

# DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P22



Lighting up Docklands  
Photo by Maria Vasileva

The annual Firelight Festival is coming to Docklands once again for three nights between June 30 and July 2, bringing the best of the city's visual and live entertainment to warm up the winter weekend. *Full story on page 7.*

## “A great outcome”: Concerns heard as new Docklands Primary campus to include play space

*After strong pressure from the school community, a new campus for the at-capacity Docklands Primary will feature play areas for students.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
EDUCATION

The new Docklands Primary School campus located within a nearby shopping centre will feature space designated for play, in what has been called a “great outcome” for students and teachers.

The State government’s move to include a small sports court, climbing wall and room for free play was a “direct response” to concerns about the number of times children would travel back and forth from the main school campus.

Without the play areas, it was feared students would need to walk about 200 metres before and after both recess and lunch periods plus specialist classes, creating potential safety issues and placing added stress onto teaching staff. Concerned parents said original plans for the repurposed retail space at The District Docklands did not address their worries, as reported by *Docklands News*.

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## Development at District Docklands set to feature “biggest escalator in Australia”

*A local development is set to break an Australian and Southern Hemisphere record.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PLANNING

A new Docklands development featuring an Australian-record 47-metre escalator has been approved by the City of Melbourne.

The “massive” escalator would be part of a \$340 million dual-tower development within The District Docklands precinct, which is set to feature a hotel, serviced apartments and office space.

Up until 2022, Melbourne’s Parliament Station held the record for the longest single-span uninterrupted escalator in Australia at 30 metres long, which was overtaken by the recently opened Airport Central station in Perth (35 metres), but will next year be surpassed by Sydney’s Central Station (45 metres).

However, developer Capital Alliance is aiming to snatch the mantle in 2026 with a 47-metre moving staircase, should its new project at 28-38 Pearl River Rd be approved by the Victorian Planning Minister.

Perhaps most striking, and unlike the previous record holders, the escalator will sit on the exterior of the building, drawing comparisons to notable European structures.

Deputy Lord Mayor and council planning chair Nicholas Reece said the “massive” escalator was without doubt the “highlight” of the proposed development.

“I must say, as soon as I saw it, it did remind me of the Pompidou Centre in Paris,” he said at a June 6 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“I’m sure it’s going to become a drawcard in Melbourne. We’re the



biggest city in Australia now, and we’ve now got the biggest escalator in Australia to prove it. Indeed, we’ve got the biggest escalator in the Southern Hemisphere — what bragging rights!”

The external escalator is to face Pearl River Rd and extend from level 4 to 14 before reaching a large 1000-person function centre that would span across both towers.

Urban Planning Collective (UPCo) director Kel Twite, acting on behalf of Capital Alliance, said the unique escalator design was given “very careful consideration” by the project’s architects SJB.

“It’s fair to say that is a key design element in the building, and I guess it’s deliberately on the exterior of the building and a bit loud and proud if you like,” he told councillors.

“But it’s used to deliver access to the function space within the building, together with what is a publicly accessible bar etc. within the hotel component of the building. So, it is very much not intended to be utilitarian as such, but a key design element, and it’s something the design team has given very careful consideration to since the inception.”

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The District Docklands

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## Development at The District set to feature “biggest escalator in Australia”

Continued from page 1.

The development itself would include an 11- to 13-storey southern tower, and its 23- to 26-storey northern counterpart, with a maximum height of 96 metres, and large arched brickwork on the ground level.

It would contain 210 hotel rooms, 133 serviced apartments and almost 3500sqm of office space and, in addition to a level-17 public bar, would also feature a beauty salon and wellness centre.

Much like the recently completed Marriott Hotel (also built by Capital Alliance) less than 200 metres away, the proposed development would also feature an infinity pool.

Mr Twite said the development would make a positive impact on “what is a pretty ordinary site in the existing streetscape”, an assessment Cr Reece agreed with.

“The site itself is quite a challenging one,” the Deputy Lord Mayor said of the plot that sits opposite Docklands Studios.



“It’s quite narrow and small by Docklands standards, but I do commend the applicant and architects for coming up with an outstanding design which delivers lots of functions in the form of a hotel, offices, apartments. [It] cleverly cantilevers out towards some of the surrounding sites, and overall delivers a really interesting building for Docklands, which I think will become a real landmark.”

Cr Jamal Hakim, a local resident, commended the designs and the “continued investment in Docklands”.

“That site does need something interesting, so it’s great to see the interesting design here,” he said.

“We’re seeing a change in demographics in Docklands with more families, particularly

from migrant backgrounds. And with a strong visitor and entertainment district, and such easy access to the city ... it’s making it a great place to live and stay.”

Capital Alliance has said it was “looking forward to opening to the public in 2026”, should Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny approve the plans. ●



David Schout  
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# Join the West Gate Tunnel Project Community Liaison Group



We are seeking community representatives from Footscray, Docklands and Spotswood to join the West Gate Tunnel Project Community Liaison Group (CLG).

As part of the CLG, you will have an invaluable opportunity to learn more about the Project, share valuable community insight to the project team and help us keep the community informed of any key developments.

To find out more, including the Terms of Reference and to express your interest, visit the project website [westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/clg](http://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/clg)

Expressions of interest close on Friday 14 July.

1012



# A big tick for water gardens

*Rain! Rain! Rain! There's a lot of it that falls on the floodplains of Fishermans Bend and the nearby residential areas of Yarra's Edge.*

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
ENVIRONMENT

Last month the City of Melbourne held a meeting with residents to talk about the role of water gardens.

This month masters degree student Andreas Baruhas is clearing up a few misconceptions.

Residents were surprised to discover that at least a dozen water gardens already exist alongside the Yarra's Edge developments.

Water gardens are sunken gardens that deal with run-off from hard surfaces and support plants such as reeds, but they have a much larger purpose in the control of floods.

After the meeting, residents told *Docklands News* that the gardens were more likely to foster weeds and "almost invite rubbish".

"No-one knows about them," one resident said. "Some are totally empty."

An experiment in the industrial precinct of Turner St next to the new bicycle path is trying to solve those problems and change community perspectives.

The City of Melbourne is funding a remix garden project by University of Melbourne students to improve the sustainability, maintenance, and appearance of water gardens.

"Rain gardens are seen around Docklands as sunken gardens," Andreas told *Docklands News*. "People don't know about their purpose."

At the macro level, water gardens can be scaled up to compensate for the huge increase in impervious surfaces on the Yarra River floodplains.

"Soil particles can fill with water," Andreas



▲ Andreas Baruhas checking on the Turner St remix experiment.

said. "It makes a difference and reduces the amount of a flood. Water also evaporates from plants. A lot of little things help. They can help mitigate flooding."

At the micro level, experiments are being conducted to find the best plants, the most sustainable substrate, and a way of using soil moisture sensors.

"From a maintenance perspective it's time consuming to go around [to sites]. How can we use data?"

"There's a good message about the survival of plants. Carex is the hero of the story. It has an expansive root system that does a good job of filtering nitrogen."

Other plants are being tested as companions in terms of their tolerance to inundation. "It's hard to get it right," he admitted.

Contaminated water has been carted in to simulate the conditions of run-off and the removal of nitrogen can be measured. Different sorts of gravels from construction sites and repurposed sands are also being tested.

He said that the use of data and signage can help gain community acceptance. "If you get buy-in from the community you can get them to do some of the maintenance."

With the development planned for Fishermans Bend and the huge increase in impervious systems, water gardens are one of the tools that can be installed at the outset. The project will also test the ability to scale up.

For those critical of the maintenance of the gardens installed beside Point Park, basically the gardens are doing their job and draining away water in flood-prone areas. ●



▲ A water garden at Point Park.



Rhonda Dredge  
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# “A great outcome”: Concerns heard as new Docklands Primary campus to include play space

*Continued from page 1.*

However Northern Metropolitan Region MP Sheena Watt announced on June 8, alongside school council members, that a better outcome had been reached and a “fantastic play space” would be part of the new campus.

Parent Mary Masters said it was a good result after serious concerns that learning outcomes would be compromised by the move.

“We’re so pleased for the school and so pleased for the kids, it’s a great outcome for them. It’s space to grow and learn and become the big humans that we’re hoping that they will become,” Ms Masters said.

“It means we won’t have to move the kids to and from the main campus ... moving them back and forth for every specialist class; for library, for PE, for lunchtime and recess, that eats into their learning time, and the teachers’ [teaching] time.”

When announcing the new campus in March, the government had planned to commence classes there from the beginning of term three on July 12.

However, Ms Watt confirmed that the campus was now expected to open by the end of term, with works to start “soon”.

It is expected that the new campus will house senior primary school students (Grades Five and Six), although that was yet to be confirmed by the Department of Education.

The Department was forced to find a new home for students after it underestimated enrolment numbers at the school, which opened in 2021.

The school’s main campus, located at the corner of Footscray Rd and Little Docklands Drive, has already reached its 525-student capacity. With around 100 prep students starting each year, Docklands Primary could soon have more than 700 pupils.

The new seven-classroom campus was set to hold a maximum of 225 students.

“It’s great for the kids,” Susan Blayney, a member of the school council, said of the announced play space.



▲ Left to right: Mary Masters, Sheena Watt, Susan Blayney and Rakhi Sanghvi celebrate the addition of play space at the new Docklands Primary School campus in June.

“The teachers as well, and the safety of them all being together here ... it’s a stand-alone campus, so they can stay here all day, do all their classes here and teachers aren’t commuting them backwards and forwards anymore, so it’s safer for them and the teachers.”

Another school council member, Rakhi Sanghvi, added: “It takes pressure off the main campus, too. With extra kids going there, there’s no room.”

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the announcement was “great news for the



*We’re so pleased for the school and so pleased for the kids, it’s a great outcome for them.*



local community”.

The Department has signed a five-year lease for the empty retail space, with an option to extend the agreement beyond 2028.

It said the shopping centre campus was required on a temporary basis until additional capacity was generated within the local network of new nearby schools; firstly, a newly opened North Melbourne Primary School campus and the future development of additional primary schools within Fishermans Bend. ●

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# The new cafe with a heartfelt mission to empower women

*Meals With Impact has just wrapped up its fourth week as a social enterprise café in Docklands and is looking forward to continuing to provide for the community while simultaneously helping to empower women in work.*

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
COMMUNITY

As a social enterprise, Meals With Impact exists for the purpose of creating systemic change against discriminatory recruitment practices that maintain barriers for women from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

All purchase proceeds are then directed into growing Meals With Impact and its mission that has stood firm since its inception in 2021.

Co-founded by Nikki Blanch and Harris Ryan, the purpose-led business started out as an employment-based food relief program aimed at meeting the needs of women in public housing estates who were unable to find work.

The project, which began during the pandemic, was funded by the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative.

Due to the program's significant outcomes, it was extended from six months to 12 months, and employed 14 women from culturally diverse backgrounds who produced around 26,000 meals for local food relief programs.

"After the 12 months, we found it to be such a positive experience for the women and saw such growth in them that we were inspired to keep it going as a social enterprise," Ms Blanch told *Docklands News*.

"The cafe provides a safe and familiar starting point for the women who may have never



worked before due to raising large families or experiencing significant barriers to getting into work in Australia," she said.

"Our main mission is to empower women through hands-on paid work and to develop their skills and self-confidence. We have researched and developed a number of relevant training models using a number of replicable industries, yet opening a cafe was the best scenario to establish a safe and nurturing environment that is relatable and relevant to the employees' job goals."

Women who come to work at the industry-standard cafe are trained by qualified chefs with industry experience, and are encouraged

to create traditional cuisines that represent their heritage and culture.

During their work experience, employees are taken through worker's rights seminars, industry-relevant induction and OH&S training, where they are mentored and supported in learning their roles and responsibilities as an employee.

In addition to noticing Meals With Impact's mission being lived out when walking into the cafe, behind the scenes it is also helping to support its exclusive coffee partner Ageyo Coffee, which works directly with the cafe.

From the price of every fair trade and ethical cup of coffee purchased at the cafe, one dollar is

sent directly to supporting the education of the children of women in Ageyo, a village within the Jimma region of Ethiopia, who work on the coffee farm.

These small, yet impactful, choices are to the credit of the Meals With Impact's hard working and committed team, each with critical roles in helping create change.

As well as its co-founders, chief operating officer Rachael Hua, pathways coordinator Talaska Despotellis, executive chef Andrew Hunt, and peer mentor Khalida Rahim are there every step of the way to help new employees feel welcome, safe and comfortable.

Meals With Impact is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 3pm for food and coffee, with the afternoon left open till 5pm for meetings and events.

The cafe is also looking at expanding its offerings of hot meals and salad mixes, its food relief service, and its full catering menu, with the addition of a culturally diverse ready-made meals range to take home and enjoy.

Meals With Impact is part of the Collins Square precinct and can be found at the corner of Batmans Hill Drive and Collins St.

To keep up to date with all that is happening, and to enquire about events or the catering menu, head online to Meals With Impact's website. ●

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



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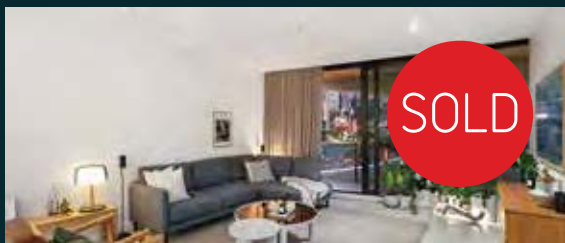
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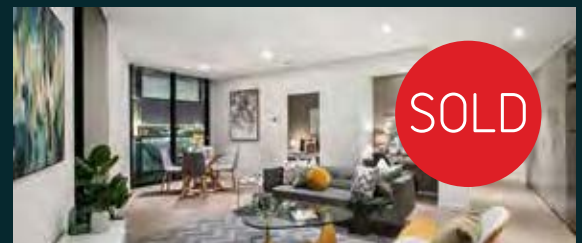
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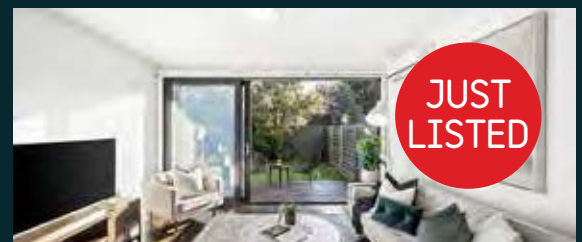
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# Council cutting consultant costs, but won't review relationship with PwC

*The City of Melbourne is cutting costs on consultants but won't reassess future contracts with PwC Australia in the wake of the tax leak scandal.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

From January to May this year the council paid PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia \$369,000 for its expertise on a number of separate projects, which included an internal audit and risk review.

The global consulting firm has been a key external resource for the City of Melbourne in recent years, and in 2020, conducted modelling on the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the city.

However, recent revelations showed the firm's Australia senior partners misused confidential government information to help big multinational companies avoid paying more tax, and is now subject to a police investigation.

While the scandal has made international headlines, it has also raised questions on how heavy a reliance governments — from federal to local

— should have on private consultants to formulate policy.

And while the Reserve Bank of Australia and some of the country's biggest superannuation funds have either frozen or are reviewing future work contracts with the accounting giant, the council did not say it would do the same when contacted by *Docklands News*.

The council did, however, say it was committed to a continued effort to cut consultant expenditure.

Twelve months ago, in the 2022-23 budget, the council said its post-COVID recovery would see less reliance on consultants as part of a "concerted effort to source in-house expertise".

"We are also using council resources in a more cost-effective manner, relying less on agency staff and reducing consultant costs expenditure," it said, adding it would shave \$1.4 million off its annual expenditure.

And now, as part of the 2023-24 draft budget, the council has said it will reduce costs by \$1.8 million in the next 12 months.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson told *Docklands News* that agency costs would also drop by \$2.6 million over the next year.

This comes after the draft budget, expected to be adopted at the June 20 special Future Melbourne Committee meeting, revealed the council's deficit was set to increase from \$11 million to \$17 million and a predicted return to surplus pushed back by two years. ●

# Council stands with Ukraine, cuts ties with Russian city

*Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the decision was "not taken lightly" as the council ended a 34-year relationship.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has terminated its sister city relationship with St Petersburg in protest against "Russia's continued armed aggression in Ukraine".

Councillors unanimously backed the move to cut ties with the Russian port city and so finishing a partnership dating back to 1989.

After initially suspending the relationship in March 2022 shortly after Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the council moved to permanently end the associations at the May 30 council meeting.

"Coming to this conclusion really reflects the depths of concern and also the sense that it is unacceptable what's happening in Ukraine, and we need to take a public stand on our approach to that," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"Importantly, I think this motion this evening sends a very, very clear signal that we do stand with the people of Ukraine and that we condemn all acts of war and violence and aggression."

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, who has previously travelled to St Petersburg and called it a "wonderful city", said while councillors made the decision "with a heavy heart" it was a necessary move.

"[It's] what we believe is a potent symbol of our outrage at the atrocities [that] have been perpetuated on the people of Ukraine," he said.

Cr Rohan Leppert said while he wholly endorsed the move, he "struggled" with what it meant for Melbourne's Russian population who were against the war.

"This isn't only a matter of symbolism. This isn't only a matter of condemning the atrocities, which we all do unequivocally. It's the cessation of a decades-long relationship between the people of Melbourne — including the Russian diaspora — and the people of St Petersburg," he said.

"There's many reasons why you might be part of a diaspora, and oftentimes it's because you disagree with



▲ Ukrainian expats and supporters urging the City of Melbourne to end its sister city relationship with St Petersburg.

the regime you're fleeing, or you have familial ties along that theme. And I believe very strongly that much of, if not the vast majority of the Russian diaspora right here in Melbourne condemns the war in Ukraine every bit as much as we are right now."

He said the decision should not be taken as disrespect to the work of the Melburg Association in Melbourne, or "peace-loving people of St Petersburg and Russia who live in Melbourne now".

The Russian Embassy in Australia said in an online post that the move "diminishes the standing of Melbourne as the cultural heart of Australia".

"Punished by this act of empty virtue signalling over Ukraine are, in fact, Melburnians," it said.

"It appears that the City Council has ceded to arms twisting from a few dozen of pro-Ukrainian activists."

The City of Melbourne almost cut ties with the city in 2014-15, over a spate of homophobic attacks at that time.

However, it was convinced by Russians living in Melbourne to maintain the ties.

According to the council, sister city partnerships generally strengthen economic and cultural ties, and many of its current agreements are long-standing.

The municipality's official connection with the Japanese city of Osaka, for example, has now reached its 45th year.

The City of Melbourne's five sister cities are: Osaka (partnership formed in 1978), Tianjin (1980), Thessaloniki (1984), Boston (1985) and Milan (2004).

It is also a "partner" city to Nanjing and Bandung. ●

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# Firelight Festival set to warm your winter blues

*The annual Firelight Festival is coming to Docklands once again for three nights between June 30 and July 2, bringing the best of Melbourne’s visual and live entertainment to warm up the winter weekend.*

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*  
EVENTS

Following last year’s record-breaking festival, the 2023 Firelight is part of the City of Melbourne’s \$28.2 million investment for events, festivals and experiences.

This year’s instalment will see a jam-packed program of free entertainment featuring light installations, live music, and roaming performers.

The festival is expected to attract more than 105,000 people to the area, with Lord Mayor Sally Capp saying it would be Docklands’ “biggest and brightest Firelight Festival” to date.

“We’re bringing together some of Melbourne’s top performers to showcase their talent and flair, providing a dazzling line-up of fiery eats and free entertainment across three nights,” Cr Capp said.

The event will feature more than 125 different artists and performers and more than 30 food vendors to satisfy winter cravings, from wood-fired pizzas to spiced mulled wine and hot chocolate.

The festival is expected to inject \$8.3 million into the economy and support more than 400

jobs throughout the weekend.

The council’s city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell said that attendance had increased by almost 40 per cent since the festival’s launch in 2017, “showing events continue to be a strong drawcard for visitors”.

“We’re proud to deliver Firelight once again – driving waves of visitors to Docklands and supporting hundreds of local business owners,” Cr Campbell said.

Activities and performances will be spread out across Docklands with the main events located around NewQuay Promenade, Harbour Esplanade and Victoria Harbour Promenade.

The Docklands’ waterfront will also be lined with 40 fire pits and drums, 35 flame jets, two fire sculptures and Firelight arches.

For the second year in a row, the festival will also be a carbon neutral certified event.

“Winter is a magical and marvellous time

in Melbourne,” Cr Capp said. “Our free events calendar is one of the many ways we’re encouraging people to join in on the fun.”

Visitors can expect to see a diverse range of live performances from DJs and hip-hop dancers to roving circus performers and fire twirlers. There will also be laser and light shows illuminating the winter night sky over Victoria Harbour.

The festival will be open from 5pm until 10.30pm on Friday and Saturday, and 5pm until 10pm on Sunday. Bookings are not required, and all entertainment and attractions are free, excluding food and beverage. ●

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

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## Celebrate NAIDOC Week at Melbourne Quarter

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
COMMUNITY

In honour and celebration of NAIDOC Week, urban neighbourhood Melbourne Quarter has arranged for a multitude of First Nations' artworks and designs to be on display.

During the special week, which takes place from July 2 to July 9, Gunpowder Walk will have a free art installation for all to admire and appreciate.

The work has been designed and created by Woi-Wurrung Wurundjeri and Yorta-Yorta fashion designer and fine artist Alinta Koehrer who is one to watch when it comes to excelling at her own unique style in Aboriginal art.

First Nations fashion label Ngali, which is located on Aurora Lane in the precinct, also has many stories of Country to share through the works on display in the studio.

The for-profit social enterprise is renowned for translating inspiring and gifted First Nations' paintings, photography, and creations onto timeless clothing and collectibles.

In addition to the art on display, and the creative creations within Ngali, visitors to Melbourne Quarter will also notice a change in furniture throughout the precinct.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander not-for-profit company Centre for Appropriate Tech have designed colourful chairs and tables inspired by the Fairywren bird, known as the Muruduwin to the local Eora and Darug people of the Sydney basin. ●

# Night-time's fine, daytime's not: new committee to bridge city's economic gap



*With the council's "night-time economy" committee set to lapse, it has shifted focus to boosting daytime trade.*



WORDS BY *David Schout*  
ECONOMY

The City of Melbourne is set to create a new committee focused on boosting the city's 9am to 5pm economy, which continues to struggle in the post-COVID era.

As Melbourne's night-time economy thrives, the council has created a "City Economy Advisory Committee" to advise on the challenges facing daytime trade, and bridge the gap between the two.

The move, which was expected to be endorsed at a June 27 council meeting, comes as new research further revealed a gap between the two economies.

New inflation-adjusted data revealed that night-time spending was 12 per cent higher in April 2023 compared with April 2019.

Conversely, spending during business hours in April 2023 was 15 per cent below April 2019.

The research also showed that morning commuter activity (between 6am and 9am) at Flinders St was currently at around 60 per cent of the pre-COVID benchmark.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was determined to bring those figures closer together.

"Melbourne's economy after dark is booming and our night-time traders are reaping the rewards," she said.

"[However] we know Melbourne's rhythm has changed, and we want to cement Melbourne as a true 24-hour city – giving all of our traders the opportunity to grow and succeed."

"Our new City Economy Advisory Committee will look to capitalise on our city's night-time successes – giving locals and visitors more reasons to come in early and stay late, making a full day and night of it in the city."

Despite the rising cost of mortgage repayments and rent across the nation, Melbourne's visitor economy continues to return strong numbers.

However, the wide adoption of a hybrid working model since the pandemic, which sees employees work some days in the office and some at home, has impacted certain businesses throughout the city.

A report from management to council spelled out the difficulties faced: "There is a strong symbiotic relationship between small businesses in 'amenity' sectors such as retail, hospitality, personal services (e.g., dry cleaning) and office-based sectors such as financial services, professional services, information

technology/telecommunications and public administration," it read.

"An active, 'buzzy' city is attractive to office workers, while office workers are also key customers for amenity businesses."

The permanency of these shifts remained a key question as to the future of the city's daytime economy, as spelled out in the report: "Are current patterns of work a temporary legacy of the pandemic or are they a 'new normal'?" it asked.

The council's City Activation portfolio chair Cr Roshena Campbell said a renewed focused was needed.

"We're delighted that pedestrian activity in key night-time precincts continues to exceed pre-pandemic levels, but we know the city's nine-to-five rhythm has not fully recovered," she said.

"It is vital we do everything we can to ensure our weekday economy rebounds and grows by driving visitation to the city."

In late 2020 the council established a "Night-Time Economy Advisory Committee" as a COVID-19 measure to prop up an ailing arts, hospitality and live music sector.

The committee in its current form was set to lapse on June 30 as it had "now largely served its purpose", however was set to be replaced with periodic "deep dive" roundtable discussions rather than regular committee meetings.

These "topic-specific" half-day gathering would be held two to three times annually and focus specifically on, for example, live music, noise, or city safety.

"I'm proud of the role the committee has played in providing expertise and advice to boost the city's economy after dark," chair Penny Miles said.

"This new approach of in-depth roundtables will ensure the industry can work through some of our biggest challenges and opportunities to continue to build on the spectacular night-time momentum." ●

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# King's Birthday Honours

## Alice Pebay appointed AM for her significant service to science

*Docklands resident Professor Alice Pebay said she was "overwhelmed with joy" after being acknowledged and appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in this year's King's Birthday honours.*

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Prof. Pebay is a principal research fellow of surgery, anatomy and physiology and a professor of the Departments of Neuroscience, Anatomy and Surgery at the University of Melbourne.

She received the recognition due to her significant service to science, particularly in her work in stem cell and neuroscience research.

"In my current position of professor, I am leading research aimed at providing new experimental models to understand various human diseases," she told *Docklands News*.

"I have a particular interest in conditions that affect the eye, such as age-related macular degeneration, as well as neurodegenerative



disorders of the brain like Alzheimer's disease."

Before holding her current positions, Prof. Pebay was a principal research fellow of ophthalmology, a principal investigator, and head of the Centre for Eye Research Australia's Regeneration Unit.

Speaking about the recognition, Prof. Pebay said she was "incredibly surprised when I received the news of the award."

"I was filled with deep gratitude towards the individuals who have supported me throughout my journey; those who believed in my abilities, my mentors who provided guidance, and the various communities I have worked with that have offered their unwavering support," she said.

"It is a humbling experience to know that someone within the community deemed our work worthy of such an honour. As a migrant to Australia, receiving this award adds an extra dimension, as it also acknowledges the journey, I have undertaken to make an impact in a community of my choice."

Prof. Pebay migrated to Australia in 2001 after obtaining a PhD in neuroscience from the University of Paris.

Upon moving, she came to Melbourne to join a research group at Monash University, where she embarked on the study of human pluripotent stem cells, something she described as "a burgeoning field of research at the time".

Looking back on her remarkable career, Prof. Pebay said "being a medical researcher is not merely a job – it is a deep-rooted passion".

Since she was a child, Prof. Pebay has been driven by a desire to help others, and as time went on, she found the best way she could contribute was through comprehending

disease mechanisms and developing strategies to prevent or treat these conditions.

"I chose to become a medical researcher due to my curious mind and my desire to contribute to a better world," she said.

"The science of life, encompassing biology and its diverse aspects such as evolution and physiology, has always fascinated me. Understanding biology is, to me, a way of gaining a deeper understanding of our place in the world."

"Asking challenging questions and finding ways to answer them can have a profound impact on disease treatment, making medical research an indispensable component of a healthy society and an integral part of our societal fabric."

In addition to her research, Prof. Pebay also helps people to understand science to help prevent manipulation by unfounded opinions or fake news.

"I consider it one of my primary responsibilities to advocate for science and explain its concepts to the broader community," Prof. Pebay said. "By doing so, science ceases to be abstract and becomes accessible, empowering society with knowledge, strength, and informed choices." ●

## Long-term Automotive Centre for Excellence staff member awarded OAM

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

Kangan Institute's Bev Williams has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her dedication to connecting students to work and apprenticeship opportunities in the automotive industry.

Ms Williams has worked within the Docklands Automotive Centre for Excellence at Kangan Institute for the past 20 years.

In her role as industry pathways and placement coordinator, she has helped more than 1000 students break into the automotive industry and supported them through their foundational studies.

"I feel really humbled; I wasn't expecting it at all," Ms Williams said of the award, which came as part of

the King's Birthday 2023 honours list.

"I'm just somebody going about my day-to-day job."

Ms Williams said that her role included meeting with the students "one-on-one" to work out what they wanted to achieve in their automotive careers.

She then helps them with resumes and cover letters and assists in connecting them with opportunities for their specific field of interest within the industry.

"The value of my role is outcomes. For students, it's giving them an outcome," Ms Williams said.

"Some young people have no idea how to apply for an apprenticeship or what to do."

Ms Williams' dedication and appreciation for the evolving nature of employer's needs has also seen her

working with mature age students who are entering the automotive industry or wanting to change career paths.

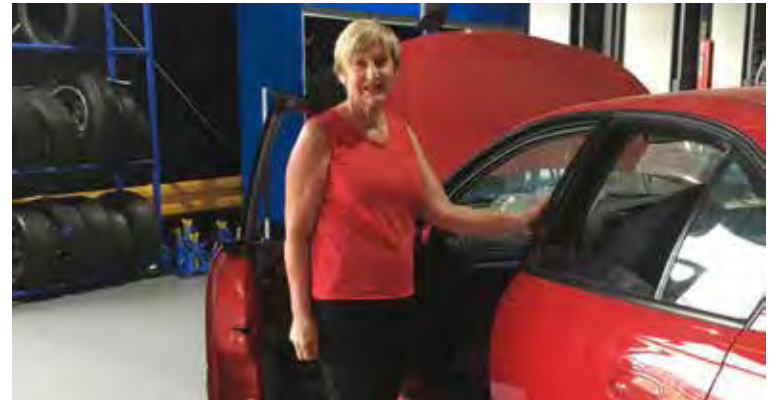
"The biggest thing I've noticed that's changed a lot is that employers are now more open to mature age apprentices and workers," Ms Williams said.

"They can see the value of life experience, with mature people more ready and committed to their new career path."

Despite having been presented the Women in Industry's Social Leader of the Year Award in 2017 in addition to her latest recognition, Ms Williams defines her success by more than just accolades.

"I see my role as a 'connector'," she said.

"The students are looking for a



pathway and the employers are looking for staff - if I connect them, I'm successful."

As part of her role, Ms Williams said she was now focusing on working with international students to

connect them to employment opportunities across Melbourne.

"With technology changing all the time, there are many opportunities and pathways available in the automotive industry." ●

## Glenn Harvey answers your legal questions

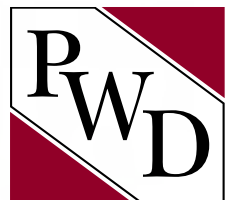
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## Steam Tug *Wattle* celebrates its 90th with a big birthday bash



WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Anna Komissarova*

Docklands' very own important piece of Maritime Heritage, the Steam Tug *Wattle*, spent the weekend celebrating its triumphant journey to 90 years old, with a crowd of people in attendance.

The birthday bash took place on North Wharf, on Sunday, June 25, and Captain Rob Anderson described the day as a "great success for *Wattle*, and the team of volunteers".

"Despite the terribly cold wind, it was great to see so many new faces, and we were all very happy and reassured by the interest shown by children," he said.

"I hope to be able to continue to attract their interest in the future, and once the restoration work is completed, and *Wattle* becomes operational again, I am very sure we will be carrying the same number of

interested passengers who journeyed on *Wattle* 10 years ago."

In the lead up to the big celebration, children in Grade one at Docklands Primary School also made a large number of birthday cards and posters that were hung up on the day.

"The artwork from the Dockland Primary School children was a very big success and we are all very grateful for their efforts," Capt. Anderson said.

"Many people commented on the display and I think I did a pretty good job pegging all 200 pegs up on the display mesh - there were quite a lot of them! At the end of the day I took them down and I will put them into a large binder to be kept for the future."

On the day, the Steam Tug *Wattle*'s steam engine was running, there was smoke from the tall funnel, and its whistle and siren made for quite an exciting spectacle. ●

*Continue reading online*

## Local wood sculptor continues to highlight nature through abstract art

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ARTS & CULTURE

After moving into Docklands as part of the Renew Docklands shopfront activation program, artist and sculptor Lucas Guilbert is leaving the lights of his studio on permanently following the initiative's end.

Originally from Canada, the wood sculptor found his home in Docklands after NewQuay developer MAB Corporation, the City of Melbourne, and Renew Australia partnered to create the program which helped him find the "perfect space" he wanted.

Mr Guilbert's work can commonly be described as abstract or fine art, and he excels in both outdoor and indoor sculptures.

The majority of his work is "nature inspired", and Mr Guilbert said he was really interested in the relationship between the wild and tamed, and the civilised and natural.

"I try to bring nature into our lives through my art," he said.

Since joining the program in late 2022, Mr Guilbert has found the process of opening the studio rewarding, telling *Docklands News* that the reception he had received had been "super friendly and welcoming".

"I did wonder what it would be like to be in this part of the city, but I have had a lot of locals coming by," he said.

"The space has become more like a showroom where people can come and see what I do and how I work, and then if they want a particular work made bigger or smaller, I can make it for them."

The studio is not your typical polished, white-walled gallery, but Mr Guilbert wouldn't have it any other way.

"This is where I sculpt and also where I exhibit my sculptures, and part of my ethos for the space was to make it real because art isn't clean or organised, it goes in waves," he said.

"At times it's very polished, my sculptures are lit, and it's clean, and at other times you walk in and there are half finished sculptures, and wood chips on the ground; it is about trying to find this strange middle ground of



▲ Lucas Guilbert in his studio.

Photo: Katrina Loprete

being an attractive yet real space."

No matter what Mr Guilbert is working on, he wants Docklanders and visitors to know that the door is always open, and he is always happy to pre-organise a meeting.

A section of the studio can also be accommodated for any local artists interested in having somewhere to explore their own artistic style, and Mr Guilbert is currently considering requests.

"There is so much talent in our nation, and in our suburb, and I am eager to showcase it in my studio," he said.

As for his own wood sculptures, while the studio acts as a showroom, his website also showcases many of his works.

The Lucas Guilbert studio can be found at Retail 0008, Escala, 381 Docklands Drive. ●

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

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# Engineering the systems that we all rely on

*SYPAQ CEO and aerospace engineer Amanda Holt's passion for careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) is palpable.*

WORDS BY Sean Car

FEATURE - INNOVATION IN FISHERMANS BEND

Having led the privately-owned Fishermans Bend based engineering company SYPAQ since 2015, Ms Holt continues to use her position to advocate for pathways into STEM among the next generation. But, perhaps most significantly, it's her experience, belief, and passion as both an engineer and a business leader that is inspiring more women to pursue opportunities in the field – a role she takes very seriously.

"I think one of the things we all [as women] underestimate early in our career is the importance of visibility," she said. "That's what I spend a lot of time on – public speaking, doing things on panels and the rest – just so that people can see different ways of doing things."

"What I'm really optimistic about is that every time I do that there's someone far brighter and more interesting in the room than I am that will put their hand up next time ... thinking 'I'll give it a go!' I think the more of that we see, the better for everyone."

But while she described herself as a "great big nerd" as a child who was focused on getting 100 per cent on her maths and physics tests, being surrounded by science at home from a young age meant she was always destined for a career in STEM.

As an 11-year-old, she said she already knew that she wanted to be an aerospace engineer, recounting Christmas lunches solving maths problems with family members, some of whom had backgrounds in physics and biochemistry.

However, when it came time to pursue her dreams at university, she was able to identify something which in many ways is the undercurrent of the government of today's ambition for co-locating innovation and advanced manufacturing in Fishermans Bend. In addition to studying her area of passion, aerospace engineering, she concurrently completed a business degree – a combination she hoped would make her valuable to future employers.

"I had identified back then that most of us working in the particularly nerdy, rocket science type spaces often aren't focused on other business aspects such as leading people or managing finances," she said.

"It was really the combination of both of those elements that has really seen me work through the career path that I have."

Having gone on to work in a number of roles across Australian organisations and multinationals, it was 15 years ago when Ms Holt joined SYPAQ – a company founded in 1992 by former air force communications engineer George Vicino.



From keeping planes in the sky and developing our national defence infrastructure, to providing essential software and cyber security solutions for government and business, SYPAQ's work, in so many ways, is all around us ... just perhaps without us knowing!

What began as a family-owned business, SYPAQ last year celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary having transformed from being a predominantly services-based company to one also now heavily invested in research and development (R&D), particularly in the areas of autonomous and remote sensing systems.

Describing these technologies as SYPAQ's "sweet spot", Ms Holt said they were areas which were now evolving into unique integrated artificial intelligence lab development and mission experimentation with its largest client – the Department of Defence.

But Defence isn't the only federal government department SYPAQ works with. At the other end of the spectrum, it provides its second largest client, Services Australia, with the critical systems that support essential services such as Centrelink and Disaster Recovery Payments.

"Whether it's payment platforms for making sure everyone gets paid their pension on time and correctly calculated, or whether it's the electronic systems that's making sure an aeroplane stays in the sky – the underlying discipline is the same," Ms Holt said.

SYPAQ, which stands for "systems, projects and quality", has now grown into a company with around 230 staff across Australia, the majority of which are either based in Canberra or at its headquarters here in Melbourne's Fishermans Bend.

The core members of its team come from an aerospace or a software engineering background, but their diverse range of talents extend to everything from material scientists, data analysts and architects, to mechanical engineers, cyber security specialists and flight operations experts.

With Ms Holt having overseen much of the company's growth during her seven years as CEO, she said the decision to leverage its "incredible engineering talent" by investing in the development of its own intellectual property (IP) had been central to SYPAQ's rapid rise.

"About 10 years ago the business reached a scale where we were being invited into what we used to call troubled project remediation," she said.

"Now we were paid very well for that work,



but it wasn't IP that was reusable, you couldn't tell anyone exactly what you did so it wasn't the appropriate way to scale the business."

"We had a look at where our standing was in the market and had a look at the resources we had on board. So, rather than being purely services we could move into product and solution provision as well."

"We went and sought out some international partners who had some really unique technologies that we thought were relevant to the Australian market to give us the opportunity to learn to sell a product or solution into defence and emergency services."

"That gave us the confidence that, as a business, the customer would take us seriously and that then gave us the confidence to become the business we are today which is very much building out products and services informed through our R&D investments."

As an "incredibly exciting space to be working in", Ms Holt said it was why she was such a big advocate for careers in STEM, "because you know that the problem is always changing, and technology is evolving."

"You're never going to work on the same problem that you worked on five years ago because the world has moved on," she said, adding, "you're always learning."

"I think that's one of the things we forget about from STEM careers is that you're problem solving and that is inherently creative, so you want the kids who are getting 100 per cent on their maths and physics tests and all of those things to make sure your aeroplane stays in the sky, but there's no point in reengineering a version of something that someone else has already created."

"Being able to identify what the art of the possible is in this rapidly evolving technological space, and being able to interpret what the future customer needs are going to be so that you're targeting your R&D really effectively is a really exciting part of the world to be operating in ... we don't get bored here!"

And as the Fishermans Bend precinct slowly evolves around its Bertie St headquarters, Ms Holt said it was another reason why she and SYPAQ were excited and optimistic about the future for STEM in Australia.

With SYPAQ engaging with more than 700 Australian suppliers, she said it was the technical support network and the talent in its "broader ecosystem" which underpinned much of the company's success.

Already home to an incredible range of innovative companies, the University of Melbourne will also soon open its engineering and design campus to students in Fishermans Bend in the coming years, while RMIT has long been touted to follow suit.

According to Ms Holt, this growing cluster was a huge reason behind SYPAQ's "very deliberate move" to base its headquarters in Fishermans Bend.

And, as a member of the Defence Council Victoria – an advisory body to the Victorian Government – Ms Holt already plays an active role in planning for how that sense of collaboration will play out in the precinct.

"Innovation is all about collaboration, right? There's not one person who can solve these problems uniquely themselves," she said.

"We were obviously disappointed that the proposed redevelopment of the area wasn't where we hoped it would be by this point in time but it's why we're here, and it's why we're expecting the way that the area will develop over the coming decades, this will be home for us."

"There's nothing as valuable as being able to send a few of your engineers down the road to collaborate with one of your suppliers or your customers; that's when the magic happens." "And being able to do that closely and locally, having that sense of community, it rubs off on people when they come in for a job interview, or when you get high school students coming in on one of their career days."

"We've got a few people in our organisation who work closely with the University of Melbourne in its innovation space. I work really closely with RMIT in its aerospace planning to try and make sure what we're seeing and that our needs are being fed back in and vice versa ... understanding what the best of learning is, how do we make sure we're bringing people in who are going to be lifelong learners and how do we share that?" ●

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# FIVE DEADLY FIRST NATIONS BUSINESSES TO DISCOVER IN NARRM

Taste the flavours of the Torres Strait, fall in love with changemaking Aboriginal art and browse designer fashion that supports children in remote communities.

Whether you're dining out, buying a gift or contracting services for your workplace, we can all play a role in helping First Nations businesses thrive.

At the City of Melbourne, our Aboriginal Procurement Strategy guides us in promoting economic participation and development among Aboriginal people to close the gap of disadvantage.

Here are five beloved dining and retail businesses you can explore around the City of Melbourne.

## BIG ESSO BY MABU MABU

Federation Square, Melbourne

Settle in with peppercorn and saltbush fried crocodile and damper with golden syrup butter at Big Esso by Mabu Mabu, an all-day bar and kitchen in central Melbourne. Stay a while to enjoy chargrilled seafood alongside bevs and beats from Indigenous creators, or browse small-batch pantry supplies online.

## THE TORCH

146 Elgin Street, Carlton

Browse stunning artwork by First Nations creatives who've taken part in the powerful Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community program run by The Torch. Each year, this Melbourne Award-winning program supports around 600 First Nations people who have been impacted by incarceration in Victoria. This creates new pathways for participants' lives beyond the prison system.



## NGALI

24 Aurora Lane, Docklands

Shop for silk dresses, scarves, clothes and tops that share the stories of Country through stunning artwork. These street and runway-ready First Nations designs are a sustainable and meaningful alternative to fast fashion. Proceeds from your purchases will support literacy and IT programs for children in remote communities.

## PAWA CAFÉ & BAR

Southbank Promenade, Melbourne

Grab a lilly pilly croissant, kangaroo meat pie or pre-show cheese board at Hamer Hall, overlooking the Yarra River - Birrarung. Pawa collaborates with a network of Indigenous native food growers, farmers, foragers, artisans and makers. Pawa means 'to cook' in the language of the Gunditjmarra people.

## THE KOORIE HERITAGE TRUST

Federation Square, Melbourne

Browse authentic Victorian Aboriginal artwork and artefacts at the Koorie Heritage Trust in the heart of Melbourne. This curated collection includes paintings, carvings, didgeridoos and clapsticks. By deepening people's understanding of Indigenous arts, the Trust aims to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people.

For more information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboriginalmelbourne](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboriginalmelbourne)

# SIX WAYS TO CELEBRATE NAIDOC WEEK



Take time to embrace and deepen your understanding of Melbourne's Aboriginal history during NAIDOC Week from 2 to 9 July.

NAIDOC Week encourages people to celebrate Aboriginal history, culture and achievements and recognise that sovereignty was never ceded. NAIDOC originally stood for the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee and was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week. The committee's acronym has evolved into the name of the week itself.

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. This year's theme is 'For Our Elders'.

Here are six ways to celebrate NAIDOC Week in Melbourne.

## MELBOURNE ZOO COMMUNITY DAY

When: Sunday 2 July

Where: Melbourne Zoo

What: Aboriginal Melbourne and Melbourne Zoo have planned a range of activities for children, young people and families, including art and crafts, music and cultural education.

## DEADLY BOOKS GIVEAWAY

When: Sunday 2 to Sunday 9 July

Where: Elizabeth Street Pop-up Library

What: City of Melbourne Libraries and Aboriginal Melbourne will give away a collection of books by Victorian Aboriginal writers. The books will be available every day the Elizabeth Street pop-up library is open, or until exhausted. Come along on Sunday 2 July for a special interactive celebratory event.

## SOUNDS OF COUNTRY

When: Monday 3 to Sunday 9 July

Where: GPO Bourke Street

What: Visit GPO Bourke Street each lunchtime through the week to enjoy a free performance by host of fantastic Aboriginal musicians, with different talent on show every day.

## YARN + BLING MAKERS WORKSHOP

When: Friday 7 July

Where: Library at the Dock

What: Haus of Dizzy and City of Melbourne are hosting a deadly earring-making workshop together for NAIDOC week. Come along and learn how to create your own set of colourful acrylic earrings with talented Wiradjuri artist and entrepreneur, Kristy Dickinson.

## NAIDOC IN THE CITY

When: Friday 7 July

Where: Federation Square

What: Following the annual NAIDOC March, NAIDOC in the City is an exciting celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, achievements and talents. We have a stellar lineup of First Nations talent on the main stage, with performances from Shauntai Sheree, Bumpy, Mitch Tambo, Tia Gostelow and The Indigenous Outreach Projects. There'll also be a range of stalls to explore, offering deadly merch, traditional food, activities and more.

## FINDERS KEEPERS MARKET

When: Friday 7 July - Sunday 9 July

Where: Royal Exhibition Building

What: Aboriginal Melbourne is sponsoring up to 20 Aboriginal-owned businesses to be part of the Finders Keepers Market. From ceramics to art, fashion to food, explore their wares this NAIDOC Week.

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# VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

Australians will soon vote in a referendum about the Voice to Parliament.

The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body. It would give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples an ongoing say in decisions made about them.

We're helping Melburnians understand what the referendum is all about, to make it easier for people to get the facts.

Now is the time to look out for each other as we listen and learn.

[melbourne.vic.gov.au/voice](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/voice)

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

# More space for pedestrians, less for cars in plan to “rebalance” city streets

*Docklanders walking into the CBD may soon be battling with less cars under a new vision for the city’s streets, however one councillor called the plan “elitist” and a “tone-deaf slap in the face” to traders.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
TRANSPORT

Pedestrians will be prioritised and cars could be barred from busy streets under a new City of Melbourne plan to correct space inequality in the CBD.

The draft Future Streets Framework flagged “full or partial closures” for private vehicles on busy parts of Flinders, Collins and Spring streets in order to free up space for those on foot.

The entire CBD length of Elizabeth and Swanston streets could also become car-free zones, as the council made a strong focus on safe and efficient movement around busy train stations.

Partial closures could see motorists access limited to certain times of the day, or streets open in just one direction.

If implemented, the changes would see a less congested, more pedestrian-friendly streetscape for Docklanders walking into the CBD, particularly in the streets surrounding Southern Cross Station.

The new framework represented the council’s latest move to mitigate the CBD of what it saw as space-inefficient private vehicles.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it built on the overarching Transport Strategy 2030 (released in 2019), a key finding of which revealed that while nine in 10 trips within the CBD are done on foot, only a quarter of total street space was designated for footpaths.

As a result, the council was hell bent on redressing the balance and creating a more “equitable” public realm.

“The City of Melbourne has no plans to completely banish cars from the CBD. I acknowledge that reading the draft framework can make that confusing and I’ve had that feedback from lots of people,” she said at a June 6 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“We do not want gridlock in our city, in fact, we want to unlock the grid ... our aim is for there to be a balanced transport network that provides for all modes of transport so that everybody feels welcome in our city.”

Councillors voted eight to three in favour of the framework, with those against questioning the impact on small business.

Cr Roshena Campbell, a long-time critic of the council’s move to ease out private vehicles from the CBD, said the motion was a “tone-deaf slap in the face to our city traders right now”.

“We consider this motion while our city is in the fight of its life, while visitors continue to choose the ease and convenience of staying in



▲ Transport hubs (circled in black) and CBD streets (in maroon) slated for changed car conditions.

the suburbs. My view is that we shouldn’t entertain any policy that discourages any visitor from coming to our city,” she said.

Cr Campbell said that the City of Melbourne’s moves were “elitist” against drivers, which the Transport Strategy indicated made up one-fifth of all trips to, from and within the Hoddle Grid.

“By prioritising those who can access our city on foot, bike, and public transport, it’s nothing short – particularly now – of an elitist indulgence that our city simply cannot afford. Our traders certainly cannot.”

An emotional Cr Jason Chang – a business owner with a CBD store – also voted against the Future Streets Framework and said it discouraged people coming into the city.

According to the City of Melbourne, the blueprint will help prepare busy city areas for the significant change emerging through the Metro Tunnel Project opening and 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Vehicle access deemed “essential” (including service, loading, trade, and emergency vehicles, plus people with a disability) would not be targeted under any new plan.

The detailed council report made it clear that, contrary to popular opinion, pedestrians were the biggest economic generators within the CBD, while some drivers were, in fact, holding the city back.

“Pedestrians of all abilities offer the highest economic and environmental return of any transport mode,” it noted.

“Vehicles that have a destination also provide an economic contribution, but vehicles that simply travel through the city do not provide a benefit.”

Council data has previously revealed that 43 per cent of weekday vehicle traffic in the Hoddle Grid was “through-traffic”; vehicles that did not stop in the CBD.

Under the framework, CBD streets were classified into four categories, with “Melbourne Square” streets – those in line for major car-access changes – deemed most significant.

These are “major city gateways that accommodate high pedestrian densities around stations, interchanges and major civic destinations”.

Other classifications include “city streets”, “little streets”, and “laneways”.

The draft plan also proposed to permanently close private vehicle access on little streets “where possible”.

This, alongside intermittent closures, would “support pedestrianisation, activations and events suited to the context, while supporting traders to manage loading and servicing needs”.

Detailed street designs were expected at a later date.

### “Missing the point”

During the hotly debated item at the June 6 meeting, Greens councillor Rohan Leppert expressed frustration that discussion had again centred on those in favour of cars and those against.

Cr Leppert said the purpose of the Hoddle Grid’s streets was far greater than simply accommodating different modes of transport, and said any assessment needed to include their wider importance.

He said the “pro-car versus anti-car debate” was unhelpful and “unfortunate”.

“We’re missing the point when we talk about

*“Vehicles that have a destination also provide an economic contribution, but vehicles that simply travel through the city do not provide a benefit.”*



this as a transport exercise or a transport mode balancing exercise. The streets in the Hoddle Grid are the only public space we’ve got, with some very, very minor exceptions,” he said.

“These street corridors cater not just for transport, but for everything; that’s where our trees are, which give value to the city. That’s where outdoor dining is ... in any central city, streets are not what they are in the outer suburbs or in the regions where they have a predominantly transport function.”

Cr Leppert said the scarcity of space in the CBD underlined why the council needed a vision for how each street would be managed.

He wanted the debate in upcoming community consultation to focus on the “economic value” of the council’s proposed street changes, “because then we’re talking about the prosperity of the city”.

“[Then] we’re not getting bogged down with the ‘oh, there’s another document with the t-word in it, transport, I wonder if that’s a pro-car or anti-car thing?’ That is a distraction.”

### Council concedes “communications issue”

Cr Jamal Hakim, a Docklands local, admitted the council had to improve in explaining changes to locals and the wider public and said the Transport Strategy 2030 was “hardly understood”.


“I do think we need to do a better job at communicating some of these things,” he said.

“Some of the feedback I’ve heard from residents is ‘will I lose access to my parking spot living in the city?’ Certainly not. Egress and access are critical, will continue to happen and I think would never be lost, I don’t think anyone is imagining that.”

The Lord Mayor also conceded they needed to do better: “I acknowledge that we have a communication issue here”.

Councillors resolved to hold a forum prior to public consultation on the Future Streets Framework, pushing back the original start date of June 7. ●

Proudly representing the community in Docklands



**Evan MULHOLLAND MP**  
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION

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Authorised by Evan Mulholland MP, Member for Northern Metropolitan Region, Unit 10, 2 Graystone Court Epping Vic 3076. Funded from Parliamentary Budget.

WE LIVE HERE

# Open forum on affordable housing and short-term rentals

*You are invited to a We Live Here forum, the first after a long, pandemic-induced hiatus.*

The housing crisis has been capturing headlines for some time now and this forum will be an opportunity for the community to get some answers from our pollies.

Come along to the **Library at The Dock**, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands, at 6.45pm for a 7pm start on July 19.

We Live Here has invited state and local leaders from across the political spectrum, as well as resident activists:

- **Ellen Sandell**, Greens MLA for Melbourne,
- **Gabrielle De Vietri**, Greens MLA for Richmond
- **Sheena Watt**, Labour Party MLC for Northern Metropolitan region
- **Evan Mulholland** Liberal Party MLC for Northern Metropolitan region
- **Rohan Leppert**, Melbourne councillor
- **Moderator:** Tom Bacon, Strata Lawyer

To check who has accepted our invitation, visit our website or our Facebook page.

The past few months have seen some major developments regarding the housing crisis:

### 1. Worried Labor MPs leak policy ideas

Some coy Labor MPs are privately considering capping the number of nights operators can let properties as short stays, imposing a "tourist tax", or empowering councils to levy higher commercial rates on short-stay properties. The MPs are challenging Labor for fear of disaffecting youth voters, among the hardest hit by the housing crisis.

### 2. Greens policy announcement and Bill

The Greens made major policy statement and on 30 May, introduced the *Owners Corporations Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2023*, aiming to:

- put a cap on the number of days that a dwelling can be used for short stays;
- give owners' corporations power to regulate short

stay rentals; establish a mandatory register of short-stay properties.

The Bill was defeated 53-32 after an extraordinary debate with continual Labor interjections that exposed the government's frustratingly inertial stance.

### 3. Liberal support for reforms

Liberal MPs including Victorian Opposition Leader John Pesutto, and Matthew Guy voted in favour of the Greens' Bill to introduce basic reforms.

### 4. Industry bodies speak out

The Victorian Tourism Industry Council and Accommodation Association has been lobbying the government about its concerns around the housing shortage.

### 5. City councils act

Yarra City Council in Melbourne is considering a tax on short-term rentals such as Airbnb. Bass Coast, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula councils and most recently Warrnambool Council have implemented registration systems, with annual fees. Yarra Ranges Council lobbied the state government on short stays. Port Phillip Council is investigating means of regulating the short-stay industry.

### 6. Rental and housing enquiry

The Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee announced an inquiry into rental and housing affordability. Trung Luu (committee chair) emailed *We Live Here* last month with the details of the enquiry. The committee has 12 members: three Labor, five Liberal, two from Legalise Cannabis and one each from the Greens and the Nationals. Check the *We Live Here* Facebook page for more details. ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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



# Pet's Corner

## Sales up, stress down



*Two office dogs are enticing customers into the Bourke St showroom of City Residential.*



WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Benji, a groodle, and Corby a "two-minute" moodle, are good mates.

They might play up at lunchtime, but they can strike a professional pose when required.

Public servants, working out of the former NAB building, look through the window as they pass.

Are the dogs in for the day? If one works from home, this is newsworthy on Bourke St.

"When Benji's not here, Corby frets," leasing manager Lina said.

Sales are booming at the agency with the last three apartments selling in less than a week.

It could be the calming influence of these pets in a profession that gets "10/10 for being stressful". ●



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# Faces of Docklands

Question:

*What's the latest in office wear?*



PAPIA, PUBLIC SERVANT

Most people are wearing a formal shirt, formal pants and a puffer jacket. When you're inside the building you open the puffer jacket.



MERCY, PUBLIC SERVANT

I do layer. I have two or three. I'm cold-blooded. I don't mind a scarf, but I wouldn't wear it on a Friday. Then I'd wear a sweatshirt and pants. It's casual day in the office. I wear my runners on Friday.



AMANI, CORPORATE WORKER

I would say the latest fashion is business casual in Docklands in general. You see a lot of people wearing wide pants and trench coats and also low dunks.



CLAUDIA, RETAIL ASSISTANT

Since it's winter, heat-tech thermals are extra warm. You wear a shirt with a thermal underneath.

## CHAMBER UPDATE



## Exciting events coming to Docklands

*The chamber is thrilled to participate in the recently established Docklands Stakeholder Group. As the president, I have the privilege of representing the chamber in this group, which was formed as a key outcome of the successful Docklands Summit.*

WORDS BY *Daniel Hibberd*  
PRESIDENT - DOCKLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

I eagerly anticipate exchanging information and fostering collaboration with other groups, as we collectively discuss opportunities for our businesses. This marks a significant stride towards a promising future for Docklands.

July is shaping up to be an awesome month, as the Melbourne Storm prepares to host a spectacular match against the Parramatta Eels at Marvel Stadium on July 28. The chamber is throwing its full support behind the team, and we're going the extra mile to promote the game

by offering fans a fantastic opportunity to win tickets and exclusively signed merchandise.

One lucky winner could even walk away with a jersey autographed by Jonah Pezet, Alex MacDonald, and Jayden Nikorima! Be sure to follow us on social media—Facebook, Visit Docklands Melb, and Instagram @docklandsmelb—for your chance to be a winner. Get ready to join in the excitement!

A huge highlight in our events calendar is the *Now or Never Art Trail*, curated by Experimenta, which is set to ignite Docklands with an array of awe-inspiring, technology-based art installations.

Spanning a 1.2-kilometre trail along the harbour, this captivating event will showcase dazzling works by esteemed contemporary artists from Australia and beyond. From Thursday, August 17 to Sunday, August 20, from 5.30 pm to 10.30 pm, Docklands will come alive as we host the grand opening of *Now or Never*. This family friendly experience promises to leave visitors seeing Docklands anew. ●

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

## MAKING MOVES

## Driving towards a safer Docklands

*Driving safely is not just an individual responsibility; it is a collective effort that helps create a safer and more enjoyable driving environment for everyone in the community.*

WORDS BY *Blake Robinson*  
MY DRIVE HERO

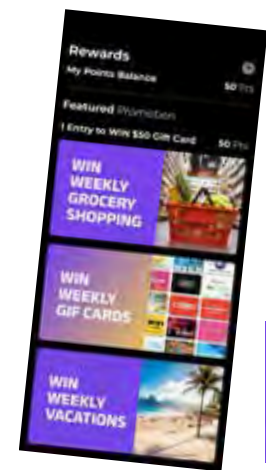
Docklands is a vibrant neighbourhood that demands our attention when it comes to road safety. Whether you're a resident, a commuter, or a visitor, it's crucial to prioritise safe driving practices to create a better driving environment for everyone.

Last year, in Victoria alone, there were 241 people who lost their lives on the road – a three per cent increase compared to the previous year. Some of them were drivers, motorcyclists, pedestrians, passengers, and bicyclists. An average of 50,375 speed infringements from speed cameras are also issued monthly. But how do we combat these issues?

To address these challenges and work towards a safer driving environment, it is essential to prioritise road safety education, awareness, and encourage **responsible driving behaviours**.

My business partner Joshua Wong-Sanerive and I set out to combat this concern by creating a fun app that incentivises safe driving habits by offering rewards and giveaways called MyDriveHero.

The app has garnered more than 45,000 drivers since launching in 2022. Being a user allows you to drive safely, and then earn points that can be redeemed for rewards or giveaway entries.



MyDriveHero not only saves lives but is here to combat the rising cost of living by offering easy-to-achieve rewards and giveaways where the catch is simple. The safer you drive, the more you can earn, save, and win!

In a bid to stamp out negativity surrounding driving behaviour, this new service aims to reward, instead of punishing Australian drivers and create daily heroes who are driving safely and caring for the wellbeing of others behind the wheel.

This app couldn't have come into the market at a better time with the number of Docklands cyclists and pedestrians consistently increasing.

Let's prioritise road safety and work together towards a future with fewer accidents and a more enjoyable driving experience in Docklands. ●

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



# Docklander

Born in a Cambodian prison, Koky is now grateful for his opportunities in Melbourne

*Koky Saly's life is a story of resilience and determination. Born in a Cambodian prison during the brutal civil war in 1976, Koky was among millions of Cambodians who suffered under the Khmer Rouge regime.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

Today, the Docklands resident is the founder of his dream social enterprise called Beekeeper Parade, an unassuming pop-up shop at 174 Swanson St, which has so far seen 55 tonnes of fashion waste used to create fun, bold, and practical bags and accessories, including backpacks made of buttoned shirts.

The opening of the shop was made possible thanks to the City of Melbourne's shopfront activation program, which Koky said he was truly grateful for the opportunity, and one in which he has endeavoured to keep making products that "change the world" by not harming the environment.

Despite his difficult start to life, Koky has been determined to make the most of his life in Australia.

"My eldest sister didn't make it through the war, but eight of us came on the plane," Koky said after they landed in Melbourne in 1980, when he was aged three.

"People keep saying I was lucky, but this isn't completely true. We [my family] survived because enough people cared to help, such as Australians fighting for our freedom and asylum."

After he was born, Koky stayed with his mother in prison for the first three years of his life, while his eldest surviving sister took care of his siblings in a remote village.



▲ Koky Saly at his Beekeeper Parade shop at 174 Swanson St.

Their father was imprisoned at an unknown location.

After the war ended, Koky's family were fortunate to be reunited before they smuggled across the border to Thailand and stayed at a refugee camp.

Koky is thankful for having built a life in Australia - which has seen him give back to the community by leading projects to build five schools in Cambodia through crowdfunding campaigns, and running his charity

called BabyTree Projects, which he founded with his sister Sophia.

Beekeeper Parade started from humble beginnings, with Koky selling items at school fetes and markets, and achieving some sales initially online, before he got his big break of opening a pop-up shop in Fitzroy and later Melbourne Central in 2016.

Sadly, he lost his sister to cancer in 2012. But since then, Koky has kept her memory alive by honouring instructions in her will, in which she

left her car with him to sell and use the money to create a business that would inspire change and help support the continued work of BabyTree Projects.

This saw Boy & Bee born in 2012, before the name was changed to BeeKeeper in 2014, which remains his passion project.

As for what tomorrow brings, Koky said, "We could fly, or we could fall. I really hope we get to fly". ●

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

### Should you exercise if you're sick? How sick is too sick?

*Your alarm goes off to get up and prepped for a workout, but as you stand, you realise you're not feeling your best.*

WORDS BY *Dr Mike Edgley*  
CHIROPRACTOR - DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU

Your nose might begin to drip, your muscles might be crying out for rest, and your throat might be feeling like you've swallowed a cheese grater. You're sick. And at this point, there's an internal dilemma going on: do you push on with exercise or do you resign to rest?



Here are some general tips to help you decide what's right for you ...

#### The "neck check"

The neck check is a common test athletes use to determine where their symptoms are, and whether exercise poses a risk of making them worse or overstraining the body. If symptoms are above the neck, such as a runny nose, congestion, or a mild sore throat, light exercise is considered okay. If symptoms are below the neck such as a respiratory infection, congestion in the chest and airways, or you're experiencing pain, nausea, or a fever, these are a sign that you should opt for your bed.

#### No-go symptoms

If you're experiencing any of the below symptoms, your body needs to rest:

- Persistent coughing
- Body, muscle aches and fatigue
- Fever or chills
- Congestion or tightness in the chest
- Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhoea

#### What about the "sweat it out" theory?

This might be a bombshell, but the "sweating out" of a cold or illness has no scientific evidence to support the theory. In fact, it may make things worse. As you exercise and sweat, you lose precious electrolytes and hydration

that your body needs to help fight off the illness, meaning you'll stay sick for longer.

Sweating might help ease nasal congestion and improve circulation when your sickness is very mild, but it won't do you any good if you're already in the throes of the battle.

#### Tune into what your body is telling you

Your body is pretty attuned and practiced at telling you things, you just need to listen. If your body is giving you signals that it's not up to the task and desperately waving a white flag at the notion of exercise, give yourself a break and rest so that you can recover sooner.

#### Don't go too hard too early

If you've decided to have a few days' rest from exercise and you're feeling on the mend, you're probably tempted to make up for lost ground and dive straight back into a rigorous regime. But it's best to take things slowly for the first few sessions to avoid delaying your recovery or even incurring an injury.

#### Talk to your health professional

When it comes to sickness, you should always consult with your GP or a trusted health professional before making any decisions around exercise and recovery. ●

## Senator Linda White



# YOUR VOICE IN THE AUSTRALIAN SENATE

*As a Labor Senator, my office is available to assist you with any Federal Government issues.*

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👤 Senator Linda White 🐦 @lindawhiteaus



Authorised by Senator Linda White, ALP, Carlton.

OWNERS CORPORATION LAW

## Strict time limitation periods for bringing a building defect claim means OCs cannot sit on their hands



*An owners' corporation (OC) owes a strict duty to repair and maintain its common property, and this duty can be enforced by any member of the relevant OC.*



If an OC suspects that there is damage to common property (or accelerated deterioration) from either defective workmanship or building practice, or defective design by the builder, developer and/or architect, then it should immediately engage an expert engineer to inspect the common property and commission a report on the exact cause of the defect and an explanation as to how it should be fixed.

It is well known that an OC has only up to 10 years from the date of the occupancy certificate to bring a claim for defects of the common property. What is not as well known is that the time limitation period is reduced to six years in circumstances where the OC becomes aware of the existence of the defect (or is "reasonably" taken to be on notice of the existence of the defect). If the OC has missed the time period in which to file a claim, then it will have no choice but to fund any repairs themselves by raising special levies.

Section 134(2) of the *Building Act* allows for an extended limitation period for building actions related to non-compliant cladding

products which would have otherwise expired on or after July 16, 2019 but before December 1, 2023, providing that these actions can be brought more than 10 years but less than 15 years after the issue of the occupancy permit or certificate of final inspection.

Care should also be taken to find out whether the builder's company is still in business. If it has been de-registered, then there will be no utility in bringing a claim.

An OC should also investigate whether the builder sub-contracted to an alternative company to complete a particular part of the building, as this will have a bearing on who the OC can chase for rectification.

The Supreme Court recently determined in a case the long-held view that an OC may sue a developer for defects under the *Domestic Building Contracts Act 1995*, although only in circumstances where the particular contract between the developer and builder makes explicit reference to the nature of the building work to be performed.

This is a complex area of the law, and great care should be taken in engaging any expert or in taking any steps to bring a claim.

However, it is recommended that an OC ought to be commissioning building-wide reports from around the five-year mark after completion with a view to bringing a claim for any defects against all relevant wrongdoers.

It is very rare that a builder's company would still be registered 10 years after the project is completed, limiting the window of opportunity for an OC to seek redress. ●



*Tom Bacon*

TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS. [TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.COM.AU](mailto:TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.COM.AU)

SENATOR LINDA WHITE

## Voice to Parliament is a chance for practical change

*Later this year, every Australian will vote in a referendum that has the power to bring our country together and to make meaningful change in the lives of First Nations Australians.*



WORDS BY *Senator Linda White*  
[SENATOR.WHITE@APH.GOV.AU](mailto:SENATOR.WHITE@APH.GOV.AU)

If successful, the referendum to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament will do two things ...

First, it will recognise, in the Constitution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians as the first peoples of Australia. For the first time, the Constitution – our nation's birth certificate – will recognise the fact that for thousands of years and long before colonisation, the land, sea, and sky of this great continent were cared for and inhabited by some of the world's most ancient cultures.

Secondly, the Voice to Parliament will enshrine genuine consultation with First Nations people about government policies that affect them.

This consultation is essential. For years, politicians have made decisions for Indigenous people rather than with them. The result has been decades of little to no improvement in the fundamental life outcomes of First Nations Australians.

Indigenous Australians are dying nearly 10 years younger than non-Indigenous Australians.

The rates of chronic disease in First Nations communities are still too high.

Employment outcomes for young Indigenous Australians are not on track.

Housing in Indigenous communities is overcrowded and in short supply.

Suicide rates among First Nations people are getting worse.

The gap is not closing. Progress has been too slow. We need practical action to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians.

And practical action is what the Voice will deliver. By consulting with communities and people on the ground, through listening to the experiences of Indigenous people, government can make policy that will actually change lives for the better and reflect the lived experience of First Nations people.

I believe fairness is an innate part of the Australian character. And I believe giving the most disadvantaged people in our society a voice to help make their lives better is only fair.

That is why I am campaigning for "Yes" in the referendum this year, and why I hope you will too.

Getting a successful result won't be easy. It will depend on every Australian talking to their friends and family about why it's time to recognise Indigenous Australians in our Constitution and time to start listening to their voices.

It will be these conversations which decide the referendum. So, let's talk. ●

STATE MP

## Our pressure on Labor to regulate short-stays and address the housing crisis is working

*Docklands is a great place to live. But residents are rightfully frustrated by the lack of affordable housing and the ever-increasing amount of short-stay accommodation.*

In recent months, the Greens have been ramping up pressure on the State government to take urgent action to address the worsening housing crisis. With so many short stay properties sitting empty for most of the year, we need urgent action to get more homes into the long-term market so they can be rented to families who need them.

That's why I'm proud to share that, following negotiations with my Greens colleagues and I in Parliament, the Treasurer has announced a new task force will be established to investigate solutions to the housing crisis.

The taskforce will consider three important issues that the Greens put on the table:

- Rent controls such as a cap on rent increases;
- Regulation of the short-stay industry, like Airbnbs; and
- Strengthening Victoria's vacancy tax, to make more empty homes available for renters or first home-buyers.

I first raised the issue of short-stays in Parliament all the way back in 2014, and in May my Greens colleagues and I tried to introduce a bill to Parliament to regulate short-stay accommodation. Disappointingly, the Victorian Labor Government would not support the bill.

The Greens plan to regulate short-stays would introduce a 90-day cap on how many nights per year a property can be rented out along with new rules to allow owners' corporations to regulate short-stays in their building. These are sensible measures that mean you can still rent out a room or rent out your home when you go on holiday but would prevent investors from buying up whole apartments just to make mega profits and never renting them out long-term.

While the task force is a welcome announcement, it's frustrating that when Labor had the chance to take action to address the issue of short-stays, they refused. And after nine years of campaigning, I know that the community is sick of waiting for meaningful reforms.

Next month I'll be joining my Greens colleague Gabrielle de Vietri and other elected representatives in Docklands to discuss these important issues and give you an update on what's been happening in Parliament at a community forum organised by We Live Here. I would love to see you there.

**Join me at the community forum on short-stays, housing affordability and planning in Melbourne.**

Date: Wednesday, July 19.  
Time: 7pm  
Location: Library at the Dock. ●



*Ellen Sandell*

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE  
[OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM.AU](mailto:OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM.AU)



TURNING HOPE INTO ACTION

## A few home truths about homelessness

*I have been a homelessness advocate for around nine years now. I have often complained that the homelessness sector fails to engage with those of us who have had a lived experience.*

WORDS BY Lisa Peterson



This failure to engage with the sector's clientele was confirmed by a recent P.A.T.H. Report for the Centre for Building Better Community.

When I was experiencing homelessness, I often felt that the people "helping" me had no understanding of what I was going through and didn't really care. In my time working within the sector, I have realised that this lack of engagement is systemic. Workers just do what their job involves, which is easier to do if they don't spend time engaging or empathising with their clients.

As someone who chose to work in the sector in the hope of ensuring that homelessness was less traumatic for those who followed me, this realisation has become even more traumatic than the experience of homelessness.

The lack of engagement with people experiencing homelessness is at the root of the problems. These are the people that the government pays organisations to help and protect. But because the sector fails to engage with them, their problems become incidental, instead of top-priority.

I have heard a very senior manager in the sector say, "we can't end homelessness, or we'll be unemployed." Sadly, that's how it looks from the inside. A group of people more interested in keeping a roof over their own heads than they are in finding a roof for the actual homeless people – the people taxpayers pay them to help – to sleep under.

I've seen very senior administrators reduce the asking number of submissions by three quarters because they were scared if they asked for what they needed, they'd get nothing at all. But where does that leave us?

Short answer: it has brought us to the point where the best advice I can give to somebody new to the experience of homelessness in Victoria is to get a drug habit. How messed up is that?

This system cannot be allowed to continue.

Nobody in this country should lose their life (whether by murder or suicide) because a taxpayer-funded housing organisation didn't do its job. Nobody should ever be put in a position where they are forced to live in abject poverty or commit federal fraud. This, and so much more, has got to stop.

Homelessness seems to be the last social service area where people with a lived experience

aren't automatically consulted, let alone embedded throughout the system. If you've broken the law and are in custody, you have more rights than somebody who can't afford to keep a roof over their heads.

This suggests the individual is still blamed for their experience of homelessness despite the housing affordability crisis, the pandemic, inflation, the war in the Ukraine, people having to escape domestic violence, interest rate rises, the nightmare that is Centrelink, negative gearing, the gender pay gap, record immigration numbers, etc. – all things outside of the individual's fault and control.

The individual blame is bad enough when it comes from people who don't know any different, but when it comes from those educated and paid to know better and provide care, then it needs to change.

I'm currently working with a couple of amazing women to start the first organisation of people with a lived experience of homelessness for people who are experiencing it – Turning Hope Into Action (THIA). We are aiming to be the peak body for people with a lived or living experience of homelessness in Victoria so that we finally have representation and an independent voice. Through the set-up process we've been unable to find evidence that the Specialist Homelessness Sector has ever had a review. Homelessness has, but not the sector itself.

Even as somebody who has made it their business to know homelessness, I have no idea who's who in this zoo. I have no idea how much taxpayer money goes into it, or how efficiency is measured. There is no co-ordination, there are obvious gaps, as well as avoidable duplications.

The whole sector needs a review and a re-structure. It needs to be brought into line with every other social service area where people with a lived experience are at the centre and get to have a say in the decisions that impact their lives.

We cannot continue with a system that keeps you trapped in it, and too often traumatises or kills the people it should be helping. We can't change this on our own though, we need help.

Please, contact your local MP. Urge them to call for a review of the homelessness sector, to call for improved efficiency and transparency, and to ensure that lived experience is at the core of the restructured sector. ●

BUSINESS



## A Royal opening for Melbourne's new retail icon



*When you walk into the Royal Arcade, you are stepping back in time.*



WORDS BY Jack Hayes

There you are, in the past when, and where, artisan was at its height, with its iconic black and white tiled floor, wrought iron trusses, bow windowed shop fronts, and of course, the mythical figures of Gog and Magog. It's hard to imagine a place more quintessentially Melbourne than the Royal Arcade.

Championing that devotion to bespoke, handmade craftwork is the Royal Arcade's newest trader, Paper Republic – a store that returns to an era where beautiful things endure.

Paper Republic sources high-quality artisan creations from around the globe, accompanied by a strong focus on Australian designed and manufactured products.

Following the huge success of its Camberwell location, and the introduction of an online store, Paper Republic founder, Tim Hampton, decided on Royal Arcade as the perfect setting to bring its brand and extensive range of products to the inner city.

"While Paper Republic supports Australian artists and Australian-made items, we also travel overseas to source beautiful product made in the UK, Europe and North America and we bring this product back with a lot of it being proudly unique to Paper Republic in Australia," Mr Hampton said.

"Our business expanded in 2020 when we established an online store which saw a large number of customers from all over Australia

and internationally able to source our product online and have it shipped direct to their door."

"Opening in April this year we have already seen large numbers of local residents, office workers plus interstate and overseas tourists coming to our store to buy unique and interesting greeting cards, stationery, journals and small gifts."

With exclusive access to internationally renowned products like Bomo Art decorative wraps, photo albums and greeting cards, all hand made in Budapest, Hungary, or Dumomo leather journals from Milan, Italy, Paper Republic is the kind of store where you can do your entire Christmas shop in one location.

Alongside the broad range of international products sit a variety of locally sourced products supporting local artists and producers like Blue Island Press and Jeremy Boot cards and calendars, Bespoke letterpress and stationery and La La Land cards and gifts.

Paper Republic marketing coordinator, Courtney Oehms, told *CBD News* it had been incredible to see the response from locals and visitors in just a few months, and she looked forward to bringing more "truly unique products to a truly unique location".

"There are plenty of gift shops in Melbourne, but there aren't many that do what we do; from our iconography and artist unique images to our range of exclusively sourced products like wax seals and calligraphy sets, it's a pretty magical place to shop," she said.

"We have taken all of our favourite and most exceptional products from our Camberwell store and brought them to the Royal Arcade."

"Our large selection of stationery, boutique greeting cards, journals, calligraphy sets, origami paper and giftware makes, mean that we are a one stop shop for both locals and a traveller's paradise." ●

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

DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

## Strata insurance

*June saw the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) host a webinar on strata insurance.*

This time the invitation was extended to neighbouring owners' corporations (OCs) and the DRG was extremely pleased to have participants from across Docklands, Southbank and the CBD.

"We believe it was important for any interested OC committee member to participate in

this session as navigating the strata insurance market is challenging. And with strata insurance premiums surging over the last couple of years, it has become a significant and growing expense for OCs," a DRG event organiser said.

In the current market, advice is for OC committees to budget for premium increases of 15 to 20 per cent (for schemes that are claims-free), and at least 30 per cent for schemes with a challenging claims history. Added to this, increasing concern is being expressed about transparency and disclosure practices in this sector, especially as OC committees may have limited knowledge of these arrangements.

The DRG was fortunate to secure as a presenter insurance expert, John Trowbridge, who recently completed a three-phase investigation into strata insurance.

During the webinar, John provided an overview on the configuration of the strata insurance market, focusing on how and why it differs from other types of insurance, which is due to the multi-owner nature of strata properties and the involvement of strata managers in the chain from insurer to client.

Topics discussed included the disclosure practices of intermediaries, remuneration of intermediaries and competition and affordability

of strata insurance.

Feedback received from this session was extremely positive and plans are currently in hand for the next OC committee session.

If you currently serve on an OC committee and would like to hear about forthcoming sessions, please register your interest via our website ... ●

**For more information:**  
[docklands.org.au/oc-network](http://docklands.org.au/oc-network)

MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK

# Maritime opportunities for Docklanders during Rare Book Week

The Rare Book Week program, running from July 21 to 29, offers fascinating presentations of interest to maritime enthusiasts. Some notable events include ...

- *Charting the Heavens – The Transit of Venus, James Cook and Astronomy* at the State Library of Victoria (SLV) – July 22, 2pm.
- *First Glimpses of Antarctica* at SLV – July 24, 10am.
- *The Bounty and Beyond* at the Athenaeum Library, Level 1, 188 Collins St – July 26, 5pm
- And finally – who knows what remarkable works you will find at the 51<sup>st</sup> Australian & New Zealand Antiquarian Book (ANZAB) Fair at Wilson Hall, Melbourne University – Saturday and Sunday July 29 and 30. For first time visitors to the fair a guided tour is offered this year. No bookings are required.

### Tackling fishing tackle

Children in Docklands live close by Melbourne's major waterways made up of Victoria Harbour and the Birrarung-Yarra River and will benefit from the State government's \$1.5 million project to provide 60,000 "Little Anglers Kits". These will be made available to Grade 5 students in more than 1900 Victorian schools later this year.

Kits will include a fishing rod, tackle box and a "Kids' Guide to Fishing" and basic fishing information – how to, and where to fish. Families might like to check out a most informative fishing website specifically on Docklands: [fish-ingmad.com.au/location/docklands](http://fish-ingmad.com.au/location/docklands)



Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) advocates that brief information on Victoria's rich maritime heritage should be an appropriate inclusion in the Little Anglers Kits.

MMHN's plan for the Maritime Experience Centre on top of a re-vamped floating Central Pier would be encircled by a public promenade deck from which Docklanders can enjoy recreational fishing. Scan below:



A reminder that fishing skills are a significant aspect of our maritime heritage. The oldest fishing method is likely to have been the use of spears to catch fish possibly 40,000 years ago. They were used by early humans as a way to

supplement their diet with protein.

Various forms of vessel evolved over the centuries designed to target particular fish. Various specialised nets or traps evolved as a more sophisticated "fishing" strategy. Many such "clever" catching methods resulted in over-exploitation, species loss, and pollution.

More recently ghost nets are the most sinister. These nets have been abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded left to float in the ocean entangling marine and river life. Australia is attempting to tackle this global scourge which is particularly severe in Northern Australian waters. Scan below:



Discarded recreational fishing gear is part of the problem. Fishing lines, ropes, hooks, bait baskets and nets are all too often found discarded on piers, wharves and beaches after being snagged or discarded by recreational fisher people. See [vrfish.com.au](http://vrfish.com.au)

### Shrinking fish

Sad news for all budding fisher people in Docklands with recent research by Assoc. Prof. of animal ecophysiology Timothy Clark of Deakin University reporting in the splendid Melbourne-based electronic The New Daily: "The world's fish are shrinking as the climate warms. We're trying to figure out why".

As the oceans warm, fish around the world are getting smaller. Commercial fish species in the North Sea have declined in size by around



16 per cent in the 40 years to 2008, as water temperature increased by one to two degrees Celsius.

This "shrinking" trend is alarming because billions of people are sustained by fish – a major food source around the world. The "temperature-size rule" is put forward to account for warmer water causing "shrinking" fish.

Fish gills access oxygen in the water and these do not grow at the same pace as the rest of fish bodies. Fish use more oxygen in warmer water, but their gills don't get any bigger. Once a fish reaches a certain body size, its gills can only supply enough oxygen to keep its body running. There is insufficient oxygen left for further growth.

So, in warmer water, fish reach the limit of their growth at a smaller size – hence the "temperature-size rule". ●



**Jackie Watts**  
CHAIR OF MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK  
[JACKIEWATTS@NETSPACE.NET.AU](mailto:JACKIEWATTS@NETSPACE.NET.AU)

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## DOCKLANDS NEWS

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**HYPERLOCAL NEWS**

# What's on: July 2023



UNTIL DECEMBER 6

### SONGBIRDS

Every Wednesday, 10:30am to 11:15am.

An event for young, budding minds to learn all about the fun that can come with rhythm of language - with songs, rhymes, and stories to engage with. For babies and toddlers up to the age of 18 months.

Library at the Dock



EVERY THURSDAY, 7:45AM TO 8:45AM

### TAI CHI AT DOCKLANDS

Tai Chi is a tranquil and graceful way of keeping fit, improving your health, and preventing stress. The riverside classes are the perfect way to start the day, so join in now.

The Hub @ Docklands, 80 Harbour Esplanade

UNTIL NOVEMBER 27  
**LIBRARY CINEMA (FREE)**  
Last Monday of every month, 3pm to 5pm.  
Come along for contemporary, classic and documentary films on the big screen. Feel free to stay for snacks and a chat afterwards.  
Library at The Dock



UNTIL DECEMBER 31  
**MAKERS MARKET AT THE DISTRICT**  
Last Sunday of every month, 11am to 4pm.  
Enjoy live entertainment and creative, colourful market stalls showcasing art, craft, jewellery, fashion, homewares, gifts, and delicious homemade and homegrown produce.



UNTIL DECEMBER 7

### PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Every Thursday, 10:30am to 11:15am.

Share the wonder of books with your preschooler at this storytime session with stories, songs, rhymes and activities. Ages 3 to 5 years; no bookings necessary.

Library at The Dock



WEDNESDAYS, 7PM TO 9PM

(During school terms)

### THECHO!R

Calling all singers to join THECHO!R. Melbourne's most exciting non-auditioned adult choir, with rehearsals led by award-winning conductor Patrick Burns.

thechoir.com.au or 0413 804 566 for any queries. Community Hub at The Dock.

10 YEARS ON

## Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

JULY 2013 | ISSUE 88



# Commissioner is an endangered species

*Federal climate commissioner Tim Flannery was in Docklands last month speaking to the nation's energy producers about the impacts of climate change on their industry.*



Professor Flannery (pictured right) addressed the 2013 Australian Energy and Utility Summit on June 19. He warned the industry that it needed to adapt and diversify in the wake of the increasing trend of consumers producing their own electricity.

He likened this to the internet-driven shake-out in the global media industry.

On his own future, he was philosophical – predicting that should Tony Abbott become Prime Minister in September, the dismantlement of the Climate Commission would be on his first order of business.

He said his sacking would be perceived as a political “trophy”.

“We will never get good policy until we achieve good community understanding about these complex and difficult issues,” he said.

His only comments when asked about Docklands was that it needed more native trees for summer shade.

Returning to live in Melbourne after 30 years, Prof Flannery has been impressed by biodiversity evident in nearby Westgate Park.

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## Community

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# DOCKLANDS NEWS

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## THREE-DAY FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL PROGRAM

### SET TO BE HOTTEST FESTIVAL YET

#### Warm up this winter when Firelight takes over Docklands.

Melbourne's epic free festival returns to Docklands each night from Friday 30 June to Sunday 2 July.

The three-day celebration of fire breathers, roving dance performances and immersive light installations will ignite wonder and light up Harbour Esplanade, New Quay Promenade and Victoria Promenade.

#### FIRE

With more than 40 fire pits and drums, 35 flame jets, two fire sculptures and arches, this is sure to be our hottest festival yet.

#### THE MESSENGER

New to Firelight, The Messenger is an awe-inspiring, futuristic archangel that transcends nationality and religion to spread its message of love and compassion, highlighting that our similarities are more important than our differences.

#### MUSIC

Enjoy more than 30 performances each night including Columbian rhythms, African beats, New Orleans style percussion and high-energy rhythms. The Firelight DJ will also be spinning hot tunes throughout the night.

#### POP-UP ENTERTAINMENT

Experience an eclectic mix of pop-up entertainment from dazzling fire performers, roving brass bands, Bollywood performers, and hip hop dancing.

#### LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS

Trumpet Flowers, a new interactive installation, at Docklands Central Park welcomes everyone to explore the super-sized flowers and be immersed in the light, colour and sound. Shrooms is an immersive artwork with eight giant inflatable mushroom shapes that encourage social nature.

#### FOOD AND DRINK

Sample the best wintery foods Melbourne has to offer. Whether its pizza, Sicilian BBQ or donuts that take your fancy, there'll be something to satisfy every palate with more than 30 food truck offerings. Think mulled wine, hot chocolate, s'mores and more.

Firelight Festival is proudly owned and delivered by the City of Melbourne.

More than 105,000 people attended Firelight last year, injecting almost \$8.3 million into the economy.

So gather the family and warm up at Firelight Festival this winter. For the full program, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/firelight](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/firelight)

#### Plan your trip

Heading to Firelight Festival? Plan your trip to the city ahead of time. Yarra Trams, Metro Trains and Victoria's Big Build will be carrying out tram, train and road works in the city, including in Docklands. For live updates, visit [ptv.vic.gov.au](http://ptv.vic.gov.au) and [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au)



## How to get your flu vaccine

With a significant flu season predicted this year, we are now taking bookings for flu vaccinations through our new online booking management program VaxApp.

Bookings are now available for our community sessions, individual appointments and for the first time, on-site workplace immunisations.

Vaccination significantly reduces the risk of contracting influenza and passing the virus to family, colleagues and friends.

For more information and to book, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/flu vaccine](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/flu vaccine)



QR code to book community sessions