



MELBOURNE SOUTH YARRA RESIDENTS GROUP INC.

Established by the residents of South Yarra in 1969

BULLETIN: OUR DOMAIN ROAD SHOPPING STRIP

Several MSYRG members have drawn attention to an article in the Australian this Monday July 19th 2021 as it reflects growing local concern about the worrying issue of increased crowding along our Domain Road strip, particularly at weekends

1. EXCERPTS FRM THE AUSTRALAIN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON MONDAY JULY 19TH 2021 – written by John Ferguson, Associate Editor

Coronavirus: Lockdown rules made to be broken, as Melbourne locals make their own calls

South Yarra is Melbourne's Bondi. Just before lunch on Sunday in the dead beating heart of what old timers might have called yuppie central, Domain Rd was a sea of black, maskless activity. Scores, maybe as many as 200, gathered in tight groups on the footpaths opposite Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens, sending a giant two finger salute to Spring Street. There was even a touch of Gladys. For no Dan rules are broken if one is maskless, drinking coffee. But the social gatherings clearly failed the common sense test. Little to no social distancing, many breathing more heavily than usual having just finished the Sunday ritual of running or walking the 3.8km gravel track outside the gardens. Domain Rd, the unofficial capital of self-entitlement, is never going to be the great Melbourne Covid-19 litmus test. But the activities there add to a growing perception that Melburnians are starting to make their own decisions about what a coronavirus response should look like.

When Italy won the Euros, there were unhinged celebrations across parts of the southern capital, few masks and thousands jumping around mindlessly at the very point that Lockdown 5.0 was incubating. The broader point of these two events — one in South Yarra, the other in Carlton — is that some people are either in revolt or ignorant; maybe both. While Melbourne's CBD was deader perhaps than it has ever been last Friday night, the community is starting to burst psychologically. Certainly the young and the active. What might worry the public health wonks is that these are the people who are most likely to spread it. Lockdown 5.0 differs from most other shutdowns because it has started to infect in a potentially significant way Melbourne's inner east..... ..But people are tired and over the rules. You don't have to drive a topless Porsche through South Yarra to work that out.

Link to the article: <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/coronavirus-lockdown-rules-made-to-be-broken-as-melbourne-locals-make-their-own-calls/news-story/f886579d49b24189a70cabffa49f320a>

2. Michael Butcher, MSYRG President has written to the Southbank Police Station, lodged a report on the police website of 'a suspected breach of public health restrictions' and written to the City of Melbourne asking it to address the issue of unsafe overcrowding on the Domain Road shopping strip footpaths and PopUp Park area. Here is a copy of the email to the Southbank Police Station:

As a local resident I support and confirm what this newspaper article says and add that such crowds have been present most weekends. There are a large number of people in restricted spaces most of whom do not wear masks or attempt to maintain appropriate distancing. It also appears that a large number come from outside the area having been in the Botanical

Gardens or on the Tan making parking extremely difficult. Because of the risk of infection local residents avoid the village in weekends.

The risk is that this becomes an infection “hot spot” and we therefore request that you maintain patrols in this area to ensure compliance although how you can reduce the numbers we do not know.

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Michael Butcher

President, Melbourne South Yarra Residents Group Inc.

3. Alex O’Toole, Senior Sergeant 32151, Station Commander Southbank promptly replied-

Thanks for your email. Southbank police conduct regular patrols for COVID breaches – if you detect a breach occurring please call 000 to report it, that way a police unit will be alerted to the reported breach and can attend and enforce CHO guidelines and issue penalty notices if offences are detected.

Regards,

Alex O’TOOLE

Senior Sergeant 32151 | Station Commander Southbank | ND1

4. Another option to report a suspected breach of public health restrictions, such as isolation, mass gathering or business breaches, contact the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or [click here](#) to report online. Or here:

https://onlinereporting.police.vic.gov.au/s/?language=en_US#_ga=2.185076265.1000162436.1626738995-537075145.1422170815

5. Online COVID-19 vaccination bookings

You can now book or change your COVID-19 vaccination appointment online at <https://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/>

6. NB: The ***RUN MELBOURNE*** Public Event on Sunday 25TH July 2021 has now been cancelled this year due to the current Lockdown

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MSYRG Inc

20th July 2021

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