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▲ Left to right: MtSV chief manager Sue Dight, Reverend Inni Punay and historian Geraldine Brualt.

## The mission's heritage is restored

WORDS BY Meg Hill  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY John Tadigiri  
MARITIME

The cherished heritage-listed Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) has re-emerged from a long period of renovations and renewal.

Since the end of 2019, the 1916 Spanish mission style MtSV building has undergone long awaited renovations. Scaffolding has covered the building's iconic frontage and rooms were sealed off.

The work was sped up during lockdown and the Mission is now ready for reopening.

"We used the time wisely ensuring that things were painted, tidy and updated and [we] reconsidered several areas within the Mission," MtSV chief manager Sue Dight said.

"Through a grant from the Vera Moore Trust we have repurposed the baggage room to be the new archive space. New floors, storage equipment including compactus, art storage and blinds for the space have been purchased. New locks and computers will keep the information and items safe."

The Mission also received a grant from the City of Melbourne that provided the opportunity to replace well-worn stage-curtains. The windows of the Chapel and others that were cracked or mismatched have been repaired and had glazing replaced.

"The most noticeable is the scaffolding is down and the whole front of the building was re-rendered," Ms Dight said.

"It looks spectacular, and there is an anti-graffiti coating on it so hopefully we will not see the damage of the past."

"We are working on grants to have the memorial plaques on the front repaired and in one case replaced. Our volunteer Maureen is replanting the garden where we had to remove plants and the chaplain Inni turned his hand to repointing the courtyard paving."

The team at the Mission has been employed during the past couple of months through the Mission supporters and the Job Keeper program. Ms Dight said without both sources of support not everyone would have remained employed.

As for the seafarers, Ms Dight said the Mission had kept up its job of supporting essential workers on the sea

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## Hoon activity ramps up

Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne Arron Wood met with more than 50 Yarra's Edge (YE) residents at Point Park on June 19 amid increasing trouble with hoon drivers in the precinct since the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

WORDS BY Sean Car  
SAFETY & SECURITY

While issues caused by regular weekend car and motorcycle club meet-ups surrounding Point Park Crescent and South Wharf Drive had largely dissipated during lockdowns, the easing of restrictions has only seen problems intensify during the past month. The same issues also continue to affect residents living in NewQuay, with hoon drivers continuing to frequent streets surrounding Ron Barassi Snr Park on weekends.

It was enough for the Deputy Lord Mayor, the council's manager of on-street compliance services Dean Robertson and local police to call another meeting with angered YE residents last month to discuss further solutions for dealing with the issues.

Cr Wood highlighted that since late last year, the council had installed CCTV cameras, speed humps, no standing zone signs, as well as fencing around Point Park in an effort to try and deter the groups from gathering, speeding and doing burnouts in the area.

Dean Robertson said the installation of CCTV, as well as a stronger police presence, had led to more infringements being issued to motorists caught offending, which residents said had helped curb some of the issues prior to COVID-19.

While all residents at the meeting voiced a strong appreciation of the efforts of Cr Wood, the council and local police to date, they said more needed to be done.

With many attesting to regular

drag races up Lorimer St, late-night revving of engines and speeding along the 40 km/h South Wharf Drive, they said the impact on amenity had become too much to bear. One resident even alleged that drug deals had been taking place in the neighbouring side streets.

Cr Wood said some of the council's next steps included meeting with the car groups to discuss the issues personally, as well as speaking to VicRoads and the Port of Melbourne about lowering the speeds limit along the YE section of Lorimer St to 50 km/h.

He also encouraged any willing residents to keep a decibel monitoring device in their apartments for a period of time to provide the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) with greater capacity to issue sound emission infringements for excessive engine noise.

Cr Wood said he heard residents' "frustrations" and that the council was committed to doing everything it could within its powers to improve the situation for residents.

"Part of what we want to talk to you about tonight is the things that we are enforcing and the things that we can't enforce, because we want to be absolutely honest with you that we can't enforce laws that aren't there," Cr Wood told residents.

Inspector Troy Papworth from Melbourne East Police Station said, "where we can enforce something, we will, and I know that since the start of June we've had approximately 600 minutes of police patrol time down here on Friday and Saturday nights since the start of June."

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# Election jigsaw puzzle falling into place

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
ELECTIONS

A debate among City of Melbourne councillors over the state government's proposed safe injecting room near Queen Victoria Market (QVM) on June 23 has potentially helped to answer a lot of questions about October's local government elections.

What was already clear before the debate is that all candidates vying for office on October 24 will be going up against a Labor Party ticket spearheaded by Slater and Gordon's Phil Reed as its Lord Mayoral candidate.

With the remainder of the ticket consisting of Wesa Chau (Deputy Lord Mayor), former Member for Melbourne Jen Kanis's partner Davydd Griffiths and Glen Eira councillor Mary Delahunty, Labor looks to be giving its bid for Town Hall a serious shake.

But the real questions still surround the current Lord Mayor Sally Capp and the Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood. While Capp has made her intentions clear to run for the city's top job for some time, Cr Wood has largely remained coy.

But the past few months have all but confirmed a build-up to a Lord Mayoral tilt for Wood. Between appearing on the TV series *Filthy Rich & Homeless*, earning a generous spread in the *Sunday Herald Sun* and receiving a timely Queen's Birthday honour, one senses he's building his profile for something.

Sally on the other hand has only been in the top job for a few years following the demise of former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle. Having come into office through a by-election, she has no experience in running a full-blooded election campaign and all eyes are on who she includes on her ticket.

And on June 23, some pieces of that puzzle appeared to have fallen into place.

The Deputy Lord Mayor had moved a motion to reject the Cohealth site on Victoria St near the Queen Victoria Market (QVM), citing

that an overwhelming number of traders and residents were against the state government's nominated location for an injecting room.

However, on the stroke of the meeting, the Lord Mayor foreshadowed an alternative motion to Cr Wood's, stating that "carving out" sites this early in the picture would only limit council's negotiating powers with the state government.

And with Minister for Mental Health Martin Foley having the final say on where a safe injecting room is located within the City of Melbourne, a majority of councillors ultimately agreed with the Lord Mayor's approach six to four, with Cr Philip Li Liu abstaining.

But it was who voted with the Lord Mayor that provided great intrigue. Namely, Cr Kevin Louey.

Having been around Town Hall for nearly 20 years both as former Lord Mayor John So's chief of staff and a three-term councillor, Louey would provide Sally Capp's ticket with valuable experience and strong connections to Melbourne's Chinese community.

And having historically sided with councillors Wood, Beverley Pinder and Susan Riley, who all previously ran together alongside Robert Doyle, a rare speech in support of the Lord Mayor on June 23 would appear that he has changed allegiances, and that a deal has been done.

What was clear at the meeting was that there was no love lost between Sally and Arron. Cr Wood was clearly frustrated at being ambushed by Capp's alternative motion, accusing her of "playing politics".

If there was any doubt whether he would run for Lord Mayor before the meeting, his championing of the injecting room issue combined with his square-off with Sally Capp all but ensured it.

While, publicly, he continues to "consider his options", his slamming of the Lord Mayor on Neil Mitchell's 3AW radio program the following morning further added to the intrigue, claiming that Town Hall's independence was

under threat of the Labor Party which he believed had done a preference deal with the Lord Mayor – an allegation strongly refuted by Labor.

If Wood does run, the question remains who his deputy would be. One assumes councillors Pinder and Riley would run on his ticket, but a high-profile deputy with the capability of amassing plenty of votes could put Wood in serious contention.

On the opposing side, one assumes that Kevin Louey would run first on Capp's ticket, if, of course, a deal has been done. That leaves the question of who would run as her deputy, which has long understood to be Labor Party member Cr Nicholas Reece. And having turned down a spot on the Labor ticket, a Capp-Reece campaign sounds likely.

For now, the rest of the Capp ticket remains a mystery, as do the intentions of the rest of the current sitting councillors.

As usual, the Greens will run a ticket with Cr Rohan Leppert expected to sit first under a sacrificial Lord Mayoral candidate. However, his experienced colleague Cr Cathy Oke is understood to not be running again, potentially leaving the door open to a new Greens face on council.

That leaves councillors Jackie Watts and Le Liu up in the air. While Watts would undoubtedly run on a Gary Morgan-led ticket if she was to go again, the suspected deal between Capp and Louey could see Philip Le Liu resort to the option of running a Liberal Party ticket as a way to winning another term on council.

That leaves the accidental councillor in chair of transport Nicholas Frances-Gilley, who is unlikely to run again ●



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COLLINS SQUARE

# Meet the new principal of Docklands Primary

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
EDUCATION

The principal of Docklands Primary School was announced by Minister for Education James Merlino on June 24. *Docklands News* caught up with Docklands' foundation principal – 35-year-old Adam Bright – to chat about the road ahead.

“I wanted to take the job for the opportunity to start a new school and to be able to start something from the ground up is a really fantastic opportunity,” Mr Bright said.

“I’m really excited to be able to offer something to the community here and to be able to build the school the community’s been asking for, for some time. To have the opportunity to be the founding principal here is incredible.”

Mr Bright has just finished up his job as acting principal at University Park Primary in St Albans. He lives in the inner west with his four kids and his wife – who is also a teacher – and said he had been teaching for 12 years.

“I’m from country Victoria originally. I didn’t originally go into teaching but started occupational therapy and then deferred because it wasn’t for me,” he said.

“I moved into teaching after working in a local primary school, doing a few days volunteering, and I knew basically from there that that was what I wanted to do.”

He then studied in Melbourne and taught in Caroline Springs, Exford and in London before moving to his job at St Albans.

He said he had been reading reports from the regional advisory group on the need for a school in Docklands for some years.

“I know the people here are very keen for a school because a lot of people love living in Docklands and have found they’ve had to travel out for their kids to get education, so they’ve been hoping to get a school here for some time,” he said.

“I know the community talked about some of its priorities and things it wanted to see in the school and that gained my interest.”



▲ Adam Bright in Docklands last month.

“

*I’m really excited to be able to offer something to the community here and to be able to build the school the community’s been asking for, for some time.*

”

He officially starts the job on July 13.

“I’m excited to be meeting the kids who will be the students at the school,” he said.

“I can’t wait until we open up enrolment soon and I get to meet the kids and the families that will be the first at Docklands Primary, learn about the kid’s hopes and dreams and what they want to do in their futures and what they hope the Docklands school will be like, and then of course working together to create the school.”

Construction at the Docklands school site on Footscray Rd is well underway ahead of its opening next year, with internal works having recently started.

The school will cater for 525 students and include modern classrooms, a library, music and arts rooms, a competition-grade indoor court for basketball and netball and outdoor learning terraces. An on-site early learning centre with two kindergarten rooms and 66 kindergarten places will also be included ●

# Freckelton report to be released

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The findings of a council report investigating claims of sexual misconduct by former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle will be made available to his accuser after Victoria Police dropped its investigation last month.

Victoria Police confirmed on June 25 that no charges would be laid against the 66-year-old following a two-year investigation by the Sexual Crimes Squad into a complaint made by Kharla Williams.

Mr Doyle resigned as Lord Mayor in 2018 following accusations of sexual harassment by two councillors, which he continues to deny. In 2018, a separate council-initiated investigation conducted by Dr Ian Freckelton QC found Mr Doyle’s conduct towards the two councillors could constitute sexual harassment and gross misconduct.

Ms Williams made a formal complaint to both the council and Victoria Police regarding separate allegations about Mr Doyle’s behaviour at a Melbourne Health dinner in 2016, which was also investigated by Dr Freckelton.

After he resigned, Mr Doyle’s lawyers launched Supreme Court action preventing the council from publishing the findings of that investigation, which was later withdrawn in 2019. Then newly-appointed CEO Justin Hanney said last year that the findings would be made available to Ms Williams once the police investigation had concluded – a promise he reiterated on June 25.

“I acknowledge the courage Ms Williams has shown in taking this matter to Victoria Police,” he said. “In 2019, I made an assurance that the findings of the Freckelton report would be made available to Ms Williams once the police investigation was completed. The appropriate processes will now be put in place to make this happen.”

“I remain absolutely committed to everyone’s right to a safe, inclusive and healthy workplace and to processes that encourage and support women to report sexual harassment.” ●

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# RESPONSE TO DELWP, MAB & EPA - Systemic Discrimination in Docklands

Office of Premier –  
Dear Premier  
16 June 2020

The Chinese community is facing systemic discrimination at NewQuay West, in Docklands. The MAB development of five towers up to 36 storeys are to be five metres from and four metres in front of three storey terraced homes. The terraces were bought 8 years ago for \$86 million. It would never happen if Australians owned those properties or in Brighton's Golden Mile. Here in NewQuay West it is being forced through by stealth without discussion and discriminates against the Chinese who have made major investments.

The first Buxton arrived from England at the Melbourne docks in 1853. They benefitted from the 1855 Victorian Chinese Restriction Act. That racist act benefited European gold miners by effectively stopping the Chinese community from landing at the Melbourne docks. Instead Chinese were forced to land in Adelaide and walk 400 kms to the Victorian Gold Fields.

It is ironic that the Chinese through the dint of their own endeavours now own much of the land in Docklands where 150 years ago they were not allowed to set foot.

Out of the forty town houses at NewQuay West purchased 'off the plan' from MAB 23 are still owned by original purchasers. They settled during 2011/12. The vast majority (85%) of purchasers are PRC residents or local and overseas residents of Chinese ancestry.

The purchasers of these town houses relied on the representations made in trade or commerce in connection with the sale of an interest in land by MAB and by the State's Pru Sanderson and the Premier of Victoria, at that time the Hon John Brumby AO.

These town house prices were driven so high by the State and MAB representations. They were to build a suburban community with a mix of town houses and medium rise. The State of Victoria and MAB made further representations that the residents would be involved in the design of a 4 hectare park within the suburb based on Albert Park's St. Vincent's Place. These representations formed part of the original purchase contracts and are an essential term.

In April 2020 those mainly Chinese purchasers became aware that the State Minister for Planning had carved out NewQuay West from legislation that protects overshadowing from towers. It became evident that the approval of these five towers was undertaken without reference to the representations made to the adjacent town house owners. MAB and the State of Victoria representations were false and as a consequence the 2012 purchasers of these town houses will suffer damages.

In their report on MAB's proposals the City of Melbourne states that "Council officers have not advertised the application or referred this to any other referral authorities. This is the responsibility of the DELWP acting on behalf of the Minister for Planning." They go on to state at "Legal 1. The Minister for Planning is the Responsible Authority for determining this application."

The Chinese owners are ignored as their multi millions of dollars have already been banked. Surely discriminatory. They are expected to just accept ten construction years with trucks, dirt, noise, dust, cranes and what is more important the risk to their town house piling foundations. What is to protect them from the vibrations from the pile driving? Those works can impact the integrity of all of the town houses and their pilings. Who is to pay this? It is another Docklands "Lacrosse" situation in the making. This time by the State. In addition the EPA has advised that there are heavy metals at the site. The residents have not been advised of the chemicals in the harbour bed into which MAB's pilings will be driven or how their health is to be protected.

The level of damages caused by the misrepresentations and deceit can be undertaken by a statistical analysis. Litigation will be required, however, to determine the reduced value of their town houses but at what cost in \$ and what of their health? In the end the houses will have reduced liveability and the owners will have their purchase contracts breached by misrepresentations by MAB and the State with a suburban community destroyed.

The residents with Chinese ancestry must not be treated with such contempt. It is systemic discrimination again of those who have invested so much in Docklands. History must not be repeated. Surely the Minister of Planning and this Government, seeking Chinese investments, can undertake a rationale and reasoned approach. His spokesperson's arrogant mendacious statements to the press are unhelpful.

It can only lead to litigation as a result of misleading and deceptive conduct with resultant breach of contracts, loss in Chinese property values, health and potential structural damage to their homes. How are we to explain this in the future? In the same way as we did with the "Victorian Chinese Restriction Act"? With tears and a mere "Sorry"?

Premier please do not allow such injustice. Please arrange for a conversation to take place between the relevant stakeholders to amicably resolve this.

**John E Langton-Bunker - Support via  
bonleigh@hitechnology.net.au**

## 回复 维州环境、土地、水利与规划部、 MAB开发公司和环境保护局

### 维多利亚州长办公室

尊敬的州长：

## 华人在滨海港区(DOCKLANDS) 受到系统性歧视

华人社区在滨海港区NewQuay West正面临系统性歧视。

这些三层联排别墅是八年前用8600万澳元买下的，如今与联排别墅只相距5米，在他们房屋前4米的地方，MAB将开发5座高达36层的高楼。

如果这些联排别墅的业主是澳大利亚人，或这是在Brighton的黄金地段上，这就永远不会发生。而如今在NewQuay West，该高层项目却在未经讨论的情况下秘密通过强行建造，严重歧视这些作出过重大投资的华人。

第一个巴克斯顿(Buxton)家族于1853年从英国抵达墨尔本码头。他们当时受益于1855年的“维多利亚华人限制法案”，而这一种族主义的法案当时有效地阻止了华人在墨尔本码头登陆，从而使欧洲的淘金者受益。那个年代华人被迫在阿德莱德(Adelaide)登陆，步行400公里到达维多利亚金矿。

具有讽刺意义的是150年前不允许华人涉足登陆，而如今他们凭借自己的努力，拥有了墨尔本港区大量土地。

在NewQuay West，当初从MAB公司购买的40栋联排别墅“期房”，并在2011/12年交付，目前有23栋仍然是原购买者所拥有，其中绝大多数(85%)的购买者是中国人或是本地和海外的华裔居民。

这些联排别墅的购买者完全是根据当时MAB有关土地利益的交易或销售陈述而投资的，当时州立公司的普鲁·桑德森(Pru Sanderson)和维州州长参与，当时的州长是John Brumby。

这些联排别墅的房价被州政府和MAB的陈述抬得非常之高。他们说是要建造一个住宅社区，由联排别墅住宅和中等高度建筑住宅组合而成。维州政府和MAB进一步表示，将根据Albert Park的St. Vincent's Place，让居民参与设计该区域内一个面积为4公顷的公园。这些表述构成了原始房产购买合同的一部分，而且是一个重要的条款。

2020年4月，那些主要的华人买家开始意识到，州规划部长已经将NewQuay West从防止高楼遮荫的立法中划分出来了。

显而易见，这五座高楼的建造许可根本没有考虑到当时向邻近联排别墅业主所作的陈述。MAB和维州政府的陈述是欺骗性的，由此使2012年购买这些联排别墅的业主蒙受损失。

墨尔本市政在关于MAB高层项目提案的报告中指出，“市政官员没有公布其申请，也没有将申请转交任何其他转介机构。这是维州环境、土地、水利与规划部及其代表 - 规划部长的责任。”报告指出“法律条款1，州规划部长是决定这一申请的主管当局负责人。”



## NewQuay Parkland Precinct Masterplan

由于华人业主数百万澳元已经花出去了，所以他们就被忽视了。这就是歧视。他们接下来只得接受数十年的施工，包括卡车、泥土、噪音、灰尘、起重机带来的影响，更重要的是给他们联排别墅的地桩基础带来风险。如何保护这些地桩免受施工打桩震动的影响？这些工程会影响所有联排别墅及其桩柱的完整性。谁来承担这个损失？这是另一个在港区的“Lacrosse”局面，而这一次是由州政府有关当局造成的。此外，环境保护局指出，该建筑场所有重金属。目前当地居民还不知道，MAB的桩将被打入其中的海港海床中的化学物质会带来什么影响，或者如何保护居民的健康。

当时的虚假陈述和欺骗所造成的损害程度可以通过统计分析来确定。然而，如何评估他们联排别墅的贬值，工程带来损失的代价是多少？以及他们的健康影响？这些需要通过诉讼来确定。最终这些联排别墅的可居住性会降低，由于MAB和州有关当局的欺骗性陈述，造成该住宅社区的破坏，违反了业主当时的购买合同。

港区的华人华裔居民不能受到如此轻蔑。这是对那些在港区投资如此之多的华人的系统性歧视。历史不能重演。当然，在寻求中国投资时，州规划部长和本届州政府可以采取一种合理的方法。其发言人对新闻界傲慢虚假的声明是无益的。

这种误导和欺骗行为包括违约后果、华人财产价值损失、居民健康影响和对联排别墅潜在的结构性损害，只能导致法律诉讼。我们将如何来解释？难道就像对待当时的“维多利亚华人限制法案”一样？带着眼泪和简单地说一句“对不起”？

尊敬的州长，请不要允许有这样不公正的现象。请安排利益相关者之间的对话，以便友好地解决这个问题。

**John E Langton-Bunker**  
2020年6月16日  
声援支持 发邮件至  
bonleigh@hitechnology.net.au

# AFL on-sells Docklands site

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PLANNING

A key piece of the Marvel Stadium precinct land has been offloaded by the AFL.

Due to the financial impact of coronavirus (COVID-19), the AFL opted to on-sell the 4000sqm site at 685 La Trobe St to developer Grocon.

The league remained tight-lipped on what potential impact the sale could have on plans for the long-awaited stadium and precinct redevelopment, to which it recently reaffirmed its commitment to alongside the state government.

The site, which adjoins the concourse at the league-owned Marvel Stadium, was set to become a new property asset for the AFL and according to *The Age*, league chiefs were due to settle on it just before COVID-19 restrictions hit.

But after laying down a deposit believed to be around \$6 million, the AFL decided to not go through with the sale such was the pandemic's impact on the competition.

Plans for the site are unknown, however reports suggest a build-to-rent apartment tower could be in the offing, with a potential for an AFL presence in the development.

Representatives for both the AFL and Grocon said it would not be commenting on the matter at this stage.

*Docklands News* reported in May that long-awaited plans for the \$225 million redevelopment of Marvel Stadium and surrounding precinct in Docklands were expected to be released soon.

A report released in March by the AFL said stadium upgrade plans would be revealed "within weeks", however the league has since said it would be delayed due to COVID-19.

The plans to revitalise the stadium are expected to transform the surrounding precinct into a seven-day-a-week activated area for Docklands and the broader community.

It will aim to fully integrate the stadium,



which some believe has now become "dated", into the Docklands precinct and the waterfront.

AFL boss Gillon McLachlan has said it would become "the most fan-friendly multipurpose stadium in the world."

"I'm excited about having a venue that becomes a destination pre- and post-match, I'm excited about having a venue that hopefully works seven days a week, and not just match days, I'm excited about opening up this precinct to the water in Melbourne and which develops the area," McLachlan has said.

Daniel Andrews' \$225 million commitment forms part of a 2018 mega-deal with the AFL, whereby the government was also expected to provide land for a new AFL House at the end of Docklands Drive in NewQuay (next to Ron Barassi Snr Park).

For its part, the league has committed to hosting the Grand Final in Melbourne (at the MCG) until 2057.

The AFL purchased Marvel Stadium (then Etihad Stadium) in 2016 and in recent months the asset proved a crucial safety net when securing a reported \$500-600 million assistance package from the banks to help it navigate through the COVID-19 downturn ●



*David Schout*  
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▲ Cr Wood (front centre) meets with residents at Point Park last month.

## Hoon activity ramps up

*Continued from page 1.*

"We do have a number of joint police operations coming up between the City of Melbourne and the police. We are listening to you and we do hear what your concerns are, we are working hard to try and address those concerns."

Dean Robertson said, "some of things that we've put in, such as the cameras, we feel have been effective to us but you may feel that you've seen the results down there. Through some intellectual systems on top of the cameras we're able to cut all the footage to all cars that are illegally parked, especially in the no standing zones and out the front of the pizza shop and issue an infringement to those."

"We've started issuing infringements via mail. Some of the people who've received them are not happy. So, it's a surprise and word will start to get around."

Some of the suggestions raised by residents included nominating Lorimer St for a speed camera, installing permit parking around Point Park after 6pm and placing a ban on trucks

using air brakes along Lorimer St.

Cr Wood encouraged any affected residents with issues or suggestions to email the action group's leaders.

"There are some genuine concerns from residents and it's a significant number of residents who have provided regular updates on anti-social behaviour occurring in the precinct," he said.

"It was pleasing to meet with residents and hear directly from so many of them and we'll keep on working hard to address their legitimate concerns."

"We want Docklands and the distinctive precincts in Docklands to be good for residents and businesses, but ultimately these are significant residential areas and must be treated as such." ●

**Email issues or concerns to:**  
[yarra.action@gmail.com](mailto:yarra.action@gmail.com)

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# Yarra's Edge residents call for new postcode

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
COMMUNITY

A petition circulated by a group of Yarra's Edge residents is building momentum south of the river in a bid to establish postcode 3007 for the precinct.

Led by long-term residents Keith Sutherland and Sue Stanley, the petition calls on the City of Melbourne to give Yarra's Edge its own identity and ease confusion between its fellow postcode 3008 neighbours north of the river.

"Many of us have experienced difficulty or confusion at times, explaining our unique location, as many associate Docklands with The Wheel or Marvel Stadium," the online petition states.

"When we vote in state and federal elections, we come under a different electorate to Docklands residents on the other side of the river."

The group said it also wished to discuss a name change to "Yarra's Edge" or "Lorimer" in addition to adopting the 3007 postcode so the precinct could be "recognised and more easily located."

While Mr Sutherland said the move by in no way meant the precinct wanted to dissociate from the Docklands community, it has already sparked controversy among Docklanders on both sides of the river.

Despite having collected 355 signatures in its ultimate goal of 1000, many Yarra's Edge residents have told *Docklands News* that they don't agree with the proposal. Others from across the divide have also slammed the move as one of "superiority".

However, Mr Sutherland said the group's desire was simply aimed at easing confusion, and that with the future development of the Lorimer Precinct in Fishermans Bend, it made more sense for the Yarra's Edge precinct to fall under "Lorimer".

"It has been most difficult describing our Yarra's Edge location as it's not part of Docklands or South Wharf," he said.

"Many of the providers have much difficulty using the phone apps to locate the various addresses and, in



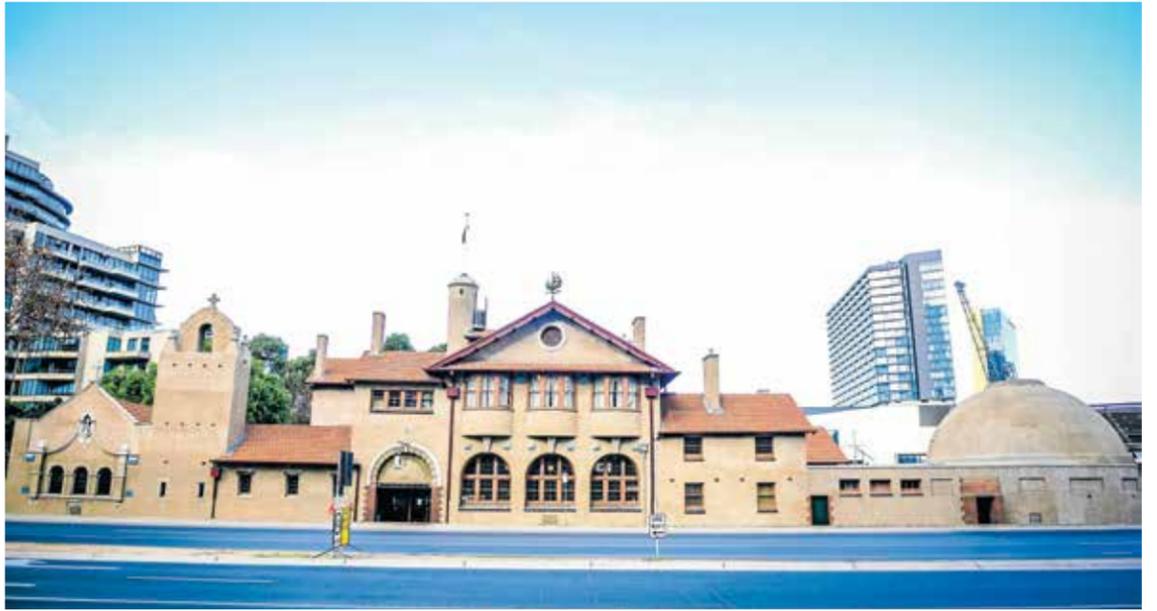
many cases, Uber give up and still charge a cancellation fee of \$10." "Currently Yarra's Edge has around 3000 permanent residents and there are plans to build about another 5450 apartments, which would mean about another 10,000 residents who would reside in the Lorimer precinct." "We believe there are around 14,000 to 15,000 residents living in Docklands and similar numbers living in Southbank. Therefore, we believe there is no reason why Yarra's Edge, or Lorimer, 3007 shouldn't be a suburb in its own right."

In 2018, the City of Port Phillip put forward a motion to rename its three precincts of Fishermans Bend as Montague, Sandridge and Wirraway. However, the proposal was deferred subject to further development and consultation.

In addition to the Employment Precinct, the City of Melbourne is responsible for the fourth residential precinct of Lorimer and some, like Mr Sutherland, believe that the new suburb, including Yarra's Edge, should be established under a 3007 postcode.

The petition can be found at: [itipetitions.com/petition/yarrasedge](https://itipetitions.com/petition/yarrasedge)

**What do you think?**  
[news@docklandsnews.com.au](mailto:news@docklandsnews.com.au)



▲ (Main) The Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) building has been restored to its former glory and (below) MtSV chief manager Sue Dight.

## The mission's heritage is restored

*Continued from page 1.*

– who she said had experienced "inhumane" conditions during the pandemic.

"Rev'd Inny has been kept very busy with social media and direct contact with hundreds of seafarers all over the world and the team has been busy shopping for everything from toothbrushes to chess sets to PlayStation games," Ms Dight said.

"More than 300,000 seafarers are working beyond their contracts. Travel bans and quarantines mean there is no way of leaving their ships or replacement crews taking over."

"Many crews have been on board their vessels for longer than the 11 months legally stipulated by Maritime Labour Convention, of which Australia is a signatory. Some for as long as 15 months."

"The ongoing isolation so far from home, to which they are being subjected, is inhumane. They need surety of when they can return home to loved ones."

The Mission has made sure those coming into Melbourne received a warm welcome.

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As of late the team has been looking forward to reopening to visitors and volunteer ●



“

*It looks spectacular, and there is an anti-graffiti coating on it so hopefully we will not see the damage of the past.*

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# Getting back on the bike

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
TRANSPORT

Docklands social enterprise and bike shop Good Cycles has been busy reopening from a lockdown experience that's pushed Melburnians closer to the cycling world.

More people are choosing to ride instead of taking public transport and the City of Melbourne has announced 40 kilometres of new bike lanes in the city, which includes new separated bikes lanes over Latrobe Street Bridge.

Good Cycles CEO Jaison Hoernel said the experience had changed operations in different ways.

"We shut for most of the month of April because there was no one around, but we reopened in May and it was actually quite surprising, we got quite a lot of people coming in to fix their bikes," Mr Hoernel said.

"The bike hub went back to around 70 per cent of our original trade, which was good for us and surprising particularly because previously we relied a lot on people working in the area who aren't there now."

"I think there's certainly more people from Docklands coming in, as well as some of the essential workers around, we get a lot of delivery drivers coming in."

He said the wider shift to implement cycling as a social distancing safe measure of transport had been exciting.

"It's really exciting that those bike lanes are going to be put in and like most organisations that are based on bikes, and for us as a social enterprise creating employment opportunities through our business it makes a big difference," he said.

"It's definitely a really positive move that's going to be coming out of COVID that a lot of that infrastructure will be put in place a lot sooner."

As a social enterprise, Good Cycles provides employment opportunities for disadvantaged



▲ Local resident Lord Mayor Sally Capp dropped into Good Cycles last month for a bike service.

and at-risk youth. Mr Hoernel said this aspect meant the COVID-19 crisis has added another layer of challenge and opportunity.

"The challenge is the level of at-risk young people that are unemployed and facing disadvantage, and the youth unemployment rate is at about 16.1 per cent which is only going to get higher when JobKeeper ends," he said.

"For us that's a really important thing we want to focus on, and we certainly see our business playing a role and expanding to create more unemployment."

"The bike hub down at Docklands has been a great project for us. It really shows the value of a bike shop for a community and for young people and we're excited for post-COVID operations and getting more people cycling." ●



▲ The hub back in action on Harbour Esplanade.

# New Local Government Minister announced

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
POLITICS

Victorian Upper House Member for Eastern Metropolitan Shaun Leane was sworn in as the new Minister for Local Government on June 22.

The new appointment follows the sacking of former Minister for Local Government Adem Somyurek, and the resignations of fellow Labor factional allies Robin Scott and Marlene Kairouz amid branch stacking allegations aired on 60 Minutes in June.

Mr Leane resigned as President of the Legislative Council on June 18, and was replaced unopposed by Northern Metropolitan Region Member Nazih Elasmari.

Premier Daniel Andrews said Mr Leane would support local councils grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Leane also takes over the portfolios of suburban development and veterans.

The change in ministers comes at a critical time for municipalities across the state with local government elections to be held on October 24.

In other ministerial appointments affecting Docklands and Fishermans Bend, the administration of Development Victoria (DV) will now be overseen by Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan, while new Minister for Business Precincts and the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Martin Pakula will work with DV "towards the delivery of the Fishermans Bend and Docklands precincts," a government spokesperson said.

Fishermans Bend Business Forum (FBBF) executive officer acknowledged what was the third minister in 12 months for Australia's largest ever urban renewal project.

"We will continue to work as a voice for business and hopefully develop a relationship with Minister Pakula over the coming months," he said ●

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▲ The approved two-tower project at Collins Wharf.



▲ An artists impression\* of a laneway between Collins and Flinders streets at Melbourne Quarter. \*Indicative only.

# Collins Wharf towers approved

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PLANNING

A \$291 million two-tower project by developer LendLease at 938 Collins St was approved by the state government last month as part of its efforts to fast-track development amid COVID-19.

The approval was part of a \$1.1 billion batch of “shovel-ready” projects approved by Minister for Planning Richard Wynne in conjunction with the state government’s Building Victoria’s Recovery Taskforce.

The two-tower project No.2 and No.3 Collins Wharf will add 668 new apartments to LendLease’s Victoria Harbour precinct and forms part of a five-tower project on land currently occupied by boat sheds along North Wharf Rd.

“Now more than ever, Victoria needs a strong

building and development sector, and we’re making sure this industry can continue to thrive all over the state, despite the challenges of coronavirus,” Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said.

LendLease’s head of development, Victoria Tom Trevaskis said, “It’s fantastic to have secured planning approval for the next two residential towers at Collins Wharf in Victoria Harbour.”

“Designed by Warren and Mahony Architects, the buildings will include a mix of high quality apartments ranging from one to four bedrooms, together with individual town homes on Collins St. Their creation will generate many jobs for Victorians and deliver further diversity to Victoria Harbour’s residential offering.”

Since March, the government has approved 91 new and amended planning permits for projects which have a combined development value of more than \$6 billion.

## New “premier” laneway revealed

The news of the Collins Wharf approval follows more good news for LendLease, after City of Melbourne councillors praised the vision of a new open-air laneway as part of its Melbourne Quarter development at Batman’s Hill last month.

The developer was seeking endorsement from councillors at the June 23 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting for minor adjustments to the Batman’s Hill Development Plan as it seeks to flip a component of its project from residential to commercial.

The changes, which now await approval from the Minister for Planning, would see the provision of additional office space, a childcare centre and ground floor retail, adding to a new laneway between Collins and Flinders streets.

Councillors heaped praise in particular on the John Wardle Architects-designed laneway render featured within the development plans,

which Cr Reece said would help “bring the whole precinct to life.”

“It’s exactly the sort of thing we want to see down in Docklands with activation of a laneway on both sides,” he said.

“I think this particular proposal has got so much potential and this could become the new centre lane of Docklands and certainly together with the new sky park, which is part of the Melbourne Quarter development.”

Cr Reece said he believed the new lane could rival some of the great laneways of Melbourne such as Degraves St and Centre Place.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said the project continued “the knitting together of the CBD and Docklands”.

“You just can’t understand how close the CBD is to Docklands until these sorts of projects are completed,” he said. “[It’s] a great outcome in terms of the ability to be able to move throughout the city ●

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# Cladding fast track concerns

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
BUILDING

The state government has announced that its plan to fix flammable cladding will be fast-tracked, with the number of buildings rectified per year doubled.

The government's \$600 million plan to fix flammable cladding was originally designed to rectify up to 100 buildings per year.

However, on June 23 the government announced the program would be accelerated, with work to start on up to 400 buildings within two years.

The plan involves Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) working with selected builders to rectify their projects at no profit. Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said participating builders would have to pass rigorous tests.

"Only reputable builders will be eligible for the accelerated program. Those found to have done the wrong thing will not be able to participate," Mr Wynne said.

"This is a chance for the original builders to become part of the solution and keep their workers employed during these challenging times."

Paul Morton, CEO of Lannock Strata Finance, said he welcomed the state government's proposed fast tracking of cladding rectification.

Lannock Strata Finance lends loans to apartment owners in need of covering the gap between government assistance and the total cost of cladding rectification.

"Many owners are facing difficulty in obtaining personal finance or increases to their mortgages in order to be able to fund a special levy to pay for cladding repairs," he said.

"For owners living in properties that may not be compensated, Lannock provides a viable and immediate funding alternative. We can finance the works immediately without a single owner having to increase their mortgage."

"Later on, if their property does qualify for government assistance, owners' corporations (OCs) can use these funds to repay the strata loan early. Being able to proceed with cladding repair works quickly also restores value to each individual property."

But some experts have raised doubt about the program.

Strata Title Lawyers CEO Tom Bacon said the problem was the actual resourcing of CSV.

"The announcement made by the Victorian Government is an incredibly ambitious proposal, and most likely done with the best of intentions," he said.

"Unfortunately, CSV has not been resourced properly by the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) and by the Victorian Government, and

*"Unfortunately, CSV has not been resourced properly by the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) and by the Victorian Government, and that is why we have seen significant delays in commencing the pilot project with even the first 15 buildings struggling to get under way."*



that is why we have seen significant delays in commencing the pilot project with even the first 15 buildings struggling to get under way."

"So, the proposal for 400 buildings to get underway within two years is going to require either significant additional staff numbers and resources being added to CSV, or it is going to require significant trust being extended to builders and project managers to undertake the works proactively and with little red tape."

Mr Bacon said it was the latter – pro-active work with self-certification and little red tape – that led to the cladding problem in the first place.

Apartments owners have also reacted hesitantly. We Live Here president Barbara Francis said it was a "knee-jerk reaction from a government under siege, trying to look as though they are doing something".

"How will the government's proposal actually work, and at what cost?" she said ●



▲ Mike Edgley.



▲ Amir Awad, Fareal Dadouch Trad and Ahmed Trad.

## Businesses use council grant to go digital

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*  
BUSINESS

As coronavirus restrictions persist throughout Melbourne, Docklands businesses have been forced to leave the physical world and enter the digital one.

For Docklands Health owner Mike Edgley, this entailed moving patient consultations online—a shift which was partly funded through the council's \$5 million COVID-19 business grant program.

"We received \$3000 in the second wave of recipients which we spent on camera equipment, software and lighting for our TeleHealth services," Dr Edgley said.

With the help of the grant—which provides support for businesses to invest in online and e-commerce capabilities—Docklands Health was able to remain open despite the challenges posed by the lack of in-person customers.

"The biggest difficulty has been the reduction in foot traffic. We had an 80 per cent drop in business essentially," he said.

"But the grant was really helpful as we were able to put our counselling, psychology and dietary services online."

During lockdown, Docklands Health also had to cease its in-house yoga and studio pilates sessions.

But knowing how important exercise is, Dr Edgley decided to use the new equipment to put the sessions online for free—including live streams on Facebook and YouTube.

"People really liked it so we're going to continue online. And now things are opening up those new clients who were doing TeleHealth or online streaming can come in face-to-face," he said.

Co-owner of Xary Technologies, Ahmad Trad, also put the council grant to good use to help other small business owners stay afloat during restrictions.

Receiving the grant in the first wave of recipients on April 23, Xary's IT business spent it on

purchasing new hardware equipment that enabled them to better aid struggling businesses.

"It's given us the opportunity to build more of a digital footprint—redeveloping a large part of our tech internally so we can bring that to market where it's relevant," Mr Trad said.

"With people working from home, there's more of an emphasis on cyber security so we're helping businesses to virtualise their work environments securely."

As a company which provides accounting, legal, technology, and advisory services to small-medium businesses—Xary has seen firsthand the damage COVID-19 has done to industry across Melbourne.

"We support small to medium businesses, so a large number were affected by COVID-19 restrictions and in turn we were affected," Mr Trad said.

"People that would have been looking at growing, expanding and developing their business are now reluctant to invest. They're now focusing more on their online capabilities which have become a key priority instead of a discretionary one."

As many of Xary's clients have endured hardship due to unemployment and a lack of trade, the company has worked hard to share the pain.

"To help our clients which have been with us for over 12 months through the difficult time of COVID-19, we haven't billed them for internal work like doing applications for JobKeeper, government grants, dealing with the tax office, and helping clients get online" Mr Trad said.

"We try to run our business ethically so we want to help our clients who are suffering."

Mr Trad said that the council's business grant was a substantial help that allowed Xary to quickly meet the shifting needs of businesses.

"We were very firm on ensuring we spent that money straight away because businesses are suffering so we weren't just going to sit there and look at it in the bank," he said.

As of June 16, \$5 million in grants had been awarded to successful businesses across Victoria ●

## Glenn Harvey answers your legal questions

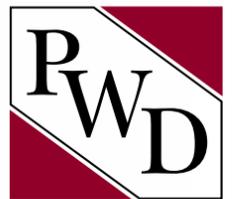
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# Too much rubbish!

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
ENVIRONMENT

Rubbish in Docklands' waterways has remained an eyesore in recent months despite the lack of foot traffic and implementation of new technologies by the council.

Victoria's third wettest April on record worsened the issue significantly. The council collected 60.7 cubic metres of litter and debris that month in Docklands, more than triple the 18.9 cubic metres collected in April 2019.

City of Melbourne environment portfolio chair Cr Cathy Oke said large quantities remained to be seen in the waterways.

"We continue to see large amounts of litter and organic material ending up in Docklands as it is washed downstream along the 240km length of the Yarra River," Cr Oke said.

"We have already increased cleaning in Docklands, including Harbour Esplanade, Collins Landing and Yarra's Edge."

Cr Oke said the council had brought in three extra skip bins to respond to the increase "but it is an ongoing battle".

She also said the council was reviewing its cleaning contract for Docklands in anticipation for a wetter than average year as predicted by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Earlier this year the council introduced Seabins in Docklands' Yarra's Edge, but have experienced problems with the maintenance on the bins and causing danger to ducklings.

They were taken out of the water soon after instalment and need replacement parts to be reinstalled.

Alex Devantier, who has parked his boat at Yarra's Edge Marina since last year, said the rubbish problem there was worse than anywhere else he had been.

"I've never seen anything this bad anywhere in the world. Before here I was at Hastings and after that Mt Eliza, they are completely different things because of the catchments, but this has been going on a long time and they haven't kept the river clean," he said.



"It's really gross, it's damaging our boats and they [the council] don't seem to care."

"Just recently they seem to be a bit more on the ball with closing the marina. They take a barrier across and stops rubbish coming in but if they'd do it too late it also traps the rubbish that's already in there."

"But in general, it's just very bad. The rubbish being in water is always damaging boats as they pump water through their engine to keep it cool, and I know of two times specifically that the damage was really bad and I had to say something."

Cr Oke said the council had recently made arrangements with a new cleaning technology provider to clean rubbish around Victoria Harbour.

"We have also engaged Queensland-based specialist water cleaners Ocean Crusaders, which has equipment that can clean in-between the rocks on the shoreline along Harbour esplanade and Collins Landing, and look forward to starting additional cleaning as soon as travel restrictions allow," Cr Oke said.

"We also continue to work with other organisations including Parks Victoria and Yarra River Keeper to raise awareness of the issue and increase collections upstream."

"Ultimately, the best solution is to stop litter getting into the water in the first place."

The council has also reported an increase in residents dumping rubbish on Docklands streets since the pandemic started.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said the

*"The City of Melbourne has recorded a 17 per cent increase in dumped rubbish in May and an 18 per cent increase so far this June" - Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood.*



council had spent a lot of money dealing with the issue.

"The City of Melbourne spends more than \$160,000 a year disposing of dumped rubbish. We collect more than 1200 tonnes of illegally dumped rubbish per year," he said.

"The City of Melbourne has recorded a 17 per cent increase in dumped rubbish in May and an 18 per cent increase so far this June."

"We had 698 reports of illegally dumped rubbish in April, 502 cases this May, and we've had 425 cases so far this June."

Cr Wood said local laws officers were on patrol for dumped rubbish and would fine anyone caught offending ●



*Meg Hill*  
JOURNALIST  
MEG@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



## New headquarters for Victoria Police

WORDS BY *Marco Holden Jeffery*  
BUILDING

A new Victoria Police Centre, dubbed the "heart and soul of policing in Victoria", has opened at 311 Spencer St.

The 39-storey building is connected to the existing 313 Spencer St complex by a series of bridges and pathways, and would host more than 5300 staff across 26 commands and departments once moved from their current headquarters at the World Trade Centre on Flinders St in late July.

The new building was officially opened on Thursday, June 25 with a plaque unveiling attended by Chief Commissioner of Police Graham Ashton and Minister for Police Lisa Neville.

Chief Commissioner Ashton said the facility was a big step in the force's modernisation program and would "usher in an exciting new chapter for Victoria Police".

The new centre and its old neighbour would now be the consolidated, highly-secure location for all of Victoria Police's CBD operations, housing 7000 officers and support staff between the two.

The project included the construction of a helipad for the Police Air Wing where the force's three new Leonardo AW139 helicopters would be able to land, allowing for easy coordination of critical incident responses in the city ●

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# Move to simplify apartment rules

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
STRATA

The City of Melbourne has moved to overhaul its relationship with apartment dwellers after three months of the COVID-19 pandemic revealed weaknesses.

At a June 2 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, councillors unanimously voted for a motion moved by Lord Mayor Sally Capp that noted the predominance of apartment living in the municipality, and the challenges presented to it by COVID-19.

As a result, the motion requested council management to review information and services and produce “tailored support” to volunteer owners’ corporations (OCs) and strata title owners. It also stipulated the delivery of a virtual support workshop for the strata community.

But while the motion was carried unanimously, some councillors expressed reservations.

Cr Capp said the initiative sought to address the issues apartment dwellers had faced in recent months.

“We know in the City of Melbourne that the majority of our residents live in high-rises of some sort – 83 per cent, just over 140,000 people,” the Lord Mayor said.

“When you are living in apartments the type of issues you face are different to those that live in single dwellings and it’s important that we can reflect the issues that are being faced and provide support for people living in apartments.”

The Lord Mayor said many issues became clear during the pandemic but had existed beforehand.

Julie McLean from the Strata Community Association Victoria (SCAV) welcomed the move.

“As the motion confirms, managing jointly-owned private community spaces without specific guidelines or directions from the authorities has been challenging and has, as a result, left owners’ corporation committees



at the risk of failure of meeting some of their duties and obligations,” she said.

“Committees, owners, tenants, strata and building managers have been left having to decipher vague generic directions that do not specifically speak to the unique circumstances of strata spaces.”

“As the last near pandemic was 2003, this pandemic will not be the last and to review and learn from this experience, both good and bad, is necessary to help the strata sector to be more resilient in the future.”

Southbank Residents Association (SRA) president Tony Penna also supported the move.

He said owners in Southbank were “perplexed, confused and bewildered with what they should and shouldn’t be doing with this pandemic”.

“We also hope the outcomes of the motion will be reviewed at some stage in the future,”

“

*We know in the City of Melbourne that the majority of our residents live in high-rises of some sort – 83 per cent, just over 140,000 people.*

”

he said.

“We know that the pandemic is still in its early stage. If there are lessons to be learnt from this or things that could be done better we hope that this, whatever it will be, a policy or process or a document, will certainly be reviewed at the end of it.”

But some councillors expressed concerns about the motion, particularly around the idea of requesting management to “interpret public health orders”.

Cr Arron Wood said he was worried the clause went against the decided intent of the council at the beginning of the pandemic.

“When we started COVID-19 we talked about DHHS being the single source of truth and indeed our own organisation really pushed hard that there should be a single source of truth,” he said.

“Wherever we insert ourselves in interpreting public health orders I think that we can put ourselves into some positions that we potentially don’t want to be in.”

Cr Beverley Pinder also expressed concern about the move causing confusion.

“There’s a whole range of issues that are really for an owner market, not for a council to be interfering,” Cr Pinder said ●



## DRG hosts inaugural webinar on COVID

WORDS BY *Dr Janette Corcoran*  
STRATA

On the evening of Thursday, June 18, the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) hosted the Docklands Community Forum online as a webinar.

The topic was “Coming Out of COVID-19 for Owners’ Corporations” – and featured Tom Bacon (CEO Strata Title Lawyers and regular *Docklands News* columnist) and representatives from the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

Interim DRG president Ben Ball said, “pretty much everyone living in Docklands lives in high-rise residential apartments and so the decisions made by OCs are relevant to us all”.

As this also applies to our neighbours in Southbank and the CBD, the DRG extended an invitation to our City of Melbourne neighbours to join the webinar – and they did!

More than 80 attendees tuned in to the webinar on the night and many more have since requested the link, which is now available on the DRG’s home page – [docklands.org.au](http://docklands.org.au)

If you would like to be notified about the next webinar, please sign up! ●

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▲ Skipper Jordan Ruth on the Eliza Jay.

## Businesses report good bookings

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
BUSINESS

Even though fear of COVID-19 is still gripping the community, businesses are adapting to the new health regime and are beginning to re-open.

ArtVo has re-opened at District Docklands with limited numbers in each viewing room.

The immersive gallery has a temperature gauge at the door and is providing four square metres for each person.

"We're doing what we should," PR Manager Lisa Oatham said. "A lot of people are fearful."

She said there was a screen at the front desk to protect staff and they wouldn't be able to help people take photos.

If you've got a cold or are mixing with someone who has a cold, "you shouldn't be coming," she said.

But the popular 3D gallery had already taken bookings in the lead-up to the school holidays.

Melbourne Boat Hire on NewQuay Promenade has also reported good bookings. It began advertising its small electric leisure craft for hire in the first week of June.

"Usually we get six bookings a day during the weekend in summer," skipper Jordan Ruth said. Within the first two weeks of re-opening their weekend bookings were three a day.

"The good weather, with no more than three days of rain in a row, has made all the difference," he said.

"It's been a wonderful winter. Typical waters. Today is 14-15 degrees and sunny. We're doing quite well."

Katherine Johnson, in Melbourne on a working holiday, took the bait and spent her 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday with mates on board the *Eliza Jay*, cruising slowly under the Bolte Bridge and up the Yarra.

The exuberant CBD dweller organised a group of girlfriends plus a mate to drive the boat.

"I helped with the prep," Katherine said as her friends arrived with plates of sandwiches. "It's the one day it's all about you."

They were heard singing Happy Birthday in front of the rowing sheds on the Yarra before chugging back home in the afternoon sun.

Twelve people from the same household can fit in one boat or less if there's social distancing involved.

Catering can be arranged from Cargo or Berth, waterfront places that have also been doing well.

A wedding was held at Berth on the third weekend in June and staff are optimistic as customers return to catch the sun along NewQuay when it appears between buildings ●

# Honouring the unsung heroes of the pandemic

WORDS BY Marco Holden Jeffrey  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

For every tale of hardship during the coronavirus pandemic, there has been another of kindness and selflessness.

And in a one-off "community champions" edition of the Melbourne Awards, the City of Melbourne will recognise the hard work of the unsung heroes who supported their community throughout the pandemic and lockdown.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the awards were being reimagined this year to honour acts of compassion, integrity and heroism in the face of the pandemic.

"Melbourne is a caring city and I am proud of the many ways that Melburnians help and support each other in times of crisis," she said.

The 2020 Melbourne Awards would honour individuals, businesses and community groups who had a positive impact on the City of Melbourne community during the pandemic.

The Lord Mayor said this could include anyone "from neighbours who came to our rescue in times of need, to essential workers who do so much more than their jobs, and businesses that reach out to support people in tough times".

Alongside the coveted Melburnian of the Year award, the 2020 awards will include a category recognising an "essential service" champion, such as a medical worker or supermarket attendant, for their work during the lockdown.

Other categories include youth, business, digital innovation, and arts and culture champions.

The Melbourne Awards have been awarded annually since 2007 to "celebrate the inspiring people and organisations that create a better Melbourne through their work".

Past winners of Melburnian of the Year include oncologist and anti-tobacco lobbyist Dr Bronwyn King, medical research philanthropist and former Western Bulldogs vice president



*The 2020 Melbourne Awards would honour individuals, businesses and community groups who had a positive impact on the City of Melbourne community during the pandemic.*



Susan Alberti, and former Essendon great and motor neurone disease campaigner Neale Daniher.

Anyone can nominate or self-nominate an individual or group for any of the categories, even those based outside of the City of Melbourne - as long as their impact was within the city area.

Nominations will be open from July 1 to August 7, with the winners announced at a ceremony scheduled to take place at Melbourne Town Hall on November 14, health requirements permitting ●

**For more information:**  
[melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards)



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# Getting back to square one

WORDS BY *Marco Holden Jeffery*  
BUSINESS

For many retailers in Collins Square, the last few weeks of June provided a glimmer of hope after a tough period in lockdown.

And despite the latest revision of restrictions flattening slightly the return of customers, Pure Pie co-owner Matthew Carthew was grateful to be open.

“We’ve been lucky because we haven’t been paying rent, but obviously we want to get staff back to work and get the money coming back in the till,” he said.

Before the pandemic, businesses in Collins Square relied heavily on the 20,000 workers in the Square’s commercial towers as well as those from the nearby offices of the big banks, and without them the once-buzzing retail and hospitality hub was practically deserted.

Pure Pie, which has remained open throughout the lockdown, has managed to keep trading thanks to a focus on online sales, deliveries and other opportunities to connect with customers.

“We do farmer markets on the weekend and they’ve been going the whole time - that’s the main reason we’ve stayed open,” Mr Carthew said.

Despite the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in Victoria, other retailers in the Square who shut their doors or moved their services online during the lockdown have started to reopen.

Wellness centre Mellobarre managed to maintain a connection with its community of clients over the pandemic by offering free daily virtual classes.

Studio manager Allie Veall said business had been “a lot slower than what other people may have anticipated” since they reopened on June 22, but was confident a slew of new class offerings would help things pick up in the weeks to come.

Mellobarre has offered one or two in-person classes a week, all observing social distancing and other health requirements, while continu-



▲ Pure Pie co-owner Matthew Carthew.

ing to run other classes and corporate workshops online.

Walker Corporation chief operating officer David Gallant said Collins Square would continue to provide support, including “marketing assistance and regulatory resources”, to retailers as they waited for Docklands’ office workforce to return.

“Our small business retailers at Collins Square are a big part of what makes the precinct so vibrant and diverse,” he said.

Other returning business at Collins Square included Anytime Fitness and Tribute Boxing, who both reopened on June 22 with rearranged equipment to maintain social distancing.

Restaurants Lily Li and Mr Collins both reopened on June 1 and were accepting up to 20 dine-in customers at a time ●

# Council goes into bat for Assange

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne will write to the Morrison government calling for it to intervene and uphold the human rights of WikiLeaks founder and former local resident Julian Assange.

The council joined a growing chorus of international voices urging the government to step in and protect Mr Assange, who is currently being held in a UK maximum-security prison.

A former resident and student within the City of Melbourne, the activist founded WikiLeaks while living in Carlton.

In addressing the council on June 23, Assange’s father John Shipton said Julian was a “child of Melbourne” and commended it for joining the “powerful international movement” supporting his son.

And while several councillors acknowledged their limitations within a case involving the highest levels of US and UK government, they nevertheless supported the motion nine votes to one, with one councillor abstaining.

Cr Jackie Watts, who moved the motion at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, said it was about “supporting a Melburnian in a dire situation”.

“We have an obligation to step up when we see such abuses occurring,” she said.

“This is a city that respects the intellectual endeavours of journalists. A city relies on a degree of transparency, which our investigative journalists provide for us. We don’t hide from uncomfortable information coming to light.”

After publishing a series of internationally sensitive videos and documents in 2010, Assange would eventually seek refuge for almost seven years in London’s Ecuadorian embassy before being arrested in April 2019.

Since being sent to prison, he is reportedly in ill health and according to a senior UN expert who visited him has shown symptoms associated with prolonged exposure to psychological torture.



*This is a city that respects the intellectual endeavours of journalists. A city relies on a degree of transparency, which our investigative journalists provide for us.*



Cr Rohan Leppert said that Mr Assange’s access to support and sunlight was “negligible” in the high-security Belmarsh prison, and therefore, the timing of the council’s support was “critical”.

“In 2011, WikiLeaks received an award from the Walkley Foundation for most outstanding contribution to journalism. Today he (Assange) is in Belmarsh prison in the UK in the midst of extradition hearings related to publications that the Walkley Foundation awarded him for. This is a farce.”

Cr Leppert said that irrespective of the council’s views on Assange, it must fight for his right to basic human rights.

“Our government does not need to agree with Mr Assange’s methods, and we know that they don’t. There are probably many councillors – myself included – on a number of matters that don’t agree with some of what Mr Assange might do, or be, or presents as a human. That is not what we’re considering here. We have to demand that our government upholds the human rights of one of its citizens that is unjustly imprisoned.” He said the council must act irrespective of the potential impact it might have on the federal government ●

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## UPDATE ON THE WEST GATE TUNNEL PROJECT

Work is continuing on the West Gate Tunnel Project to widen the West Gate Freeway and build a new elevated road above Footscray Road providing links to the city and CityLink.

### New bridges to create new connections

In May, crews removed two old West Gate Freeway pedestrian and cycling bridges in Yarraville and Brooklyn. The old bridges, which were installed in the 1970s, won't span the width of the new freeway.

Two new and improved bridges are being built and will open later this year. The new bridges will provide better access and a safer crossing over the freeway with new lighting and CCTV footage. While the bridges are being constructed, a free shuttle-bus service is available.

### Footscray Road connections lift into place

Meanwhile in Footscray, construction of a bridge over the Maribyrnong River and the new elevated road are continuing.

A massive gantry crane that is taking shape in the middle of Footscray Road will lift 1600 concrete segments into place to form the elevated road. It will start at the city end of Footscray Road, and work west to build the outbound lanes before turning around to complete the inbound carriageway.

Once built, the new road will provide a direct route for trucks to the Port of Melbourne, taking 9000 trucks a day off local streets.



Artist impression of the veloway approaching Moonee Ponds Creek crossing

### Revitalising the cycling commute

The elevated road also provides the structure for Melbourne's first cycle superhighway. The veloway will be attached to the underside of the elevated road and once complete, cyclists will benefit from an off road, dedicated path from Footscray to the Docklands.

Find out more about the Project's cycling benefits at: [westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au](http://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au)

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## Iconic Melbourne Star keeps turning

WORDS BY *Marco Holden Jeffery*

Our iconic Melbourne Star Observation Wheel has re-opened to the public, allowing a maximum of three guests per cabin to experience the Docklands landmark and the city views it affords.

Melbourne Star head of sales and marketing Nicole Hill said she was “excited and pumped” to welcome the first guests back to the 120m-tall Ferris wheel on June 18.

“I was personally on site to welcome the first guests, a family of four from Bendigo who had been to the Star previously, and they were waiting there when the gates opened,” she said.

Although it couldn’t accommodate the huge crowds it did before the pandemic, the Star attracted anywhere between 22 per cent and 58 per cent of its normal visitation during the first five days after re-opening.

Ms Hill said good weather over the weekend had drawn a huge crowd on June 20, and the wheel stayed open later than it usually would to host guests queueing along the bridge into the evening.

“Many of the people that we spoke to have been to the Star before, and they’re real ambassadors of the Star and of Docklands,” she said.

The Star has kept its signature LED light show going throughout the pandemic, handing the controls to several charities and hosting an interactive Code Breaker game where locals deciphered a message based on the colours of the lights.

Ms Hill said the staff at the Star were overwhelmed by the support and messages of appreciation from their community during the pandemic.

“We wanted to ensure we kept talking to our community through the pandemic, and to remind everyone how fortunate we are to live in the wonderful city of Melbourne,” she said.



She added that the Star was the “perfect” attraction for the pandemic as it was an “opportunity for loved ones, family and friends to get out and about and connect with each other and their city, all in a safe and private setting”.

Any patrons of the Star would be upgraded to a heated private cabin for the same price as a regular ticket, and is offering two-for-one tickets and a complimentary drink for every guest till the end of August.

Guests could also opt for the more luxurious High Tea, including lunch and a glass of bubbles served in the cabin.

And a slew of additional health and safety measures have been implemented - queue management, disinfection at all high-frequency touchpoints and multiple hand sanitation stations featuring sanitiser produced by Docklands local Urban Alley Brewery.

“The wellbeing of our guests and staff is always our highest priority, which is why we have put in place revised hygiene and physical distancing measures so our visitors can enjoy a safe and serene experience,” Ms Hill said.

The Melbourne Star is currently open Thursday to Monday, 11am to 6:30pm. ●

**For more information:**  
[melbournestar.com](http://melbournestar.com)

## Pharmacy lands at The District

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

In times of growing public health uncertainty, it is great peace of mind to know Docklands has a new avenue for expert medical advice and care.

Docklands City Pharmacy is the suburb’s newest full-service pharmacy open seven days a week, providing locals with excellent quality advice and affordable prices.

Nestled between Woolworths and MarketPlace Fresh as part of The District Docklands’ new \$70 million Market Lane extension, Docklands City Pharmacy comes as welcome news for NewQuay locals.

Since opening in late March, which sadly aligned with Victoria’s staged COVID-19 lockdowns, Docklands City Pharmacy owner and pharmacist, Mr Lee, admitted timing wasn’t ideal but was optimistic about the future.

“Being located in a shopping centre means that we rely heavily on foot traffic for business,” Mr Lee said. “With the restrictions and people scared to venture out of their homes it has meant we’ve seen a significant fall in sales.”

“As a new business that has been really tough, but I’m sure we can get through this and start to build our reputation in Docklands.”

Docklands City Pharmacy has boosted several services to help meet the needs of locals throughout the lockdown period and into the future.

From providing blood pressure measures to ensuring customers are best equipped to adhere to their medication schedules, Mr Dong Jun and his team at Docklands City Pharmacy have worked tirelessly to cater to all Docklanders.

“We’ve added new services such as Websters-paks, which helps individuals who take multiple medications, to ensure they take the right dose at the right time. We are also an approved pharmacy by the National Diabetes Service Scheme (NDSS). When an individual has an NDSS card,



they receive subsidised products such as blood glucose strips and needles for insulin,” he said.

“We also offer SMS and app reminder services that allow customers to order their medication remotely. All you need to do is confirm the order in the morning, and you can pick it up in the afternoon, and you are reminded every time you are due to take your medication, which is imperative for medication adherence.”

Additional services include simple compounding, faxed scripts from clinics including tele-health services, PharmacyID verification of identity, wound care advice, prescription storing and medication reviews.

After spending 10 years working in pharmacies both in regional and metropolitan areas, Mr Lee jumped at the opportunity to open his own store at The District Docklands ●

**For more information:**  
[docklands-city-pharmacy.business.site](http://docklands-city-pharmacy.business.site)

## Dining at WTC Wharf

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

With the gradual easing of government restrictions in Melbourne’s hospitality industry, life as “almost normal” has returned to WTC Wharf.

Boasting world-class restaurants and bars, WTC Wharf offers Melbourne’s first absolute wharf edge dining precinct.

You can delight in cuisines such as Lebanese and Mediterranean at Byblos, traditional Chinese dishes at Man Mo and classic Australian pub meals at The Wharf Hotel. All restaurants re-opened on June 1 and strictly adhere to hospitality social distancing laws.

### Byblos

An award-winning star of the Brisbane bar and restaurant scene, Byblos opened at WTC Wharf in 2011. Renowned for its audacious take on traditional Lebanese cuisine, Byblos is a star attraction on Melbourne’s waterside.

Famous for its imaginative take on traditional Lebanese cuisine, Byblos has certainly

become a local favourite. With lavish hospitality, luxurious surroundings, and a world-class drink selection it is the perfect destination for any celebration or occasion.

Open for dining in from Thursday to Sunday, 12pm until 9pm, enjoy your Byblos favourites by the Yarra. The wellbeing of Byblos’s customers is their number one priority and every precaution has been taken to ensure safety.

### Man Mo

A candle-lit temple style restaurant offering fine dining with both traditional and modern dishes inspired from cooking styles of the Malaysian cultures. The resulting modern Chinese Malaysian food is served with a European flourish.

Boasting an interior space that is white, light and airy, Man Mo also features a casual dining area alongside the bar. Visitors are encouraged to sit back and relax. The glass walls slide back when the weather’s fine, allowing diners to eat al fresco or on the promenade seats with fine waterfront and city views.

### The Wharf Hotel

The Wharf Hotel enjoys the unique combination of a friendly local pub with stunning river views and waterfront ambience. With premium areas both indoors and outdoors, it’s the perfect place to enjoy with friends.

The Wharf Hotel is pouring your favourite beers ice cold. A selection of local and international wines, and a modern innovative cocktail list provides something for everyone and every occasion. The menu has been expertly crafted to celebrate the best of Victoria’s local and seasonal produce.

A modern Australian influence on quality pub meals is executed through simple yet elegant dishes, available for breakfast, lunch and dinner ●

**For more information:**  
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BUSINESS



## Anchor up at Yarra's Edge's newest cafe

*When you think of the Melbourne café scene you instantly evoke images of laneways and converted shopfronts. You don't think of riverfront and harbour views; that is, until now.*

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

Anchor Eatery, located within the picturesque Wharf Club at Yarra's Edge, is Docklands latest culinary destination.

Led by Nicholas Totos, well known for his popular South Melbourne Market offerings including Emerald Hill Delicatessen, Flour Patisserie and Small Town Pie Co, Anchor Eatery offers a contemporary dining experience with a healthy approach and European influence.

Mr Totos said he had been drawn to the riverside setting of the café space and believed it would make the perfect location for a bustling community hub, while complementing existing amenities.

"It is a unique opportunity to be able to offer a café on the water, so we have come up with a name that is relevant to the site," he said.

"A lot of our South Melbourne Market customers live around Yarra's Edge and Docklands and were singing out for more cafés in that location."

"We are aiming to bring the village feel from the market to Yarra's Edge, and we hope to enhance the sense of community within the neighbourhood, as part of the broader healthy lifestyle that the precinct offers."

Much like the rest of Docklands hospitality industry, Anchor Eatery wasn't immune to the crippling effects of a global pandemic.

Bound by restrictions in the Victorian Government's four-square metre rule, Mr Totos has been forced to run at a lower staff capacity than he would like due to the intimate confines of his café.

"This period has been a lot quieter. We managed to stay open but we've been running as a

take-away service only, which has meant we've been able to keep some staff on," he said.

"It is tough because we were starting to develop a great relationship with Yarra's Edge locals and workers from across Lorimer St."

Anchor Eatery is in the process of returning to a dine-in café operation, and seats between 25 to 30 people indoors and out across a mixture of barstool and communal-table seating.

The café continues to serve daily specials, coffee, smoothies, juices and takeaway options such as toasted sandwiches and fresh pastries for breakfast and lunch.

"Anchor Eatery is a fluid concept maximising an interesting site – a collaboration of our experience in high-volume coffee and cafes," Mr Totos said. "We are planning to tailor the offering over time to suit the Yarra's Edge specific needs and we are looking forward to getting to know the community while we do it."

Mr Totos said he hoped Anchor Eatery would become known for its healthy "grab and go" options, as well as its order-ahead picnic hampers and cheese or charcuterie boards to enjoy in the many Yarra's Edge parks along the river.

Orders can be placed via text/email, or in person during trading hours. All orders need to be placed by 3pm two days prior. Pick up is available at Anchor Eatery or delivery can be arranged with a minimum \$20 spend. Open Tuesday to Sunday 7.00am to 2:30pm.

**For more information visit:**  
[ambientfoodgroup.com.au/](http://ambientfoodgroup.com.au/)  
[portfolio-item/anchor-eatery](http://portfolio-item/anchor-eatery)

STATE MP



▲ Celebrating Docklands' community spirit (pre-COVID-19) at Docklands Community Garden's 10 year anniversary.

## After COVID-19: do we want to go back to "normal"?

*What a strange start to the year we've all had.*

If, in January, you'd told me that I'd spend more than a month bunkered down at home with my three-year-old and one-year-old, unable to leave or to see family and friends, with playgrounds, cafes and schools all closed, I wouldn't have believed it.

2020 sure has dealt us some cruel blows, especially for those affected by the bushfires who have also had to deal with unemployment, home-schooling, anxiety, and everything else that has come with this pandemic.

But while it's been an incredibly tough start to the year, this pandemic has also brought out some of the best aspects of humanity.

While physically apart, communities like ours have come together in the most incredible ways.

In my street we started a neighbours' WhatsApp group and people offered to buy groceries for each other. I've noticed people much more willing to smile at each other and say hello as they pass by (at an appropriate distance!).

We've seen state and federal governments jump in to help out the vulnerable, with increases to JobSeeker, JobKeeper, free childcare and additional support for people sleeping rough on our streets.

As we look towards life after COVID-19, now is the time to ask: what kind of society do we want to build? Are there some elements of pre-COVID life we might like to leave behind?

Do we really want to return to "normal" if that means a record number of people sleeping rough on the streets, an unemployment system that leaves many people behind, and an economic system that values profit over the planet?

Instead, I'd like to see us build a better "normal".

The COVID-19 crisis has taught us that governments can make bold, transformative decisions when they need to. For example, the Victorian Government has set aside more than \$24 billion for our state's recovery and to help people back into work.

With this, we have the opportunity to do things differently.

I think our community would like to see our government use this to

- Build tens of thousands more public homes, to make sure everyone has a roof over their head;
- Create jobs in building renewable energy infrastructures;
- Fund a huge environmental restoration program which would create jobs for young people as well as restore ecosystems and communities damaged in the summer's bushfires; and
- Boost our public hospitals and public schools, so no one has to go to a school that's falling down around them, and our carers, educators, and healthcare workers are paid properly for the incredible work they do.

I call this a "Green New Deal" or "building a better normal", but I'd love to hear your ideas for what this could look like. Post-pandemic, is there something you'd like to leave behind? What society do you want to build, now we've been reminded what is truly important?

Please email me [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com) and let me know. I'd love to hear your thoughts on how we create a society that puts people's health and happiness first ●



Ellen Sandell

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

[OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM](mailto:OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM)

**ELLEN SANDELL**

**STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE**

Hi, I'm Ellen. I'm passionate about a fair and liveable Melbourne. Tell me what's important to you.

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## DOCKLANDER

# Moving across the world for Docklands

*After leaving the UK in 2008 in search of a more modern landscape, Tony Bryer found himself falling in love with the idyllic harbour views of Docklands.*



WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

Now, after 12 years of living in Docklands high-rises, he doesn't plan to go back across the pond.

"I came from a London suburb, Twickenham, which was built in late Victorian times and was steeped in heritage and history," Tony said.

"But I really fell in love with living in the 21st century."

When he first moved, Tony purchased a Victoria Point apartment he intended to live in for the rest of his life.

But despite the stunning views, soon after moving in he realised that Melbourne homes aren't built for the cold weather.

"I'd been to Melbourne lots of times before I emigrated, but one thing I got wrong was how much winter Melbourne has," Tony said.

"I couldn't use the balcony for most of the year because it was too cold or too windy."

As a result, for the past three years he has been living in the north-facing Dock 5 apartment complex, which provides more warmth and an unbeatable lifestyle.

"I believe where I live now is as good as it gets," he said.

"There's so much within easy walking distance; supermarkets, pharmacy, GP, eateries, free trams, library, and Southern Cross station."

The ability to have things within walking distance became particularly important to Tony after he underwent brain surgery a few years ago and was barred from driving.

But because of Docklands' convenient layout, the loss of his licence didn't affect him at all.

▼ *Tony Bryer.*



"In other suburbs it would have been like house arrest. And as you get older, there may come a point where you don't want to or can no longer drive, so this will be an absolutely brilliant place to live in the future too," he said.

Having worked from home as a self-employed software developer for the past 30 years, coronavirus has barely altered Tony's work routine.

But the cancellation of face-to-face meetings, as well as living alone, has made the past few months quite isolating.

"In normal times, I'd be involved in various community activities at my church and volunteering at the Newport Railway Museum, all of which have come to a halt," he said.

Aside from attending Zoom meetings, the Docklands community has also provided him some solace amid coronavirus restrictions.

"Last Friday we had a residents' dinner where 30-plus of us all got together, so it's a friendly building to live in" he said.

In his spare time, Tony runs a personal blog where he covers everything from his cruise ship experiences to computer hardware reviews.

Last month, *Docklands News* featured his one of his pieces about the history of Victoria Dock.

"Since living here I've discovered that Docklands has a long history of its own, which is why I wrote that piece," Tony said.

"It's really a wonderful place to live." You can read Tony's blog at [tonybryer.com](http://tonybryer.com) ●

## PRECINCT PERSPECTIVE

## Getting through COVID-19

*Since my last article the whole world has changed dramatically with COVID-19 pandemic and I doubt that the Docklands precinct will ever be the same.*

On the positive note, public transport has never been more attractive with numbers drastically reduced due to many employees working from home, which is most likely to stay. But on the negative side, it has been devastating for existing businesses who rely on employees and none more than the hospitality and leisure industries. Let's hope the council and state government provide some assistance to support and promote struggling businesses so as to attract people back to the many attributes the area has to offer.

Like many residents we have tried to support those businesses that have remained open and hopefully now that some restrictions have been removed it's even more important to support them, as I fear once JobKeeper is gone, many will not reopen or they will cease to operate.

The National Cabinet has worked very well which is a first for decades due to the nature of party politics. I have said to many people during the time of the lockdown that there was

nowhere else I would rather be than in Victoria as I believe Premier Daniel Andrews has done his best to keep Victorians safe and we have an amazing health system, which my wife and I have experienced first-hand during this difficult time.

It has been reassuring to see those yellow high-vis vests around our areas cleaning down objects and congratulations to City of Melbourne for employing many people during this time of high job losses. Also, the council putting a hold on rate increases is a very good initiative even in light of its first budget loss due to effects of COVID-19.

Out of all these hardships many businesses have adapted well to the changed conditions and have found innovative ways of doing things which is just so important as we head into the future.

I only hope that there is no second wave of the coronavirus as I doubt that people will observe another period of lockdown and it would be devastating for people's mental health.

I know that I really missed socialising with family and friends, live sport and music and the big overseas holiday we had planned for April and May but so glad we didn't go.

I'm glad to see that RekDek pool has now reopened on a limited time basis which has not pleased everyone but the committee has taken all factors into account in making their decision. Gym opened on June 22 but with hy-

giene and social distancing being of the highest priority and restricted to 20 members at a time.

Also, the Community Centre will be available to residents once the cleaners have ceased to use the premises and we thank the council and Cr Kevin Louey for their cooperation. Better late than never.

Another concern for residents has been the ongoing problems with hoon drivers in the area and now speed humps have been installed in Point Park Crescent along with security cameras which hopefully will alleviate some of the problems. It was pleasing to have Deputy Lord Mayor Aaron Wood attend a meeting of Yarra's Edge residents on June 19 to hear concerns first hand but it didn't stop the cars from coming back over the weekend.

Also, I have continued to lobby Premier Andrews and Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allen and other politicians to look at sensible alternatives to the expensive and destructive tram bridge proposal, which we believe should be seriously considered in light their budget problems. Now is the time for job creation and infrastructure projects which should be built at a time of low interest rates as we need the economy to get back on its feet again.

As always if anyone has any ideas or thoughts for my next column please don't hesitate to contact me ●

“

*It has been reassuring to see those yellow high-vis vests around our areas cleaning down objects and congratulations to City of Melbourne for employing many people during this time of high job losses.*

”



*Keith Sutherland*

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MARITIME



## Two steps forward and one step back

*... or in nautical terms, as we tack back and forth against the wind making slow headway against the COVID-19 virus.*

There is tentative re-emergence of life in this city. However, activity within the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) continues apace as we bring together our diverse maritime stakeholders - heritage, industry, educators, and "sailors" of all types.

Now in its second year of existence, MMHN is gaining recognition as a unifying force among maritime stakeholders. Significantly there has also been strong support from local government. However, gaining traction and acknowledgement among the relevant responsibility authorities, and the governing bodies actually managing our waterways and the maritime industry sector within the state and federal governments, remains a challenge. Nevertheless, MMHN advocacy is relentless and we have no doubt, good sense will prevail.

The energy and enthusiasm of MMHN members is formidable. Some work tirelessly in Melbourne and around regional Victoria to protect and preserve maritime artefacts, memorabilia and, of course, our wonderful shipwrecks. Other MMHN members are looking to the future of the maritime industry sector, advocating for maritime education, skills, careers and maritime innovation, for example, in relation to ship propulsion, communications and de-fouling. Options for young people seeking a career at sea- or onshore-based the maritime industry have sadly diminished. Regrettably, apart from the Navy, adequate focus on our maritime skills base has eroded over recent years in Victoria - actually the nation as a whole.

There are, of course, recreational or hobby short-course options. For example, in Docklands on Collins Wharf, but given that Australia is an island nation, we must re-build our collective expertise in relation to serious maritime skills. MMHN is determined that this will happen. We are advocating on both state and federal levels and forging collaborations to bring change in the important area of maritime education.

The MMHN network approach is, in fact, triggering very unexpected and effective collaborations. For example, in the area of urban design OSSA (OffShore and Specialist Ships Australia) and ANARE (former Antarctic expeditioners) are collaborating with City of Melbourne urban designers on Seafarers Rest Park, which is tucked in behind the Mission to Seafarers at North Wharf. OSSA and ANARE are assisting in providing maritime artefacts for installation in Seafarers Rest Park. This wharf-side park seems to have been many years in its gestation. A recent discovery by an MMHN member demonstrated this. A plan dating from 2014, was found in his personal records. It featured a memorial to seafarers, a tall spire topped by an albatross designed by Captain Euan Crawford - a volunteer restoring the steam tug *Wattle* at that time (see images).

Other volunteers restoring the *Wattle* enthusiastically embraced this imaginative plan. But the momentum for the park sadly waned - until

it bobbed up to the surface again in 2020. City of Melbourne urban designers working on the Seafarers Rest Park are now inviting stakeholder input. Estimated completion time will be in two years. MMHN believes that Docklands residents are key stakeholders and encourages all to grasp this rare opportunity to "shape" your new neighbourhood park. See [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/seafarers-rest](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/seafarers-rest).

Given the name of the park, some maritime stakeholders are dismayed that while in earlier plans for Seafarers Rest Park made the "seafarer" connection more prominent, current interim plans merely cite maritime "references" in the park. Currently plans indicate no actual monument or memorial to "seafarers" at all. This is a puzzling omission.

Docklands residents will be very familiar with the sight of the of Westgate Bridge. Perhaps less so the memorial plaque below it. "Just before lunch on October 15, 1970, the West Gate Bridge suddenly groaned. An eerie pinging noise filled the air. A storm of rust flakes peeled off weathered steel. The girders started to turn blue. The bridge fell away beneath their feet. Minutes later, 35 workers were dead." See image and map at [westgatebridge.org](http://westgatebridge.org). Eight years later, those bridge workers who survived the disaster paid for and installed the plaque to honour their colleagues.

Occupations related inherently dangerous work on or around our waterways are rarely memorialised. Many stevedores were maimed, or indeed lost their lives, earning their livelihood on the very dangerous wharves of Docklands. Few seafarers or wharfies or bridge builders are awarded such public recognition. Where in Docklands should such a memorial to recognise those who contributed so much to our city and our nations be installed? The relevance or appropriateness or legitimacy of monuments and memorials is, of course, currently being debated



*Cr Jackie Watts*  
CHAIR OF MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK AND COUNCILLOR AT THE CITY OF MELBOURNE

OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

## Keeping the lights on during COVID-19

I've been getting a number of questions from owners' corporation (OC) managers, building managers and committee members over the past few months, so I thought I would publish some of the more common questions with my answers as below:

### Is the OC legally required to re-open the pool and/or gym in my complex?

The situation is changing because at the time of publication, there had been increased numbers of community transmission of COVID-19, so here is hoping that no further public health orders are required to be put in place by the government.\*

As of June 21, 2020, the Victorian Government has allowed public gyms and pools to re-open with a maximum of 20 persons allowed, and with social distancing required to be in place, at 1.5 metres.

A gym or pool in a residential building is not a public space, and the OC (through its committee) bears the responsibility for these common property areas. If the gym or pool is currently closed, the OC may prefer to keep it closed.

However, in my view, as long as there are rigorous cleaning protocols in place, together with restricted swipe card access and/or a sign-in sheet before people use the facilities, then it will be possible to re-open these facilities safely.

### What is an OC's duty once it has been confirmed that a resident has tested positive for COVID-19?

Where there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a building, it is important to strike the right balance between protecting the remaining residents and other people on site from exposure, while also protecting the privacy of the individuals involved.

Given that the affected resident will be required to quarantine for the duration of their illness, and contact tracing will be undertaken by the relevant authorities which will ensure affected lot owners will be notified where necessary, a non-specific notification to owners would be a sufficient response from an OC.

The OC may also wish to enquire with the affected resident if they require assistance in

terms of contactless provision of necessities in this time.

Where there is a greater risk of exposure to an infected resident, such as with essential services contractors, the committee, OC manager, building manager and any contractors with a risk of potential exposure will need to be advised to ensure that there are sufficient protections in place where access is unavoidable.

### Can the annual fees and the budget still continue even if an annual general meeting (AGM) has not been held?

A number of buildings are having their AGM's remotely, by way of ballot forms or on-line via video conferencing.

However, if a particular building has not utilised the above alternative ways to hold a meeting, it can hold a committee meeting to pass a resolution to set a budget for the next financial year, but subject to ratification at a special general meeting or the AGM as soon as it is safe to do so.

### Can an OC use its funds from the capital works fund to provide cashflow and relief from raising new levies?

No, not without passing a special resolution under Section 44 of the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006*.

Depending on how large the building is, it may be difficult to run a ballot to pass the necessary special resolution.

Other states and territories in Australia have passed legislation over the COVID-19 period to deal with this exact situation, however Victoria has not followed suit.

This should be a priority for the new Minister for Consumer Affairs Melissa Horne once she takes control of her new portfolio ●

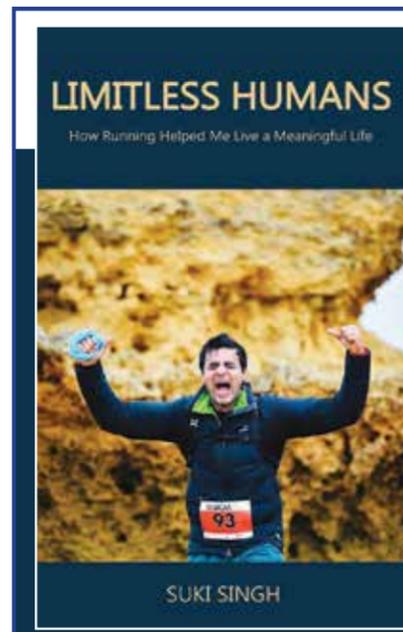


*Tom Bacon*  
TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.  
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## Lunch break



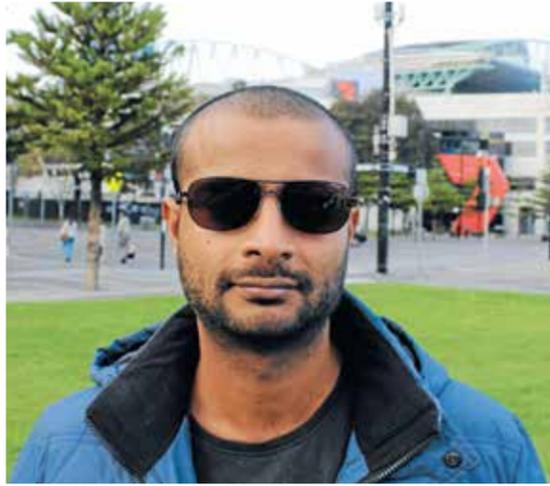
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NISH ARORA, SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

We had some travel plans, so there's a lot of back and forth, making plans and cancelling them. We're hoping it opens sometime soon.



RICHARD SNAZELL, WEB DEVELOPER

It's pretty disappointing, we were close with the numbers being down, and to go back to having the numbers up again and things closed again is a bit depressing.



ASSEL SNAZELL, SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

I expected the numbers to be back at this level. It's the flu season, it's cold, it's winter, restrictions have eased. I understand where the government is coming from, wanting to tighten up, but for me it doesn't feel totally necessary. The old restrictions felt enough and I felt like we were in a good spot.



JANINE SMITH, ACCOUNTANT

It's disappointing and a little bit frustrating. I was okay with the initial period, but now that it has reemerged I'm a bit angry actually that people haven't done the right thing.

# Faces of Docklands

Question:

*How do you feel about restrictions tightening for a second time?*

## CHAMBER UPDATE

### Coming out of COVID-19

*“I know I'm not the only one that has woken up some mornings expecting to see Mila Jovovic patrolling the esplanade picking off stray zombies in some post-apocalyptic B-grade horror movie. But, the good news is we're on our way out!”*

How long this will take and what the world is going to look like is the realm of much more intelligent people than I, but I can tell you that I will be happily fitting in any restaurant this week that will take me for a beer and a friendly chat.

#### Docklands Community Farmers Market

What COVID-19 has produced is some very quick pivoting and business adaptations. Docklands Sunday Markets has been an institution but the owner was smart enough to realise it was becoming stale and quickly adapted to the new world – buy local, buy fresh, enjoy it as an experience.

The very first community farmers' market was right in the middle of lockdown but the City of Melbourne's pedestrian counters showed NewQuay Promenade with numbers that rivalled the 2019 average for a Sunday. Amazing cheeses, fruit, vegies and pastries all presented on what was a glorious autumn day. Stay tuned to our socials - [fb.me/melbdock](https://fb.me/melbdock) - as the word is that it's likely to be held more often.

#### Docklands coming together

I recently provided a verbal report to the City of Melbourne and Development Victoria. The figures have been almost unbelievable. With the closing of huge businesses like ANZ, Myer, NAB, NBN, Grant Thornton, Latitude – combining with the closure of Central Pier, meaning no event bookings, combined with no tourists and international students going home - Docklands, on average has some 100,000 less visitors on a daily basis. But, out walking every day, visiting our members, one thing has become very clear. Docklands has pulled together. We've all gone out, had a coffee, ordered take away, shared our love for our local businesses and it's brought this community closer together.

#### Then, the bad side

Of course, as would be expected at times like this, we've also seen a rise in unacceptable behaviours. There are two young men actively targeting buildings on the NewQuay side of Docklands, prying open cages and checking for open cars. There's also another two young men tagging Docklands' walls.

Don't take any chances. If you see these activities simply call 000. We'll follow up the graffiti removal but if we can catch any of these four low lifes in the act then we can have the police deal with them on site. ●



Shane Wylie  
MEDIA DIRECTOR  
DOCKLANDSCC.COM.AU  
DOCKLANDS  
Chamber of Commerce

## 10 YEARS ON

### Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

JULY 2010 | ISSUE 55 |

DOCKLANDS NEWS

▼ Five Bike Share sites have been installed in Docklands, including this one at NewQuay.

#### Melbourne Bike Share becomes Docklands Bike Share

*Last month Docklands became part of the \$5.5 million Melbourne Bikeshare scheme with the unveiling of five bike stations around the precinct.*

WORDS BY Alison Kinkade



The five Docklands bike stations were part of an additional roll-out which saw the creation of an extra 40 bike stations and the placement of 500 bikes around Melbourne. RACV general manager and motoring services Gordon Oakley said he hoped people would embrace the scheme and that's exactly what's happened. "It's fantastic to see the support for this scheme from those working, studying and visiting Melbourne and we encourage all Victorians to try the scheme out," Mr Oakley said.

The bike stations, which opened progressively, are located in Docklands' Merchant St, NewQuay, Bourke St, Yarra's Edge and near the bridge to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

It is estimated that the bike stations, which can hold 79 bicycles combined, will be filled with approximately 55 bikes. "We anticipate that this rollout of the scheme

will see more people using Melbourne Bike Share and experiencing not only the convenience of this alternative to Melbourne's public transport scheme but also the health benefits of cycling," Mr Oakley said.

One year subscriptions to Melbourne Bike Share are available online for \$50 a year and people can purchase weekly and daily passes to the scheme from the bike terminals for \$8 and \$2.50 respectively. Melbourne Bike Share also offers corporate keys which allow for the subscription to be transferred between employees with the first hour of each trip free.

RACV acting corporate communications manager Jo Robertson said no corporates had signed up but they anticipated once the bikes were out and about in Docklands that this would change.

For more information on the program visit [www.melbournebikeshare.com.au](http://www.melbournebikeshare.com.au) ●

## (A sailor's) Home is where the Hearth is

*Photographed around 1878, this ornamental box-shaped building doesn't look home-like, but if you were a 19th century sailor arriving in Melbourne's Docklands, it was a much-needed sanctuary between long sea voyages.*

It was the Melbourne Sailor's Home, which sat at the corner of Little Collins and Spencer streets, next door to Finley's Hotel (opened 1872) which can be seen on the far right of the image.

For decades the docks were where it all happened. Everything and everyone passed through the docks. 1861 saw 30,000 shipping crew from 1778 vessels arriving in Victoria's ports. As soon as these sea-dogs got their pay and found their land legs, notoriety was bound to follow.

An article in *The Mercury* in 1864 described the usual sailor of the period as "the plucky, dissipated, jolly devil-may-care fellow who has a wife in every port and spends his money in grog and 'divarshin' in the most engaging manner possible". With 19th century West Melbourne known for its seedy underbelly of gambling halls and brothels, there were far too many temptations to lure a man astray from the straight-laced, Christian ideals of his Victorian-era contemporaries.

Concerned with sailors' welfare, Melbourne's first harbour master, Captain Charles Ferguson, sent a letter to the Chamber of Commerce on January 17, 1862. According to *The Argus*, he feared that sailors were at risk of being "injured morally and physically" and that debauchery would "engender a dislike for discipline" and discontent. Claiming that the isolation of sea life was to blame for a lack of mutual support, he suggested the formation of a Sailors' Home (already common in England) to help keep the sailor from immoral activity. This plea lit a fire under the community and the next three years saw meetings, the formation of a committee,



▲ The Melbourne Sailor's Home.

land chosen at Spencer St (where an immigration depot used to stand), and the public raising over £3700.

The home opened in 1865, across the road from the train station. Designed by Alfred L Smith in a modern Italian style, the 27m x 40m three-storey building had a library, billiards room and rooms for dining, smoking, and sleeping. For 18 shillings a week a sailor would have a large, clean, well-ventilated bedroom, four meals a day and beer with his dinner. If a lodger was penniless, they could work for their board. Sailors' good behaviour at the home was vouched for by Superintendent John George Albenry during an 1870 Royal Commission on charitable institutions. In particular, he claimed that in five years of business, he "locked up" just two out of 8000 sailors who had sought lodging at the home. Despite the goodwill, the home wasn't hospitable to all: when the *Sydney Morning Herald* investigated the building in 1866, they noted that darker-skinned sailors who applied would be discouraged by the

Superintendent "because the white men have a prejudice against them". Curiously, one sailor of such description was also found scrubbing the floors working for his board "as is practice in such cases".

Initially capable of housing 50 sailors, the self-supporting institution became crowded, prompting a fundraiser ball to be held on December 31, 1867 to raise money for an extension. Held at the "new" Exhibition Building (most likely the recent State Library extensions) the ball was honoured by a visit from the Duke of Edinburgh and £1200 was raised. With its extension, the home offered over 100 rooms. For a long time, its superintendent was Methodist preacher, Captain James Robilliard. James also doubled as the only shipping agent in Melbourne authorised to seek crewmen on behalf of sea captains, preventing sailors from being cramped (or kidnapped) and exploited.

The home was commonly known as a dormitory, but it had other uses during its existence. Some of the rooms were shipping offices,

supplying sailors with new work opportunities during their stay. From 1876 it would be the meeting place of the Victorian Shipwreck Relief Society, a charitable association that assisted orphans and widows of sailors who died at sea, or were victims of vessels wrecked "in or near Victorian waters". In later years the home also housed non-nautical associations, including offices for the accountant of the Victorian Railways and the Locomotive Engine Drivers and Fireman's Association.

At its peak, the home housed up to 2000 sailors a year, but by the 1890s depression, numbers dwindled to a few hundred. When the *Weekly Times* reported on the building in 1902, only 30 of the 120 rooms were occupied, and only one of the lodgers was paying. In 1903, the building was sold to the Metropolitan Melbourne Board of Works and the home moved to a William-Pitt designed building in Siddeley St in 1904, where it ran, in ever diminishing form, until the 1960s.

As for the original Spencer St building, the Board of Works re-fitted it for office work, with one room occupied by chief engineer (and the man behind our sewer system) William Thwaites. The building once more would become overcrowded, but this time to its detriment. By the 1960s, neglect had seen it fall into disrepair, with one staircase on the verge of collapse. It (and the neighbouring hotel) was put out of its misery by that infamous grim reaper of heritage, Whelan the Wrecker, in the early 1970s. A new Board of Works Building would appear in its place in 1973 and it is now occupied by a university.

Today, the romance of Melbourne's maritime past can be found at the Mission to Seafarers and the *Polly Woodside*. However, the sight of a weary sailor, smelling of sea-salt and hauling his belongings along Spencer St looking for home comfort, is long gone ●



Ashley Smith

RESEARCHER  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
VICTORIA

### SKYPAD LIVING

## Coming out of COVID-19 with a silver lining

*With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions there may be a greater recognition of vertical living challenges!*

In this column I previously wrote about the particular challenges faced by vertical villages dealing with COVID-19, chief among which were:

- Interpreting public health orders: whose responsibility is it to enforce?
- Promoting safety and cleanliness: determining closure criteria and exceptions;
- Managing Building Security: negotiating and monitoring access channels;
- Disclosure: determining legal requirements in terms of health and privacy;

The pressure of needing to act quickly, combined with a lack of established connections between our vertical villages, saw each having to develop their own approach to dealing with COVID-19. This has resulted in great variation in the procedures and protocols implemented within our residential buildings – some of which are now beginning to be questioned!

However, dark clouds sometimes have silver

linings and there appears the glint of one for our vertical villages.

This takes the form of recognition of our sector – specifically, that high-rise residential living is now mainstream but is also a different way of living and needs to be recognised and supported as such.

This glimmer of light (to continue the cliché) was seen at last month's Future Melbourne Committee meeting on June 2 when the Lord Mayor Sally Capp proposed a motion on apartment living. This motion noted that "apartment living has for many years been a fast growing part of the City of Melbourne delivering lifestyle, social, environmental and economic benefits for Melbourne". The motion went on to note some distinct challenges for those living in close proximity and proposed several actions including a forthcoming "Virtual Support Workshop for the Strata Community" - an undertaking being progressed by Cr Nicholas Reece.

The proposed motion drew interesting comments from some councillors, revealing that some might not be as au fait with our way of living as we might expect. However, the motion was carried unanimously, and we now await the virtual workshop.

What has also occurred this month was a community led event entitled "Coming Out of

COVID19 – for Owners' Corporations (OCs)" hosted by the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) – of which I am a member!

On the evening of June 18, the DRG hosted a webinar featuring *Docklands News* and *Southbank News* columnist Tom Bacon (CEO of Strata Title Lawyers), along with representatives from the Department of Justice and Community Safety (the entity responsible for our *Owners' Corporation Act 2006*).

Around 90 webinar attendees listened to the discussion on two pressing issues:

- Reopening common property – what powers and responsibilities do OCs have?
- OC funding stress - waiving, delaying or reducing OC fees and interest – what can be legally done?

While emphasising the point that the event offered only general information and not legal advice, these two issues were considered in relation to the actual legal authority of OCs: what powers do OCs have when reopening common property? Must they reopen closed facilities? Can OCs restrict access to common property?

In relation to OC funding, it was noted that COVID-19 has brought significant financial hardship to owners through possible job loss or, if an investor, decreased rental income. At the same time, there are additional building ex-

penses related to COVID-19, such as increased cleaning costs, increased security costs and new expenses for hygiene and safety resources. As OC fees are the key source of funding for the operation of vertical villages, the impact will be severe if many owners fail (or are late) to pay. The webinar considered the powers which OCs have (or do not have) in relation to setting and changing fees, penalties, and budgets and also discussed strategies such as billing individuals for use of specific amenities.

For those interested, a recording of this webinar is available at [docklands.org.au](https://docklands.org.au).

Feedback from webinar attendees indicated a great interest in future sessions focussed on the needs of OCs. And this is timely input for the forthcoming City of Melbourne's virtual workshop – which I will report on in my next column! ●



Janette Corcoran

JANETTE CORCORAN IS  
ANAPARTMENT LIVING EXPERT.  
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# Pet's Corner

## Ty the adorable rescue

“

*Ty is used to getting stopped every five minutes for a picture and a pat, so the 11-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel/terrier cross is a natural poser.*

”



WORDS BY Marco Holden Jeffery

He gives himself up for the camera like it's second nature when *Docklands News* met him on Harbour Esplanade in late June.

Alex Matthews rescued Ty a few years ago. The pup was living with other dogs who would gang up on him, and his owner would come home to find Ty bleeding or hiding somewhere in the house.

Alex, who works in health insurance, knew the owners and offered to take the poor pup into his Docklands home - and has never looked back from his new life with sweet Ty.

Alex said Ty had an "amazing" temperament and was "the perfect sort of dog to have in an apartment" - good-natured, well-trained, never did anything wrong inside and was the perfect size for apartment living.

Ty is an older dog, and according to Alex he could be a bit bossy. "He definitely runs the roost," Alex said.

But above all he's very friendly - always happy to stop for a pat and have his picture taken ●

▼ Alex Matthews with his dog Ty.



### ABBY'S ANGLE



## Keep dancing

Both sets of my grandparents lived far away, so it was always an adventure involving a great deal of packing - both suitcases and then my dad trying to get everything into the car - and lengthy car trips which slowly morphed from playing eye-spy for a solid five hours to my sister and I arguing over song selections in later years, to of course now travelling independently to see our one living grandmother who resides in a nursing home.

I've been thinking of our trips so fondly, of arriving to the smell of fresh lemons and baking, of big cuddles and kisses and delighted storytelling as we share important news - the loss of another tooth, coming second in a spelling bee, falling off a bike - our achievements were always celebrated with the greatest of joy and perpetually reframed to be a victorious win. Another tooth falling out didn't mean you had a gappy smile - it meant the fairies had another pearl. Coming second didn't mean you just missed out - it meant you were planning to surprise the competition and beat them next time. Falling off your bike didn't mean you were uncoordinated, it meant you must have been travelling so fast that even your bike couldn't keep up. We were always heroes, and we were always loved, and everything always felt better.

I have an incredibly clear memory of one particular trip when I was eight years old. I was sitting on my grandpa's knee, my cheek against his grey wool jumper in the lounge chair in the sunroom. It was warm and I was happy pretending that I was reading the paper that he was so keenly focused on held out in front of him, as I didn't want to move from my spot. My grandpa owned the Bulk Store in a country town, and he smelt of straw and cows and earthy hard work. He had fought bravely through WWII and I knew that we were all proud of him, because my grandma had all his medals and certificates hung on the hallway walls. My grandpa's brother was missing from the war, and there was a photo of him too. There were things that were talked about in hushed whispers, like where

Dudley might have been lost and whether he might be with the twins my grandma lost when they were just days old. As a young girl, I remember hoping they had been found and were together - it never occurred to me that they meant in heaven.

The grandfather clock chimed its hour keeping time alongside all the photos and memories in the hall. Knowing now how many sad and painful things happened to my family still surprises me, for growing up there was only ever love, determination and a commitment to doing good, being the best, you could be. As my grandpa folded the paper, he asked me a question, "darling, do you know why the Indian rain dance NEVER fails?". I thought about it, hoping to impress him with my answer. "No Papa, I don't," I replied. He looked at me over his glasses, and gave me a kiss on the forehead. "Because they don't stop dancing until it rains", and with that he lifted me up onto my feet and we headed to the kitchen to see what grandma was baking. The memory has never left me, and I can still hear his words as clear as day. But it was a long time before what he was really trying to tell me, sunk in.

You see, the most important thing to being successful is to make sure you don't quit. There's no magic, instant solutions - even if it sounds like there might be. Life can be really hard at times, and each generation we have something that we are having to deal with. Whether it's fighting a world war or a battle for mental health, whether it's losing loved ones or having restrictions that stop us reaching them, whether it's surviving a recession or trying to survive a business downturn - you just have to keep going. You have to commit to your path and you can't quit when it feels like nothing is working. Like the Native American Indians and their rain dance, the only reason it always works is because they just keep dancing until it does. And when I realised that, it became my inner voice for many things in life - just keep dancing. Keep dancing, keep believing it will

work, and know that there are generations of love that are behind you, willing you to keep going.

So, as our restrictions return, and fear of this pandemic starts to swell in our hearts again - keep dancing. We have to keep going, we have to keep on the path to protect so many of our community. It's not easy - but no one said it was going to be. We thought we were through the worst of it, but we are going to have to be strong again, we are going to have to keep our resolve and we are going to have to keep our commitment to our path to win the war on this. It breaks my heart to have restrictions so tight in my grandma's nursing home, but I am more worried about her becoming ill, so we keep dancing. My mother and aunt visit in the limited spots available and we all stay strong in relaying messages of love. It's not easy - I want to hold her tiny hands in mine and kiss her papery cheek again, and I'm afraid of losing her before I can. But, we have to keep dancing.

The grandfather clock now sits in my hallway, and chimes as it keeps time with my memories. The photos of both my grandfathers and their medals of bravery, sit alongside my own son's Parliamentary bravery award in my hall, and as he turns from child to man, I ask him the same question, "why does the Indian rain dance never fail my darling?"

Stay strong. Keep going. Keep dancing. It will work.

With love, Abby x ●



Abby Crawford  
LIFE@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU

# Short-stays in the aftermath of COVID-19

## *An open Letter to the Premier of Victoria and the Lord Mayor of Melbourne ...*

For years we have lobbied for the regulation of the short-stay industry, especially in high-rise residential strata buildings not designed for hotel-type accommodation.

Our pleas have mostly fallen on deaf ears and the current changes to the legislation are proving to be unworkable.

However, a microorganism in the form of a coronavirus, devastating in so many ways, appears to have intervened to bring the short-stay juggernaut to a crisis point.

Once the COVID-19 pandemic took hold and lockdowns commenced around the world, including in Melbourne, it quickly became apparent there was no place for short-stay operations in non-commercial high-rise buildings.

The problem is fundamental: there is no means to limit the spread of the virus or to enforce social distancing rules in the short-stay environment.

In a very brief period, many of the commercial short-stay operators have abandoned our buildings and a number have gone out of business altogether.

Former short-stay apartments are now being rented out long-term and owners are discovering – what we have known for a long time – that investors can earn more from long-term renting than from short-term.

Now that restrictions are gradually being lifted, we must not allow a return to the bad old days where greedy commercial operators don't contribute to wear and tear, security is compromised and the amenity we have rediscovered, disappears again.

We must emphasise that we have no problem with individual owners renting out a room in the apartment they are occupying, which was what short-term letting was all about in the first place.

So, please Mr Premier and Lord Mayor, listen to our pleas and work with us to create a long-term solution beyond lockdown.

The current decimation of the short-stay industry is but a grimly fortuitous artefact of COVID-19.

The short-stay industry needs to be properly regulated – we cannot rely on a deadly virus to protect residents' rights to security and quiet enjoyment of their homes.

There must be a level playing field for all.

Yours sincerely,

*We Live Here, on behalf of the countless residents affected by unregulated short stays over the past few years.*

### What if you are not on the VBA list?

What happens if your building has non-compliant cladding and you are not on the Victorian Building Authority's (VBA) list? We Live Here has been contacted by one such building.

### Case Study

The owners' corporation (OC) for a medium density building in suburban Melbourne was requested by its insurance company to confirm its cladding status.

The OC arranged for core samples to be taken from the cladding surrounding the building and the façade at the front entrance, and all were found to be non-compliant. Fire services engineers were engaged and deemed the whole building to be high risk, with the facade (the escape route) most urgently in need of replacement.

Quotes have been obtained to replace the facade, but no decision has yet been made on how this would be paid for - from the OC's maintenance fund or from owners directly via a levy. This work has not yet commenced.

For the remainder of the building, which would be considerably more expensive, the OC was hoping to tap into the \$600 million fund announced by the state government.

The difficulty was - how?

The building has not received a Building Notice or Building Order, or any notice from the VBA or the local council that the building was at risk. It was only through the insurance company that they had learned about their issue.

A phone call from We Live Here to Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) confirmed this building was not on their cladding list nor on the VBA's cladding list.

The OC was then advised to contact CSV and request help to work through the process of finding out if they could be eligible for funding. We shall provide an update in our next column.

Our advice if you are in a similar position with non-compliant cladding and not in the system is to contact CSV and request assistance from a CSV customer liaison officer.

Email [support@claddingsafetyvic.gov.au](mailto:support@claddingsafetyvic.gov.au) or phone 1300 456 542.

### How many buildings have been approved by VBA for funding?

We have asked CSV how many buildings have already been approved for funding and we are yet to receive an answer. What we do know is that at least 487 buildings have been referred to the CSV. These buildings are now being "prioritised" by CSV. CSV says that it is reviewing 60 buildings a month.

### Municipal Building Surveyor - clarification

We have received clarification from Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) regarding CSV information in our previous column.

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) has been appointed as the Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS) for buildings outside the City of Melbourne.

Affected buildings within the City of Melbourne will continue dealing with the Melbourne City Council's MBS.

### Request for information

Please let us know if commercial short-stay operations have continued in your building during the COVID-19 pandemic and what steps, if any, have been taken to curb their activity.

### Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, please visit our website at [welivehere.net](http://welivehere.net). We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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LEARN MORE AT [WELIVEHERE.NET](http://WELIVEHERE.NET)



## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### Warming up before exercise – why you really need to

#### *We've probably all skipped a warmup before we've dived into a workout, right?*

We may have even reasoned with avoiding it because we'll "warm up during exercise", or "it's just a pre-workout before my workout so what's the point?".

If you're a "warmup-skipper", here are the reasons you might want to reconsider.

#### Warmups prepare your muscles for activity

Think of your muscles like a car engine. They aren't raring to go at every hour of the day. A lot of the time, they're sitting fairly dormant or with certain parts under/overworked and expecting them to perform at their best instantly is expecting too much.

Warming up activates your muscles to lengthen and switch on the "stretch reflex", sending signals to the brain that essentially optimises and 'warms up' your muscles in preparation for exercise.

Muscles that have been effectively warmed up are better primed to perform at their best.

#### Warmups help avoid injuries

All the muscle groups you're using throughout your workout start off "cold" until they are warmed up and begin to function and move more fluidly. Your muscle groups have ligaments, tendons and cartilage with blood flowing through them, and when they're made to work hard without being warmed up, they're at more risk of straining, tightening, and even snapping.

By warming up those hardworking parts, you help them to have a better range of movement and elasticity, decreasing your risk of injury during your workout.

#### Your warmup depends on your workout

Warmups aren't a "one size fits all" approach to exercising at peak performance. After all, there are around 640 skeletal muscles in the average human body, organised into major groups, each responsible for their own area. Unless you're some kind of superhero, you're probably not going to use all of them in your workout.

Different workouts with different intensities call for different warmups. For example, runners focus on warming up areas such as the hamstrings and quadriceps, while upper body workout warmups will need to target pectorals, trapezius, triceps, and biceps.

#### Stretching - dynamic vs static

Dynamic stretching (jogging on the spot, bodyweight squats etc.) are perfect for warming up because it helps the muscles reach their full range of motion in a way that is functional and constantly active while increasing blood flow to help gear them up for action. Static stretching (long holds in the same stretched position) are ideal as a post-workout cooldown, but as a warmup, they allow the muscles to lengthen but not contract, meaning they're not getting the full range of motion they need ●



Dr Mike Edgley  
CHIROPRACTOR  
[DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU](http://DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### What I hate about Docklands

Moving to Docklands was the best decision I ever made in my life. I love living here. It has so much going for it ... but that doesn't mean it's perfect. There are still things that really p...s me off, which I felt I needed to get off my chest!

What is the deal with architects? They seem to spend all their time designing the high-rise section of buildings and no time on arguably the most important part ... street level. Why is so much of street-level Docklands just plain aluminium and glass shop-fronts? It's so bland and boring. Ever think about varying texture, shape, form or material? Go back to school!

The kinetic sculpture outside the ANZ building in Docklands Park is absolutely spectacular when it is spinning rapidly in the wind. Unfortunately, I think I've seen it moving vigorously once in about seven years. Why is this wind-driven art work in the only wind-shadow in Docklands? Grrr!

After development of Shed 5 on the Yarra River and Seafarers Rest Park, Docklands (which is supposed to be a waterfront suburb) will be horribly divided from other communities and the water by Wurundjeri Way/Flinders St. It would make an enormous difference if the section of road outside Mission to Seafarers were to be put wholly or partially underground with a plaza or park on top. Earth to VicRoads ... anyone?

Six or seven years ago the City of Melbourne held a consultation to learn what locals wanted in our urban forest. One of the suggestions was colourful autumn foliage. Why do all the new deciduous plantings turn dull brown in autumn? Docklands could have been turned into a gorgeous drawcard in autumn if colourful autumn leaves had been prioritised!

I know this is a universal problem and probably will be until the earth is swallowed by the sun but why, why, why do cigarette smokers drop their butts on the ground (often even

when there is a cigarette bin nearby)? I'll bet half of them would say they cared about the environment. Really???

Why the hell are all the buildings along the north side of the Yarra built so close to the water (Victoria Harbour precinct I'm looking at you)? Apart from the fact it creates substantial shadowing over the river, it leaves no room for anything other than walking or cycling. On the whole, much of the area is pretty bland. What a waste of waterfront!

Another tree related irk ... I'm sure everyone knows there are lots of unhealthy and slowly dying Norfolk Island Pine Trees on Harbour Esplanade. Why does the council wait until they are dead before replacing them? At this rate I'll be on a walking frame before the whole stretch is in good shape. Rip the Band-Aid off and replace all of the unhealthy trees in one fell swoop rather than stretch the process out over years and years. Please!

Lastly, why are there so many bloody Woolworths in Docklands? At last count we had four Woolworths and one Coles. To say I'm an Aldi lover would be an understatement; I'd marry Aldi if it were a person. Why couldn't at least one of those Woolies have been an Aldi? The universe hates me!

Well that's my first-world-problem rant, which I must say I found very cathartic as you may have been able to tell by all the exclamation marks. I could probably add a few more but too much of anything isn't good. Despite all of that, unforeseen events excluded, I can assure you I plan on living in this wonderful suburb and continuing to enjoy everything it has to offer (including Woolworths) until I die.

Tim



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:  
[NEWS@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:NEWS@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU)

# 飙车问题再度加剧

撰稿: Sean Car

6月19日, 墨尔本市副市长阿伦·伍德(Arron Wood)在Point Park会见了50多名Yarra's Edge的居民, 这是由于解除COVID-19新冠病毒限制后, 该地区的飙车问题越来越多。

虽然在疫情限制禁令期间, 停止了定期的周末汽车和摩托车俱乐部聚会活动, 该问题在Point Park Crescent和South Wharf Drive周围已经基本消失, 但放松限制仅一个月, 此问题再度加剧。

上个月, 副市长、市政街道合规服务部门经理迪恩·罗伯逊(Dean Robertson)和当地警察跟当地愤怒的居民召开了一次会议, 讨论解决这些问题的进一步方案。

副市长伍德强调, 自去年年底以来, 市

政已经在该地区安装了闭路电视摄像头、限速带、禁止停车标志, 并在Point Park周围设置围栏, 试图阻止这些团体在该地区的聚集、超速行驶和飙车。

迪恩·罗伯逊说, 通过安装闭路电视摄像头和加强警力, 给违规行为的司机发出了更多的罚款单, 居民们说这在COVID-19之前是遏制了一些问题。

尽管与会的所有居民都表示非常感谢副市长伍德、市政府和当地警方迄今所做的努力, 但他们表示还需要做更多的工作。

许多人证实了在Lorimer街上定期举行的飙车比赛、深夜引擎加速声以及在40公里/小时的South Wharf大道上超速行驶, 他们说这对街道周围的影响已经变得难以承受。一名居民甚至还指控在邻近的小街上还有毒品交易。



副市长伍德表示, 市政的下一步工作包括与有关汽车团体会面, 鼓励他们在其它地方聚集, 并与维州路政局(VicRoads)和墨尔本港(Port of Melbourne)洽谈将Larimer街的Yarra's Edge沿线速度限制降低至50公里/小时。

他还鼓励任何有意愿的居民, 在他们的公寓里放置一个分贝监测仪器一段时间, 以便为环境保护局(EPA)提供更大的权限, 对超标的发动机噪音污染发出罚款。



# 自行车店 繁忙空前

Docklands 港区的社会企业 Good Cycles自行车商店重新开张以来繁忙空前, 由于经历了疫情的封闭禁令, 使墨尔本人更加倾向于骑自行车了。

撰稿: Meg Hill

越来越多的人选择骑自行车而不是乘坐公共交通, 墨尔本市政宣布了将在市中心修建40公里的新自行车道, 其中包括Latrobe街桥上新的独立自行车道。

Good Cycles商店首席执行官杰森·霍内尔(Jaison Hoemel)表示, 这次的经历改变了商店的运营模式。

霍内尔先生说:“四月份的大部分时间我们都关门了, 因为周围没有人, 但是在五月份重新开门时, 很令人吃惊, 有那么多人上门来修理自行车。”

“我们的营业额回到了原来的70%左右, 对我们来说这是件好事, 而且令人惊讶的是, 以前我们非常依赖在该区域工作的人, 而现在他们却不在了。”

“我想肯定有更多人来自本地Docklands港区的, 以及一些必要的工作人员, 也有很多送货的骑车者来。”

他说, 将骑自行车作为一种安全的交通方式来保持社交距离, 这样大的转变令人振奋。

他说:“令人兴奋的是那些新自行车道的修建投入使用, 以及大多数跟自行车有关的机构, 还有类似我们这样的社会企业, 也能通过我们的业务来创造就业机会。”

# 居民要求新建邮编

一个Yarra's Edge的居民团体散发请愿书, 在河的南边造声势, 试图为该地区建立新的邮政编码3007。

撰稿: Sean Car

请愿书由该地区长期居民基思·萨瑟兰德(Keith Sutherland)和苏·斯坦利(Sue Stanley)发起, 呼吁墨尔本市政给予Yarra's Edge自己的身份, 这样可以解决与其邻居河以北的邮政编码3008之间的混乱。

在线请愿书上写道:“很多人在解释我们这个独特位置时, 会遇到困难或困惑, 因为许多人都把Docklands港区与‘大转盘’或‘Marvel体育馆’联系在一起。”

“当我们在州和联邦选举中投票时, 我们和河对岸的港区居民属于不同的选区。”

该团体表示, 除了采用3007邮政编码以外, 还希望讨论将“Yarra's Edge”更名, 以便“更容易识别和定位”。

萨瑟兰德先生表示, 此举绝不意味着我们这边想要脱离Docklands社区, 实际上这已经在两岸的港区居民中引发了争议。

尽管已经收集了355个签名, 最终目标是1000个, 但是许多Yarra's Edge的居民告诉本报, 他们不同意这个提议。来自反对者阵营的人则猛烈抨击这是一种“傲慢”的举动。

萨瑟兰德先生表示, 该团体的愿望仅仅是为了缓解混乱, 而且随着Fishermans

Bend的Lorimer区域之未来发展, Yarra's Edge作为“Lorimer”区域的一部分更为合理。

他说:“很难描述我们Yarra's Edge的位置, 因为它既不属于Docklands港区, 也不属于South Wharf”。

“许多供应商在使用手机应用程序查找地址时遇到很多困难, 有很多次连Uber出租车都找不到, 却仍然收取10澳元的取消费。”

“目前, 在Yarra's Edge大约有3000名永久居住者, 并且计划再建造5450套公寓, 这意味着将有10000名居民住在Lorimer区域。”



# 历史遗产 翻新再现

撰稿: Meg Hill

经过长期的翻新和改建, 珍贵的历史遗产文物“维多利亚海员之家”(MtSV)大楼焕然一新, 再度展现。

自2019年底以来, 具有1916年西班牙传教复兴建筑风格的MtSV大楼经历了期待已久的翻修。施工脚手架覆盖了大楼标志性的正面, 楼里房间都被封闭。

疫情禁令期间加快了翻修进度, MtSV大楼现在已准备就绪, 重新开放。

MtSV首席经理苏·迪格特(Sue Dight)说:“我们明智地利用了这段时间, 确保一切都被粉刷、整洁、更新, 并对大楼里的几个地方重新考虑翻新。”

在Vera Moore信托基金的资助下, 我们已经将行李室改建成新的档案房间, 为此购买了新的地板、储藏设备, 包括移动储藏架、艺术品储藏装置和房间的百叶窗, 还配置了新的锁和电脑, 保证信息和物品的安全。”

MtSV还得到了墨尔本市政的拨款, 得

以更换破旧的舞台幕布。更换了楼内祈祷堂的窗户玻璃, 并修复了有裂缝或不匹配的窗户。

迪格特女士说:“最引人注目的是脚手架拆除了, 大楼的整个正面都被装饰一新。”

“看上去非常壮观, 上面有一层反涂油漆, 我们希望不再看到过去的损坏。”

“我们正在利用拨款修复正面的纪念碑牌, 还更换了一块新的。我们的志愿者莫琳(Maureen)正在重新种植那些当时不得已移除的花草, 牧师因尼(Inni)也参与重新铺设庭院路面。”

迪格特女士说, 在过去的几个月里, 我们通过MtSV的支持者和政府疫情保工补助方案, 得以聘用我们的团队继续工作。没有这两个支持, 很难保证每个人都能继续工作。

迪格特女士表示, 对于海上工作人员来说, 我们MtSV一直履行对必要的海上工作人员的支持, 这些人员在这次疫情流行期间经受了“非人的”的经历。

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