future and imagine the next 50 years in this program at *Alter State*."



"We can't wait to spend a vital two weeks with deaf and disabled artists and audiences."

The event will conclude with the *Alter State* Closing Party: Disabled and Sexy at North Melbourne's Arts House co-hosted by Jodee Mundy and Australia's Deaf Drag queen darling Mademoiselle Coco. ●



**PHOTOGRAPHY
STUDIES COLLEGE**

ERKIN KALAYCI

Erkin Kalayci: a photographic anthropologist

The Australian Photographic Prize's 2024 Student of the Year is devoted to learning and experimenting in his photography.

WORDS BY
SABRINA CAIRES



Growing up in a small town in Türkiye with a family full of photographers, Erkin Kalayci can't remember a life without a camera in his hand.

After working as a graphic designer, visual communications consultant and art director for many years, all roads led him back to photography.

"While studying landscape architecture at university, I always had a camera in my bag," Erkin told *Southbank News*.

Erkin has been working as a photographer semi-professionally for more than 20 years, and began working full-time after immigrating to Australia.

Now, almost 10 years in, he's pursuing a Master of Arts at Photography Studies College (PSC).

After feeling confined by the pressures of conforming to in-

dustrial trends in his professional work, he sought to hone his artistic vision through the Master's program.

"Contrary to popular belief, practicing something you are passionate about as a profession is not an enviable thing ... over time, you become more of a craftsman than an artist," he said.

"This whirlpool became uneasy for me. I can take technically good and visually appealing photographs but want to take more than just pretty images. I want to make art."

Erkin's solo exhibition *The Hidden Shaman*, has just finished showing at PSC's Captured Gallery in Southbank.

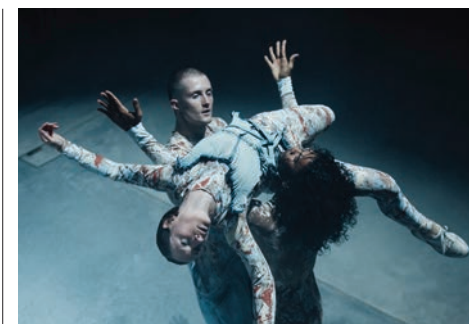
"I've dabbled in almost every genre, from macro to landscape, editorial to street photography, and infrared to minimal styles."

Despite being a self-described "perpetual experimenter", the focus of Erkin's photography always returns to one thing: people.

"I wouldn't label myself only as a portrait photographer, but I have a deep-seated desire to understand and describe people, their lives, and their relationships with their environment and each other," he said.

"This makes me a photographer of all things human: babies, births, weddings, deaths, portraits, streets, events, sports, art, and fashion."

"Photography is a collaborative effort between you and your subject. If there is no connection, trust, and collaboration at the moment of the click, I cannot succeed."



Clark and Melanie Lane set to shake up Now or Never festival

UK electronic music producer Clark and Australian choreographer Melanie Lane continue their long-time artistic partnership with their upcoming contemporary dance performance *MOUNTAIN*.

WORDS BY
SABRINA CAIRES



On Saturday, August 24, the pair will fire up the Melbourne Recital Centre with their unique blend of electronic music, contemporary dance and orchestral music.

Clark, who released his 11th album *Cave Dog* last December, will perform live alongside the Canberra Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble.

A cast of four dancers will perform Lane's choreography, decked out in costumes by renowned Australian fashion designer Akira Isogawa. The performance will be an exploration of the dangers of humankind's ambition to continuously break new ground as well as the inextricable connection between creation and destruction.

Through their composition and choreography, Clark and Lane aim to portray human evolution and progress as a cycle of exhilarating climbs followed by turbulent descents.

The collaborators have worked together for almost 10 years, since Lane choreographed a series of live shows for Clark's international tour in 2015.

MOUNTAIN is part of Now or Never, Melbourne's festival of art, technology and ideas which launched last year.

The festival's theme this year is "look through the image", with a focus on hidden symbolism and innovative, large-scale works.

The program is expected to attract more than 200,000 attendees to the city.

Now or Never runs from August 22 to 31. ●



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Our Olympians represent the best of Australia: diversity, equality and opportunity

“

It felt like the world needed the Olympics.

”

WORDS BY
JOSH BURNS
FEDERAL MP FOR MACNAMARA

And they have arrived with all the ceremony and style of one of the world's great cities – Paris.

For the next couple of weeks, I have just accepted that I will be going to sleep late or waking up early to watch our athletes.

From being glued to the TV for the Ariane Titmus triumph in her 400m freestyle to cheering on Jess Fox as she cruises through the whitewater, the Olympics can make a whole country collectively hold their breath.

It also represents the best of the nation – diversity, equality and opportunity.

At 14 years old Arisa Trew is one of the youngest Australian athletes to ever compete in the Olympics.

We have the incredible Tina Rahimi who is Australia's first hijab-wearing boxer to compete in the Olympics.

Importantly, our team for the Paris Olympics has our highest proportion of women ever, at 55 per cent.

I'm particularly proud of our fantastic local Macnamara athletes, including Melissa Tapper, the history-making table tennis player who was the first Australian athlete to compete in both the Summer Olympics and Summer Paralympics.

Our Olympians are role models for young Australians, not just because of their skill and strength but because they represent our diversity and what it means to wear the yellow and gold.

Sport should be for everyone, regardless of your background, faith or culture. It should be accessible, safe, and fun for everyone to participate in.

That's what our approach to sport is all about.

The Albanese Labor Government has delivered the largest ever investment in Olympic and Paralympic sports to help our brilliant athletes achieve glory on world stages.

A record \$283 million in new money will flow to our elite athletes, coaches and support staff over the next two years in a historic show of support on the path to Brisbane 2032.

For too long, the systemic and structural barriers to performance for Paralympic athletes have been ignored.

Our funding package for Paralympic athletes is the biggest ever and double the amount of investment the previous government made for Paralympic athletes.

This funding will mean more training and opportunities for more athletes to compete at an elite level.

But it's not just about the top level. Our local sporting clubs should be there



for everyone to play. It's not just about physical activity, but these clubs are a vital part of our community.

Following the Women's World Cup we announced the Play our Way program, to provide greater opportunities for women and girls to access, participate and get involved in sport.

Just last month, The Minister for Sport Anika Wells addressed UNESCO's Change the Game Sport conference in Paris, and she said "I truly believe gender balance in sport

in Australia has been permanently improved by the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup."

Whether it be in the XXXIII Olympiad or in our local parks and sporting venues, I will continue to support our local athletes. I will be glued to the great equaliser that is sport, and perhaps most of all I will be enjoying the few days to focus on the world coming together as one.

Josh Burns is the Federal Member for Macnamara. ●

Pet's Corner



Southbank News ran into them going for a walk near the Arts Centre.

WORDS BY
DAVID ALLEN



Medici is a friendly and playful pupper and he attracts a lot of attention wherever he goes.

He's quick with a nuzzle and likes climbing up to the highest place he can find.

Myles was stopped several times by passers-by complimenting Medici as we took his picture. ●

Medici is a nine-month-old Maremmano-Abruzzese Sheepdog Collie cross; Myles and his partner Amber found him online.

Maremmas are Italian in descent and were bred to guard livestock.

The name Medici was inspired by the famous Italian political dynasty, Myles said, as a tip of the hat to his canine ancestry.

Medici loves eating carrots – "three a day, he just crunches away on them" – and long walks along the Yarra in the afternoon sun.

When asked the best thing about having a fur baby, Myles' answer is immediate: "The cuddles." ●

LETTERS

Neglect of Southbank

Your story headline "Southbank in limbo: concern as major developments stall" (*Southbank News*, July 2024) understates the seriousness of the City of Melbourne's neglect of the area.

Parts of Southbank could be described as "in hell" with some developments at a full stop and moving into reverse. As an example, I cite the saga of the so-called City Road Master Plan.

Following extensive surveys carried out in the early to mid-2010s, the plan was endorsed by the Future Melbourne Committee in June 2016 and promised, with much fanfare, to transform City Rd at a cost of \$38.5 million over a seven year period from 2016-2023 "into a safe and welcoming place for everyone".

But, regrettably, hardly any funds were allocated to it – apart from a substantial amount to construct a so-called "doggy park" under Kings Way.

After eight years, the plan has no doubt been gathering dust in the dungeons below the Town Hall ever since and parts of City Rd continue to be a disgrace.

If the council can't handle this project, how will it cope with the former Lord Mayor's much more ambitious and extravagant Greenline "passion project"?

Peter Price ●



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
ADMIN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

10 YEARS ON

AUGUST 2014 | ISSUE 33 | SOUTHBANK NEWS



Southbank lights up for AIDS 2014

In what was otherwise a great cause for celebration, the launch of Melbourne's AIDS 2014 experience on Friday, July 18, was marred by a shocking tragedy.

Less than a day out from the official opening of the 20th international AIDS conference, the world was brought to a stand still after 298 lives were lost on board flight MH-17. The news was only made worse for organisers, with seven passengers said to have been traveling to Melbourne to take part.

Speaking at the launch of a special digital art installation at Southbank's Hamer Hall, Victorian Premier Denis Napthine was among a number of distinguished figures to pay tribute.

"The lighting up of Hamer Hall celebrates the many great achievements that have been made by scientists, researchers, sociologists and advocates around the world," he said.

Among the high-profile advocates to visit Southbank included former US President Bill Clinton, Sir Bob Geldof and the head of UN AIDS Michael Sidibe. ●

E-scooters, E-bikes a burning issue for all of us. Are they a ticking time-bomb?

With the increasing use of lithium-ion batteries within our homes, whether for an e-scooter, bike, power tools or even our mobile phones, we need to ensure we are aware of their risks.

Recently, in Adelaide, a hotel fire was caused by an e-scooter, which caught fire while charging. A 24-year-old woman was charged with recklessly causing damage and spent a few nights in police custody.

There was an estimated \$200,000 worth of damage caused. The fire set off the buildings sprinkler system which accentuated the damage bill from water damage to other properties. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Earlier this year there was an apartment fire at Bondi, NSW, which was caused by an e-bike battery that was left in a bedroom to charge overnight and ignited. The residents were asleep at the time and had to escape the fire through a window.

But not all residents have been fortunate. There have been fatalities from exploding batteries, in the most part from inhaling the toxic smoke.

Lithium-ion battery fires are becoming more prevalent globally as we are becoming increasingly reliant on portable electric items within our lives.

Victorian fire authorities are responding to one lithium-ion fire a day, up from one a week last year. This trend is expected to rise exponentially.

Fires are commonly linked to improper charging practices, mechanical damage, or electrical abuse. Fortunately, fires linked to electric vehicles or hybrid cars with a rechargeable battery are rare.

Building managers need to remind their residents of the fire risks and promote safe charging and storage practices.

Owners' corporations need to regularly review and update their building fire safety procedures to account for the growing presence of lithium-ion batteries within the home.

Owners should also be mindful to ensure their insurance policies are active as damage to your property may have been caused by someone else whom may not be insured (uninsured rental tenants are common in our high-rise community).

We must remain vigilant and not forget that lithium-ion batteries pose a significant fire and toxic smoke risk. ●

Tony Penna

PRESIDENT



APARTMENT LIVING

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

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

WORDS BY
HAOTIAN NI



Nimantha asked us: Who do I call if I drop something into the lift shaft?

A: Firstly, do not attempt to retrieve it yourself as this can be dangerous. Instead, contact your building manager who will arrange or guide you on the process to have the building's lift contractor safely recover your items. This will come at a cost which varies from contractor to contractor and its urgency.

If retrieving your items isn't urgent, some lift contractors may be able to retrieve them at no additional cost during their next main-

tenance visit, facilitated through your building manager.

It is advised to consider keeping a spare set of keys in a secure location offsite or with a trusted neighbour as a backup. Depending on what you've lost, such as keys, sometimes it's more cost-effective to replace them rather than trying to recover them.

Jessica asked us: I have rented an apartment through a real estate agent. What should I do next?

A: Before moving into the apartment building, we recommend contacting your building manager at the first instance. They should provide you with the following:

- A move-in procedure to ensure a smooth transition to your new property
- A detailed handover manual which should include information to connect utilities and services, information about the communal facilities, building rules and regulations to be aware of any induction procedures to familiarise you with the property's amenities and safety protocols.
- Guidelines to obtain access to the res-

idents' portal to log common property maintenance requests, book facilities or moves and receive important building updates.

Being equipped with all the relevant information from your building manager will ensure a seamless and enjoyable start to your new home.

Sam asked us: We are a building seeking tenders on our building management contractor, what should we look for?

A: Undertaking a building management tender is no easy task but a task worth completing if you feel the incumbent isn't performing and providing you with the value and service as intended.

We would recommend considering the following factors:

- Experience and track record: look at the companies' reviews, ask for reference checks with stakeholders like committee members and meet with their team.
- Services offered: Is the company able to provide a comprehensive range of services like maintenance, common property renovations, garden and land-

scaping maintenance, caretaking, and emergency response.

- Communication: communication and guaranteed response times is key. building manager's plays an important role as they are your eyes and ears when it comes to the upkeep of the common areas, security issues, reporting breaches.
- Building compliance: Ask the company about their processes to stay on top of building compliance like essential services, anchor point certifications, swimming pools, lifts.
- Insurance: confirm the companies carries appropriate insurance coverage to protect both your property and themselves from potential liabilities

If you're looking for a capable building manager with over 17 years of experience in building management, developer consultancy, caretaking, and strata management, contact the undersigned (CFS!).

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

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Tackling local cost-of-living pressures

The high cost-of-living continues to have a profound impact on people in our community. From skyrocketing rent, house prices, bills and supermarket prices, people are really struggling.

WORDS BY
SAM HIBBINS
STATE MP FOR PRAHRAN



That's why tackling the cost-of-living has been my number one priority as our local MP.

When it comes to housing affordability, thousands of much-needed homes are being taken off the market due to the high number of AirBnBs, driving up rent as well creating amenity issues for residents.

The Greens are pushing the state government to take action by placing a 90-day annual cap on short-stay accommodation, just like other governments around the world have done.

This would mean you can still rent out a room or rent out your home when you go on holiday, but investors would be prevented from buying up multiple whole apartment buildings just to make mega profits and never renting them out long-term.

In addition to short stays, the high number of properties being left vacant is making housing affordability worse. There are thousands of homes being left vacant by investors who would rather leave them empty than rent them out or put them up for sale.

The Greens successfully negotiated with the state government to make more vacant homes available to renters and first home buyers by increasing the vacant home levy

for investors who keep homes vacant over multiple years, and ensuring there is stronger enforcement of the levy.

Rent is continuing to skyrocket. During the pandemic the Greens were able to secure rent freezes to prevent people being evicted into homelessness, and I've been pushing hard for the government to put an end to unlimited rent rises by again freezing rents and putting in place long-term rent controls.

On top of housing costs, unfair price hikes by supermarkets are making it next to impossible to do a cheap shop anymore, meaning many are going without.

The state government has the power to stop supermarkets from ripping you off but right now, they're choosing not to. This means there's nothing to stop supermarkets from jacking up the prices as high as they want.

That's why the Greens and I are introducing laws to regulate supermarkets to stop them from price gouging to make food affordable for everyone.

Sam Hibbins is the MP for the Victorian seat of Prahran, which includes Southbank Village. ●



Pushing the Metro Tunnel to its limit

Test trains have run through the Metro Tunnel for the first time carrying the weight of a full passenger load – but without a passenger in sight.

Instead, the test team piled two trains up with water tanks to carry the equivalent weight of a full passenger load.

The two seven-carriage trains each carried 42 1000-litre water tanks and thousands of water bottles – nearly 135 tonnes of water or about 19,200 kilograms per carriage – during this critical phase of testing.

The team then monitored how trains performed under the pressure of a full load in the twin nine-kilometre tunnels over two weeks.

Testing will continue in the Metro Tunnel – the biggest upgrade of Melbourne's train network in 40 years - into the second half of 2024.

In the coming months the test team will push the project's systems and technology to their limits to ensure the tunnels and five new underground stations are ready to open to passengers in 2025.

Test trains have already run nearly 20,000km since first entering the tunnels almost a year ago. But trains still have further to go with another 150,000 kilometres to be travelled during testing before opening.

The project's 300 Victorian-first platform screen doors will be opened and closed at least another 30,000 times during this phase, making sure they are working seamlessly in tandem with the doors of Melbourne's modern High-Capacity Metro Trains.

Trial operations will start next – running practice services with drivers and station staff in a dress rehearsal to ensure everything is ready for a safe and reliable opening for passengers.

Major construction has finished on Arden and Parkville stations, with Anzac Station next to be completed and progress continuing on the two CBD stations – Town Hall and State Library.

The Metro Tunnel is the biggest upgrade to Victoria's rail network since the City Loop opened in 1981.

It will free up space in the City Loop, creating a new end-to-end rail line from Sunbury in the north-west to Cranbourne and Pakenham in the south-east – via a new tunnel under the city. ●

SOUTHBANK3006

A compassionate approach to tackling homelessness

As the glamour of the Olympics bombards us, unfortunately, Homelessness Week 2024 will not feature prominently for many. But an inconvenient and uncomfortable truth is that homelessness exists in Southbank in the depths of winter.

WORDS BY
STEVE TIMMERMAN
& DAVID HAMILTON

Homelessness is not merely an issue of people lacking shelter; it is a multifaceted social challenge that reflects deeper problems. It's time we address this issue with compassion and clarity, recognising that those experiencing homelessness are our neighbours, deserving of dignity and support.

First, it's crucial to distinguish homelessness from street crime.

The two are often wrongly conflated, leading to stigmatisation and misunderstanding. People experiencing homeless-

ness are not inherently criminals. They are individuals facing a range of difficult circumstances, from job loss and economic hardship to mental health struggles and family breakdowns.

Reducing homelessness to a matter of criminality is not only inaccurate but also harmful, diverting attention from the root causes that need addressing.

Homelessness impacts a diverse group of people.

Young people, families, the elderly particularly older women left without economic security because superannuation came to them too late if at all; can all find themselves without a home. Mental health issues, such as depression, anxiety, and untreated trauma, are common among the homeless population, often exacerbated by the lack of stable housing.

Additionally, the absence of a supportive community can leave individuals isolated and unable to find a way out of their predicament.

A compassionate perspective is essential. This means advocating for policies and initiatives that provide real support rather than punitive measures. Shelters, transitional housing, and permanent affordable housing solutions are vital.

However, housing alone is not enough. Comprehensive support services, including

mental health care, addiction treatment, job training, and educational opportunities, must be integrated to address the complex needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Community involvement is another key component.

Volunteer programs, local businesses, and neighbourhood groups can play a significant role in supporting homeless individuals. By fostering a sense of community, we can create a network of support that helps individuals reintegrate and rebuild their lives. Initiatives like food drives, clothing donations, and mentorship programs can make a tangible difference.

There are a range of services in the City of Melbourne that Ash Lee, our neighbourhood coordinator, can link people to.

Unfortunately, in Southbank, we lack access to a local service such as South Port Community Housing Group (spchg.org.au) which for more than 40 years has worked across the Cities of Port Phillip, Stonnington, and Glen Eira delivering rental accommodation and practical support to highly vulnerable people and advocating on a deeply inconvenient truth in our community.

By raising awareness about the realities of homelessness they combat stigma and encourage empathy.

Homelessness is a highly complex issue requiring thoughtful, humane solutions.



Separating it from street crime and understanding it as a multifaceted social problem creates effective strategies to support and uplift our most vulnerable neighbours. In the spirit of the Olympics and our shared humanity, together, let's build a community where everyone can thrive and use Homelessness Week 2024, to commit to a compassionate approach and not "blame the victim". ●

For more information:
southbank3006.com



Cold weather, warm hearts in our winter gardening efforts

As we enter August, winter has delivered some of the coldest mornings we've seen in recent years.

WORDS BY
SEEMA MISRA THAKUR
& RAHUL SUJAN

The sun played hide and seek during the first fortnight, as clouds and fog descended on City Rd, making it feel like we were on a snow-clad mountain.

One of our volunteers aptly remarked, "These chilly mornings with a wind chill of three degrees and lower are not for the faint-hearted to be up and about gardening."

Despite the chill, our dedicated and strong-hearted volunteers braved the cold during the first week's gardening bee.

Bundled up in beanies and their warmest winter jackets, they tackled the maintenance tasks with unwavering commitment. They raked leaves, nourished young seedlings with organic fertiliser, and tended to our worm beds, accomplishing all with great enthusiasm.

During the second fortnight of July, winter rains took over the garden bed watering chores, freeing up some of our gardening session time. With the outdoors freezing, the gardening team moved indoors to the Boyd lobby for spring planting discussions.

The creative members of our group got busy painting artwork on our signal rocks. These Southbank Sustainability Group (SSG) winter artworks will soon be on display in our garden beds.

Keep an eye out for your favourite red, green, and yellow signal rocks, which indicate when our plant produce is ready for community harvesting.

It's not just the SSG members anticipating the arrival of spring and warmer weather; even our feathered visitors are eager.

During our last working bee, the garden-



ing group was delighted by the visit of a wattle bird in the gardens. This bird species has been a rare sight at Boyd Park recently due to ongoing construction activity.

Requests for planting some community favourite herbs continue. Parsley, coriander, and other herbs have been planted in the garden. These should be ready to harvest in the next few weeks as warmer weather arrives.

We will share this information on our SSG Facebook community page. If you have creatively used a herb from our SSG gardens in a recipe and would like to share it, let us know. We might feature your recipe (with due acknowledgement) on our social platforms.

In recent months, the SSG Events team has brought you some great educational sessions on Native Edible Plants and Food & Fashion Sustainability. At the upcoming Active Southbank Community Association's Festival at Boyd on August 18, the SSG team will host a painting and planting session for kids and parents. Visit our gardening space to participate in this session as we share, educate, and learn with the youngest community members. The volunteer team will

discuss the existing plants and biodiversity of the Boyd community gardens.

An upcoming educational event in spring, "Bee for Biodiversity," will be held for the children of Southbank. Details of this event will be posted on the SSG Facebook page and on the Bulletin Board at Boyd closer to the date.

Sustainability in daily life and beyond "Plastic Free July" is a global initiative that began in 2011 in Western Australia and has since garnered international attention and support. It was launched to highlight the need to reduce single-use plastic consumption. The National Science Research Agency, CSIRO, estimates that Australians generate 59 kg of single-use plastic waste per person annually. Four easy ways to ditch plastic for Plastic Free July – CSIRO:



Supporting a plastic-free initiative can be incorporated into daily life through small, everyday actions. Here are a few useful reminders for local market shopping:

- Choose produce with plastic-free packaging as much as possible.
- Bring your own hygienically cleaned containers for shopping at market delis.
- Use mesh bags for fresh produce such as vegetables and fruits.
- Buy in bulk from grain grocers using your own jars and containers.

For more sustainability tips regarding plastic-free living, read the article created by South Melbourne Market: [BYO Reusable Containers for Your Market Shop | South Melbourne Market](#).



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



HISTORY



Trees of Southbank

One of the joys of living in Southbank is sharing the many trees in the environment – part of the 70,000 trees that make up the urban forest of Melbourne.

WORDS BY
ROBIN GROW – AUTHOR AND
HISTORIAN OF SOUTHBANK

The highlight is the multi-laned promenade of St Kilda Rd, the "noble thoroughfare" with its mix of tree varieties, such as poplars, planes, elms, and West Australian flowering eucalypts, which form the majority of the trees.

But the most outstanding trees are the many Canary Palms, including the eight mature trees situated at the entry to the Victorian Barracks.

How did Canary Palms come to be so popular and prevalent in Southbank?

They are universally acclaimed and present a beautiful appearance, and come in a variety, including Phoenix, date palms, dwarf palms, cabbage palms, and fan palms.

Canary Island date palms are long-lived and have been planted and cultivated by private gardeners and public bodies for more than a century.

But there have also been many controversies about these trees. In 1925 many trees, shrubs and palms were removed to provide for the installation of roadside poles to enable the electrification of the tramways network, which replaced the underground network installed in the 1880s.

It was an action regarded as "deplorable" by many residents (including those in the mansions of merchants in their prestige addresses) but deemed there can be no progress without sacrifice.

Many locals exhorted authorities

to "plant Australian trees", such as popular Australian varieties like beautiful evergreen flowering eucalypts rather than the spiky palms from other countries.

In 1946 it was proposed that trees on the edge of the city should be removed to make car parking safer and protect Melburnians from the remote chance of being hit by a palm frond.

The most recent controversy is around the planting of nine palm trees outside the ABC building in Southbank Boulevard, supplemented by about 50 canopy trees.

There have also been a number of beautification schemes, aimed at hiding unsightly buildings from the public eye, such as factories and "eyesores" in Southbank around what was Sloss St, later subsumed by the National Gallery of Victoria.

Walking past the row of palm trees outside Victorian Barracks continues to provide residents of Southbank with joy and hopefully the trees will last for another century. ●

WHAT'S ON August



Stay warm in Southbank during the last month of winter with a great selection of events for the whole family.



FESTIVAL@BOYD SOUTHBANK
Fostering a sense of belonging and celebrating the city's multicultural community, FAB Southbank promises an inclusive experience filled with activities, music, dance and food.
Boyd Park, Southbank Library at Boyd
SUN 18 AUG, 10AM – 4PM



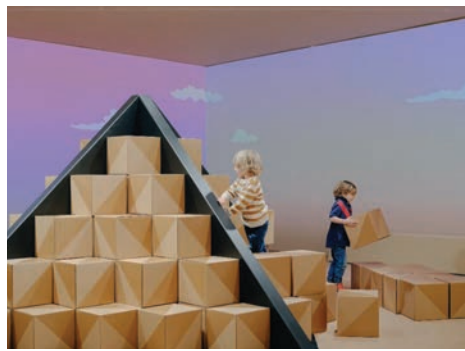
BOOK WEEK: COSTUMES WORKSHOP
Join for a fun workshop to take the stress out of last minute book week costumes. For primary school aged children. Bookings essential.
Southbank Library at Boyd
THU 15 AUG, 4.30PM – 5.30PM



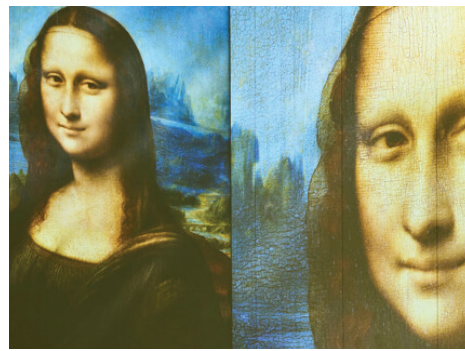
SOUTHGATE SUNDAY MARKET
The famous Arts Centre Sunday Market moved to Southgate shopping centre in July. The same traders you've known and loved for over 20 years, all under cover at their new home at Southgate.
southgatemelbourne.com.au
UNTIL 5 JAN, 10AM – 4PM



NIDA POSTGRADUATE INFO SESSION
Hear from NIDA's Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Course Leaders in Directing, Dramatic Writing and Cultural Leadership. Discover how the MFA programs are designed to support the careers of emerging artists.
nida.edu.au
TUE 13 AUG, 6PM – 7.30PM



ANCIENT EGYPT FOR KIDS
Ancient Egypt for Kids is a free exhibition inviting children to unlock the mysteries of ancient Egypt through a series of activities exploring the art and culture of this fascinating world.
NGV International
UNTIL 6 OCT, 10AM – 5PM



KIDS GO FREE AT THE LUME
This August, THE LUME Melbourne invites kids 14 and under to explore Leonardo da Vinci's masterpieces for FREE! Seniors Card holders can also redeem a free coffee from Mon – Thu.
THE LUME Melbourne
OPEN 7 DAYS, 10AM – 5.30PM



AFRICA FASHION
Africa Fashion is the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of fashion from the African continent ever mounted in Australia, with works from over 50 designers from over 20 countries.
NGV International
UNTIL 6 OCT, 10AM – 5PM

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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

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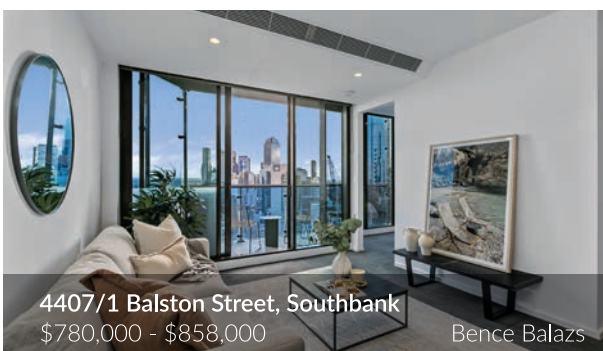
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RayWhite

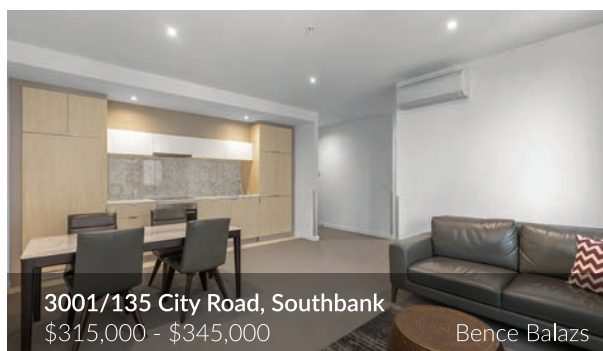
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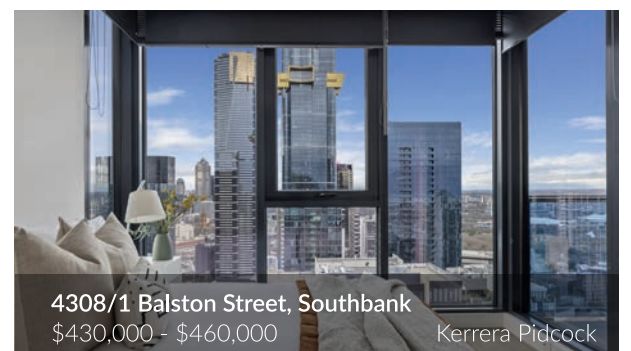
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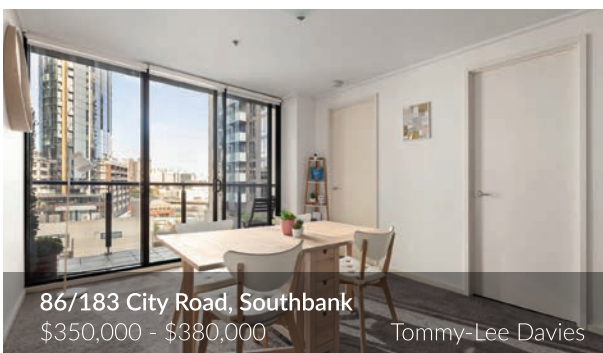
4407/1 Balston Street, Southbank
\$780,000 - \$858,000
Bence Balazs



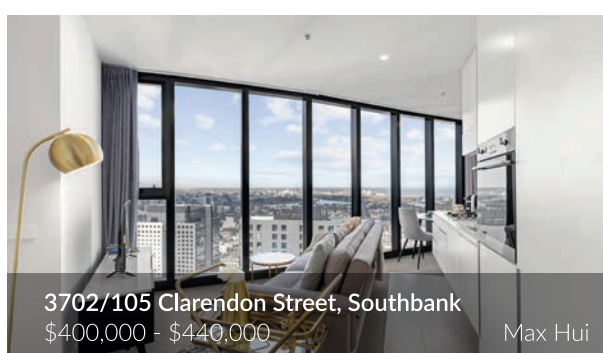
3001/135 City Road, Southbank
\$315,000 - \$345,000
Bence Balazs



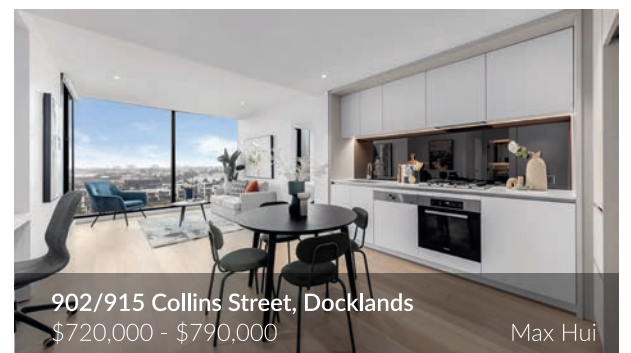
4308/1 Balston Street, Southbank
\$430,000 - \$460,000
Kerrera Pidcock



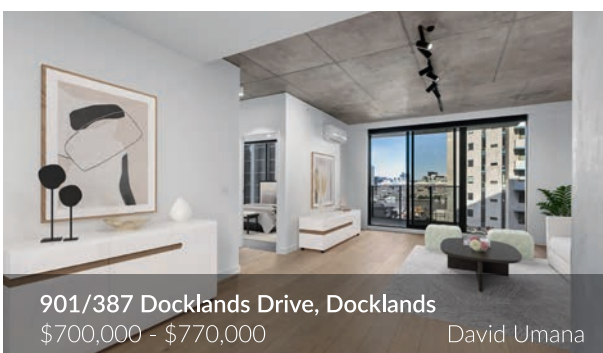
86/183 City Road, Southbank
\$350,000 - \$380,000
Tommy-Lee Davies



3702/105 Clarendon Street, Southbank
\$400,000 - \$440,000
Max Hui



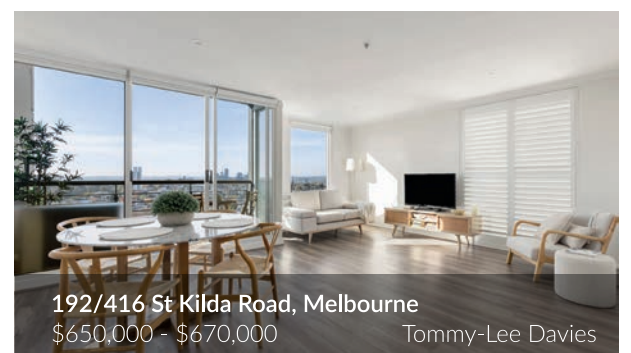
902/915 Collins Street, Docklands
\$720,000 - \$790,000
Max Hui



901/387 Docklands Drive, Docklands
\$700,000 - \$770,000
David Umana



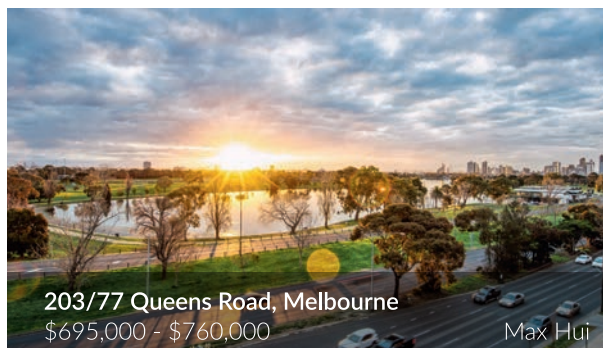
907/1 Roy Street, Melbourne
\$870,000 - \$930,000
Tommy-Lee Davies



192/416 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
\$650,000 - \$670,000
Tommy-Lee Davies



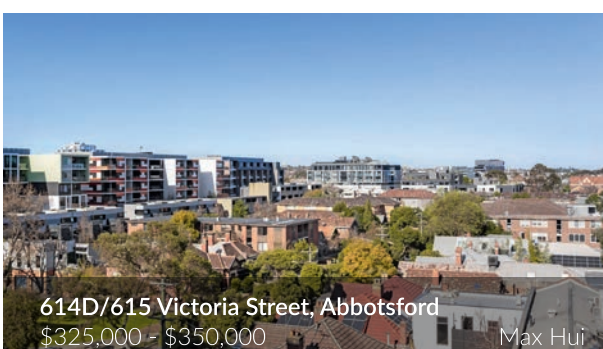
808/442 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
\$615,000 - \$660,000
Max Hui



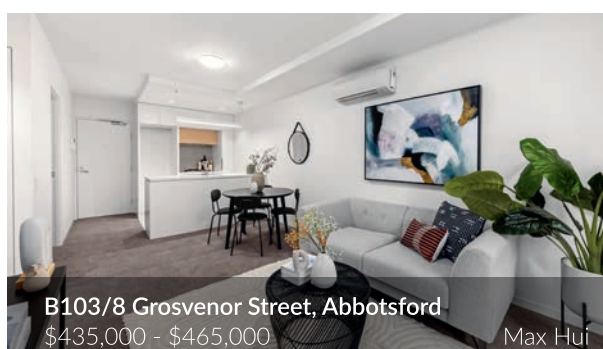
203/77 Queens Road, Melbourne
\$695,000 - \$760,000
Max Hui



708C/11 Shamrock Street, Abbotsford
\$375,000 - \$385,000
Max Hui



614D/615 Victoria Street, Abbotsford
\$325,000 - \$350,000
Max Hui



B103/8 Grosvenor Street, Abbotsford
\$435,000 - \$465,000
Max Hui

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