

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P18



Celebrating a new season in Docklands
Photo by Rachel Litwin

While the Hindu festival Vasant marks the start of spring in India, locals celebrated the cultural festival on February 25 by bringing in autumn at Buluk Park in Docklands with a colourful display of dance, children's activities and a talent show. *Full story on page 9.*

Tayla Harris statue to permanently reside in Docklands

More than three years after being unveiled at Federation Square, the iconic statue of AFLW player Tayla Harris will soon find its permanent home here in Docklands, in what represents a huge win for our precinct.

WORDS BY Sean Car
ARTS & CULTURE

The statue of Harris, depicting one of the most talked about moments in Australia's history and one which attracted global attention, has been secured by the Victoria Point owners' corporation (OC) and will be erected in its new garden along the Marvel Stadium concourse later this year.

Photographer Michael Wilson's award-winning image, *The Kick*, which captured the then Carlton footballer Harris kicking for goal in a game against the Western Bulldogs in 2019, has quickly become one of the most revered photographs of Australian sport.

Harris, then just 21 years old, was captured mid-kick, her body stretched taut like a bow as she launched into her set shot for goal. This incredible display of athleticism has become a powerful symbol of the rapid rise of the AFLW, and an inspiration to young women and girls.

But sadly, it wasn't just the athleticism of the pose that caught the public's attention, as Harris was later subjected to a wave of online abuse from misogynistic trolls after the photo was published on Seven AFL's Facebook page.

The network's response to the sheer volume of offensive and threat-



ening comments was to take down the post – a decision which drew widespread criticism throughout the community for failing to take a stand against abuse and violence against women.

But Harris would respond by reposting the image on her Twitter account along with the caption: "Here's a pic of me at work. Think about this before your derogatory comments, animals."

Harris continued to speak out against online abuse and sexism, later publishing a book about her experience called *More Than A Kick* as a resource for others facing bullying or harassment.

It's these incredible acts of strength, both on and off the field, which Blue

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Council faces further grilling on ATET, but nightclub not in breach of rules

WORDS BY David Schout
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

City of Melbourne councillors have faced further questions from disgruntled locals regarding noise impacts from floating nightclub ATET, however it was revealed the venue was "achieving compliance".

The council confirmed that ATET was not in breach of the state government's guidelines for noise, and investigations into whether it had contravened its planning permit were now closed unless new information arose.

The North Wharf nightclub, which went up in flames on the morning of January 31 from a suspected arson attack, was back in action in less than a fortnight and open again for trading on February 10.

Three days prior, at a Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors faced a number of in-person and written complaints from frustrated Docklanders.

These included an insistence that ATET continued to exceed permitted levels, concerns about the wider impact on sleep and mental health, and general frustration that their complaints weren't being heard.

One local said they were "prisoners of excessive noise" and compared current weekend situations to "torture".

However any hope that the venue's operation could be curtailed or even closed were quickly snuffed out by the council, which said ATET was not in breach of local planning laws.

"All complaints that we're receiving have and will

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Magnet to launch its 13th women photographers' exhibition

As International Women's Day (IWD) approaches on March 8, so too does the launch of Magnet Galleries Melbourne's 13th women photographers' exhibition.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

This year's opening of the exhibition, which is titled *CIRCLES*, will begin with a launch party from 6.30pm, with all invited to attend to not only see the works, but meet with many of the photographers behind the work.

Included in the collection will be 37 diverse images from a total of 16 photographers, with all the works selected via a submission process and all the photographers given free range to explore the subject in their own way.

"The exhibition is always a themed one, and photographers are presented with a theme which is always deliberately very broad, and so it can be interpreted in many ways," Susanne Silver, who owns the gallery with husband Michael Silver, said.

"With this year's theme of *CIRCLES*, some people have been quite literal and presented us with an image of something circular, while other people have chosen to look at groups of people who do things together and form a circle in some way."

"So, when people come to the exhibition, they are not going to just see a load of circles on the wall, but rather, quite a variety of interpretations."

Magnet's women photographers' annual exhibitions first started when Mrs Silver became aware of very few women participating in the gallery's group exhibitions.

Upon noticing, she created the exhibition to encourage more women to exhibit their work, and each year, as well as aligning with IWD,



▲ Susanne Silver of Magnet Galleries shows two of the prints that will appear in the *CIRCLES* exhibition. On the easel is *The Crown*, one of four romantic botanical images by visual storyteller Pam Davison, and being held is *Circles*, an intriguing abstract study by Barbara Oehring.

the exhibition also runs as a fundraiser.

While most years see Magnet focusing on raising funds for UN Women, this year donations will be going towards the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to help women impacted by the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

"Magnet exists as a not-for-profit and registered charity to support not only photographers but also great causes, and a lot of the work and exhibitions shown here will benefit another charity or organisation in some way or another," Mrs Silver said.

"This year, there will be a great variety of

high-quality photographs for people to see, and a very compelling cause to support."

Following its opening on March 8, which all are encouraged to attend, *CIRCLES* will be open until April 1.

Magnet Galleries Melbourne can be found on Wharf St at The District Docklands. ●

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Tayla Harris statue to permanently reside in Docklands

Continued from page 1.

Mountains-based artist Terrance Plowright would later immortalise in bronze with a 3.3-metre statue in celebration of the sporting legend.

Mr Plowright said like so many, he had been incredibly impressed by Tayla's response.

"I thought she was extraordinary for the way that she handled it at the time," Mr Plowright said. "I was surprised at how mature she was and the way that she came at it. She hit all the issues head on."

"This whole issue that we have not just as a nation, I think it's a worldwide issue, with online bullying and misogynistic issues – she seemed to handle that with great maturity. So, to be asked to be involved with this project, I was delighted."

Since being unveiled ahead of the 2019 AFL Finals series at Federation Square, NAB, the company which commissioned Mr Plowright to create the statue, had been yet to secure a permanent location for it.

Now, under the stewardship of the Victoria Point OC, the statue will soon find its new home as the centrepiece of a new garden project turning more than 2800 sqm of concrete along the Marvel Stadium concourse into green.

Speaking to *Docklands News* during a visit to the site with Victoria Point OC chair Dr Janette Corcoran and committee member Linda Dugan in February, Mr Plowright said he was "so pleased" with the location.

"I just think it's really nice that [this site] symbolically, is multi-functional. Because it is really important that people understand what she [Tayla] stands for, and it's not just about sport," he said.

"But also, she's a great sportsperson, she's done exceedingly well. She's not only a great role model just for women, but for men as well."

"I think that's why I'm so pleased that it is going up into a public place that is quite significant," adding that he much preferred the Marvel Stadium concourse to the original location he



▲ The Kick by photographer Michael Wilson.



▲ The bronze statue which will soon live in Docklands.



▲ Janette Corcoran, Linda Dugan, Terrance Plowright.

proposed to journalists back in 2019 – outside the MCG.

"At the event that we had at Federation Square [in 2019] there was a huge amount of press there and some chap said to me, 'where would you like to see it end up?' And I said, well, the MCG would be pretty nice," he said.

"But I actually think this is much nicer, because there's an intimacy where this is. And hopefully there'll be other female sculptures that will be added around the precinct at some stage."

The \$1.2 million project to transform the Victoria Point garden was conceived through the City of Melbourne's Urban Forest Fund grants program, established in 2017 to accelerate greening across the municipality. Supported

by the council and Development Victoria, the garden has been designed by ASPECT studios with plantings curated by Billy's Nursery.

While the site's direct connection with Marvel Stadium provides an appropriate location for the statue, Dr Corcoran said the greening project's focus on improving women's safety in the area was also complementary.

Through a women's safety initiative by Plan Australia called Free To Be, Dr Corcoran said Marvel Stadium had been identified as an area where women didn't feel safe.

Having organised a Women's Safety Walk with Plan Australia in 2018, she said women engaged with designers about their experiences of the area, which were fed into Victoria Point's final designs for its garden.

"We're really pleased with the connection. She'll literally living on her doorstep [Marvel Stadium]," Dr Corcoran said, adding that they were excited for all the important conversations the statue's presence would help inspire.

The statue is expected to be unveiled at the site once the project is completed later this year.



Sean Car
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Council faces further grilling on ATET, but nightclub not in breach of rules

Continued from page 1.

continue to be investigated and, at the moment, from a planning permit perspective, compliance is being achieved. It's been demonstrated that there is no ongoing breach against the state government's guidelines for noise," the council's general manager of planning Evan Counsel said.

After ATET breached its planning permit and was ordered to temporarily cease trading following its initial opening in late October — a period that saw the council inundated with complaints — Mr Counsel said that since that time complaints had reduced by more than 75 per cent, a statement that drew irritation from the gallery at the meeting.

"At the moment we've closed off that investigation and compliance has been confirmed unless any new information arises. So that's the extent to which council has powers through the planning mechanisms at this point in time," Mr Counsel said.

Planning chair and Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece sympathised with residents but said while most questions on the night were "reasonable", a submission that suggested councillors were not listening had "cut at me a bit".

"I can absolutely promise you that we are listening and that you are being heard. There is no other permit within the City of Melbourne that I'm spending more time on than this one," he said.

"You are perfectly entitled to reasonable amenity in your homes ... we understand that you are frustrated. We are frustrated, okay?"

Going forward, Cr Reece said the council had plans to provide respite to residents struggling with the noise impacts.

First, he said the council was pushing Development Victoria (DV) to expedite the planned relocation of the ATET barge to the western tip of North Wharf near the Bolte Bridge.

The nightclub was originally intended to operate at North Wharf but remained based at a temporary location near Shed 2 while DV completed restoration works at the wharf's end.

"We are hopeful this will provide some relief. Not saying it's a silver bullet, but it will provide some relief, and we're hoping that will be resolved by mid-year at the latest," he said.

Second, Cr Reece noted that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had "finally" resolved its noise monitoring strategy, which would implement a "comprehensive" noise measurement exercise from various locations — including from inside buildings.

He said this would "put beyond question" resident concerns about the disputed accuracy of recent noise readings.

Finally, and perhaps most notably, the Deputy Lord Mayor said that while he did not think the council had reached this point, it may entirely rethink local laws surrounding noise.

"We may come to a point where we say, look, the current regs [regulations] just don't work in the current context," he said.

"I'm foregrounding that with you this evening ... but we still want to pursue a number of other areas, so we've absolutely done our due diligence before we proceed down that course."

Cr Reece committed to establishing a community meeting, which would also be attended by Lord Mayor Sally Capp, to work through issues in greater detail and "eyeball each other, including ATET" to produce a course of action going forward.

It was later revealed that the meeting was now scheduled to take place on Tuesday March 14 (the venue for which was yet to be confirmed) and the council was hopeful relevant agencies would also be in attendance.

"We understand that this is causing division in the Docklands community. I'm following the debate and conversation as well, I'm seeing the debates on Facebook and hearing it in the community," Cr Reece said.

"We can't have Docklands divided. We can't have our community suffering with the friction that's there at the moment." ●



David Schout
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A Filipino Fiesta at Mission to Seafarers

EVENTS

This Melbourne Food and Wine Festival (MFWF), The Entree.Pinays will be throwing a weekend-long Filipino Barrio Fiesta by the Sea in partnership with Mission to Seafarers Victoria, in recognition and celebration of their work in caring for seafarers since 1857.

The event will be held over MFWF's final weekend on Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2, as The Entree.Pinays share Filipino cuisine, culture, and community at Melbourne's historic Mission to Seafarers in Docklands.

In true Filipino style, dive hands-first into their catch of the day: a Seafood Kamayan Plate of sustainable local produce, paired with a moreish selection of calamansi-based dipping sauces.

Their jam-packed weekend program features colourful street food, dessert, and good vibes aplenty from local Filipino talent and includes:

- *The Calamansi Story* launch.
- Cooking & Conversations with Filipino food stars Erwan Heussaff and Luisa Brimble.
- A Kalamansi and Kape Bar; and
- The Merkado Pantry.

The Entree.Pinays is a Melbourne-based cultural agency of enterprising Filipinas contributing their diverse skills in business, design, storytelling, and hospitality with a purpose to grow representation, celebration and investment in Filipino cuisine, culture, and community.

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MELBOURNE'S REPUTATION HELPS CREATIVES EXCEL



Docklands has proven to be the perfect location for Mo Works

Doors open when prospective clients hear that Mo Hamdouna's creative agency is based in Melbourne.

'When we say we're from Melbourne it provides confidence. The name of Melbourne and the city itself is helping us when we work with international businesses in particular,' Mo said.

He knew he needed to find a locale with flair for his creative agency, Mo Works, when he took the leap from freelancing to launching a business in 2014.

Docklands was calling. It was the first place he called home after moving down from the Sunshine Coast two years earlier. It endures as one of his favourite places.

'Docklands is the best of both worlds. It's central, near the CBD - which is creative and there's no shortage of talent so we could stay competitive,' Mo said.

'But it still has this suburban feeling and community support that allows us to build a strong network around us. And it's got the waterfront.'

Mo Works is now a well-established, full-stack digital creative agency with an in-house team of designers, developers and marketing gurus who pride themselves on bringing to life the visions of Melbourne businesses.

The multicultural team speaks more than 12 languages and now - on the other side of COVID - Mo hopes to expand his staff from 24 to 50 over the next year or two.

As the secretary of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, Mo is keen in turn to 'put Melbourne and Docklands on the map internationally to strengthen its position as a creative city'.

'The city is full of diverse opportunities and businesses. Keep an eye on what the city has on offer because there's always things there, from grants and programming to networking events and awards,' Mo said.

Those connections helped his agency ride out the storm when COVID-19 hit.

'We didn't feel left alone. We had great support from the city and the community. Everyone tried to support as much as they can,' Mo said.

The agency quickly devised a series of workshops that helped more than 75 businesses recalibrate, transform their brand, go digital and more. City of Melbourne helped make those workshops happen through the business support program.

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Residents toughen stance on ATET

A group of Docklands residents is seeking to increase its influence by forming an incorporated group and posting a crowd funding pitch for \$15,000.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
COMMUNITY

Ross Malcomson is one of six high-profile residents to form Residents of Docklands Inc.

The group is targeting noise control; specifically that related to the ATET nightclub.

The crowd funding post went up on Facebook pages around Docklands in February and raised more than \$1000 within the first week.

“We’re doing research into sound mitigation,” Mr Malcomson said. “It exists and we want it applied to ATET.”

The group meets regularly with the aim of focusing the community response to the nightclub, which included more than 1200 signatures to a petition.

“The council said they’ve never had so many complaints. How can we take that people power and do something with it? We want to come up with solutions,” Mr Malcomson said. “We don’t want to close the nightclub down.”

Mr Malcomson lives with his wife Penny in the Voyager tower at Yarra’s Edge, directly across the Yarra River from the nightclub.

The couple bought an apartment and moved in during 2021 to be close to their children in South Melbourne.

They like the sounds of the river; the rowers in the morning, the occasional helicopter, the football at Marvel Stadium, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers who played there recently.

“The sounds of the party boats dissipate



▲ Ross and Penny Malcomson overlooking the ATET nightclub.

because they’re mobile, and the superyachts aren’t a problem, but my wife, she can’t live with ATET. She gets emotional.”

Penny said that when the bass started up four nights a week the windows rattled in their apartment and, by the time the music stopped at midnight or 1am, she couldn’t go back to sleep.

Penny works as a teacher in Mornington and gets up at 5.30am. She’s been forced to move into a back bedroom on the nights the club is open.

“If this had happened in other cities around the world, a club would have to meet up with residents before opening. We were here first,” the Malcomsons said.

The problem, according to Residents of Docklands Inc., is that the nightclub is being

treated as an indoor facility.

“The council has two categories, outdoor and indoor. Outdoor applies to venues such as the MCG and Marvel Stadium.”

Mr Malcomson said that indoor facilities had walls and a roof to mitigate sound, but ATET only had plastic.

“We’re learning a lot about sound. It travels across water and up buildings. It can be louder at the top of buildings,” he said.

The Malcomsons say that if they can’t resolve the issue within six months they will have to sell up.

“I come from a very volatile industry. You have to stay calm, tell the truth and play a straight bat. Don’t get emotional. You have to keep focused,” Mr Malcomson said. ●

Council trial making high-rise composting a reality

WORDS BY Sean Car
SUSTAINABILITY

In an Australian-first, the City of Melbourne has introduced its Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service in high-rise buildings through a 12-month pilot program.

Around 80 per cent of City of Melbourne residents live in high-rise apartments, making the service a crucial step forward in the council’s sustainability goals.

For the first time, the service is available to residents of participating apartment buildings of six or more storeys, with two buildings – on Spring St in the CBD and Curzon St in West Melbourne – having already begun trialling the service.

The other four buildings, of the six selected through an expression of interest process to take part in the 12-month pilot, are yet to be announced and will begin their trials soon.

The service gives access to on-site dehydrators, used to reduce the volume of waste by up to 80 per cent, and to process organic waste into nutrient-rich organic fertiliser, which is then converted into high-quality compost for use in parks and gardens across the municipality. Residents will also be able to use a portion of the fertiliser in their own gardens.

The high-rise pilot is being delivered in partnership with Enrich360 and Eco Guardians, as part of the council’s Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy to divert 90 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030.

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Rotary opens second-hand bookshop in Docklands

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Ajay Viswanath*
 COMMUNITY

The Rotary Club of Carlton has teamed up with the Rotary Club of Albert Park to launch a second-hand bookshop at The District Docklands to raise funds for community projects.

The new shop is being run by Rotary volunteers and will be open seven days a week from 10am to 5.30pm, offering a wide variety of books, DVDs, CDs, records, and other multimedia, all of which have been donated, including the shelving they sit on.

Rotary Club of Carlton member Janet Ferguson said they were excited to have the opportunity to open the bookshop and help support the local community, with book prices starting from \$1.

“The benefits of this joint venture are sharing costs, maximising sales, and providing a place for people to browse through a large collection of second-hand books,” she said.

“As we shared a storage area at Docklands, so when the opportunity came to relocate to a

retail space, both clubs agreed to jointly run the retail shop.”

All funds raised from the bookshop, which opened February 5, will go towards local and overseas projects that both clubs are running, such as striving to educate women in Afghanistan.

“We appreciate and thank the community for their support in donations and purchases from our store,” Ms Ferguson said.

The Rotary clubs will occupy the space at The District for six months, which will be reviewed thereafter.

The Rotary Club of Carlton had previously sold books at weekend book fairs held at the Kathleen Syme Centre and at retail shops on Lygon St, Carlton.

Rotary Club of Albert Park will continue to sell books in Bay St, Port Melbourne each Saturday.

Volunteers donate their time to supporting projects such as mental health research, people experiencing homelessness, Victoria Police camps for disadvantaged children, swimming lessons and more. ●

Calls for more police patrols, cameras: new report into hooning reveals

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
 SAFETY & SECURITY

Outcomes from a series of state government-led community engagement sessions into hooning, including within the City of Melbourne, have been revealed in a new report.

A Hooning Community Reference Group was created last year to identify potential short-, medium-, and long-term solutions to address hoon behaviour in local communities.

It brought community, stakeholders, and experts in road safety across government, enforcement, and research bodies together to develop a new Victorian Hoon Driving Action Plan.

The community engagement sessions, which were held across various municipalities last year, including in the City of Melbourne, will “support and guide” a report, as well as “generate ideas and issues for consideration” in relation to hooning.

The Department of Transport said the findings from all engagement sessions would be presented to the Hooning Community Reference Group and incorporated into the Hooning Recommendations Report, however this document will not be delivered until later this year.

In the meantime, another report entitled “Hooning in Victoria Community engagement outcomes report” revealed that in inner city Melbourne, concerns of noise, speeds of 100km/h in 60km/h zones, safety impacts to other drivers and pedestrians, and “unknown as to who to approach, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) or Victoria Police – worried about approaching VicPol and taking their time for this” had been cited.

In terms of who were the hoons, the report listed young people, males, motorbikes, bored kids, and car drivers in convoys and hot rods.

When asked what the community would like to

see be put forward as recommendations, feedback included more funding for enforcement, education, better interaction with overseas jurisdictions, and “Not just putting boots on the ground” but “allow for devices to be installed in hotspots”.

There were also calls for a coordinated approach across the states, as well as emphasis on safety, environmental and amenity issues.

The report noted that between 20 and 30 residents were present at each session held between July and August last year.

Among the ideas pitched to deter hooning were the installation of cameras (CCTV, acoustic, noise, speed), more police patrols, and more collaboration between EPA and Victoria Police.

According to a Yarra’s Edge resident, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, burnouts along Lorimer St were still prevalent, albeit with fewer cars.

The resident described seeing “smoke in the air” on one occasion in December after spotting a car doing a burnout at the corner of Lorimer St and South Wharf Drive, but when they called police “they couldn’t hear the conversation” due to the noise.

They said they had been providing dates and times of hoon-related incidents to the council, which obtained the registration plates of at least five cars from CCTV cameras, which had been reported to police, too.

The resident said they also joined part of the online community engagement session, in which they heard representatives of hoons asking for a place to do burnouts.

“From what I heard, they were asking ‘Why do you want to stop us from doing burnouts on the road,’” the resident said.

Asked about their thoughts of a report with recommendations not being delivered until later this year, they said, “You’re looking at government, it moves very slowly”.

The Docklands Representative Group has maintained that hoon behaviour continued to be of “ongoing and grave concern”. ●

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Significant Hindu festival marks the start of a new season in Docklands

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
EVENTS

Vasant Festival, the Indian cultural festival marking the start of the spring season, took over Docklands' Buluk Park and Library at the Dock on Saturday, February 25, with a flurry of exciting activities.

A significant festival in India's calendar year known as Vasant Utsav, the celebration is represented by people dressed in yellow to worship Goddess Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom, art, language, and knowledge.

While Australia is approaching autumn here in the Southern Hemisphere, the festival was organised by Docklands Neighbourhood House (DNH), which is under the operation of not-for-profit group The Centre, and community members, to bring some vibrancy to the area.

"Docklands is a hub of multicultural people from across the world, and what could have been a greater occasion than to merge it with the vibrancy of Vasant Utsav," DNH organiser and Docklands Representative Group member, Aditi Rawal said.

"It was a platform to bring people together and celebrate the unity in diversity, and it was a really mesmerising event."

The festival, which attracted around 200 people throughout the day, started at Library at the Dock with a special story time for children, followed by free children's arts activities where attendees could make their own Holi coloured dough to take home.

The main attraction of the festival, and a much-anticipated event, was the Docklands Talent Show, which was divided into age groups of three to five, six to 12, and 13-plus.

Highlights included a group dance of kids who were all younger than five; a three-year-old girl who was able to recall all the capital cities around the world off by heart, and a number of other dances in the styles of K-Pop, hip-hop, and Indian folk.

"Kids as young as three performed and it was amazing to give a platform to upcoming young talents of the Docklands community," Ms Rawal said.

"I have never witnessed any event where amateur talents are getting performance space and recognised for their efforts. We are blessed with such a beautiful neighbourhood and The Centre to facilitate community events like this. We definitely look forward to more such events where inclusion of multicultural communities is witnessed." ●



Only way is up for new Mission to Seafarers CEO

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COMMUNITY

Recently appointed Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) CEO Neil James says the opportunity to commercialise its heritage-listed venue, while continuing its core operation of supporting seafarers, presents both "a great opportunity and a great challenge".

Mr James joins the Mission at a time when the North Wharf precinct that its Flinders St building sits within is undergoing significant transformation, with the neighbouring Seafarers development and soon-to-be-constructed Seafarers Park poised to change the face of the area. So too, will the City of Melbourne's Greenline project, which seeks to reinvigorate the Yarra-Birrarung's north bank between Birrarung Marr and Docklands.

But as conversations around reimagining the city's maritime heritage have gathered pace in recent years, the council and the Victorian Government have sought the community's insights on how the Mission's iconic building might provide the nexus at North Wharf.

While both levels of government continue to

determine the use, quality and type of function it might offer for future commercial and community activities, Mr James said the Mission was getting on with its own plans for opening up the building and supporting its beneficiaries.

A self-described "tragic boater" who currently serves as director of the Boating Industry Association of Victoria, Mr James has a wealth of experience working in both the private and not-for-profit sectors.

He told *Docklands News* that the opportunity to support and grow the Mission's "critical" welfare services for seafarers, whom he said had suffered immensely during the pandemic, was largely what attracted him to the role.

"It's a really fascinating organisation to be in because it has so many different parts. At the centre of it, is the welfare operation that we have with looking after the seafarers who visit Melbourne. It's really critical and the core part of our business," he said.

"Everything else we do is really around how we might fund, continue and grow that welfare work. So, that's a great challenge."

But at the heart of all its services, from the on-board chaplaincy work of its priests to its shuttle bus transporting seafarers to and from

the city, is its headquarters here in Docklands, which Mr James said was still a relative unknown to many.

While its chapel and magnificent Norla Dome continue to prove popular for a range of functions, Mr James said the organisation was always keen to encourage more locals to come in, enjoy a drink from its bar and learn more about its work.

"No one really knows what the building is, but everyone knows it," he said. "Particularly in a high-rise environment, it provides a really unique break out of that so it's a fabulous building from that perspective."

"The challenge is how we maintain and look after the building, and in that process try to commercialise the venue, which in itself is a great opportunity and a great challenge. At the moment, we're heavily reliant on donations and charity of different descriptions through to the support from the industry, as well as public donations."

"What we'd like to do is to actually move to that commercial operation to build the commerciality of the centre so we've got much more sustainability and are not necessarily dependent on charity and philanthropy to the



same extent."

Mr James said the Mission was also always on the lookout for any locals interested in volunteering, which he said was a vital part of ensuring its critical services continued. ●

For more information:
missiontoseafarers.com.au

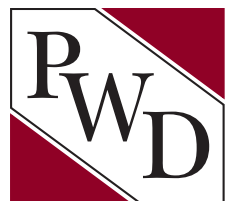
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BEYOND THE BOOKSHELF: SEVEN WAYS OUR LIBRARIES TRANSFORM LIVES



A modern, multi-purpose space at Library at The Dock

Our libraries are places full of joy and creativity, where the future is now.

Local libraries have evolved in many ways over recent years.

Demand for books remains high, and use of digital resources like ebooks, audiobooks, films, music and games surged during lockdowns. But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Our library offerings can't be contained by walls or websites. They pop up across the central city and hit the road to visit people in their neighbourhoods



Here are seven special ways to engage with our library services:

1. Look out for our Mel-van mobile library visiting public housing, community hubs and festivals near you with books, workshops and wi-fi in a suitcase. We also bring our 'Books and Biscuits' program to older people, with curated pre-loved books and discussions about short stories, poems, essays and articles.
2. Find pathways out of homelessness thanks to library social worker Erin McKeegan. She helps people in need access the support services they need amid the welcoming, non-clinical library environment.

HOMELESSNESS ZINE

Pick up a copy of the *Need to Know* zine - made by people with lived experience of sleeping rough - from our libraries and community hubs.

3. Watch the new Munro Library take shape in close consultation with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal artists. This epic library will be located opposite the iconic Queen Victoria Market.
4. Use state-of-the-art creative technology for free in our makerspaces. Devotees have designed games, 3D-printed lizard skeletons for museum exhibits and prototyped groundbreaking medical devices.
5. Share your love of reading, practice French and learn how to do your tax at online and in-person events. Our book clubs, conversations clubs and life-skills workshops build community and counter isolation.
6. Borrow technology kits to make your life easier, cheaper and less wasteful. We have microphones, guitar pedals, robotics equipment, laptops and accessibility tools like the C-Pen Reader, which reads text out loud.



7. Co-work, run meetings, tinker on a creative project, shape-up your startup or just make a cuppa at Micro-Labs, a vibrant, flexible space on Bourke Street. Drop by to enjoy a curated library collection, mini makerspace, kitchenette, movable furniture, pop-up shop and cosy courtyard.

Our permanent and pop-up library locations include the central city, East Melbourne, Carlton, North Melbourne, Docklands and Southbank. Head to our website to view the locations and browse catalogues and events.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

LOVE FOR THE MEL-VAN



'It's magic. It means a lot to people. Books and Biscuits is an incredibly stimulating activity that opens up people's minds to new ideas, great chats, and digressions into other fantastic conversations. It's very meaningful and we create real connections through the group interaction and topics.'

Irene, South Yarra Senior Citizens Centre

'The Mel-van brings us books in our language that we can't find anywhere else. They bring games and painting and help us with digital technology like our phones and the internet. The library is very important and we feel very close to the library. We've never had a library visit us every week before.'

Stella, North Melbourne Language and Learning Centre

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IN BRIEF

SCRUBBING THE CITY

Did you know that the City of Melbourne carried out more cleaning in 2022 than ever before, removing the equivalent of nearly eight MCGs of graffiti in the past year?

Council's Rapid Response Clean Team removed a record 150,000m² of graffiti across Melbourne in 2022 – a 121 per cent increase on the previous 12 months.

More than 87,000m² of graffiti was proactively cleaned, and another 63,000m² was removed following reports from the public.

Council has also stepped up its efforts to remove dumped rubbish across the municipality, collecting more than 4,500 tonnes in the past 12 months – and an additional 100 tonnes of discarded mattresses.

CITY ECONOMY SNAPSHOT

Do you run a business in the city? Harness Melbourne's new rhythm with the latest city data to boost your business.

The Melbourne Economy Snapshot is a new free seasonal activity guide for businesses that reveals where people spend their time and money in our city.

Our first edition shows a record \$1.1 billion was spent across the city in December. Friday and Saturday are now our busiest days, weekday spending is as strong as pre-pandemic and our night-time economy continues to flourish.

To access the Melbourne Economy Snapshot, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

STAY CONNECTED

Be first to know about what's happening in your neighbourhood – from amazing events to new community facilities – with our City of Melbourne newsletter. Sign up today at melbourne.vic.gov.au/subscribe to get the latest news straight to your inbox.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Our neighbourhoods in the City of Melbourne are all unique, with their own priorities and needs. That's why we've created online Neighbourhood Portals – to provide a specialised place you can go to learn about your suburb. To visit your Neighbourhood Portal, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-neighbourhoods

REPORT IT ONLINE

From graffiti to abandoned vehicles, you can report amenity issues online, around the clock. Get in touch from your smartphone when it suits you and we'll get on the case. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus



There's more to love about Moomba this March with five days of free, family fun and entertainment.

The banks of the Yarra River – Birrarung will be buzzing with Moomba magic from Thursday 9 to Monday 13 March.

There are loads of fun, free activities to keep the whole family entertained – from epic skate park competitions and water sports to face-painting, crafts, dance workshops, Design-a-Float, kids' yoga and loads more.

So whether you're a dare devil bursting for a ride fix, a food-truck-loving-foodie, or looking to get your dance groove on to some awesome beats, Moomba has something for everyone.

Enjoy event favourites such as the beloved Birdman Rally on Sunday 12 March, where courageous competitors don inventive homemade flying devices to hurtle themselves over the Yarra River – Birrarung for a good cause.

Don't miss the iconic Moomba Parade on Monday 13 March, with five new floats and puppets joining the fun alongside Moomba Monarchs Rob Mills and Rhonda Burchmore, and more than 1,800 performers from cultural groups, dance troupes, marching bands and more.

And to cap off a big day at Moomba, relax by the Yarra River – Birrarung

as nightly fireworks light up the Melbourne skyline, as well as nightly feature films on the Moomba big screen.

Other highlights of the program include:

- The Moomba Masters water sports competition, showcasing elite Australian and international athletes
- Rides and games for thrill-seekers of all ages at the Moomba Carnival
- More than 60 performers and entertainers, from acrobats to dancers, musicians, actors, roving performers, and more
- Interactive activities and play zones, with crafts, face painting, workshops and a Bluey Live experience.
- Exhilarating scooting, skating and riding across a bustling Moomba Skate Park Program.
- Food and drinks galore, with more than 25 food truck offerings featuring cuisines from around the world.

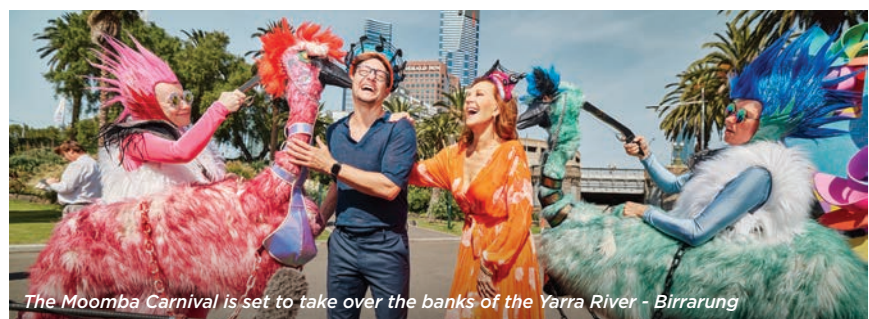


Don't miss the colourful Moomba Parade

Moomba is Australia's largest free community festival and is proudly owned and delivered by the City of Melbourne.

It is an accessible and certified carbon-neutral event.

For the full Moomba program, or to purchase a Ride Pass for Moomba Carnival, visit moomba.melbourne.vic.gov.au



The Moomba Carnival is set to take over the banks of the Yarra River - Birrarung

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Docklander

New book *The Art of Winging It* puts Docklands on readers' radars

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Docklands has meant something special to Dr Kaushik Sridhar for many years, and now those memories of living here have been woven into his recently released book *The Art of Winging It*.

As a former professional athlete, a two-time TEDx speaker, corporate executive, university lecturer, and a winner of the ESG Thought Leader of the Year, Dr Sridhar has had a diverse career path.

But releasing a book has always been a lifelong dream, and it stems from comments his parents often made about leaving his footprint on the world.

"Having grown up in India, Nigeria, the United States, and now calling Australia home, I have found that when it comes to forging your own path, there are no established rules," he said.

"You have to make them for yourself. These ideas apply to life as well as business. This book will help you to learn to back yourself."

"In developing my own rules, I've learned how to break away from expectations and unhelpful pressures and found that the only way to fly is by truly winging it."

The book delves into themes of being "the underdog" after years of adversity, understanding how people can be their own worst enemy, and it questions "what's the worst that can happen?" when creating your own path

to success, facing challenges and forging your own path.

Dr Sridhar uses his own experiences to lead readers through examples and lessons they could learn, and Docklanders will also get an opportunity to relate to parts in the narrative that connect back to the suburb they call home.

Dr Sridhar first moved to Docklands with his wife in 2015, and it was where they bought their first home, where they spent good quality time taking walks along NewQuay Promenade, and where they learnt to adapt to a changing world when COVID hit.

Even though the couple moved to Sydney in 2021, Docklands still has a very special place in the couple's hearts.

"Docklands gave us so many memories, and when we relocated, she [my wife] was in absolute tears," Dr Sridhar said.

"When my wife was walking in Docklands with her dad, who was visiting Melbourne, in 2010, she told him that she would one day live in Docklands."

Fulfilling dreams through putting in the work seems to be something that has made Dr Sridhar and his wife's lives a lot fuller, and now it is a matter of paying it forward through using his story to help others.



"I needed this book in every moment I lived through racism, physical and mental bullying, heartbreak and being boxed into blueprints that tried to tell me who I should be," he said.

"[This book is] one I believe [people] will pick up and say, 'this changed my life.'" ●



▲ Dr Sridhar with his father, and his recently released book.

To purchase:

Kaylah-Joelle Baker
JOURNALIST
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Docklands' hottest new restaurant

Since opening late last year, the hype surrounding Horn and Hoof, Docklands' newest European dining experience, has been palpable.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

The overwhelming support from both locals and visitors alike is evident recognition of a business willing to take a leap and offer something you're not going to get at your average high street restaurant.

Horn and Hoof is an ode to the past, the gastronomy of "our forefathers by integrating age-old cooking methods" to bring to diners "an authentic food experience."

That food experience is not a typical one. On Horn and Hoof's menu, you will find wild venison served with cherry tomatoes and caramelised carrots, slow-cooked wild boar with sweet beetroot and prune sauce, toasted bulgur, carrots and green leaves, and even alpaca shanks with crispy potatoes, sweet baby peas, old-style pickles, cranberry and red currant sauce.

Owner Serge Ambrose, who works alongside his wife and chef Elena, told *Docklands News* the response from locals, which makes up more than 50 per cent of the restaurant's patronage, has been "really fantastic."

"While everyone's going toward fusion cooking, we've literally gone the opposite way. We're doing foods the way our grandparents used to cook," Mr Ambrose said.

"We've got things like venison, we've got wild boar, we've got crepes with mushroom and truffle oil, we've got gorgonzola blue cheese ice cream. Those types of things."

"We have heard a lot of locals say how great it is to have a place that is just a quick come in, eat and go, but a place they're proud of; a place you can go anywhere in Melbourne and say, 'we have one of the best in the city' - we're striving for that."

Mr Ambrose only has one request of his diners as they leave: if they like what they had, please tell one friend, and if there is something he can do better, please tell him.

Based on the murmurings around postcode 3008, and the venue's success so far, it seems Mr Ambrose's ask is being answered and the good word about Horn and Hoof is being heard far and wide.

"Our philosophy is that we're here to look after you. Probably the best way to describe it high-end food, without the high-end wank," Mr Ambrose said.

"Many people have told us, 'you're idiots, why are you heading down to Docklands when you can make more money on Toorak Rd?'"

"We said we'd rather bring people down here to keep with our philosophy and all it's going to take is word of mouth."

"We only accommodate 20 to 30 people a night, and we are happy with that. It allows us to talk to every single table, each group of people and look after them personally."

Horn and Hoof offer the option of a two-course (\$79) or three-course (\$99) meal with gluten-free, vegan, vegetarian and pescetarian options available, along with a comprehensive list of cocktails, beers, spirits and wines, from here and abroad. ●



For more information:
hornandhoof.au



▲ The Lucas RE team at the recent ARERA night.

The awards keep coming for Lucas Real Estate



February was a good month for local real estate heavyweights, Lucas Real Estate, with the agency taking out a whopping 11 industry awards.



According to Lucas Real Estate their goal is to achieve the best possible outcome for their clients through hard work, dedication, and commitment, and these results reflect that they've done just that.

First, the team won a number of awards from the highly recognised and customer driven ratemyagent platform, with Lucas Real Estate taking out the number one agency in Docklands, and Serena Su named the suburbs best agent.

Second, the entire Lucas team travelled to Sydney for the Australasian Real Estate Results Awards (ARERA) from where they took home another three awards.

"It has been such a fantastic month for the team and naturally, none of this would be possible without the continued trust and loyalty of our vendors, rental providers, buyers, renters, and suppliers alike," director Baden Lucas told *Docklands News*.

"Ratemyagent is the number 1 platform for buyer and vendor reviews with more than 1.2 million verified reviews Australia wide. To take home not one, but eight awards is a phenomenal accomplishment."

"To top it off, we've now held the title of Agency of the Year in Docklands for six consecutive years running."

Lucas Real Estate's ratemyagent awards include: Agency of the Year - Docklands; Agent of the Year - Docklands - Serena Su; Top 5 Rental Agency - Melbourne; Top 10 Rental Agency - Victoria; Top 100 Rental Agency - Australia; Rental Agency of the Year - Docklands; Rental Agency of the Year - Southbank; and Rental Agency of the Year - Port Melbourne.

Lucas Real Estate's ARERA results include: Growth Agent of The Year - Serena Su; Business Development Manager of The Year - Eva Christodoulou, and Property Management Team of The Year.

"On behalf of the whole team, we're just so proud of all the team and individual awards that our team was nominated for," Mr Lucas said.

"It's a reflection of our teams' dedication to their clients and how results focussed they are. Of course, we know what superstars both Serena and Eva are, so it's even more thrilling for them to receive the accolades of their peers and community." ●

For more information:
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CRITIC



On a figurative journey

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

There is an otherworldliness attempting to break through Gary Willis's paintings on show at Library at the Dock.

When *Emptiness Becomes Form* and *The Enlightenment* are appropriations of 400-year-old French works.

"They are selected as aspects of the original paintings," Mr Willis told *Docklands News*.

"Appropriated and adjusted but after that, as close as I could get," he said, without giving too much away.

The paintings stand out among portraits and landscapes drawn from life and seem to question the logic of figurative painting.

Why focus on the present when the past can be infinitely more alluring, particularly representations of serious young men in the process of study?

The subjects wear the refined clothes of the court and an air of deep concentration, as if this effort will reap them many rewards.

The originals of the paintings were done by Jean Simeon Chardin and are in the National Gallery in London.

"I have always admired Chardin, especially these paintings. I have done several versions and drawings of them," Mr Willis said.

Mr Willis is as much a writer as artist and has documented his life in *Dead Beat Modern Art Type 72-82*. His PhD thesis was also published as *Key Issues Concerning Contemporary Art*.

These historical documents are displayed in a glass cabinet with the suite of recent paintings and a few witty excerpts.

In *Dead Beat*, Willis writes of his early experiment with the art world. "I was desperate to be done with the '70s."

Documentation may well be the artist's forte. Those who wish to discuss the issue are invited to a soiree on March 9 featuring three arts writers and publishers. A clue to this exhibition, with its underlying references, lies in the artist's selection of mysterious subjects from the past.

"I also wanted to suggest there might not be much change in the ambitions of a bright young boy from the 17th century until today, except costume and currency."

Other paintings that stand out are those of a fortune teller and an absurdist portrait of poet Ania Walwitz.

Paintings, Gary Willis, Library at the Dock, until March 11. ●

DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

Safety in our multi-use precinct

WORDS BY Docklands Representative Group



▲ Senior Constable James Vass in Docklands.

Night-time activities in Docklands have shone a light on the impact of noise upon our community, and great effort has been made to capture data on sound levels, trajectories, penetrations and impact, which is all important work.

But there is also the companion issue of *safety* around these night-time activations, with many reports of anti-social behaviour, often by highly intoxicated patrons.

Sadly, this is not a new issue in Docklands, and our neighbourhood has previously had the moniker of "Drunklands".

The Docklands Representative Group (DRG) has long campaigned against strategies

that rely on "activating through alcohol", as the impact of such approaches lingers long with areas becoming known for public intoxication and, consequently, they are actively avoided, most especially by family groups.

Instead, new social trends, like the "sober curious" movement, could be leveraged.

"Sober curious" is a social wellness movement that involves self-selecting out of alcohol consumption at times, without abstaining from drinking altogether. It is part of a larger trend in alcohol consumption in Australia, which has seen decreasing alcohol use with "young people" driving this trend. In fact, Melbourne boasts Australia's first non-alcoholic bar, Brunswick Aces Bar. And even Dan Murphy's first bar, ZERO%, has a menu of more than 30 zero-alcohol drinks.

Admittedly, there are programs already in place that seek to mitigate some

negative impacts of the night-time economy, such as City of Melbourne's Project Night Justice, which states, "everyone has the right to enjoy the city after dark."

Project Night Justice is a collection of initiatives aimed at improving night safety in the city and includes a public sexual violence awareness campaign in partnership with Crime Stoppers. Unfortunately, participation remains voluntary, and it would be interesting to know which venues in Docklands have signed up to the Night Safety Charter.

And, of course, Victoria Police are central to promoting safety in Docklands.

Through its new Neighbourhood Policing model, Victoria Police has stated a commitment to working alongside community to develop local solutions to local safety problems.

Two components of this are a Local Safety Committee (on which the

DRG participates) and a dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Coordinator.

As of January, with Constable Mitch Hoare departing for Tasmania, Docklands has a new Neighbourhood Policing Coordinator, Senior Constable James Vass.

The DRG recently met with Senior Constable Vass, who sees the diversity in Docklands as "dynamic and exciting to be involved with" and he is keen to better understand the complexity of our vertical suburb.

Senior Constable Vass also points out that while types of complaints are common across all communities, the same issue can impact people differently.

By this he means that the key to devising solutions is to unpack the issue according to local circumstances and the specific people involved – the devil being in the detail.

Senior Constable Vass is keen to engage locally and can be contacted on: james.vass@police.vic.gov.au. ●

STATE MP (UPPER HOUSE)

Addressing our housing crisis

WORDS BY Evan Mulholland

LIBERAL MP FOR NORTHERN METROPOLITAN



▲ Evan Mulholland MP in front of a car park in Carlton which is the subject of a recommendation by the City of Melbourne for heritage protection.

In my inaugural speech to the Victorian Parliament in December last year, I spoke about what I believe is my duty as a millennial MP to do what I can to assist my peers to achieve the great Australian dream of home ownership.

As I said, "I believe it is immoral that large sections of our inner cities, flush with good transport, schools, health care and other infrastructure, remain almost flat, with obsolete overlays denying young Victorians a chance to buy their first home where they want to live. If my party wants to

remain relevant to young people, we must at every opportunity reject this short-sighted and unfair approach and champion home ownership."

This leads me to question the bizarre recommendation from the independent Planning Panels Victoria report into the City of Melbourne's Carlton Heritage Review, which said there was "significant justification" into applying a heritage overlay to the "brutalist" style carpark on the corner of Grattan and Cardigan streets in Carlton.

There is the saying that one man's trash is another man's treasure. But why we would want to heritage list a museum to parked cars is beyond me. Yet we have significant architecture experts lining up to opine on is more like a seven-storey pile of concrete.

While some in the political class might not want to admit it, we have a housing crisis. This is not to say that significant sites and buildings should not be heritage listed. But it's about striking the right balance, which I don't believe has occurred in the case of the City of Melbourne Heritage Review.

Defenders of heritage listings and overlays will often argue that listing does not affect development if the facade is maintained. Yet VCAT has straight up rejected a proposal to build a nine-storey apartment tower next to the heritage-listed 204-208 Albert St, in an area of East Melbourne which is already surrounded by similar apartments.

While some might think they're on the side of the angels and fighting a holy war against evil property

developers, in large part all they end up doing is sending my generation packing to growth areas where education, healthcare, amenities and infrastructure are already a decade behind in growth.

I'm all for residents having their say about what they believe to be inappropriate development, and I'm not about to go into bat for all developers. Some deserve the poor reputation they cop. But we need to understand that it's not developers that are moving into these homes and apartments, it's the next generation, and migrants, looking for a slice of the great Australian dream.

Let's not pull the ladder up behind us. Instead, we should helpfully drop it down so the next generation of Australians can secure a home where they want to live. ●

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STRATA MANAGEMENT



Using owners' corporation rules to encourage sustainability

Increasingly, owners' corporations (OC) are looking to reduce their footprints and set themselves up as more sustainable, comfortable places to live.

WORDS BY *The Knight*
OWNERS' CORPORATION MANAGERS

Often, this will involve investigating retrofits such as solar panels or electric hot water, or the upkeep and maintenance of features which may have been installed by the original developer.

Another way OCs can look to improve sustainability is via the OC rules.

The rules of your OC are registered with your plan of subdivision, meaning a special resolution is required to change them. Or in other words, 75 per cent of all owners will need to vote in favour for a final special resolution to pass.

This can be difficult to achieve, especially at larger properties and ones with large numbers of renters. That said, the rules are the most effective way to encourage the types of behaviour which are important to your community, so the payoff could be great.

Below is some inspiration to embed sustainable rules into owners' corporations.

Guiding principles

Some OCs choose to start their rules with guiding principles. These can outline commitments to waste minimisation, sustainable transport, energy efficiency and more. These principles can be used to guide the ongoing operation of the OC and future decisions should be made with these guidelines in mind.

Energy efficiency

Rules can commit property to ensuring efficiency standards are maintained. Sustainable OC rules could include banning gas barbecues on balconies or committing to only installing efficient lights and appliances.

They can also include committing to measuring and offsetting the carbon footprint of the OC each year.

Waste

OC rules can detail how occupiers dispose of waste. This can include recycling correctly and ensuring there is no contamination of the bins, which could result in recycling bins being sent to landfill.

They can also stipulate that green waste must be composted if these facilities are available.

Gardens

Rules can describe how common property gardens can be managed. This can include allowing residents to apply to manage areas of the garden and grow food onsite.

They can also limit what is planted and often choose to favour Australian native plants that use minimal water.

Renovations

The Model Rules which apply to all OCs state that owners need to advise the OC when making changes to their lots.

Changes to the external appearance also need to be approved by the OC, which can go further by ensuring these works are approved with sustainability in mind.

Rules can include a requirement that owners submit a sustainability statement with any works that identifies the materials that will be used. This statement should demonstrate the works are in line with the guiding principles of the OC.

If you need any help with setting your OC up with sustainability focused rules, get in touch with our team at newbusiness@theknight.com.au ●

OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Water damage claims expose risk to owners' corporations

Studies of recent VCAT cases in water damage claims highlight the need for owners' corporations (OCs) to work faster and work smarter.

Two recent decisions from VCAT (the decision of Guy, and the decision of Dunn) involving claims by lot owners for compensation from water damage to their units has highlighted the risks that OCs are exposed to.

In both cases, the claimants reported water damage, but the OC dragged their feet in investigating the causes of the water damage.

Pausing for a moment, a number of committee members and strata managers are under the misapprehension that if the OC's strata insurance policy declines a water damage claim, then that is the end of the matter.

Of course, that position is wrong in law. If the insurer declines the claim, all that means is that the OC is unable to obtain insurance coverage for the loss. If the lot owner has suffered loss and damage, then the OC is liable at law for that loss and damage.

In both of these cases, the OC's defence in VCAT was that the expert evidence was inconclusive as to the exact cause of the water ingress, and potentially on an interpretation of the strata plan – there was an argument that the water damage originated from lot property, rather than common property.

These legal arguments failed in VCAT, and the OCs were hit with massive bills for fixing the apartments and compensating for rental losses and damage to furnishings and personal effects.

Some important lessons that OCs should take away from these two cases are:

Failure to take proactive action to properly investigate and address issues concerning the maintenance and repair of common property may result in significant financial penalties as the Tribunal is as concerned with the conduct of the parties in attending to the matter quickly, and will not rescue the OC on technical legal arguments; and,

Supporting expert evidence (especially where there is countering evidence available) or delay caused by the conduct of another party cannot be solely relied upon to absolve the OC of its liability set out in the relevant legislation and case law.

If your OC receives a complaint about an issue with water ingress from the common property into lot property, it is important to first thoroughly investigate the issue, source advice from a reliable expert (and where there is doubt if the issue has arisen because of the common property, then consult a specialist lawyer also) and follow the recommendations provided. Above all it is important that the OC does not delay in responding and acting on a complaint as this is the most common way an OC can open itself up to liability and be found in breach of its duty. ●



Tom Bacon

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WE LIVE HERE

The monster eating Melbourne

Local councils are fighting back against the short-stay behemoth that's causing chaos across the city.

Melbourne councils suffering with short-stay issues want the state government to codify the powers needed for basic regulations to manage the virtually uncontrolled short-stay industry.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Steve Holland has reportedly called on the state government to give councils stronger powers over short stay operators.

Speaking to the media, the Mayor said, "we get the complaints, so our feeling is we're best placed to deal with some of these problems."

The council is seeking the powers to ban short-stay operators from listing properties with repeat problems. The issue is large scale – Mornington Peninsula has about 5000 properties just on Airbnb, according to insideairbnb.com, a site that monitors the platform. The council says almost 4000 people are on the public housing waiting lists and an estimated 1000 are experiencing homelessness.

Recently Mornington Peninsula introduced a \$311 registration fee for short-stay listed homes. While the council can revoke an operator's registration, its powers are limited and enforcement costs are greater than the fees collected.

Meanwhile, Warrnambool City Council has introduced a registration scheme, charging operators \$400 for properties listed as short stays.

City of Port Phillip is also under pressure to implement regulations, with a registration system being the bare minimum. Residents in the municipality have been contacting We Live Here to express their frustration. Here are some examples of the *vox populi*:

- "The reformed rules at the VCAT regarding short terms looks great on paper but are actually very weak when it comes to a legal process. It takes years to follow the process, meanwhile neighbouring residents sell up or move on because their apartment is unbearable to live in."
- "These unregulated short-term rentals are affecting the wider community in terms of homelessness, affordable housing purchase and rental availability for people who want to live here."
- "Victoria needs to wake up and understand how this unregulated business is destroying neighbourhoods and implement laws like WA, TAS and NSW by making it compulsory for short term providers to register their business with the local council and limit any short-term rental to 180 days a year."
- "Imagine living next door to a venue that does not have to answer to anyone in terms of sound pollution, number of patrons, age-limits or operating hours. This is in fact what goes on across our suburb."

The state government claims that its short-stay bill "limits disruption" caused by short-stays. We have been campaigning against this anaemic, unworkable Airbnb bill for six years – we are unable to find a single case where VCAT has ruled in favour of residents.

Let's change this, Minister Pearson. ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

LEARN MORE AT: WELIVEHERE.NET



STATE MP (LOWER HOUSE)



Protecting an important local space

It was such a pleasure to visit Docklands Neighbourhood House (DNH) recently.

I chatted with DNH director Ariel, and the community development officer, Jason, who both told me about all the great programs run by the Neighbourhood House, including "Mums and Bubs" yoga and morning tea, homework club, art and dance classes, Pilates, women's advocacy group and men's skill share sessions. They also have a relationship with Melbourne Community Toy Libraries (another great local initiative that I've been supporting) to provide afternoon tea play sessions for kids of all ages.

With all the great work they're doing, it's really concerning to hear that they are at risk of closing in July due to a lack of ongoing funding. They have been able to secure some stop-gap funding from the City of Melbourne to keep doors open until mid-year but after that their future is uncertain.

Neighbourhood Houses are such important spaces for bringing our community together.

I'll be advocating strongly to the state government and the council for ongoing funding for Neighbourhood Houses to ensure that Docklands doesn't lose this important resource.

Funding for Neighbourhood Houses and community centres is reviewed really irregularly and can be a little complex to navigate. Sometimes a Neighbourhood House might be waiting years before they can apply for, or access, any funding from the government. I'm advocating to make this process simpler, to make it easier for our local organisations to get the funding they need to support the great work they do.

Do you love the Docklands Neighbourhood House? I'd love to hear from you. To chat about this, or anything else, please get in touch at office@ellensandell.com ●



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

HISTORY

Women at work – Sands and McDougall staff, 1897

What better way to celebrate Women's History Month in March than taking a peek into the working lives of female office workers in the 1890s?



You probably already know about the Sands & McDougall Directories, those invaluable volumes that matched streets and their occupants from the mid-1850s until 1974. Produced annually, they brought together a vast array of information and are considered by many the internet of their day. By the 1970s, telephone directories took over the role that the Sands and Macs had previously played, and now even those are redundant. Today Sands and Macs are a much-used tool for historical research. In them you can trace a century of urban development through changes of residences, places of business, even suburbs.

The aim was to record every head of household, every trade and every business in the CBD and the suburbs. Until I saw this photograph, I had not given much thought to how the directories were put together once the collector of the information had returned to the company's impressive Spencer St headquarters. (Yes, a team of people walked the streets, knocking on doors, collecting the details of the occupants.)

Here we have a glimpse of the women on the office staff, stacks of pages in front of each of them, piles of directories stacked up at the end of each long table. They are cross-checking entries for the new edition, which ran to 1500 pages or more.

At the back is a small boy, the messenger lad, I

suppose. Along the wall on the left of the image hang the women's hats, cloaks and bags and we can tell from these that it is summer. The year is either late 1896 or early 1897, because the sign at the back tells us that the 1897 Directory is now ready, so the photograph was taken at the tail end of years of devastating economic depression, years in which many recordings of "vacant" appeared in the listings of suburban streets.

Many of these directories are available online through the State Library of Victoria, but the Royal Historical Society, based at the Drill Hall, 239 A'Beckett St, has a vast run of directories from the 1850s until the final edition in 1974, so if you're someone who likes looking through the "real thing", why not make time to visit? ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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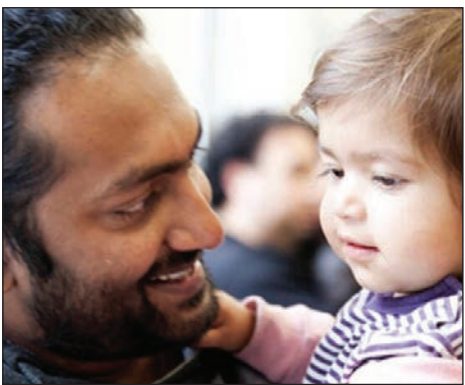


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CIRCLES EXHIBITION
 From opening night March 8, at 6:30pm, to April 1.
 To celebrate International Women's Day, Magnet Galleries Melbourne is launching its 13th women photographers' exhibition.
 Located in The District Docklands Wharf Street

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. March Film: *Arranged*.
 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

SEA SHANTIES AND FOLK SONGS
 Every second Thursday, from 7pm. Next sessions will run on March 16 and 30.
 A night full of rollicking singalongs.
 From shanties, to folk songs, work songs, and drinking songs.
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10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

MARCH 2013 | ISSUE 84

DOCKLANDS NEWS

Car restorations, up close and personal

Locals and visitors will soon be able to watch the restoration of classic cars right here in Docklands.



Brian Tanti will open a workshop to the public this month allowing them to see firsthand the magic of car restoration.

Mr Tanti is the former director of the Fox Classic Car Collection and is a former Docklands Chamber of Commerce president. He is also the CEO of the AutoHorizon Foundation, the not-for-profit organisation behind the FR-1 concept car.

His workshop is based at the Automotive Centre of Excellence (ACE) but is part of the Fox Classic Car Museum.

The workshop will allow visitors to get an insight into the restoration process.

"It's all about seeing what happens behind the scenes and seeing the disciplines that are applied when restoring a car," Mr Tanti said.

The first car to be restored is a 1963 Bentley S2 Continental. Mr Tanti said the restoration would be fairly extensive as the car had a high degree of corrosion and wear.

"It will be a labour intensive process," he said.

According to Mr Tanti the public restoration will allow visitors to watch the transition of an unrestored car to a restored masterpiece and also to witness restoration disciplines Brian Tanti (right) explains his restoration of the 550 Spyder to Peta Wheadon and volunteer Peter Jamieson, that nowadays are quite often unseen.

Mr Tanti said it was likely the car would be displayed in the museum once restored. But the workshop won't be limited to the restoration and maintenance of classic cars.

Mr Tanti said he would also be working on the FR-1 concept car at the workshop, adding another dimension to the visitor experience.

According to Mr Tanti the workshop activity will rotate with different work happening all the time.

Fox Classic Car Museum manager Peta Wheadon said the workshop would allow enthusiasts to admire the quality of work and the craftsmanship that had gone into the recreating and restoring process.

"Brian is one of the best restorers in the world," Ms Wheadon said.

While appreciating the technical elements involved in restoration, Ms Wheadon said visitors were also intrigued by the history of the cars.

A 1955 Porsche 550 Spyder restored by Mr Tanti in the mid 90s and now featured in the museum was raced by famed drivers Stirling Moss and Jack Brabham.

"Sometimes you can be really lucky and find an interesting former owner," Mr Tanti said.

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