



Southbank's new Neighbourhood Watch to launch with BBQ in the park

Lord Mayor Nick Reece (centre) Snr Sergeants Alex O'Toole (left) and Jay McDonald (right), Neighbourhood Watch Victoria's Nikoll Peschek (second left) Christopher Milner, Emelia Young and her kids are Rory and Ava gathered at Sturt Street Reserve last month to promote Southbank's inaugural Neighbourhood Watch Group, which will launch on October 20 with a barbecue from 12pm and 3pm. More on page 20.

Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

## What's the true cost of the council's Southbank public art commissions?

“

The short answer is nowhere near the \$22 million price tag reported by *The Age* last month; however, the City of Melbourne has left much to be desired in terms of how it has communicated its public art project for Southbank to date.

”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



On September 17, *The Age* blew many away when it reported that "An artist got \$2m to make a kangaroo sculpture by 2021. Now the bill is \$22m and it's due in 2027."

This headline was reasonable cause for alarm. How could the signature public artwork commissioned by the City of Melbourne in 2018 as part of a series of artworks for the reimagined Dodds St have blown out by \$20 million alone?

The truth is: it hasn't, and not by a long shot.

And, based on the rest of its article, *The Age* must have known this headline was misleading, but regrettably ran with it anyway.

Further along in its piece, *The Age* outlines that Southbank was getting much more for the reported \$22 million sum, however the headline and introduction to its story suggested something entirely different.

"A \$2 million public artwork commissioned by the City of Melbourne six years ago has snowballed into a massive sculpture installation worth \$22 million and is still at least three years from completion," the opening line to *The Age* article reads.

*Southbank News* understands that the total cost of the project, comprising a total of four separate artworks (including the "kangaroo sculpture") by one artist all to be located along the recently completed Dodds St linear park, is around \$15.5 million.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson confirmed to *Southbank News* that the suggestion of an increase to \$22 million was incorrect. So, how could *The Age* get it so wrong?

As first reported by *Southbank News* back in March 2018, the commission began with one element of the overall artwork at a cost of \$2 million – this price, as acknowledged further down in *The Age's* article, remains consistent.

Continued on page 3.

ELECTIONS, PAGES 12 – 13

From Greenline to The Regent: who's in the box seat for Town Hall?

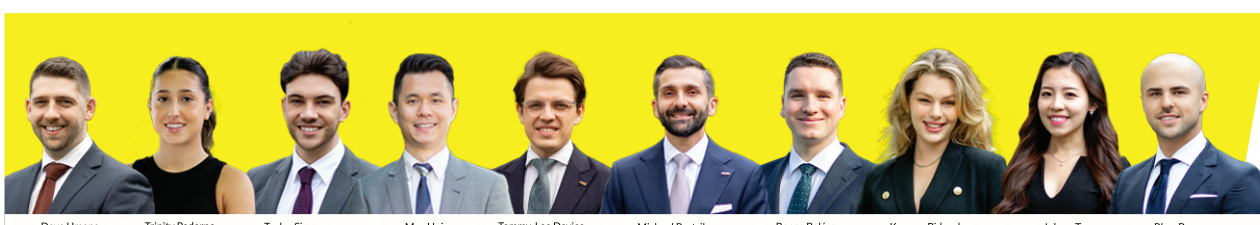
ELECTIONS, PAGE 16

The candidates running for the Montague Ward in Port Phillip



“It's been a tumultuous journey”: Channel 31 celebrates 30 years

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## Jamal Hakim reveals bold economic plan for Melbourne



Lord Mayoral candidate Jamal Hakim has announced a \$150 million policy seeking to establish “Experience Improvement Districts” (XIDs) in Melbourne based on similar models adopted in cities like London and New York.



**WORDS BY**  
SEAN CAR



Dubbed a “groundbreaking initiative” by Team Hakim, the policy aimed at “turbocharging” the city’s economy, has been developed collaboratively with Jace Tyrrell from London’s City Squared Consulting.

Cr Hakim said that its “innovative approach” built on globally proven “Business Improvement Districts” (BIDs) in London’s West End and New York’s Times Square, and that Melbourne would enhance the concept by creating immersive, experience-driven business precincts going “beyond traditional economic development models”.

BIDs allow businesses to collaborate to invest in projects to benefit their trading environment, and typically require them to pay a membership fee, which is then pooled to fund improvements and initiatives.

A global first-of-its-kind, Team Hakim’s policy would introduce XIDs. Differing from BIDs that focus primarily on business improvement, XIDs aim to transform entire precincts into interactive spaces that draw in workers, residents, and visitors.

Cr Hakim said his economic strategy was designed to tackle Melbourne’s pressing



economic challenges and to set the stage for sustainable, long-term growth.

“Melbourne has always been known as a vibrant cultural hub,” Cr Hakim said. “And now, more than ever, we need bold leadership to ensure we thrive as a global economic leader in industries like clean energy, biotechnology, and digital games.”

To be funded through a \$150 million public-private partnership every five years, the districts would target both the daytime economy with hybrid workspaces programs and the nighttime economy by supporting cultural events, night markets, and entertainment hubs.

“The success of BIDs around the world has shown that collective business investment can lead to significant economic gains. XIDs will take this further by creating dynamic, immersive environments,” Mr Tyrrell said.

Cr Hakim said XIDs were projected to

deliver substantial economic benefits, including a 30 per cent increase in business turnover above market over 10 years and “a surge in job creation across Melbourne and key precincts”.

As part of his policy, he also wants to advocate to the state government for payroll and land tax reforms, arguing that the current payroll tax system disproportionately affects small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), “stifling their growth”.

Cr Hakim’s strategy proposes a sliding payroll tax scale to alleviate this burden, enabling SMEs to transition into larger operations without facing prohibitive financial constraints.

Team Hakim has also already announced a grant program to support the development of on-site childcare facilities in workplaces throughout the CBD, which he says would “re-energise Melbourne’s workforce”. ●

# Nick Reece for Melbourne Mayor

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Team Nick Reece

Authorised by Nicholas Reece, PO Box 1163, Carlton 3053

# What's the true cost of Southbank's public art commissions?

Continued from page 1.

"Southbank has been revealed as the lucky recipient of a series of four major public art commissions, with the first to come at a cost of \$2 million," *Southbank News* reported in 2018.

Outside of that piece of information, the City of Melbourne has never publicly disclosed what the total cost of the public art initiative would be, and this is largely due to its confidential and evolving nature.

The council remains in a confidential contract with the artist, understood to be New Zealand Maori artist Michael Parekowhai. For the sake of not compromising the artist's creative approach, discretion is not uncommon for such commissions.

While preserving the artistic integrity of what a council spokesperson described as one of the "biggest public art undertakings" in the city's history is important, so too is the way in which the council chooses to report on its capital works expenditure.

As *Southbank News* now understands, the \$2 million price tag is much more nuanced than how the council originally led the community to believe the funds would be spent when first aired at a council meeting on February 27, 2018.

"It is intended that the \$2 million be allocated to the major public artwork commission on Southbank," the council report from 2018 stated, adding that this would be "inclusive of artist fees, fabrication and installation."

This major artwork is what *The Age* reported to be "an eight-metre-high bronze sculpture consisting of a 'soft-toy-appearing kangaroo' wrapped in fairy lights sitting on a primary school chair," titled *Yesterday*.

But according to a council source, the original \$2 million covered the concept plans not only for *Yesterday*, but the other

three artworks, as well as some landscaping and a downpayment on *Yesterday* itself – believed to have been at least half of the \$2 million.

In fact, the total cost for *Yesterday* alone is understood to be more than \$2 million, but despite numerous media reports suggesting otherwise since 2018, the council has never sought to correct the record.

This inaction is perhaps in part what has inevitably left the council exposed to *The Age's* inaccuracies, and subsequent news reports showing a fake AI-generated image depicting *Yesterday* that has whipped up an online furor.

But irrespective of the council's communication of this initiative, the inference by *The Age* of a blown-out project always costed at \$2 million is simply wrong, and ultimately should be corrected.

How it arrived at the figure of \$22 million is also puzzling, with a council source suggesting that it could have only landed there based on making a series of incorrect assumptions about the information contained in the 2022 documents it obtained.

One such assumption, is that the \$5.4 million Dodds St Landscape, completed earlier this year and largely funded by the state government as part of the Melbourne City Recovery Fund during the pandemic, forms part of the public art budget.

While these landscaping works are being treated as a component of the artwork, it's always been accounted for as a separate line in the council's budget. As many Southbankers will also know, renewal of Dodds St was originally mooted as part of the Southbank Boulevard upgrades, and has been a feature of the council's capital works program for many years.

But while the \$15.5 million we understand to be the more accurate figure might also sound hefty amid a cost-of-living crisis,

it's not yet clear exactly how much of this is being footed by ratepayers.

Since the commission began with one element of the overall artwork, a council spokesperson said that it had commissioned the remaining elements, including the landscape itself, "sharing the costs with public and private contributors".

One contributor is the University of Melbourne, which according to a separate article by *The Age* on September 20, brokered a "secret \$2.8 million deal" to fund one of the artworks in exchange for the council's support for its new Fishermans Bend campus.

According to a council source, other funds have been drawn from external funding, both institutional and philanthropic: "that is all consistent with the approach that council took from the outset."

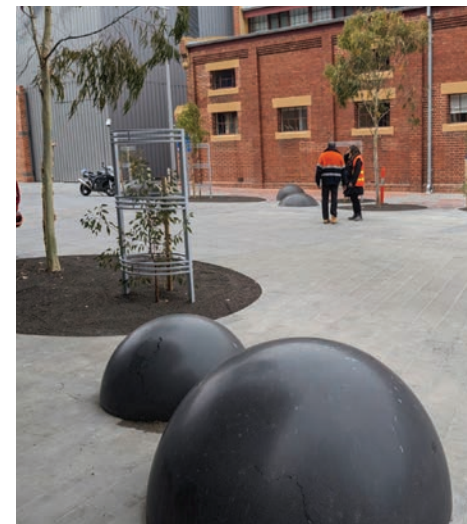
*Southbank News* understands that in addition to the University of Melbourne's contribution to one of the artworks, titled *Knowledge*, one of the remaining two pieces in addition to *Yesterday* has been funded through philanthropy.

Based on rough unconfirmed estimates, this could mean at least half of the \$15.5 million is being funded by ratepayers over the project's lifespan since 2018 through to its now mooted completion in 2027.

As for the delays, a council spokesperson said the project had been "interrupted by the pandemic, and would now be completed in 2027", despite having originally slated an unveiling during the current council term.

*Southbank News* understands that despite the mammoth *Yesterday* project now complete and sitting in storage, the "creative decision" was taken to reveal all the completed artworks together at the same time.

According to an SGS Economics report,

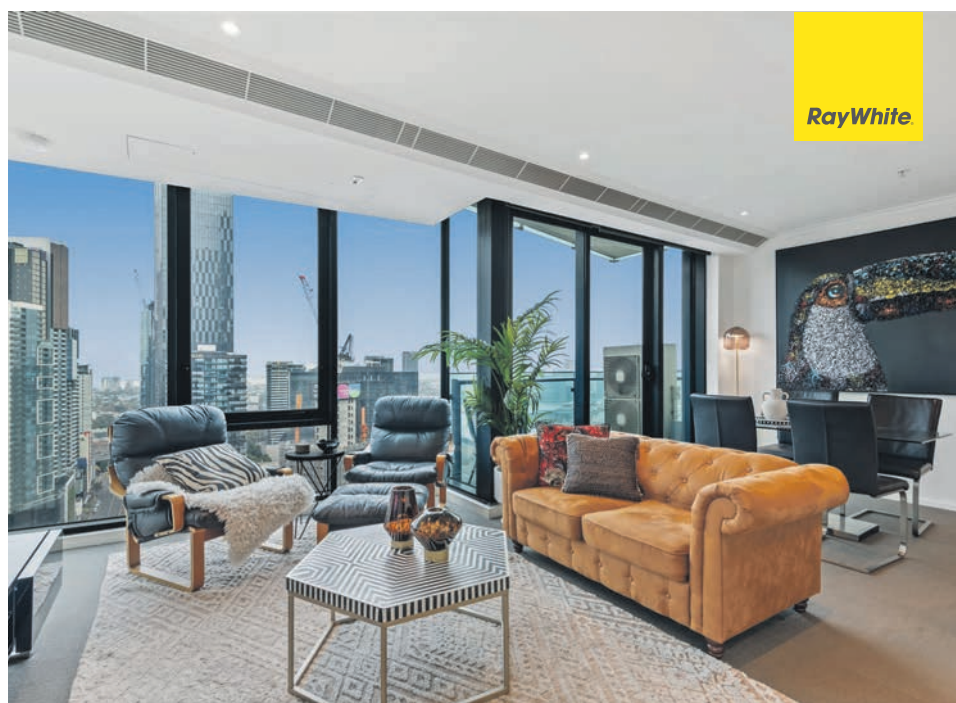


every \$1 million of commissioned public artwork will generate \$4.2 million of additional tourist spending in the first year – while creating new jobs.

"Public art drives visitation to Melbourne and strengthens our cultural fabric – and that's good for business and our economy," a City of Melbourne spokesperson said. "The Southbank public art commission is one of the biggest public art undertakings – and we will deliver it in the heart of Melbourne's growing Arts Precinct by the end of 2027."

"We recently opened the new-look linear park to the local community – providing residents, workers, students and visitors a great new place to come together."

A council source said they remained optimistic that the city was getting something that was going to be "quite special", adding that "underneath all of that is still a project that is within budget, a project that is being produced and commissioned properly from the production and creation end." ●



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| 109/8 Wells Street      | 3 bed 2 bath 2 car | Sold Off Market       | \$1.1m   |
| 167/100 Kavanagh Street | 2 bed 1 bath 1 car | Private Sale          | \$605k   |
| 609/250 City Road       | 1 bed 1 bath       | Private Sale          | \$295k   |
| 121/8 Wells Street      | 3 bed Penthouse    | Sold Off Market       | \$1.863m |
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# Nick Reece for Melbourne Mayor

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Authorised by Nicholas Reece, PO Box 1163, Carlton 3053

# Council candidate Elvis Martin calls for “a holistic approach to wellbeing”

Southbank resident and councillor candidate in this year’s City of Melbourne elections Elvis Martin has announced his plans for a city-wide initiative aimed at reducing loneliness and supporting community cohesion.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Mr Martin, who is running a councillor-only ticket with seven other candidates under his “Team Elvis Martin”, said that as Melbourne continued to focus on infrastructure and economic development, “the social and emotional well being of its citizens must not be overlooked”.

If elected, Mr Martin would push to establish an initiative to reduce loneliness, which he believes is severely affecting all age groups, and has far-reaching consequences for mental health and community cohesion.

“Lack of meaningful community connections is having a severe impact on the mental wellbeing of Melburnians,” Mr Martin said.

“Loneliness is skyrocketing, and yet, it’s an issue that has been largely ignored in this election. We can’t talk about making Melbourne the most liveable city again without addressing the isolation many of our residents feel daily. This affects everyone – young and old.”

With one in four Australians reporting being affected by loneliness, Mr Martin said



this was exacerbated in Melbourne by the rapid rise of urban development, the transient nature of the city’s population, and the ever-growing demands on small businesses.

He is proposing that the council funds neighbourhood programs specifically designed to bring people together and foster deeper community connections, which would be co-designed with local residents.

He’d also like to see the City of Melbourne allocate a specific allocation in its annual budgets to fund initiatives addressing loneliness and support small business owners who “often face significant stress”.

“Melbourne is known for its vibrancy and diversity, but beneath the surface, many

people feel disconnected from the very community they live in,” Mr Martin said. “This is not just a social issue, it’s a public health crisis.”

A long-time Southbank resident, Mr Martin has dedicated his life to social justice, equality, and sustainability. As a board member for Melbourne City Mission Housing and the National Youth Commission, he has tackled issues like homelessness, mental health, and community safety.

Running in the second position on his councillor ticket is fellow Southbank resident and former Manningham councillor Sophy Galbally, who is the driving force behind the new Festival at Boyd in Southbank. ●



## Shadow Treasurer Angus Taylor visits Southbank

Southbank received a visit from the Australian Federal Opposition Shadow Treasurer Angus Taylor last month, who participated in a Small Business Roundtable hosted by the Liberal Party’s new candidate for Macnamara Benson Saulo.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Mr Saulo invited Mr Taylor to PJ O’Brien’s at Southgate on September 26 to take part in the roundtable discussion about issues affecting small businesses across the electorate, including here in Southbank.

Southbank’s local trader group the Yarra River Business Association was among those represented at the event, as Mr Taylor sought information on how businesses were dealing with current economic challenges. ●

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- Creative hubs and affordable housing—revitalising Melbourne through **Future Postcode 3000** for a vibrant and inclusive city.
- Free public transport during peak hours and a congestion busting plan—**active mobility** to beat congestion, boost health, and create safer streets.
- Tailored support for local business—empowering businesses to grow, attract investment, and energise **Melbourne’s economy**.
- \$10m for year-round **arts & cultural celebrations**—strengthening arts and festivals to unite communities and fuel our creative future.

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**MAYOR AND DEPUTY FOR MELBOURNE**

Authorised by J Hakim PO Box 23238, Docklands VIC 8012

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Artist's Impression

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HICKS

# Team Wood's plan to transform Southbank Promenade

Lord Mayoral candidate Arron Wood wants to revitalise Southbank Promenade as part of a \$28 million High Street Upgrade program, which will support hundreds of local businesses.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



As part of the initiative, some of the City of Melbourne's most popular shopping and dining strips would be upgraded to enhance pedestrian experience, featuring improved walkways and more greenery.

Eligible strips under the first phase of the program include Lygon St in Carlton, Errol St in North Melbourne, Domain Rd in South Yarra, Racecourse Rd in Kensington, Wellington Parade in East Melbourne, and Southbank Promenade.

"High streets throughout the City of Melbourne have been neglected by the current leadership at Town Hall and local businesses have suffered from a lack of investment and maintenance," Mr Wood said.

"We will deliver these upgrades in a focused and targeted way to make our streets more beautiful and also safer for small businesses and their customers. Small businesses take immense pride in what they do and it's time for Town Hall to do the same."

The \$28 million initiative would be implemented over four years using funds from the City of Melbourne's infrastructure budget.

Mr Wood also emphasised that, if elected, he would work with local businesses and trader groups to "maximise benefits while also minimising disruption" as part of the upgrades.



"Anyone who has visited Southbank Promenade recently would be shocked at the state of the footpaths and gardens right along the river – Town Hall needs to do better," he said.

"Businesses right across the municipality deserve to thrive and a key part of that is delivering projects that complement and enhance our iconic high streets."

Having already announced his candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor in swimwear entrepreneur Erin Deering back in August, Mr Wood has now revealed his full team with current councillor Phil Le Liu at the top of the council ticket.

Filling the second position is former Greens councillor and Kensington local Dr Cathy Oke, who served on the council for 12 years between 2008 and 2020 and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her service to local government and the environment in 2023.

Dr Oke was a valuable contributor to the City of Melbourne during her time as a councillor, largely working across the transport

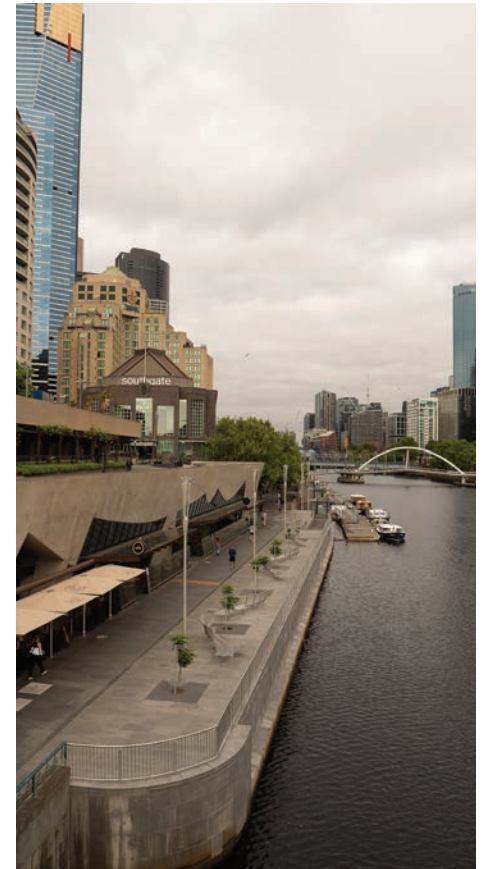
and environment portfolios, and currently she leads the University of Melbourne's Centre for Cities.

Mr Wood said Dr Oke had a "deep understanding of the intersection between social equity and environmental sustainability complements our vision for a greener, fairer Melbourne", adding that "her expertise will help guide our city toward a more inclusive, sustainable future."

Despite serving on the council in different teams in the past, Dr Oke previously worked for Mr Wood's environmental not-for-profit Kids Teaching Kids for 10 years before being elected in 2008.

Filling the number three and four spots on the Team Wood ticket respectively, are lawyer and former City of Melbourne councillor Nicolas Zervos, and proud Carlton resident and community leader Hala Nur.

Following them in fifth position is Michael Caiafa, who very briefly served as a councillor following the 2016 election before being removed due to a recount triggered by disqualified candidate Brook Wandin.



The final two positions on the Team Wood council ticket will be taken by Docklands resident and businesswoman Hope Wei, and strategic communications expert and Labor Party member Steve Michelson.

"Melbourne is a city built of forward thinking, hard work, innovation and a strong sense of community," Mr Wood said.

"Our team reflects these values, with each member bringing a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to serving all of the city's residents and businesses." ●

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TEAM  
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**ARRON WOOD**

CANDIDATE FOR  
LORD MAYOR

**ERIN DEERING**

CANDIDATE FOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

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With ballot packs now arriving at your household or business for the upcoming City of Melbourne election, we wanted to reach out to you as the lead Independent candidates who will deliver a five-point recovery plan to get our city back on track.

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Regards,  
Arron Wood & Erin Deering  
Candidates for Lord Mayor  
and Deputy Lord Mayor



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AUTHORISED BY A. WOOD, P O BOX 6 9 2 NORTH MELBOURNE VIC

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CITY OF MELBOURNE





## The Southbanker looking to shake up the City of Melbourne through innovation

At only 29, Aishwarya Kansakar has made her mark within the Australian tech industry and she is now looking do the same at Town Hall having nominated as a councillor candidate in October's local government elections.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



Ms Kansakar, who was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2022, has dedicated her career to empowering people in complex STEM fields and is now looking to change the way the council uses technology.

Through her work as the Chief Operating Officer of the non-for-profit Women 4 STEM she leads a team of more than 300 people and is at the forefront of technological innovation in Australia.

However, the Southbank resident admits that the reason behind her decision to run for a spot at Town Hall is the state of Melbourne and the dire issues that are affecting the city.

Unaffordable rent, unsafe conditions for women and children, rising homelessness, struggling local businesses and new enterprises are issues that Ms Kansakar sees technology as the answer to.

"Modern-day issues require modern-day solutions," Ms Kansakar said, adding that technology was not something anyone could implement, and that her experience

and success within the field would be a great asset to the council.

Ms Kansakar told *Southbank News* that last year when looking to find a place to live, she almost ended up becoming homeless for six months despite being financially stable.

Not only was this a wakeup call, but also a key reason that led to her decision to run for council as she realised that if she was affected by the current housing crisis, it could only be much worse for more vulnerable and financially unstable people.

If elected, Ms Kansakar said she would look to lead the way in implementing smart urban planning using AI, data analytics and predictive modelling to identify areas where affordable housing could be integrated into new developments.

She added that there was also an opportunity to develop citywide platforms that streamlined housing applications and made the process of finding and securing affordable housing more achievable.

"Because I'm an entrepreneur myself, I know the struggle of funding and running operations," Ms Kansakar said.

Ms Kansakar believes that a digital platform, that serves as a marketplace for local businesses that are not digitally present, would be a great way that the council could increase brand awareness for local traders.

"It would use the power of technology so that businesses get new avenues to sell their products and services," she said.

Additionally, to better support start-ups and pave the way for Melbourne to become a genuine innovation hub, Ms Kansakar wants to see a central accelerator established for the whole city. ●

## "It's been a tumultuous journey": 30 years of Channel 31

The road to 30 hasn't all been smooth sailing for the community TV station that has produced some of the biggest stars. But with a strong viewership and an exciting slate of programs, the future for Channel 31 is bright.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



On October 6, 1994, the station, located today on Douglas St in Southbank, began broadcasting for a few hours three to four days a week. However, it was quick to become a breeding ground for Australia's up-and-coming television personalities and expanded into a seven-day-a-week service.

However, the livelihood of Channel 31 wasn't always guaranteed after a tumultuous eight-year period starting in 2014, where consecutive Coalition governments announced countless switch-off dates that they would eventually backtrack on.

With the dust now settled and the future of the station looking strong, 30 years is on, Channel 31 remains the community pillar it has been since the first day that "lights, camera, action" were called.

It offers Melburnians local programs that are often overlooked and missed by the bigger networks, from *The Multicultural Football Show* to *The Beer Pioneer*. Channel 31 has something for everyone and anyone.

For comedian and former accountant Dilruk Jayasinh, it was the place where he was able to stand in front of the camera and practice his stand-up routine for the first time.

It's an experience that would prove to be as equally formative for his comedy career as it was detrimental to remaining an accountant.

Having starred in *Utopia* and *I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here*, Dilruk has come a long way from the humble studios of Channel 31, but he said that it was one of the most transformative experiences that he'd ever had.

When gearing up to perform on the *Live on Bowen* program for the first time, he remembers having a desire to veer away from his usual stand-up routine and try something different.

The then up-and-coming comedian pretended that he was there to meet fellow Channel-31 alumni Rove McManus and was disgruntled by the fact he wasn't getting paid.

"It was a big moment for me purely because I didn't know I had it in me to write to a specific kind of moment or audience. I thought I only could do my stand-up and that's all," Dilruk said.

He recalls that when performing the set his mic wasn't on for the first minute so only people's laughter could be heard on the broadcast.

But it is the willingness for Channel 31 to provide opportunities to developing performers, hosts and technicians that makes it so special, according to Dilruk.

It was where he learnt how to read a teleprompter and be comfortable in front of the camera; skills that have followed him throughout his career in the television industry.

The opportunities that Channel 31 provides are something that the station manager Shane Dunlop is extremely proud of.

"Over the last 30 years, there are probably very few people who have wanted to have a career in screen and television in Melbourne, who haven't at some stage touched community television, whether that's in front of the camera or behind the camera," Mr Dunlop told *Southbank News*.

The station manager is optimistic about the future due to the current federal government showing more support for community broadcasting and not announcing switch-off dates like the previous Coalition governments.

In March this year, the *Community Television Bill 2024* was passed, which open-ended the licence condition for the station into the foreseeable future.

"We have a much more stable environment to operate under and a lot more scope to plan for the future, which we haven't had for such a long period of time," he said.

"Get ready to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We're sort of doing it knowing that we probably at various points in time never thought we'd get there." ●

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## Nick Reece reveals plan to make Melbourne the “Garden City”

A re-elected Lord Mayor Nick Reece would construct 28 new parks across the city, with a new undercroft park in Southbank underneath the West Gate Bridge among the new initiatives proposed.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



As one of the centrepieces of the Team Reece campaign, the Garden City Initiative will deliver a new park or green space to nearly every neighbourhood in the City of Melbourne.

While many of the “new parks” are existing open space projects that the council has already committed to or commenced planning on, his announcement includes a suite of new projects and grants programs aimed at boosting greening across the city.

Among the proposals pitched by Cr Reece as part of his election platform are a plan to fast-track investment for new green open space between Banana Alley and Enterprise Park as per the vision of Greenline.

He has also committed to a new undercroft park in Southbank underneath the West Gate Bridge, while also promising to progress

existing projects at the Kings Way undercroft and the new Normanby Rd linear park.

“Victoria was once known as the Garden State, I want Melbourne to be the Garden City. This is the biggest addition to our city’s parks and gardens since Charles La Trobe mapped out Melbourne’s parks in the 1840s,” Cr Reece said.

“Every great city is defined by its parks and gardens, and with this plan, we are taking Melbourne’s green spaces to the next level.”

“Nearly every area of Melbourne will receive at least one new park or green space under this initiative – making our city an even better and greener place to live.”

As part of Team Reece’s Garden City Initiative, renowned landscape designer Paul Bangay has agreed to be the program’s ambassador, providing input on park and green space design.

“Melbourne’s parks and gardens are some of the best in the world and I’m so excited by this plan to make us a Garden City,” Mr Bangay said.

“As more people call Melbourne home, creating green spaces - whether that is more public parks or on building rooftops – is more important than ever.”

Cr Reece said funding for the new parks would come from unlocking the council’s Public Open Space Fund, and development contribution schemes, which would enable more than \$40 million of investment. ●



## Call out for First Nations artists to create public artworks for reimagined Arts Precinct

Expressions of interest are open for the design of two permanent, public art commissions as part of the Melbourne Arts Precinct transformation.

WORDS BY SABRINA CAIRES



The two commissions will be part of a series of artworks by Victorian First Nations artists to be displayed throughout Laak Boorndap – the urban garden which will be at the centre of the precinct’s transformation. Designs released in early September reveal that Laak Boorndap will be made to flourish all year round.

The garden will be planted on an elevated deck and will feature six themed planting areas as well as a waterway.

The Laak Boorndap Public Art Commission is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists living in Victoria.

Artists are encouraged to consider themes of seasonality, regeneration, biodiversity, gathering and belonging in their submissions.

The commissions will reflect the conservation knowledge of First Peoples in relation to Country and

will be located near the edge of the garden, above City Rd.

Submissions to the Wurundjeri Waterway Design Commission are also open.

For this artwork, which will be incorporated into the Laak Boorndap water feature, expressions of interest are open to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung artists living in Victoria.

Several potential key themes for this artwork have been identified through consultation with Elders Aunty Diane Kerr, Aunty Gail Smith and Aunty Julieanne Axford; some suggested themes include gathering by the river, the impacts of colonialism or the significance of the Yarra River.

The two commissions will be part of a series of artworks by Victorian First Peoples to be displayed permanently in the garden.

Artists at any stage in their career and practitioners using a variety of mediums are encouraged to apply.

Artists must be available to fully commit to the projects from February to May 2025.

Expressions of interest will be shortlisted in December, after which the shortlisted artists will be paid a fee of \$10,000 and given eight weeks to develop a concept proposal.

The artworks are set to be installed in 2028, in line with expected completion dates for the garden.

Expressions of interest for both commissions close on October 24 at 3pm. ●

For more information on eligibility and the submission process, visit the Arts Precinct website at [artsprecinct.melbourne](https://artsprecinct.melbourne).



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# Southbanker Jannine Pattison joins Nick Reece's team to "Get Good Done"



Founding member of local residents' group Southbank3006 Jannine Pattison has joined incumbent Lord Mayor Nick Reece's team contesting this year's City of Melbourne elections.



WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Ms Pattison has become a well-known figure in Southbank having championed reform on a range of local issues affecting liveability and safety in the area and has led the much-loved annual "Southbank A Very Merry Friend-Mas" event.

Cr Reece said Ms Pattison's "positive, solution-focused mindset had made her a driving force for change, rallying community support and bringing greater amenities to the area."

While Ms Pattison is running in the number four councillor position on the Team Reece ticket and is therefore unlikely to be elected, Cr Reece is urging Southbankers to get behind the team's message to "Get Good Done".

Topping the Team Reece leadership ticket is his candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor, Liberal Party member, and fellow councillor, Roshena Campbell, who had already announced her candidacy back in July.

Cr Campbell served alongside Cr Reece as a councillor during the last term at the City of Melbourne as part of team of former Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who she opposed on a range of different issues.

While Cr Reece, a Labor Party member

who is running as an independent at this election, also has differing views to Cr Campbell on several key issues, he has formed an unlikely alliance under a "unity ticket" at this election.

At the top of the team's council ticket will be veteran councillor Kevin Louey whose influence within Melbourne's Chinese business diaspora has seen him receive the number one spot under former Lord Mayors Robert Doyle and Sally Capp.

Regardless of whether Nick Reece wins the Lord Mayoralty, you can lock in Cr Louey to be returned for what would be a staggering fifth consecutive term since first being elected in 2008 – two decades as a councillor to be exact.

Team Reece's all-important second councillor spot will be taken by Queen Victoria Market (QVM) trader and entrepreneur Mark Scott, who previously served as the market's manager up until 2017.

Making up the rest of the team are digital entrepreneur and marketing expert Lisa

Teh, who has switched allegiances having previously ran as Arron Wood's candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor in the 2020 elections.

Beneath Ms Teh in the number four spot is Ms Pattison, followed by Carlton Public Housing Estates Residents' Association leader Hamdi Ali.

Rounding off the Team Reece council ticket are Docklands resident and decorated athlete Sue Stanley, and passionate Kensington resident Simone Hartley-Keane, who will assume the sixth and seventh positions, respectively.

Cr Reece said he was "so proud" of the team that had been assembled, stating it was "chock full of experience, diversity and a deep commitment to serving the people of Melbourne".

"Each member of the team brings unique strengths and perspectives, and a dedication to work hard every day to make the best city in the world even better and even fairer," Cr Reece said.

Cr Campbell added that the team was

"ready to work hard and help ensure Melbourne continues to thrive."

"Team Reece is focused on delivering real results that benefit every Melburnian, from supporting local businesses and easing the cost of living, to helping address the housing crisis and making our city safer and cleaner," Cr Campbell said.

Since officially announcing his candidacy for Lord Mayor back in July, Cr Reece has announced a significant number of policies for the city.

He has pledged to do everything in the council's power to "turbo charge" the conversion of city offices to affordable homes with a series of practical changes, including slashing council rates for successful conversions.

As reported in a recent edition of sibling publication *CBD News*, Cr Reece also made headlines in September by announcing he would sell the council's 51 per cent stake in the Regent Theatre on Collins St to help fund new creative spaces and establish a Melbourne Arts Future Fund.

Team Reece has also announced a suite of policies aimed at improving city safety and cleanliness, supporting small business and investment into the city and establishing Australia's largest ever renewable energy purchasing plan.

Having served his apprenticeship as a councillor since 2016, as well as Deputy Lord Mayor under his predecessor Sally Capp since 2020, Cr Reece believes he's well and truly up for the challenge of a full term in the City of Melbourne's top job.

"Melbourne is the best and fairest city in the world, but we can't rest on our laurels. We know other cities are stepping up their efforts and we need to do the same," Cr Reece said.

"As Lord Mayor, I want to bring our city's people together and work closely with our leaders so we can seize every opportunity for Melbourne in the years and decades ahead." ●



**Southbank**  
Residents Association

## Meet the Candidates Event



**Moderator:**  
**Stephen Mayne**  
Walkley Award winning  
journalist and past  
City of Melbourne  
Councillor

### Another council election is upon us!

SRA have been holding these events for over 20 years, giving our community the opportunity to be heard and ask the hard-hitting questions.

We're inviting all Southbank residents to hear the policies and position of the candidates in this open forum. These are always full-house events, so arrive early, grab a seat and let us hear your concerns.

This event will be moderated by Walkley Award winning journalist and past City of Melbourne Councillor, Stephen Mayne.

**Date:** Thursday, 10 October

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Where:** Boyd Community Hub – 207 City Rd, Southbank



**Roxanne Ingleton**  
(Greens)



**Nicholas Reece**



**Greg Bisinella**  
(Voices)



**Aaron Wood**



**Phil Reed**  
(Labor)



**Anthony Koutoufides**

SRA: [info@southbankresidents.org.au](mailto:info@southbankresidents.org.au) [www.southbankresidents.org.au](http://www.southbankresidents.org.au) This free community event is an initiative of the Southbank Residents Association

# From Greenline to the Regent Theatre: who's in the box seat for Town Hall?



With the election campaign for the City of Melbourne now in overdrive, we assess who looks likely to take the reins at Town Hall for the next four years in what is becoming an increasingly tight contest.



WORDS BY SEAN CAR



▲ Arron Wood, Phil Reed and Cr Jamal Hakim were among those who rallied together on September 15 against Nick Reece's plan to sell the council's share in the Regent Theatre.

At the time of publishing, all teams competing in what's become an incredibly stacked field had now finalised all their preferences, providing some key insights and clues as to how the final council jigsaw may fall into place.

At the closure of nominations, 11 leadership tickets had been submitted to the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), all with associated councillor tickets, while a further five councillor-only tickets had been filed. A further five ungrouped councillor candidates have also nominated.

What the size of the field means is that the nine vacant councillor positions are likely to be filled by those teams running with leadership tickets, with only the faintest chance of the ninth and final spot being taken by one of the few councillor-only candidates.

But starting from the top end of the field, one of the major questions will be just how damaging incumbent Lord Mayor Nick Reece's announcement regarding selling the council's share of the Regent Theatre will prove to be ...

Cr Reece and his running mate Cr Roshena Campbell took everyone by surprise on September 8 when announcing that their team, if successful, would sell the council's majority stake in the theatre, with the state government controlling the remaining 49 per cent.

While pledging to use the funds from the sale, understood to be in the order of around \$40 million, to establish a Melbourne Arts Future Fund to support the city's creatives in perpetuity, it's fair to say the proposal wasn't received well by many.

Whether voters believe there is merit to the plan or not, it has opened the door for the election to now be turned into somewhat of a campaign to "Save the Regent Theatre" by Team Reece's opponents.

The following week, Cr Reece's main

opponents in this contest, Arron Wood and Cr Jamal Hakim, stood together united in vowing to keep the Regent in public hands. While the circumstances are different, the whole saga evokes memories of the campaign to save the Palace Theatre – one which was ultimately lost to history.

At the final Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting of this council term on September 10, Cr Hakim moved a motion resolving that "the council has no intention or policy basis to pursue" a sale of The Regent. It was ultimately passed.

There can't be any doubting that Cr Reece must have received a signal from the state government that it supported a move to sell, and the proposal to establish a future fund echoes the council's recent sale of Citywide to Cleanaway.

It's also understood that former council CEO Justin Hanney had led an effort to explore a sale of the municipality's share in the Regent to help fund a bid for the Nicholas Building, which ultimately wasn't pursued for economic reasons.

But well intentioned or not, along with the condition imposed on any buyer that it must continue operating the Regent as a theatre forever, Cr Reece's plan hasn't proven overly popular – and this could prove significant for a few electoral reasons.

In 2020, his former colleague in previous Lord Mayor Sally Capp managed to poll around 31 per cent of the primary vote. With a strong profile and enough favourable preferences on her side, she would eventually claim victory, but only just.

While the field contesting in 2024 is more populated than it was four years ago, the question will be whether Cr Reece has built up enough profile to record anything close to 30 per cent, and whether voters will punish him for the Regent announcement or not.

And, perhaps most significantly, the Labor

ticket competing in this election has chosen to preference Arron Wood over Cr Reece, who despite running as an independent, is a well-known Labor Party member.

It's understood that Cr Reece's decision to run with Liberal member Roshena Campbell as his deputy, combined with controversial Labor figure Andrew Landeryou's controlled "Rip up the Bike Lanes!" ticket corraling preferences to Reece, has infuriated Labor.

Cr Davydd Griffiths, who is again running in the first position on the Labor council ticket, is a well-known advocate for retaining public assets in public hands, so the sale of the Regent would have only fuelled Labor's decision to preference Arron Wood.

Prior to Cr Reece's proposal regarding the Regent, it's fair to say the most provocative policy announcement had come from Mr Wood in August when he pledged to scrap former Lord Mayor Sally Capp's Greenline project.

While the announcement had cut through among some voters and provided a distinct point of difference between the Lord Mayoral favourites, it didn't reverberate across the community anywhere near the same degree that the pitch to sell the Regent did.

Head-to-head, Mr Wood goes into the election with Labor preferences, which went to Sally Capp in 2020, along with the Greens, Team Hakim, Voices for Melbourne and the Animal Justice Party (AJP).

Cr Reece on the other hand, receives preferences ahead of Mr Wood from Team Kouta, the Liberal Party, Team Morgan and Rip up the Bike Lanes!. How these play out together with what could prove to be a weakened primary vote off the back of the announcement to sell the Regent, will prove critical.

With Labor and the Greens collectively

expected to account for around 25 per cent of the primary vote based on the 2020 election, this combined with newcomers Team Hakim and Voices for Melbourne helps put Mr Wood in the box seat.

Mr Wood's challenge will be increasing his primary vote count from 15 per cent in 2020, but should he manage to boost this to around the 20 per cent mark it's hard to see him losing with the help of those favourable preferences.

What could prove key for Team Reece is how former Carlton football legend Anthony Koutafides's team will fare in this election. If one is to compare it to 2020's "celebrity candidate" for Lord Mayor in nightclub owner Nick Russian, then he may be expecting at least 10 per cent.

Together with the first-ever Liberal Party endorsed ticket, these preferences could add up for Cr Reece, making this contest a neck-and-neck proposition.

Then there's Cr Jamal Hakim, who while still being an outside "David v Goliath" chance for Lord Mayor, does have a pathway to victory with second preferences coming from the Greens, AJP and Voices for Melbourne. But he'll need a significant primary vote of around 10 per cent.

The Greens' Lord Mayoral candidate Roxane Ingleton can also never be counted out given the party's history of recording a strong primary vote – in 2020, it recorded more than Arron Wood, who ultimately finished second to Sally Capp on preferences. But this again is unlikely due to the weight of the electoral gerrymander in Melbourne.

Whatever the outcome, it's sure to be a close contest with voting closing at 6pm on October 25. And, to see which candidates have agreed to disclose their donations in real-time, visit [hyperlocalnews.com.au](http://hyperlocalnews.com.au) to view our voluntary donations register.

Over to you, Melbourne!

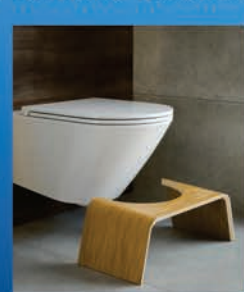


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# Who's who in the 2024 City of Melbourne election



## Team Reece

**Leadership:** Nick Reece (Lord Mayor), Roshena Campbell (Deputy Lord Mayor)

**Councillor ticket:** Kevin Louey, Mark Scott, Lisa Teh, Jannine Pattison, Hamdi Ali, Sue Stanley, Simone Hartley-Keane.

**Major policies:** Sell the Regent Theatre to fund the arts, office to apartment conversions in the CBD, 28 new parks for the city, establishing a new Little India, new 24/7 city safety officers for the city.

Southbank News says: *Still theirs to lose! No matter if Cr Reece is elected Lord Mayor or not, lock in the return of Cr Kevin Louey for a fifth consecutive term on council and expect Mark Scott to be elected as well.*



## Team Wood

**Leadership:** Arron Wood (Lord Mayor) Erin Deering (Deputy Lord Mayor)

**Councillor ticket:** Phil Le Liu, Cathy Oke, Nicolas Zervos, Hala Nur, Michael Caiafa, Hope Wei, Steve Michelson.

**Major policies:** Scrapping Greenline to fund new parks across the city, rates freeze and cost-of-living relief, program to tackle graffiti, community sports package and making Melbourne Australia's "Christmas Capital".

Southbank News says: *Sitting in a great position on leadership ticket with some favourable preferences. Regardless of the outcome, lock in the return of Cr Phil Le Liu for a third consecutive term, as well as a likely comeback for former Greens councillor Cathy Oke.*

## Team Hakim

**Leadership:** Jamal Hakim (Lord Mayor), Esther Anatolitis (Deputy Lord Mayor)

**Councillor ticket:** Michael Smith, Lawrence Lam, Judy Gao

**Major policies:** Future Postcode 3000 policy, "tactical urbanism" greening and placemaking initiatives, equal parenting revolution to boost maternal and child health services and more public toilets for the city.



## Animal Justice Party

**Leadership:** Kim Eylem (Lord Mayor), Bruce Poon (Deputy Lord Mayor)

**Councillor ticket:** Aashna Katyal, Rabin Bangaar

**Major policies:** Putting an end to all forms of animal cruelty in Melbourne.

Southbank News says: *A single-issue campaign aimed at raising awareness more than anything. Don't expect anyone above to feature on the next council.*

## Team Morgan

**Leadership:** Gary Morgan (Lord Mayor), Liz Ge (Deputy Lord Mayor)

**Councillor ticket:** Rafael Camillo, William Caldwell

**Major policies:** Deploying Protective Services Officers (PSOs) to local streets, expanding Melbourne to take in the Cities of Yarra and Port Phillip, listening posts for residents and businesses, "zero homelessness".

Southbank News says: *A serial Lord Mayoral contender who is driving preferences to Nick Reece at this election. Current Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo is an outside chance of being elected, thanks to preference flows from the conservative tickets.*

## Voices for Melbourne

**Leadership:** Greg Bisinella (Lord Mayor), Megan Stevenson (Deputy Lord Mayor)

**Councillor ticket:** Mary Masters, James Vasilev-Roberston

**Major policies:** Tourism campaign to leverage Metro Tunnel openings, local business support, creating more green spaces, advocating for City of Melbourne electoral reform.

Southbank News says: *A strong team made up of community advocates. Strong preference negotiator Mary Masters is a chance of being elected as a councillor depending how the chips fall.*

## Team Kouta

**Leadership:** Anthony Koutafides (Lord Mayor), Intaj Khan (Deputy Lord Mayor)

**Councillor ticket:** Gladys Liu, Zaim Ramani, Emma Carney, Olivia Tjandramulia

**Major policies:** \$5000 grants for 1000 small businesses who fill empty leases, free coffee to entice workers back to the city, free kindergarten, two-year rate freeze and the first-ever "Melbourne Superbowl Event".

Southbank News says: *The surprise packet of this election. Given the profile of its Lord Mayoral candidate, could either tank or spike in the primary vote count. Liberal Gladys Liu is a strong likelihood of being elected as a councillor.*

## Liberals for Melbourne City

**Leadership:** Mariam Riza (Lord Mayor), Luke Martin (Deputy Lord Mayor)

**Councillor ticket:** Owen Guest, You Li Liston

**Major policies:** Bike lane removal as part of city transport review, getting Melbourne "back in business".

Southbank News says: *First official presence in a Melbourne election and will be interesting to see the turnout on election day. Should do well among businesses, but conservative vote might be split with Team Kouta. Owen Guest is a strong chance of becoming a councillor.*

## Labor for Melbourne

**Leadership:** Phil Reed (Lord Mayor), Virginia Willis (Deputy Lord Mayor)

**Councillor ticket:** Davydd Griffiths, Sainab Abdi Sheikh, Michael Aleisi

**Major policies:** Transparent decision making, increasing housing options, strengthening (and not privatising) council assets and services, do away with the Lord Mayor robes.

Southbank News says: *Should poll something close to 10 per cent on primaries as per its last campaign in 2020 but will be interesting to see whether changing attitudes towards Spring St have any bearing on its vote. Again, lock in the return of Cr Davydd Griffiths for another term.*

## The rest ...



There are three councillor-only tickets to keep an eye out for, each of which possesses an outside chance of contributing the ninth and final councillor position, depending how final preferences land. They are:

**Innovate Melbourne:** Andrew Rowse, Jesse Greenwood

**Team Elvis Martin:** Elvis Martin, Sophy Galbally, Mavi Mujral, Jing Lin, Paul James Moore, Melissa Rymer, James Cullen, Carole Kenny-Sarasa

**Team Participate:** Asako Saito, Sam Janda.

For a full list of the entire field:



## Melbourne City Council postal election

My council, my vote

Two elections will be held for Melbourne City Council – one to elect the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, and the other to elect 9 councillors.

### Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

### Candidates

Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

The ballot pack contains material for 2 elections. For the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, information includes a booklet with joint statements, candidate photos and indications of preferences. For councillors, the booklet has candidate photos, statements and indications of preferences, or group voting tickets if a councillor is part of a group. Responses to a candidate questionnaire, if provided, are available at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

### How to vote correctly

You will vote in 2 elections: one to elect the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor and the other to elect 9 councillors. You must complete your ballot papers correctly for each vote to count.

### Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor

Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidates you want to see elected, then number **all** the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.

### Councillors

You can vote in one of 2 ways for the 9 councillors:

- Vote for a group by putting the number 1 in a box above the line. Your preferences will follow the group voting ticket, or
- Vote for individual candidates by numbering **all** the boxes below the line in order of your choice. If you vote below the line, you must number **every box** and only use each number once.

### How to return your ballot pack

Put your completed ballot papers in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it ASAP using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:

Drill Hall  
51 – 57 Victoria Street  
Melbourne

### Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August.

If you don't vote and don't have a valid excuse, you may be fined.

Your completed ballot material must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)



[vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English:  
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Authorised by S. Blumfeld, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

# The Melbourne City Council elections

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# The Melbourne City Council elections



To vote in the elections, you will receive a ballot pack from the Victorian Electoral Commission anytime from Monday October 7.

## How do I vote in the Melbourne City Council elections?

You will receive two ballot papers:

### 1. Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor

- Put the number 1 in the box next to the team you want to see elected, then number all the other boxes in order of your choice.
- You must number every box and only use each number once.

### 2. Councillors - for the nine councillors.

You can vote in one of two ways:

- Vote for a group by putting the number 1 in a box above the line, and your preferences will follow the group voting ticket.
- Or vote for individual candidates by numbering all boxes below the line, in the order of your choice.

If you vote below the line, you must number every box and only use each number once.

If you haven't received your ballot pack by Tuesday 15 October, please get in touch with the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Once you have completed your ballot papers, put them in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration on the back of the envelope, then post the pack to the VEC using the reply-paid envelope provided.

## Can I vote in the Melbourne City Council elections in person?

This is a postal election. However, you can drop off your completed ballot papers by 6pm 25 October at the:

**Melbourne City Council elections office  
at the Drill Hall, 51-57 Victoria Street,  
Melbourne.**

**Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm**

There will be additional opening hours for the elections office on Thursday 24 October until 8pm and Friday 25 October until 6pm.

If you will be away during the voting period, you can vote in person at the election office.



Online: [www.vec.vic.gov.au/contact-us](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au/contact-us)  
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# Your candidates for the Montague Ward of Port Phillip

The ever-evolving Montague Precinct is now at the centre of its very own City of Port Phillip council ward following reforms to the *Local Government Act 2020*, and *Southbank News* brings you the five candidates contesting the new seat.

WORDS BY  
DAVID ALLEN & SEAN CAR



Local governments across the state, with the exception of the City of Melbourne, are grappling with the structural changes introduced since the 2020 elections, with the City of Port Phillip's wards increasing in number from three up to nine.

The changes have been widely labelled a win for more representative local government, with all candidates required to demonstrate a tangible connection with the wards they nominate to contest in.

The newly established Montague Ward, which was previously incorporated into the former Gateway Ward, provides plenty of demographic and geographic intrigue in this election.

Not only is it the largest ward of the nine, it encompasses patches of several different areas, including Fishermans Bend, Port Melbourne, South Melbourne, Southbank and even a section of Albert Park.

Its spread into various established residential areas is largely down to the fact that it incorporates Fishermans Bend, which despite being the subject of Australia's biggest urban renewal project, is still largely home to industry.

But as the growth of Fishermans Bend's Montague Precinct demonstrates, this is due to evolve over the coming years and decades, making the ward a fascinating proposition for future elections.

As it stands now, however, Montague Ward includes several key areas stretching into the municipality away from Fishermans Bend, including the majority of the Bay St retail strip.

At the closure of nominations in September, five candidates had registered to contest the vacant Montague councillor position, led by frontrunner, Gateway Ward incumbent and endorsed Labor Party candidate Peter Martin.

Serving his first term as a councillor since 2020, Cr Martin is no stranger to the community having worked as principal for Port

Melbourne Primary School for many years. He's also the current secretary of the Port Melbourne Colts Junior Football Club.

Despite many expecting him to run in the neighbouring Port Melbourne Ward, current Mayor Heather Cunsolo is largely tipped as the favourite there meaning Montague presents a more favourable chance.

However, with The Greens candidate for Montague Ahmed Elsayed forced to withdraw from the election race for personal reasons, Cr Martin is now considered somewhat of a "preference orphan" with Labor traditionally banking on Greens preferences.

The other four candidates are all preferring Cr Martin last, meaning that he'll need to record a seismic primary vote well in excess of 20 per cent to firm up his chances.

Cr Martin's biggest challengers are likely going to be independent candidates Judy Sahayanathan and Alex Makin, both of whom are competing in their first City of Port Phillip election.

Ms Sahayanathan is the only female candidate running in the Montague Ward and has been working hard doorknocking the entire electorate and using every available opportunity to get her message out there.

With her business based in Montague, she's very familiar with the area and its issues. Should she continue bringing the same energy throughout the remainder of the campaign, she presents as a real frontrunner with favourable preferences on her side.

Cr Martin's other main challenger is Alex Makin, who is the only candidate running in Montague who lives in the ward. He's also no stranger to local government, having previously served as Maroondah City Council's youngest Mayor.

Locally, he's become a well-known figure for his successful petition to keep dog parks open in the municipality, which garnered around 2000 signatures. Should he use such strengths to his advantage to build a higher primary vote count, it will undoubtedly make the contest for Montague a genuine three-way race.

Finally, there are the two further independent candidates in Chris Schwarze, who is running on former councillor Serge Thomann's People Empowering Port Phillip team, and latecomer David Knoff, both of whom are tipped to poll around five to 10 per cent.

Among some of the key issues affecting the Montague Ward are safety and crime (particularly car theft and theft from vehicles), retail activation along Bay St and planning for Fishermans Bend.

## Who's who in the race for the Montague Ward?

### David Knoff (Independent)



Major policies: Help ease housing shortages, provision of more community, pedestrian and transport infrastructure, including trams for Fishermans Bend, community safety

through council co-operation with law enforcement, better provision of social services.

David says: "I bring a different more international background to council. I think it's important council maintains its focus on essential services and works with other levels of government to solve local issues practically."

Southbank News says: A South Melbourne resident who was a last-minute entrant to the election race. A renowned lover of penguins running a strong sustainability campaign. Should poll at five per cent on primaries, but hard to see him challenging.

### Alex Makin (Independent)



Major policies: More community services and transport infrastructure for Fishermans Bend, as well as improved council advocacy to the state government to hasten its urban

renewal of the precinct, better planning and zoning for Montague to avoid issues like the sex-on-premises venue Pineapple Lifestyle Bar, more green and community spaces, improved governance and a renewed council focus on community safety.

Alex says: "I am the only candidate who lives in Montague Ward. A local level of engagement is necessary so you can understand the issues because you're seeing them unfolding along with the rest of the neighbourhood."

Southbank News says: Extensive past local government experience and holds a trump card of being the only candidate living in the ward. If he plays to his strengths, he could very well emerge as the councillor for Montague.

### Peter Martin (Labor)



Major policies: Improved planning for Fishermans Bend to include green spaces and pedestrian and bike thoroughfares, boost housing supply without sacrificing

heritage overlays or the character of individual neighbourhoods, fiscal responsibility and more effective spending by council on services, enhanced connection and consultation with the community to better assess their needs, addressing climate change and environmental sustainability at a local level, and more community services catering to young people.

Peter says: "The Montague community is like my extended family. It may sound corny, but you keep in touch with your family, and you help out wherever you can."

Southbank News says: Still his to lose as the incumbent Gateway Ward councillor with the strongest local profile, but his chances are badly affected by those preferences from all four of his fellow candidates.

### Judy Sahayanathan (Independent)



Major policies: More fiscal responsibility by council and greater accountability to locals, improved waste management and community education so locals understand

changes to services, better precinct planning for Fishermans Bend and better public transport options for the redevelopment including trams, buses and bike lanes, and cleaner and greener public spaces.

Judy says: "My business operates out of Montague, and I am very aware of the issues at a community level. I decided to run out of frustration at the lack of council action."

Southbank News says: Somewhat of a wild card in this contest boasting a strong work ethic and some favourable preferences. Don't be surprised if she emerges the victor when results are announced.

### Chris Schwarze (Independent – People Empowering Port Phillip)



Major policies: More open spaces and community centres to encourage local connections in Fishermans Bend, improved community safety measures, targeting

waste and dysfunction in council operations, improving waste management services, cleaning and greening public spaces, stopping the planned sex-on-premises venue on City Rd and better mitigating the impact of the multiple brothels within the neighbourhood.

Chris says: "I've been a business owner in Montague for more than 40 years and have a strong history of local advocacy."

Southbank News says: While a worthy, passionate candidate with strong local connections and history within the community, his challenge will be registering a strong enough primary vote. ●

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## Milestone birthday amid major upgrades at Arts Centre Melbourne

Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building and iconic Spire celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 29.

The occasion is being marked with the release of a new documentary series *Building An Icon*, architecture and design tours, a furniture installation and an Australian Performing Arts Collection display.

Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building and Spire, home of the State Theatre, Playhouse and Fairfax Studio, was the vision of pioneering architect Sir Roy Grounds, while Oscar-winning designer John Truscott masterminded the lush interiors. The official opening on October 29, 1984, was a glittering party for the ages – after decades of planning, advocacy and construction.

Forty years later, the cultural landmark is undergoing its first major upgrades as part of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation, with improvements to accessibility, acoustics, and comfort inside the landmark State Theatre, as well as new spaces for visitors to enjoy in the Theatres Building.

"We invite the community to celebrate and reflect on this significant milestone by attending a show, joining a tour, watching our documentary series or just taking in the beautiful architecture and design of the building," Arts Centre Melbourne's CEO Karen Quinlan AM said.

*Building an Icon*, out this month, is hosted by mid-century design enthusiast Tim Ross. The three-part video series features exclusive interviews and

rare archival material. In conversation with guests including Victoria Grounds (daughter of Sir Roy Grounds), and historian Denise Whitehouse, Tim Ross explores how the blend of striking architecture, Hollywood-style interiors and mid-century Australian art so successfully brings together people and performance.

The series concludes with a focus on the future of Arts Centre Melbourne, looking at the works that are currently underway as part of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation.

As part of the works, significant upgrades are taking place inside the State Theatre. For the first time, there will be new lifts to help patrons with impaired mobility access the Stalls. New aisles in the Stalls and Circle will make it more efficient to find your seat, with accessible seating included throughout the auditorium.

When the upgrades are complete, audiences will experience greater comfort, and benefit from improved sound and lighting systems, bringing this beloved theatre into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Theatres Building is also being expanded, with a new Loading Dock and back-of-house spaces, as well as a new Stage Door.

For more information and to join the celebrations, visit [artscentremelbourne.com.au/40th-Anniversary](https://artscentremelbourne.com.au/40th-Anniversary) ●

Find out more  
about the project:



Photo courtesy of Australian Performing Arts Collection, Arts Centre Melbourne. ▲



Photo: Kyle Archie Knight.

## Myles Russell-Cook named as ACCA's new CEO and artistic director

The Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) has announced the appointment of Myles Russell-Cook as its new artistic director and CEO.

WORDS BY  
LÉA CARRÉ



A well-known figure in the art world, Myles brings a wealth of experience from his time at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), where he was senior curator of Australian and First Nations Art.

Notably, he has contributed to and curated recognised projects including the NGV *Triennial, Melbourne Now*, and the landmark collection exhibition, *QUEER: Stories from the NGV Collection*.

Hailing from an Aboriginal family with ties to the Wotjobaluk people, Myles has spent much of his career working to elevate First Nations art in both local and international contexts.

At NGV, he played a key role in exhibitions such as *Wurrdha Marra*, which reintroduced First Peoples art to a prominent place in the gallery, and *The Stars We Do Not See: Australian Indigenous Art*, a major travelling exhibition set to debut in Washington D.C. in 2025. Myles' appointment follows the departure of long-serving director Max Delany, who is recognised for his efforts in expanding the presence of First Nations artists at ACCA. Commenting on the leadership transition, ACCA Chair Dr Terry Wu said, "We are very excited to welcome Myles to the role. He has a proven ability to transcend the boundaries of what contemporary art can do and be. He is a leading

light within the next generation of Australian arts practitioners." Myles, who grew up in Naarm/Melbourne, said he was eager to take on the role at ACCA, an institution he has long admired.

"ACCA has always been ahead of the conversation, providing opportunities for artists to create ambitious new work that often ends up in important collections," he said. "I'm excited to continue that legacy and lead ACCA into the future." Looking ahead, Myles sees ACCA playing a significant role in the evolving Melbourne Arts Precinct.

"The next decade in Melbourne presents a lot of opportunity, and I see ACCA as a leader not just in the precinct but beyond," he added. Myles will officially step into the role in November, bringing with him a strong commitment to inclusivity and an expansive vision for the future of ACCA and contemporary art in Melbourne. ●

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## Melbourne Theatre Company unveils “biggest and boldest” season to date

Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) is gearing up for an exciting 2025 season, showcasing 13 productions throughout the year that celebrate Australian talent, innovative new works, and timeless classics.

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



Starting in January is the return of Nathan Maynard’s beloved play *37*, which captures the fervour of a regional football team on a journey to win their first flag.

The team enlists the help of the Marngrook cousins – named after the Aboriginal game that inspired AFL.

“It’s actually a play that was also on this year, but the response to the show was so huge – from critics and from audiences – that we just had to bring it back and give it another life,” MTC artistic director Anne-Louise Sarks said.

“We love that show and we’re so proud of it – we can’t wait for more people to fall in love with it.”

In February, renowned podcaster Deborah Frances-White (*The Guilty Feminist*) will bring her first play, *Never Have I Ever* to MTC, following its UK premiere.

March will see *The Robot Dog* by Roshelle Yee Pui Fong and Ngamurarri Matthew Heffernan take to the stage, followed by a fresh take on David Williamson’s classic *The Removalist* in March and April, which



“examines power and violence back in 1971”.

“This work was first performed in 1971 in Melbourne at La Mama Theatre – this is a new version of that, I’m also directing it,” Ms Sarks told *Southbank News*.

In May, audiences can look forward to *The Black Woman of Gippsland* by Andrea James, as well as *LEGENDS (Of the Golden Arches)* by Joe Paradise Lui and Merlynn Tong in June, exploring the Chinese-Singaporean cultural experience in Australia.

“There’s a whole lot of animation and AV work inside this piece, it’s got a really different feel to a lot of the more traditional plays that we make,” Ms Sarks said.

“For an audience member who’s up for a little bit more of a wild night, this one might be it.”

June will also showcase *The Wrong Gods* by S. Shakthidharan, and Paula Vogel’s *Mother Play* in July.

One of the season’s highlights is the Australian premiere of David Lindsay-

Abaire’s *Kimberly Akimbo: A Musical*, marking its first performance outside of Broadway.

From mid-August to mid-September, *Destiny* by Kirsty Marillier will grace the stage, followed by an adaptation of Daphne du Maurier’s *Rebecca* in October, known widely from the iconic Alfred Hitchcock film.

The season will wrap up with an adaptation of Benjamin Law’s *Dying: A Memoir* from October to November and concluding with Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* in November and December.

“There’s a lot of brightness across the year, but we’re also so passionate about telling Australian story and expanding what an Australian story is, or redefining what an Australian story,” Ms Sarks said.

“Theatre is an experience like no other. You’re in the room and you’re part of that storytelling, I think there’s a real hunger for that in the community and for something that feels alive and authentic. I really want audiences to come along and be apart of that and fall in love with it in the way that I have.” ●



### Indian Community Day 2024 returns to the NGV

The NGV’s Indian Community Day returns on Sunday, October 13 at NGV International, St Kilda Rd, from 11am to 5pm.

WORDS BY  
LÉA CARRÉ



The event will feature Bollywood dancing, dhol drumming and DJ sets, this annual event features art, food, performance, dance, music and more.

Celebrating the creativity and diversity of Victoria’s Indian community, the festival is open to audiences of all ages.

Inside NGV, visitors can enjoy performances and workshops showcasing Indian dance styles, including Kathak, one of the eight forms of Indian classical dance, as well as folk dances from Gujrat and Rajasthan.

There will also be an interactive Bollywood performance and workshop by Ignite Bollywood in the Great Hall.

The event will be hosted by Sharon Johal, celebrated Indian-Australian actor, writer and human rights advocate. Johal is best known for her work in Australia’s longest-running TV series *Neighbours*, and the TV adaptation of *Shantaram* (2022).

“Indian Community Day is a vibrant and joyful celebration of one of Victoria’s largest diaspora communities,” NGV director Tony Ellwood said.

“The NGV prides itself on being a universal civic space where members from all segments of our diverse community feel welcome and represented. Nearly 8500 visitors attended Indian Community Day in 2023 – and we look forward to welcoming even more in 2024.” ●

### Southbank set to welcome the Second Line Street Party of the Jazz Festival

The Second Line Street Party will set the tone for the Melbourne International Jazz Festival, which runs from October 18 to 27. Now in its 27th year, the festival will feature more than 400 artists from 12 countries, performing in 109 events across 34 venues.

WORDS BY  
LÉA CARRÉ



The streets of Melbourne will soon come alive with the energetic sounds of New Orleans, as the Second Line Street Party returns on October 19 to kick off the Melbourne International Jazz Festival (MIJF).

Starting from 1pm to 2pm at Red Stair Amphitheatre at Queensbridge Square on the festival’s opening weekend, the event will feature the renowned TBC Brass Band from New Orleans, bringing its unique rhythm and soul of the Crescent City.

This year’s parade promises to be a vibrant and festive event, with thousands expected to participate in a dynamic display of music and movement.

Formed in the late 1990s, the TBC Brass Band has earned its reputation as one of the leading brass bands in New Orleans. The group blends traditional brass band music with influences from funk, R&B, and hip-hop, creating a lively, street-party atmosphere that has captivated audiences around the world.



Known for their powerful performances, the band has played an integral role in keeping the spirit of New Orleans Street parades alive. Their involvement in this year’s street party marks their first appearance in Australia, adding an exciting international flair to the MIJF’s opening celebrations.

The 2024 program includes both paid and free events, making it accessible to a broad audience. The festival will showcase a diverse range of performances, from large-scale outdoor concerts to intimate sessions in Melbourne’s iconic jazz clubs.

Headliners include some of the biggest names in contemporary jazz, such as Herbie Hancock, Marcus Miller, and Esperanza Spalding.

“MIJF 2024 will be one of our most ambitious festivals to date, with a prolific line-up of gifted musicians set to join us this October in Melbourne,” artistic director Michael Tortoni said.

“Whether it’s in a parade, at the Bowl, in the city or out west, we’re so excited for audiences to join us again, celebrating all there is to love about this music.” ●

# “I’m not doing it for anyone else”: Jacob Lewis embarks on a professional photography journey



**PHOTOGRAPHY  
STUDIES COLLEGE**

JACOB LEWIS

For Jacob Lewis, photography has always been a personal pursuit. However, after enrolling in a Bachelor of Photography program at Photography Studies College (PSC), he’s eager to transform his passion into a professional career.

**WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS**



Now in his second semester, Jacob chose PSC to help “make some connections in the field” and refine his skills.

In just a short time, he has grown as a photographer – exploring different styles and finding inspiration in new, unexpected places.

“When I was just doing it as a hobby, I wasn’t really focused on anything. I think my interests have changed at PSC,” Jacob said.

“We started doing portraits of people, and I didn’t realise how much I enjoyed it. I’ve been focusing more on portrait photography since, so I think that’s the direction I would like to go.”

Surrounded by cameras from a young age, Jacob developed a fascination with

photography by observing his dad and granddad capturing family moments.

“I distinctly remember an image that my granddad took of me at my uncle’s wedding in the South Australian bush. I was the youngest of my brothers and sisters and cousins, they all wanted to play together, and I got left out, so I stormed off,” he told *Southbank News*.

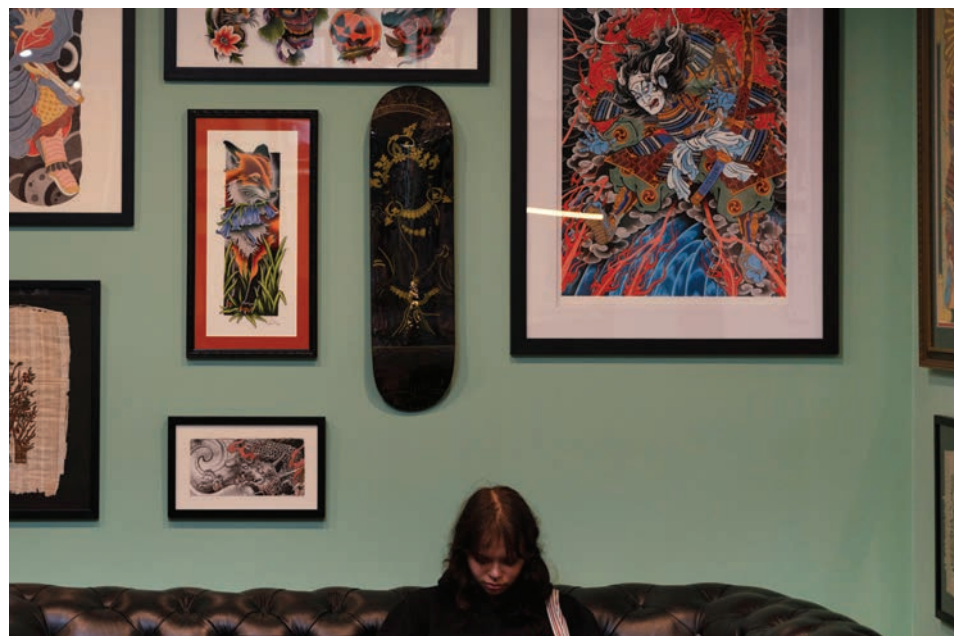
His grandad spotted him moping around the corner behind a tree and discreetly took a photo that has since become one of Jacob’s all-time favourites.

“He was very proud of that shot. It was always up in their house so every time I went around to theirs, I always saw it.”

Jacob is currently working on a project at PSC centred around family, where he’s exploring the ties that connect people to their home life.

“I moved around a fair bit when I was little, so there were pretty much only two constant things in my life – outside of my family – which still make me feel like I’m part of something. One is the ocean because we were always close to the beach or made an effort to go, and two is Vegemite,” Jacob said.

“We moved overseas for a bit, but whenever I had cheese and Vegemite on toast it always brought me back to my childhood home. I wanted to explore that memory but in other people and try to photograph them with an object or in a place to get a sense of where they belong.”

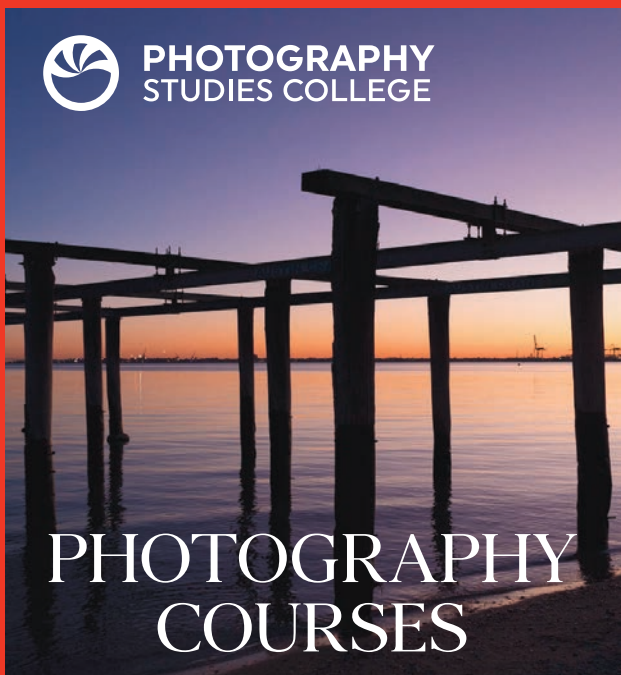


While PSC is playing a vital role in shaping Jacob into a professional photographer, he emphasises that he’s “not doing it for anyone else”, and that photography will always be something that’s for him to enjoy. “I think everyone needs a creative outlet.

When you finally print your photos or get film back or see your photo on a TV screen or projector, it’s quite fulfilling,” Jacob said. “You might’ve had some help, but you’ve done that – your brain has created that photo. I think that’s quite wonderful.” ●

Image by Fiona Cull

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Luxury penthouses set to bring a taste of Billionaires' Row to Southbank

Southbank is about to get a little more luxurious, with designs for eight new penthouses in the BLVD tower recently revealed at Melbourne Square.

WORDS BY TARA HIGHET



The two-storey penthouses, which the developer compares to penthouses on New York's Billionaires' Row, are expected to be completed in 2028.

One has already sold for \$6 million. Each penthouse will feature floor-to-ceiling windows, a wine cellar, a reflection pond and a sculptural staircase. Residents will be able to enjoy sweeping views of Port Phillip Bay from their bathtub, then get dressed in a silk-carpeted walk-in

wardrobe designed to mimic a luxury boutique.

They will also have access to the tower's exclusive Skye Club Lounge, which features a cocktail bar, private dining room and gym.

The penthouses were designed by David Hicks, an award-winning Australian interior designer and RMIT graduate.

Mr Hicks designed the penthouses to be one-of-a-kind "sanctuaries of opulence".

"The approach to designing BLVD's penthouses as individual projects retains the grandeur, privacy and high-end design details typical of a standalone luxury home," he said.

"This is a process rarely seen in high-volume apartment towers, and it will make for considered, luxurious and resolved homes."

The theme of the designs is "East meets West", which the developer described as "fusing Eastern minimalism with Western opulence and scale". ●

Southbank Neighbourhood Watch to launch at BBQ in the park

The City of Melbourne's very first Neighbourhood Watch group will be launched this October in Southbank.

WORDS BY JON FLEETWOOD



To kickstart the inaugural Neighbourhood Watch a barbecue will be held on October 20 at Sturt Street Reserve between 12pm and 3pm.

The event will connect residents with local Victoria Police officers, Crime Stoppers, and the Crime Prevention Unit to help inform them of the best way to prevent crime within the area and how to join the Neighbourhood Watch.

"It's about bringing the community together, community connection, having some fun and promoting safety," event organiser Christopher Milner said.

BBQ in the Park coincides with Children's Week, which is a national celebration that recognises the talents, skills, achievements and rights of children.

This year's theme is "Children Have a Right to a Safe and Clean Environment" and Mr Milner said a big focus for the event was to honour this.

There will be giant bubbles and face

painting for kids, giveaways and a free raffle, but none of this would be possible without the help of local businesses and the City of Melbourne.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece, Neighbourhood Watch Victoria's Nikoll Peschek and Snr Sergeants Alex O'Toole and Jay McDonald from Southbank Police Station gathered at Sturt Street Reserve in September to help promote the event to the community.

With the support of a \$2000 Connected Neighbourhood grant from the council alongside donations from the likes of Woolworths, Coles, IGA, Chemist Warehouse and Bunnings, Mr Milner said it had given him faith in the community.

But the event organiser is still the only member of Southbank's Neighbourhood Watch, and he is calling on residents to show their support for the initiative to continue to make Southbank safer.

In July, Ms Peschek told *Southbank News* that Neighbourhood Watch groups were essential in helping educate residents on how to prevent crime.

Ms Peschek said that due to the number of apartments in Southbank, the area was prone to storage area break-ins, bike theft, car crime and mail theft but the number one way to prevent this is knowing your neighbour.

With community and safety at the heart of Mr Milner's mission, BBQ at the Park is a great way for the community to connect and make sure it is safe as it can be. ●

"A little world of health and wellness": The Brace Shop opens in Port Melbourne

After operating his family business out of Abbotsford for 35 years, Erez Baron has brought Melbourne's best sports and medical goods retail service to Port Melbourne, right on Southbank's doorstep.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



As one of Australia's leading sports medical suppliers, The Brace Shop – the retail interface for the Bodyassist brand of sports medical and health products – has everything one needs to help sustain a healthy and active lifestyle.

Described by Mr Baron as a "feel good" business, The Brace Shop prides itself on offering "old fashioned service" and providing a

physical location for anyone wishing to get professionally fitted for any of its high-quality medical health products.

For any Southbankers recovering from an injury or dealing with any pain or discomfort preventing them from staying active, Mr Baron said the store, located at 269 Williamstown Rd, was likely to have a product to help you "fix it".

This could range from knee or back braces, moon boots and recovery shoes, mouthguards and head protection, compression socks and tapes, spinal cushions and back rests, postpartum products and its top selling "Squatty Potty", skincare and jewellery and everything in between.

"We live by the phrase 'we won't tell you what's wrong, we'll tell you how to fix it,'" Mr Baron told *Southbank News*. "That's really the basis of what we're doing here. We're not trying to cure anyone because we're not a medical clinic, but we will certainly provide products that make people feel less pain, and more comfort."

Having started his career in the IT sector in the early '80s,

the 67-year-old Mr Baron said he eventually found his way into the sports medical industry and since starting his own business previously based on Hoddle St, he's never looked back.

Today, the brand distributes to around 3000 outlets and pharmacies across the country, including through Chemist Warehouse, and offers a strong online retail service to its customers.

But in always priding itself as a strong, direct-to-customer business, Mr Baron said The Brace Shop was an ideal avenue for local customers to come in and enjoy a more personalised service.

"Retail outlets can only hold a small selection of such products due to space restrictions," Mr Baron explained. "However the beauty of The Brace Shop is that we display many braces from every category, thereby greatly boosting consumer choice."

"This can apply to tennis elbow, foot injuries, whatever you like.

But customers can come in, and our staff will take them through the whole range of options."

Helping people to feel better has become a passion for Mr Baron over his 35-year journey with the business, having even designed and manufactured some products on-site here in Melbourne.

With the business now located in his hometown of Port Melbourne, he said he had no plans yet of slowing down and felt fortunate to have been able to make a positive impact on so many customers for much of his working life.

"My staff and I have been doing this for a long time. I don't think one can do something for this long without feeling good about it and enjoying what you do," Mr Baron said. "The business continues strongly and it's nice to see the fruits of our labour for all these years and see what we've created – a little world of health and wellness, I suppose."

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

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JOSH BURNS MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACNAMARA

📱📺📷📺 joshburnsmp



## Council elections: who are you voting for?

Yet again, council elections are upon us. It seems like only yesterday our Southbank Residents' Association (SRA) committee was planning its last "Meet the Candidates" event giving the community the opportunity to ask their questions and hear directly from the candidates.

This year will be no exception with our event scheduled for Thursday, October 10, 6.30pm at Boyd Community Hub, moderated by ex-City of Melbourne councillor, shareholder activist and Walkley award-winning journalist, Stephen Mayne. SRA has been holding these events for more than 20 years.

However, this year would see the greatest number of Lord Mayoral candidates since I have been living in the municipality, which is 18 years.

So, "where does one start with their considerations?", I hear you pondering.

The City of Melbourne is unique, insofar that it does not operate on a ward allocation (like every other municipality), i.e. sections of the municipality (wards) vote for their representative, and then the council elects the mayor.

Instead, the City of Melbourne runs two elections. The first to directly elect the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor by popular vote and the second for councillors. Councillors are elected by a quota system whereby the elected officials are determined by the overall allocation of votes, creating quotas. There are nine quotas (one for each councillor position).

The council will be made up of 11 councillors with the Lord Mayor and Deputy being two of those positions and the remaining nine are councillors as determined by the quotas. Essentially each quota is 11 per cent of the votes. Candidates are elected if they successfully obtain one quota, or teams can have one representative for each quota they obtain. Team members are elected in order of their position on the team ticket.

The successfully elected candidates are determined after preferences are allocated and quotas achieved. Likewise, the Lord Mayor and Deputy are determined after allocation of all preferences and the team with the majority of the votes is declared the winner.

One other key difference in the City of Melbourne, is that businesses and non-residential property owners can vote twice, while residents can only lodge one vote each. This change was introduced in 1996 by the then Premier Jeff Kennett after he sacked the City of Melbourne council. The city looked remarkably different at that time with very few residents. In 2001, Labor locked it back in.

For more than a decade there have been calls for reform and to fall in line with the rest of the state (and Australia for that matter) of one person, one vote. In my opinion, the current system is fundamentally unfair on the residents of the municipality, who now make up the majority, therefore should have an equal vote on the make-up of who will represent us. Any candidate who is pushing for this reform would certainly get a tick from me.

When considering your vote, be mindful of what they are promising. I am hearing promises of things which are not within the remit of council, therefore next to impossible to achieve. Of course, they can

lobby to the respective institution which does have control over those items for these desired changes, but just remember a promise of what they WILL do is not the same as lobbying. But I guess, this is normal electioneering no matter the election. Many candidates are spruiking promises which are targeting the populist vote, I would like to think our electorate is smarter than falling for that.

Likewise, I am hearing many promises which will cost many dollars, yet there is no mention of how they will pay for them. A candidate with a holistic policy including funding would certainly get a tick from me.

You may not know, within the City of Melbourne, a councillor doesn't have to live in the electorate. They merely need to have a desk somewhere where they can call their "address".

In years gone by, many candidates have nominated under this premise. I can recall several terms ago where only two of the 11 councillors lived in the municipality. A candidate who lives in the municipality would certainly get a tick from me too.

Since we have a preference system, then you need to remember who you vote for may not be where your vote will end up. It is important to try to understand where your vote might be preferred to. When you know where it might end up, then you may not be happy to support that candidate. If you are concerned where your vote may end up, then you have the option to vote below the line and take full control.

As someone who has been attending council regularly for the past 10 years that I have been the president of SRA, I have been disappointed with the performance of many of the elected representatives.

Sadly, and it happens too often, individuals are there purely as a stepping stone to their next political move. These individuals are usually elected on a party affiliated ticket where the voters are merely voting along their party lines and not asking if the proposed representative is there for the right reasons or bringing some desirable skills or characteristics to council. I have seen first-hand how engaged our councillors are.

Sadly, this year we have lost one of the community's greatest assets in Cr Rohan Leppert. While being a councillor is a part-time commitment, for the past 12 years Cr Leppert has essentially been a full-time councillor, by choice. He is across all the detail on every report that council needs to consider and is always available for to anyone in the municipality.

SRA would like to extend a tremendous thank-you to Cr Leppert for his tireless efforts and advice with our lobbying over those years and we wish him well with his future endeavours where we are certain he will excel.

I believe it will be a tight contest this year with possibly three main contenders. I hope this will give you some guidance with what to consider when casting your vote.

SRA has also produced a guide which collates the preferences for ease of understanding. This can be found on our website at [southbankresidents.org.au](http://southbankresidents.org.au).

I hope to see you at our Meet the Candidates event on October 10, 6.30pm, Boyd Community Hub. ●

### Tony Penna

PRESIDENT



## The joy of Southbank

Yes, and we mean it! As spring is enveloping us all (along with the challenges of all the plane trees), Southbank is splendidly coming back to life.

The trees, shrubs, grass and flowers are sprouting, and coats and scarves are slowly being peeled off. What a great time to be a Southbanker.

One of the main reasons we founded the Southbank3006 group was to forge connections with our neighbours, our environment and the liveability of our suburb.

We have certainly come a long way, not just in all the community events we have organised that have been so well attended by our neighbours, and not only in our advocacy for more green and open space, better traffic management and personal safety, but also in the significant work we have put into building strong working relationships with the City of Melbourne councillors and officers, and our state and federal representatives.

We at Southbank3006 are all volunteers and provide the services and events we undertake for the love of our suburb and our desire to create a liveable and joyful environment for all of us.

Of course, there are still many challenges that come with living in a suburb on the edge of a CBD home to serious state and national tourist attractions such as the National Gallery of Victoria, the Yarra-Birrarung and all its attractions and renowned restaurants, all of which attract many visitors.

And that, dear readers, is not only one of the most unique attractions of our suburb, but also one of the biggest challenges.

How can we embed our neighbourly connections and relationships when we are inundated with thousands of visitors every month?

Spring and summer are the busiest times in Southbank with so many attractions both in the Arts Precinct and all the activities on the river. It is worth remembering that there are significant numbers of residents living adjacent to these iconic attractions, and the influx of significant numbers of visitors has an impact on us, both good and challenging.

So, to maintain our connectedness and harmonious amenities



we work together to create events, such as our major annual Christmas event a Merry Friend-mas, communications such as this column (thanks to *Southbank News*), our website [southbank3006.com](http://southbank3006.com) and our social pages on Instagram and Facebook.

If you would like to be more involved in your community or have ideas, we would love to hear from you.

The City of Melbourne council elections have now begun with voting open from October 7, and you should receive your postal ballots shortly.

Please think very carefully about who to vote for. Southbank3006 is non-partisan as our members are diverse and smart enough to do their own research. However, as a community group, we would work with whomever is elected.

We have had a fantastic and productive relationship with the incumbents who have listened to the community's concerns and for the most part acted on virtually all of our recommendations, and we look forward to working as well and in unity with the newly elected Lord Mayor and councillors after the election.


We hope you have a wonderful October. You will hear from us again very soon but join us via [southbank3006.com](http://southbank3006.com) to become part of the team making Southbank more liveable. ●

### Trisha Avery

SECRETARY

[COMMUNITY@SOUTHBANK3006.COM](mailto:COMMUNITY@SOUTHBANK3006.COM)







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CYP-BS00431

# Earth care, people care and nurture to share

It's finally spring after a bitterly cold winter and the neighbourhood is buzzing with the hum of bees, and dragonflies warming themselves on the garden bed signal rocks (looks like they favour red).

**WORDS BY**  
SEEMA MISRA THAKUR

The butterflies simply love the yellow Calendulas on our community garden beds.

The much anticipated arrival of spring was announced by a stormy night on the last day of August. The first day of spring had some of our volunteers rushing to assess the damage done to our vegetable garden beds by the high force gale winds through the night.

The stakes were all down and had to be reinforced. The volunteers got busy cleaning the fallen plants and after assessing the wind burn to the delicate pea leaves, we were happy that some resilient climbers were still strong enough to survive.

At the last gardening bee of August, we were admiring the snow peas and broad beans showing promise of a good harvest to be shared with our Southbank community.

A lot of learning happens in our gardens, as we keep changing our planting patterns to accommodate the community's requests and simultaneously navigate planting according to changing weather patterns.

On both working bees of the past two fortnights, the freezing weather moved us indoors to the Boyd lobby where the members discussed ideas for next steps to spring planting. The windy wet days were not

helpful, but we're happy to let the community know that our spring flower seeds are finally in the garden beds.

As you head to City Rd in the next couple of weeks, watch out for the flower seeds to sprout up and enjoy the salvias, mixed saisis, sunflowers and other multicoloured flowers through the rest of the spring and mid-summertime.

Gardening group members also took the opportunity to share houseplant-themed puzzles, exchanging ideas and recipes (pickled carrots, preserves etc., recipes shared on our socials) during indoor times and some of the members seized the opportunity to clean and sharpen the gardening tools.

A few gardening tools were taken for maintenance by our volunteers at the recently held Riverfest Men's Shed event at Westgate Biodiversity Park. A big thank you to the volunteers from Men's Shed Port Melbourne for giving new life to some of our gardening shears.

The other outdoor gardening activities have continued on warmer week days with pruning, weeding, checking water content in our water beds, fertilising with worm juice and planting of leafy vegetables. A good yield of lettuce, carrots, beetroot, Asian greens and herbs like parsley will be soon be ready to share.

We will keep you posted about harvest readiness through our traffic signal rocks.

**Zero waste in daily life and beyond**  
The start of spring leading up to early summer is when most of us spring clean and try to minimise our waste disposal charges.

The concept of "zero waste" has emerged in the past few years and has become an integral part of living with sustainability principles that aim to send nothing or as



little as possible to the landfill. We put this question to our sustainability group champions who practice what they preach and provided some easy to follow ideas for high-rise living:

**Reduce food wastage**

Pickling of excess vegies like carrots and preserves, food scraps being utilised for vermicompost by having mini composters and/or Bokashi buckets, and cooking your own meals, which is healthy, economical and less wasteful.

**Reduce and reuse packaging**

Buy food in bulk and reuse wrappers for bin lining.

**Sustainable transportation**

Walk more often, use bicycles or take public transport

**Gardening practices**

Plant waste in compost, reduce water usage, have wicking beds, water only

during dry weather and with a well maintained gardening hose.

**Upcoming event to commemorate the Children's Week**

October 6 to 13 is Victorian Seniors Week and it is imperative that we acknowledge the wonderful team comprising of several seniors who tirelessly take care of our SSG community gardens and embody the true spirit of "nurture to share" and bring the Southbank community together.

**Bee Discovery sustainability workshop:**

Saturday, October 26, 10.30am at Boyd Community Hub.

**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/southbanksustainabilitygroup](https://facebook.com/southbanksustainabilitygroup) or email [southbanksustainability@gmail.com](mailto:southbanksustainability@gmail.com)

## Only one team knows Melbourne is more than the CBD



**Phil Reed & Labor**  
**Keeping Local Government Local**



Keep in touch at:

- ✉ [melblabor@gmail.com](mailto:melblabor@gmail.com)
- 📷 [www.instagram.com/melblabor](https://www.instagram.com/melblabor)
- 📘 [www.facebook.com/MelbourneLabor](https://www.facebook.com/MelbourneLabor)

**Election Details:** Elections will take place by mail. Keep an eye out for your ballot in the mail & return it before October 26!  
Authorised by Philip Reed, Locked Bag 3240, Melbourne VIC 3001

## 1 VOICES FOR MELBOURNE



**VOTE NOW TO SEE A POSITIVE CHANGE IN OUR CITY**

Voices 4 Melbourne is a grassroots movement committed to reinvigorating our city with fresh, community-driven leadership and a Lord Mayor Melbourne can trust. We are local residents and business owners who are passionate about making a difference ... and not just during an election.

**"A dedicated group of local community advocates who work tirelessly to improve our beautiful city"**

**To Learn More Visit**  
[voices4melbourne.com.au](https://voices4melbourne.com.au)

## Understanding your apartment building

Inside every building is a story that is told from many different perspectives. Life within apartment living is complex so join us as we discuss the roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders.

### Understanding your building: roles and responsibilities

Living in a shared community involves various stakeholders, each with specific roles that contribute to the smooth operation and maintenance of the property. Whether you're a lot owner, property manager, or the strata manager, it's important to understand these responsibilities.

### Owners' corporation (OC) and strata management:

The OC, often managed by a strata manager, plays a crucial role in overseeing the common property and administration of the building. Their responsibilities include:

- Meeting administration: acting as the secretary for meetings and the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Maintenance contracts: arranging quotations for building maintenance.
- OC register: keeping the OC's register up to date.
- Invoice management: ensuring timely payment of all invoices.
- Financial oversight: preparing and distributing financial statements and budgets.
- Levy management: collecting and banking levies from owners
- Insurance: arranging quotes, managing insurance claims and ensuring the building is insured
- Compliance and grievances: administering grievance procedures and managing compliance with OC obligations.
- Emergency maintenance: coordinating after-hours emergency maintenance.

### Lot owners and property managers:

As a lot owner or property manager, you

have specific responsibilities that contribute to the community's overall wellbeing, including the apartment you manage or own:

- Property appearance: maintaining the outward appearance of your apartment for the enjoyment of all residents.
- Exclusive services: overseeing services within your lot, such as water, electricity, and fittings.
- Compliance: adhering to the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006*, OC regulations 2018, and any registered rules with Land Use Victoria
- Common property use: ensuring that you do not misuse or neglect common property, which could affect others' enjoyment.

### Building management:

The building manager is responsible for the physical upkeep of the building and its common areas. Their tasks include:

- Facilitating maintenance: overseeing the maintenance of common property and essential services.
- Quality control: ensuring high standards for cleaning, waste management, gardening, and contractor performance
- Moves and communication: facilitating moves and lift access while managing communication through building platforms like MYBOS.
- Safety and compliance: maintaining a safe environment and ensuring adherence to building regulations.
- Regular inspections: conducting inspections and preparing detailed reports for the OC. ●

## Pet's Corner



### Mr Tango is slowly coming back

Following his emergency spinal surgery, Mr Tango met *Southbank News* on the steps of the Red Stair amphitheatre at Queensbridge Square in October.

WORDS BY  
LÉA CARRÉ

Pushed in a buggy by his owner Autumn, this almost 10-year-old Pembroke Welsh Corgi is already recovering, slowly but surely.

His breed is known for back issues, and after Mr Tango had slipped on the floor, unluckily, so did his spinal disc.

Autumn adopted him as a two-year-old from a Queensland kennel. He was already called Tango, but his owner explained: "I added 'Mister' in front of it because people ask if it's a he or she!"

"He likes to hang out in cafes and bars with me," Autumn said.

His favourite spot? Autumn doesn't hesitate: "Life's Too Short bar by the MCJ".

His recovery is expected to last four to five months without walking and in a couple weeks, this lovely Corgi will start hydro-physiotherapy which means he will exercise on a treadmill immersed in water. Get well soon Mr Tango!

If you would like to contribute to the costs of his operation, Autumn has launched a fundraising campaign. Scan the QR code above to donate. ●



You're invited to a

## Free BBQ in the park

Sunday 20th October 2024, 12 to 3pm

Come along, meet your neighbours, chat with local police and Neighbourhood Watch about any concerns, learn how to keep your home secure, enjoy a free snag\* or veggie burger and celebrating Children's Week with kids' activities!

To RSVP, scan  
the QR code



\* Halal options available

Where:  
Sturt St Reserve  
Cnr Kings Way & Sturt St  
Southbank



This event is supported by City of Melbourne's Connected Neighbourhood Small Grant



### PROPOSAL TO INSTALL A NEW TELSTRA MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION IN SOUTHBANK

Telstra plans to install a new telecommunications facility at 33-43 Sturt Street, SOUTHBANK VIC 3006 (RFNSA No. 3006086)

1. The proposal involves the following:

- A three (3) sector installation of nine (9) panel antennas at a maximum height of 53.64m on the existing 48.4m high building, included in a total proposed lease area of 27.03 square metres (2.8m x 3.35m, 3.1m x 3.3m, & 2.75m x 2.7m)
- Outdoor Unit Cabinets (ODUs) to be installed in the plant room of the existing building
- Ancillary equipment and works such as remote radio units, GPS antennas, mounts, and cabling and feeders, to improve Telstra's mobile phone network (including 4G/5G)

2. Telstra regards the proposed installation as a 'Low impact' Facility under the *Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Determination 2018*, based on the description above. The proposal is exempt from the requirement for a planning permit, pursuant to the Melbourne Planning Scheme Clause 52.19-1. The proposed infrastructure will comply with the ACMA EME regulatory arrangements.

3. In accordance with Section 6 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: Planning Consultant on behalf of Telstra, via email to [planning.vic@servicestream.com.au](mailto:planning.vic@servicestream.com.au), phone: 03 9937 6555, via post to Planning Consultant, Servicestream, PO Box 14570, Melbourne, VIC 8001 by 5pm, Thursday 7 November 2024.

Service Stream Ltd ABN 46 072 369 840 Telstra Ltd ACN 086 174 781 Amplitel Ltd ACN 648 133 073

## COMMERCIAL FACILITY SERVICES

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Enquiries: [commercialfs.net.au/admin@commercialfs.net.au](http://commercialfs.net.au/admin@commercialfs.net.au)





## Metro Tunnel celebrates third station milestone

It's officially three down, two to go on the Metro Tunnel Project.

Major construction at Anzac Station is now complete – the third of the five new state-of-the-art underground train stations after work at Arden and Parkville finished earlier this year.

Victorians will be able to access St Kilda Rd's growing employment, education and residential precinct as well as some of Melbourne's most important destinations, including the Shrine of Remembrance, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Albert Park via train for the first time.

Trains on the Cranbourne, Pakenham and Sunbury lines will stop at the new station when it opens in 2025, with passengers on every other line able to make a single change at Melbourne Central (to State Library Stations) or Flinders Street (to Town Hall Stations) to get there.

Anzac Station, 15 metres below St Kilda Rd, includes four entrances with stairs, lifts and escalators that link to a new pedestrian underpass beneath busy St Kilda Rd.

It also includes a bright and colourful artwork called *Future Wall Painting* by local artist Raafat Ishak featuring abstract representations of iconic St Kilda Rd landmarks.

Anzac Station has been designed as a "pavilion in the park" with its signature 85-metre-long, 21-metre-wide timber canopy's skylights filling the station with natural light, reducing reliance on artificial lighting.

Over the past six years thousands of workers have built the station canopy and entrances, realigned St Kilda Rd four times, created the new Anzac Station tram stop, poured concrete for the station platform and pedestrian underpass and installed 12 escalators, six lifts and Victorian-first platform screen doors.

The tram stop, which opened in 2022, has extra-long platforms

that can fit four trams at a time for large crowds attending events such as Anzac Day and the Melbourne Grand Prix.

The stop will be Melbourne's first direct tram/train interchange, providing a seamless connection between tram and train services, while the station takes pressure off the world's busiest tram corridor.

The project also completed the final section of separated bike lanes on St Kilda Rd between Dorcas St and Toorak Rd last month with cyclists now enjoying safer travel on St Kilda Rd.

Domain Rd is expected to reopen to traffic from mid-October and the Route 58 tram will continue to travel along nearby Toorak Rd.

The Metro Tunnel will connect the busy Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham lines via a new tunnel under the city, creating an end-to-end rail line from the north-west to the south-east, giving passengers new connections and more choice. ●

### OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

## Amendments to short-stay legislation a welcome relief to owners' corporations

The government's stunning decision to empower owners' corporations (OCs) to choose for themselves about whether to permit short-term letting in their buildings is a game-changer for owner occupiers and tenants alike across Melbourne.

On January 1 next year, an amendment to the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006* will be assented by Parliament to permit OCs to attempt to pass a rule to prohibit the use of an apartment as short-stay accommodation (but not prohibiting an owner of a unit, or a lessee or sub-lessee from providing a unit as short-stay accommodation if that person occupies the lot as their principal place of residence).

There are a few things to note about these amendments to the legislation.

Firstly, the definition of "short-stay" has been defined as a "continuous period of less than 28 days."

What this means is that a guest would have to rent a unit for more than 28 days for a continuous stay in order to be exempt from the prohibition.

Secondly, the definition of "place of principal residence" has not been defined by the legislation. So, the Courts or Tribunal may be called upon to clarify this via a test case.

I would speculate that the Australian Tax Office (ATO) definition of "place of principal residence" test would likely be the best source of precedent to adopt. This would require proof that the owner or tenant lives in the unit full-time and that it is their main residence.

Thirdly, if a building already has a rule registered on title by the developer that purports to ban short-stay accommodation, this won't necessarily and automatically become lawful and enforceable. The building may have to attempt to pass an updated

rule to adopt the new terminology and limits created by the new legislation.

Fourthly, if a building wishes to pass a rule to restrict short-term letting, it may choose to do so by way of passing a vote at an AGM or a special general meeting, or it may call for a ballot by way of post or email to pass a special resolution.

Fifthly, the required threshold of voting for passing a rule to restrict short-term letting would be no less than 75 per cent of the total aggregate of lot entitlements. However, if more than 50 per cent of the aggregate vote in favour of the Rule (but less than 75 per cent) then this would be considered as an "interim special resolution."

The OC may be able to declare the vote as a special resolution if, after 28 days' notice, not more than 25 per cent of the lot entitlements of the building have objected to the interim special resolution.

Complicated? Yes, of course. Difficult to achieve? For some buildings, yes. Impossible? No, but some buildings will struggle to pass an interim special resolution, if less than 50 per cent of the building bother to cast a vote.

Overall, the amendment to the legislation is celebrated and welcomed by owners and residents alike. For too many years have their buildings been overrun by tourists and unruly partygoers.

Now, finally these buildings have a gilt-edged opportunity to rid themselves of the intrusions to their amenity and privacy, and safety and security.

Hats off to the Parliamentarians of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, who finally listened to the needs of residents and owners. ●

#### Tom Bacon

STRATA TITLE LAWYERS

TOM@STRATATITELAWYERS.COM.AU



### NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

## Lithium-ion battery safety

Southbank is one of the most densely populated suburbs in Victoria. The majority of people live in residential towers, some as high as 108 stories, and each apartment will have multiple portable devices such as laptop computers, mobile phones, children's toys, e-scooters and e-cigarettes.

Many of these devices may contain rechargeable lithium-ion batteries. They are lightweight, energy dense and long-lasting but can be more volatile than traditional batteries.

Occasionally, if a lithium-ion battery is improperly charged, handled, stored or disposed of there is a risk of overheating, catching fire or explosion. This also increases the risk of a house fire or personal injury.

Electric bicycles (e-bikes), electric scooters (e-scooters) and electric mobility (e-mobility) scooters known as "micromobility" devices or "light electric vehicles (LEV)", have become the vehicle of choice for Southbank residents. LEVs commonly contain lithium-ion batteries too.

The following safety advice from Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) covers both portable devices and light electric vehicles:

- Purchase products from a reputable supplier and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use chargers and cords that are originally supplied with that device. Using chargers with incorrect power delivery (voltage and current) can cause damage to the battery or overheating that can lead to fires.
- Only use batteries that are designed for that device.
- Check that chargers have the Regulatory Compliance Mark, to show that they meet the relevant Australian Standards.

- Avoid charging LEV batteries overnight or leaving devices unattended while charging. Once the indicator shows that a device or battery has been fully charged, disconnect it from the charger.
- Devices should always be charged on non-combustible surfaces.
- Avoid locations such as couches, beds and carpets.
- Where possible, LEVs should be stored and charged away from living spaces. Keep them away from any exit doors, escape routes, and other combustible materials. FRV recommend installation of a smoke alarm where LEVs are charged.
- Only have device repair, battery replacement or upgrades performed by a qualified professional.
- Never store or leave LEV batteries or devices in areas where they can be exposed to heat or moisture. Do not leave devices in direct sunlight or in parked vehicles where they can quickly heat up. Let batteries cool before recharging.
- Don't use LEV batteries or devices that show signs of swelling or bulging, leaking, overheating, or signs of mechanical damage (cracked, dented, punctured, or crushed). Don't touch leaking or damaged batteries (use gloves) and clean up any spilled material carefully. If safe to do so remove the battery away from anything that can catch fire, preferably outside.

For additional information on battery safety and battery disposal visit: [vic.gov.au/battery-safety](http://vic.gov.au/battery-safety) ●

#### Snr Sgt Alex O'Toole

COMMANDER

SOUTHBANK POLICE STATION

SOUTHBANK-UNI-OIC@POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU





## In the mail!

One of the major changes resulting from new technology in the past decade is the massive reduction of mail by post.

Postal services had been introduced into Victoria in the early 1840s and the first official post office for the Port Phillip District was opened in Elizabeth St in 1841.

Those seeking to send or receive had to attend the post office. Mail was also collected by "letter carriers", first appointed in Melbourne in 1841, equipped with leather bag, hand bell, a red coat with brass buttons and a black top hat! But changes soon took place, when letterboxes were installed throughout the British Empire, including the colony of Victoria.

In the early 1860s the "low door round" design posting box was introduced. They were replaced by cast iron boxes, with two installed in South Melbourne in 1885.

They were a distinctive fluted circular design, painted red and adorned with two broad embossed bands around their circumference.

Essentially a standard colonial long door format box, they were highly visible and embossed with the lettering "RECEIVING PILLAR" (Victoria was perhaps the only Australian postal service to use the term extensively) and included a decorative dome cap (sometimes in the shape of a crown) and a slot for the mail.

The postie accessed the box to clear the contents through a hinged door low down at the front of the box via a handle shaped as a clenched fist and a crossbar.

Also attached to the box was a maker's plate, in oval shape, such as that of the firm "ALLIANCE IRON WORKS" believed to have been located in South Melbourne.



Two remain in the district, including one in Southbank on St Kilda Rd (outside Victoria Barracks), and one in Clarendon St in South Melbourne.

They were still in service until 1967, when they were replaced by a square modern type, but fortunately they remain, even if only for decorative purposes and no longer used for mail. ●

### Robin Grow

AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN  
OF SOUTHBANK

ROBINGROW@OZEMAIL.COM.AU



## Remembered

Following the death of his wife, C S Lewis wrote, "Her absence is like the sky, spread over everything" (page 8, Kindle: Tingle Books). While beautifully expressed, his words are achingly sad and familiar.

### WORDS BY

PASTOR JAMES WINDERLICH  
ST JOHNS, SOUTHGATE

We can also know the pain of loss, and what it is to be sustained by the comfort of remembering. We carry, curate and defend our memories, and we dwell deeply in them at significant times and in significant places. To remember is to remain, albeit inadequately, in life together.

In 1975 Julie Garciacelay, from California USA, disappeared while living and working in Melbourne. Her aged mother Ruth has been searching for her ever since.

As Ruth reaches the end of her life, she wants her daughter to always be remembered and her name to be spoken and heard in the city where she was last seen and known.

This is Ruth's legacy for her daughter as together we will honour and give thanks for what remains real and true about Julie.

That naming and remembering will happen in our Southbank neighbourhood, at St Johns Church (20 City Rd) at 9am on October 18. The event will be live-streamed to Ruth in California. You are welcome to support Ruth and be there.

In his book entitled, *Sum: Tales from the Afterlives* neuroscientist David Eagleman writes ...

"There are three deaths. The first is when the body ceases to function. The second is when the body is consigned to the grave. The

third is that moment, sometime in the future, when your name is spoken for the last time" (page 23, 2014, Edinburgh: Canongate).

Naming, and naming out loud, is important for our remembering and our grieving. Names enter into and express the fullness of identities. For some cultural communities names and the memories that they communicate are so powerful that they will only again be spoken when the time is right. First there is a time to be quiet and sorry.

To name is to know, to dwell (grief is never fast-paced), to honour and to love. We will not stop loving, and so, as if harvesting Lewis's sad expanse spread over everything, we gather fragments of remembered lives by speaking names, thereby learning to live with and accommodate our own sadness. This is something that we can help each other with.

From 9am on Sunday, November 3 we will celebrate a "All Saints" or "All Souls" festival at St Johns. This is an opportunity for you, in a sacred place, to name and remember those whose deaths you grieve.

If you wish, there will be an opportunity for the names of your loved ones to be publicly spoken for the hearing of all at this little place in our neighbourhood. A place that you can quietly return to and dwell in, under the expanses of your own absences, as you need it.

"This is one of the miracles of love: It gives a power of seeing through its own enchantments and yet not being disenchanting" (C S Lewis, page 41, Kindle: Tingle Books). ●

## FEDERAL MP

### Everyone deserves a better deal at the supermarket

I know from speaking with our community right across Macnamara that people are doing it tough. Mortgages have gone up, rents too, and everyday expenses have been piling up.

### WORDS BY

JOSH BURNS, FEDERAL MP  
FOR MACNAMARA

It is why we are working extremely hard to get inflation under control and help people with cost-of-living pressures.

There's lots more work to be done, but I wanted to point of some of the things we have done already as there have been some important policy reforms.

Since coming to government, we have delivered back-to-back increases to the minimum wage, and introduced historic pay rises for aged-care and early childcare workers.

We've made childcare cheaper, we've made medicines cheaper, we have wiped \$3 billion in student debt by changing the HECS system, and we've funded the biggest increase to rent assistance in 30 years.

We want Australians to be keeping more of what they earn, which is why from July this year every Australian taxpayer got a tax cut.

However, I know the other place where cost-of-living pressures is really hitting hard is at the supermarket.

Unfair prices at the checkout have caused a significant strain on household budgets, which is why we are cracking down on dodgy supermarket practices.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) announced it would be taking legal action against Coles and Woolworths for allegedly misleading customers through deceptive discount pricing claims on everyday products.

We've all seen it: when the price of a bag of chips, originally \$5, goes up to \$7, then "drops" to \$6 on discount – that's not a real deal.

This deceptive behaviour needs to stop, which is why we announced a new Mandatory Food and Grocery Code for supermarkets.

Under the mandatory code, supermarkets will face multi-million-dollar fines for doing the wrong thing.

Earlier this year, the Prime Minister called on the ACCC to conduct a year-long inquiry into supermarket prices.

The interim report, released in late September, found that almost 90 per cent of consumers always or often use unit pricing when deciding what products to buy.

The reality is supermarkets and companies have got away with "shrinkflation" for too long.

Shrinkflation is where a product's size reduces but its price stays the same or even increases – like when a bag of chocolate goes from 18 pieces to 12.

Unit pricing should be helping shoppers, which is why we're strengthening the Unit Pricing Code to ensure supermarkets are providing the information Australians need to find the best deal.

In addition, we announced more funding to the ACCC to crack down on misleading prices and bad faith behaviour.

The bar needs to be raised, and there needs to be stronger consequences for doing the wrong thing, and that's exactly what we're doing.

There is more work to be done, but we are holding supermarkets to account to ensure every Australian gets a better deal at the checkout. These reforms are important, and we won't stop until the pressure eases for all Australians.

Josh Burns is the Federal Member for Macnamara. ●

## 10 YEARS ON

OCTOBER 2014 | ISSUE 35 |

SOUTHBANK NEWS

### Sturt St 'Shocker'

Melbourne City councillors lined up to express their disgust at a planning proposal submitted for 248 Sturt St at the October 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

They unanimously opposed a 46-storey, Elenberg Fraser-designed proposal which was more than two times the preferred height limit and would overshadow a nearby Kings Way park.

Planning officers recommended the councillors advise the Minister for Planning to reject the proposal, which was described in their report as an "overwhelmingly dominant and intimidating" building.

Cr Ken Ong labeled the 25,190 sqm proposal "a shocker", calling it a desperate attempt by the developer to bypass the City of Melbourne's authority to adjudicate applications up to 25,000sqm.

"Numerous negatives have been highlighted by all the different departments, which just basically says that this one's just not good enough," he said.

"I don't know whether it's the developer or it's the architect



that's been pushing this sort of boundary to squeeze in as much as possible to get it over 25,000sqm, ignore everyone and anyone living nearby."

The application has been submitted by racing identity Lloyd Williams' development company Hudson Conway.

Cr Stephen Mayne expressed his disappointment at the developer for submitting what he labelled as "trash". ●



# WHAT'S ON October



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



### PAX AUS

PAX Aus is a celebration of gaming and gaming culture featuring thought-provoking panels, a massive expo hall filled with the best publishers and independent studios and game demos.

Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

11 – 13 OCTOBER, FROM 10AM



### TECH CONNECT

Improve your digital skills and get help with your mobile phone or computer. Fortnightly sessions starting 13 August. Bookings are essential: 9820 2760 healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au

South Yarra Senior Citizens Centre

TUES, FORTNIGHTLY 9.30AM – 12.20PM



### 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

SUNDAYS, 10AM – 4PM



### MECCA X NGV WOMEN IN DESIGN COMMISSION

Netherlands-based designer Christien Meindertsma asks us to imagine a new material future as she exhibits a new fabrication method using recycled wool.

National Gallery of Victoria

UNTIL 16 APRIL



### INDIAN COMMUNITY DAY

Celebrate the creativity and diversity of Victoria's Indian community at this annual free event. Featuring Bollywood dancing, dhol drumming and DJ sets.

National Gallery of Victoria

SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER, 11AM – 5PM



### SECOND LINE STREET PARTY: TBC BRASS BAND

New Orleans's beloved TBC Brass Band will lead this mobile street party through the streets of Melbourne's inner city, ending at Fed Square with a free concert.

Red Stair Amphitheatre, Southbank

SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER, 1PM – 2PM



### AN EVENING WITH STEPHEN FRY

Step into an unforgettable evening in the company of comedian, actor and master storyteller Stephen Fry. Hear the ups and downs of Stephen's personal voyage through life and show business.

Plenary Theatre

WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER, 8PM – 10PM

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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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 josh.burns.mp@aph.gov.au  
 (03) 9534 8126  
 219 Barkly St, St Kilda VIC 3182  
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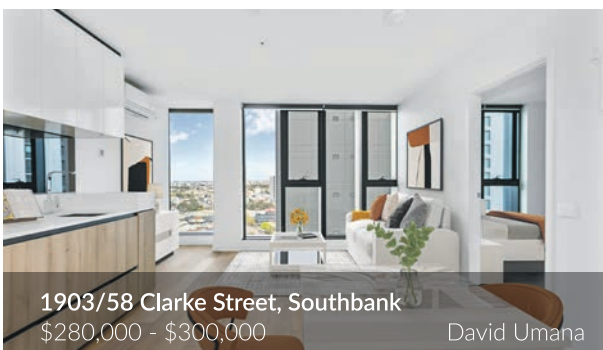
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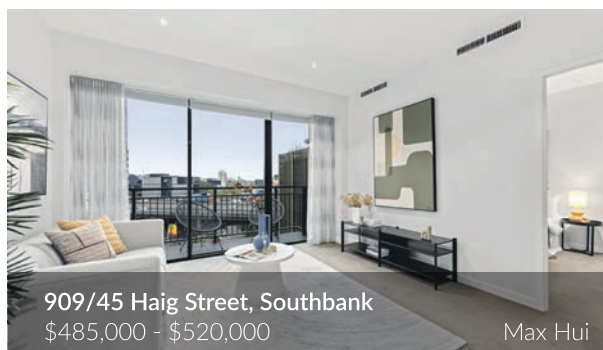
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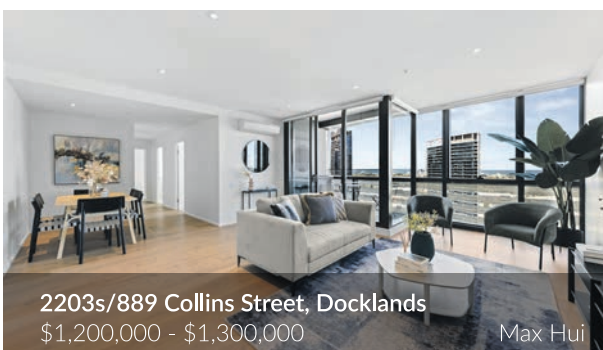
1903/58 Clarke Street, Southbank  
\$280,000 - \$300,000  
David Umana



909/45 Haig Street, Southbank  
\$485,000 - \$520,000  
Max Hui



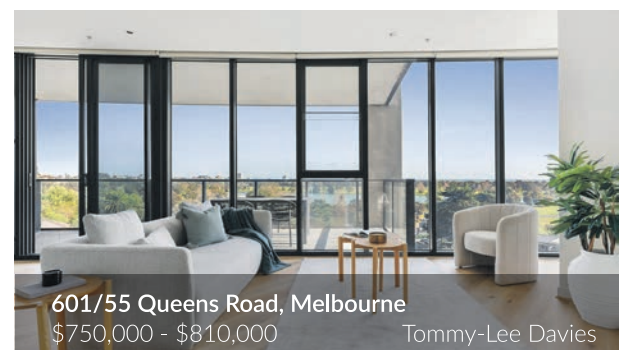
109/59 Thistlethwaite Street, South Melbourne  
\$650,000 - \$710,000  
Taylor Sims



2203s/889 Collins Street, Docklands  
\$1,200,000 - \$1,300,000  
Max Hui



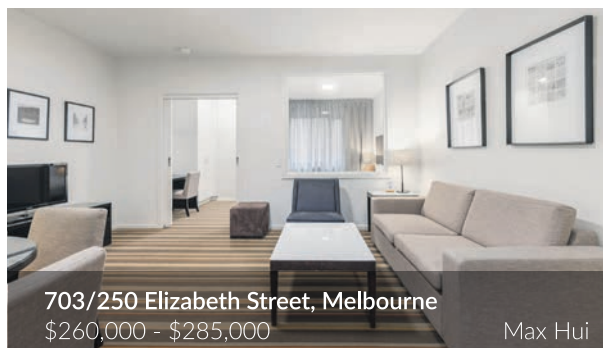
23/416 St Kilda Road, Melbourne  
\$300,000 - \$330,000  
Trinity Paderno



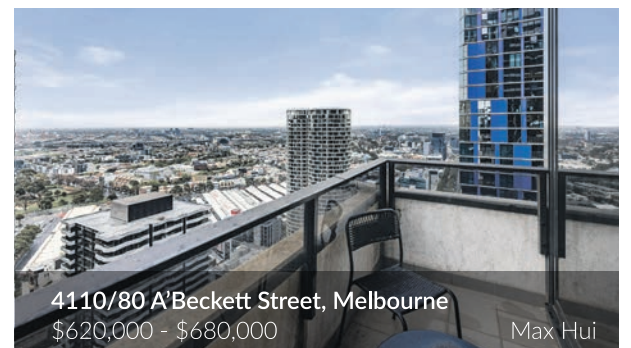
601/55 Queens Road, Melbourne  
\$750,000 - \$810,000  
Tommy-Lee Davies



401/83 Queens Road, Melbourne  
\$700,000 - \$750,000  
Tommy-Lee Davies



703/250 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne  
\$260,000 - \$285,000  
Max Hui



4110/80 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne  
\$620,000 - \$680,000  
Max Hui



704/101 St Kilda Road, St Kilda  
\$320,000 - \$350,000  
David Umana



11/3 Charnwood Road, St Kilda  
\$545,000 - \$575,000  
Taylor Sims



810/681 Chapel Street, South Yarra  
\$735,000 - \$785,000  
Taylor Sims



G07/1213 Centre Road, Oakleigh South  
\$410,000 - \$450,000  
Max Hui



76 Little Charles Street, Abbotsford  
\$795,000 - \$870,000  
Max Hui

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