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DOCKLANDS





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# Warm up with local snow play

Forget driving to the mountains, head to The District Docklands for snow play this August!

Three-year-old Alfie Melfi from Preston got into the swing of things when she recently visited The District.

Snow Play can be found every Saturday and Sunday between 12 noon and 4pm at the square outside H&M. Photo courtesy of Capture Point Media.



# Chamber wants to turn on the lights

By Shane Scanlan

*The Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC) is embarking on another attempt to bring a permanent light and sound show to Victoria Harbour.*

The chamber is about to issue an expression of interest (EoI) to engage consultants to prepare a business case for the proposal.

Two years ago, the chamber was forced to abandon its advocacy for a “Fountains and Flames” installation at the end of Central Pier after the proposal failed to attract any significant government or private backing.

Chamber president Joh Maxwell vowed at the time to keep trying to bring a world-class permanent attraction to Docklands. And the latest move shows she is true to her word.

“The chamber has always believed that a

permanent activation of the waterways with a free-to-public show running daily will bring a different vibe to Docklands – fountains, light shows and sound,” Mrs Maxwell told *Docklands News*.

“The chamber will be seeking EoI for preparation of a business case to take to City of Melbourne, state government and private enterprise to bring a light show.”

In 2016 the chamber championed the Fountains and Flames show, which would have seen a large-scale fountain, capable of being transformed into a floating stage.

The fountain would have been programmed to music and also incorporate flames, pyrotechnics, video projection and lasers.

However, the council declined to fund a trial, saying: “The City of Melbourne regularly receives funding requests from companies for events and public installations. In this particular case, we felt that the business case was not convincing and that the significant public funds required to deliver this project did not represent good value for our ratepayers.”

*Continued on page 3.*



An example of a similar light show in Sydney.



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# That's a hell of a lot of food!

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The deadline for the September edition is August 23.

**Publisher:** Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
ABN: 57 623 558 725

**Editor:** Shane Scanlan  
**Journalist:** Meg Hill

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*Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the publisher.*

**Local charity The Big Umbrella has rescued and reissued 218 tonnes of discarded food over the past seven years.**

Based at the old community "Hub" in Harbour Esplanade, the charity accepts, prepares, transports and feeds about 200 people at Federation Square on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Founder Justin Dickinson said his organisation had not missed a single week since the operation started in 2011. So far, more than 100,000 people have been fed.

"We even operate on Christmas Day," he said. "Why do we do it? Because we all have enough in our lives and you have to give back."

The group has a core of dedicated volunteers who perform "team leader" functions during the actual food distribution between 7.30pm and 9.30pm supervising teams of up to 25 helpers.

But the effort starts earlier in Docklands around 3pm when food is delivered by Oz Harvest, an organisation which collects "left overs" from supermarkets, cafes and restaurants.

Fresh food is then reconstituted into salads and other forms before being packed for transportation to the CBD and, ultimately, distributed. But it doesn't end there either.

Afterwards, back at Docklands, there is washing-up to the done, and then everything



Left to right: The Big Umbrella volunteers Soraya, Susan and Hannah.

is packed away for next time.

Volunteer Soraya Knapp said she often would not get home to suburban Heathmont until midnight – depending on the train service. She said the reward of helping people in need with food that would otherwise have gone to landfill far outweighed any inconvenience.

Both Soraya and colleague Susan Curro have day jobs. Their years of volunteering have come at the expense of sleeping in a cosy bed at home.

Volunteer Hannah Linn also performs "corporate" functions for The Big Umbrella – taking charge of promotion and social media engagement.

The charity supports itself through offering team-building experiences for corporations that offer corporate social responsibility programs. Schools also regularly participate in the program.

See [thebigumbrella.org](http://thebigumbrella.org) for further information about volunteering opportunities.



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A sound and light show in Sydney. Mrs Maxwell says this is an example of what is possible for Docklands.

# Chamber wants to light up Docklands

Continued from page 1

On that occasion the bid was led by a private company, FCT Flames, which offered its show to Docklands as an exclusive, permanent installation.

In April 2016, the company announced it was looking elsewhere after local stakeholders failed to commit funding. Around \$10 million was needed to build the installation and annual operating costs were expected to be around \$600,000.

The time, the chamber is undertaking its own business case to take to government.

Mrs Maxwell said documentation about the EoI would soon be available on the chamber's Visit Docklands web page. She said consultants would be given full details and documentation after registering on the website.

She said: "The business case will initially be targeting an activation for a single event or series of events. The aim of this is to showcase what Docklands delivers."

"The chamber will provide the 'outline' of what we believe is feasible, however we will be open to suggestions."

"Once the business case has been prepared, delivered and signed off - there would be a tender opportunity for the provision of this activation."

Mrs Maxwell said the chamber would be seeking consultants with a proven track record in delivering successful business cases to state government, the City of Melbourne and private investors.

She said proposals would need to include,

but would not be limited to:

- Testimonials;
- Overview of unique opportunity for Docklands;
- Economic impact of single events versus permanent installation;
- A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis;
- Return on investment;
- Environmental impacts/health and safety analysis;
- Precedent of these types of activations and benefits; and
- Pathways forward.

## Fashion Week is coming to Docklands

**Melbourne Fashion Week (MFW) is coming to Collins Square in Docklands from August 31 until September 7.**

Collins Square will be one of six city locations for "fashion capsules" - each featuring a different theme.

The Docklands' theme is jewellery and accessories and will be headlined by a giant balloon sculpture by Moonshot Balloons, which will guard precious works by jewellers and accessory makers.

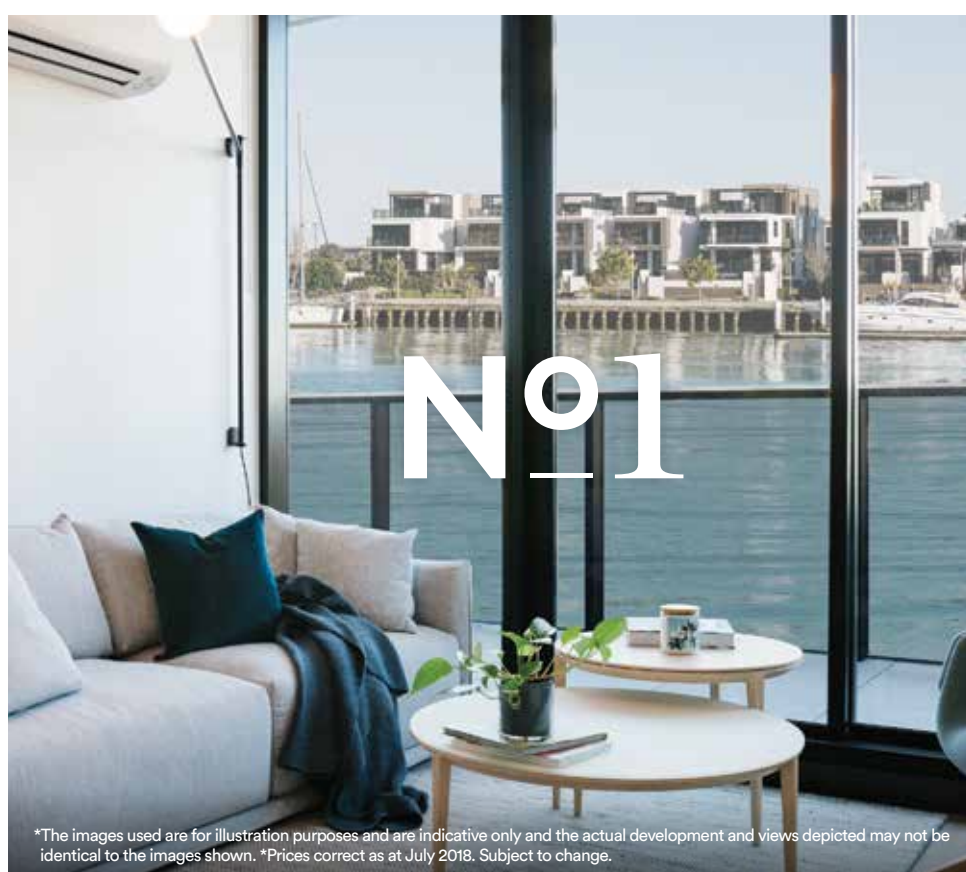
This installation will be curated by Virginia Dowzer together with production company Moth Design and will be in place from Friday, August 31 until Friday, September 7 between 7am and 6pm.

Also running during Fashion Week is a drop-off centre at Collins Square for social enterprise Wear for Success, which supports women and men facing barriers to employment, self-sufficiency and financial independence.

This is done by providing free professional clothing and accessories, one-on-one styling sessions and career coaching in the form of interview advice and resume preparation.

Wear for Success is seeking donations that will help men and women dress appropriately for interviews and integration into the workforce. It's looking for clothes and accessories of quality, pre-loved items that will make their new wearers confident and ready to conquer the workforce.

Wear for Success ambassadors will be available at Collins Square between 8am and 6pm to provide further information about the organisation.



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# 664 Collins St opens for business

*On July 2, Mirvac and its tenants Pitcher Partners, AGL, ExxonMobil, Nexus Mutual and Fujitsu celebrated the official opening of its new office building at 664 Collins St.*

The completion represents the final stage in the redevelopment of the Southern Cross Station precinct and builds on the success of the adjacent 699 Bourke St, which was opened in 2015.

Both buildings are built on concrete decks above the rail concourse above the station.

During the grand opening event, guests witnessed the first reveal of a prominent eight metre-high LED media wall in the lobby. The giant screen will display digital artwork created by design students from Swinburne University.

More than 50 students were commissioned by Mirvac, as part of a partnership with the university, to create dynamic, responsive content that intrigues, entertains, tells stories and catches the eyes of commuters as they make their way to and from the station.

Mirvac’s head of office and industrial, Campbell Hanan said: “We are proud to have delivered 664 Collins St, which represents the culmination of over 10 years of design and construction to deliver a new office precinct within the heart of Melbourne.”

“As well as being a considerable feat of engineering, it also makes a significant contribution to the redevelopment of the wider Southern Cross Station precinct.”



Some internal snapshots (left) of the recently completed 664 Collins St (right).

The 26,000 sqm office tower, which is 100 per cent leased, has been designed to meet the increased sophistication of the workplace. The provision of innovative smart technology will allow Mirvac and its tenants to better understand the building’s utilisation, collecting real-time data to improve



efficiency and effectiveness. Ultimately, this will future-proof 664 Collins St against the changing forces of work and workforces. Mirvac has also partnered with AGL to install a 180kW solar array on the roof of the building, which has already started to

offset the building’s base consumption.

Pitcher Partners’ managing partner, Brendan Britten, said: “664 Collins St has been purpose-built to meet the needs of our firm and take us into the future. With its expansive floors, open plan design and close proximity to nearby transport links and amenities, we are delighted to offer our people and our clients this exceptional working environment within the reinvigorated Docklands locale.”

Grimshaw managing partner, Neil Stonell, said: “Creating a new ground plane 15 metres in the air above the rail corridor at Victoria’s major transport hub has been an incredibly challenging but rewarding endeavour.”

“As a critical over-site development for the city, 664 Collins St stitches together Melbourne’s Central Business District and Docklands precinct, providing a highly flexible 12-storey workplace that traverses the rail corridor, and creates an elegant and calm backdrop to the undulating Southern Cross Station roof,” he said.

664 Collins St is targeting a 5 Star Green Star Design and 5 Star NABERS Energy rating. It also embraces best-in-class tenant end-of-trip facilities, along with on-site car parking.

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# Decision time on CEO Ben Rimmer

By Shane Scanlan

*Melbourne councillors will decide in the next couple of weeks whether to keep or replace CEO Ben Rimmer, whose four-year contract expires on February 8.*

If they are to replace Mr Rimmer, they have until September 8 to give him the required six months' notice.

With time running out for the scheduled July 31 council meeting, a closed session of the full council on August 28 is the most likely date for a decision on Mr Rimmer's future.

Mr Rimmer's controlling style hasn't won him many friends among councillors or staff, with his time at the helm being hallmarked by an exodus of senior staff.

Only two directors, Rob Adams and Linda Weatherson, remain since Mr Rimmer was employed in 2015. The most recent senior casualty is chief financial officer Phu Nguyen.

Councillors remain tight-lipped about Mr Rimmer's future, determined to maintain the integrity of the employment process. But outsiders have had plenty to say about his performance in the top job.

Perhaps the most high-profile commentator has been former premier Jeff Kennett who in March publicly predicted Mr Rimmer would not see out the year.

Former councillor Stephen Mayne, who was on the four-person committee which recommended Mr Rimmer for the job in 2014, told *Docklands News* it was time for change.

"Ben Rimmer is incredibly smart, hard-working and a good innovator, but his true love is state and federal government, so when his four-year contract is up early next year, it would probably make sense for all concerned if he returned to those arenas and was replaced by a CEO with a little more respect for the local government sector, including the important role played by councillors," Mr Mayne said.

"During Ben Rimmer's time at town hall, staff costs have blown out but there has also been quite an exodus of senior executives, which has raised questions about the culture that has developed under his command-and-control leadership style."

Three councillors and independent



City of Melbourne CEO Ben Rimmer.

chair Janine Kirk comprise the council's employment matters committee. While this committee is charged with monitoring performance and recommending actions, the final decision rests with the councillor group as a whole.

Councillors on the committee are Lord Mayor Sally Capp, finance and governance chair Arron Wood and Cathy Oke.

Annual reports show that Mr Rimmer has not had a pay rise since he started and remains on a salary of \$460,000. He spent many months away from the job battling

illness, with the administration at the time refusing to reveal the nature of his illness or Mr Rimmer's payment arrangement.

During this time, former director Martin Cutter acted in the role. Earlier this year, Mr Cutter resigned to take up the CEO role at the City of Greater Geelong.

As previously reported by *Docklands News*, the City of Melbourne is the state's most secretive council, taking more decisions behind closed doors than any other (except East Gippsland where officers have no delegated decision-making powers).

We have also previously reported that the City of Melbourne makes only a third the number of decisions in public that it made 10 years ago.

Mr Rimmer declined to be interviewed by *Docklands News*, and at the council's Future Melbourne Committee on July 17, Lord Mayor Sally Capp ruled ineligible a question asking Mr Rimmer if he was seeking a further contract as CEO.

"Before there's an answer on that, I'm going to overrule it. I don't think it's appropriate to ask and discuss personnel matters in this environment," Cr Capp said.

Mr Rimmer's handling of the former lord mayor Robert Doyle sex scandal is likely to be a consideration for councillors. After designing and launching the "Freckleton inquiry" into allegations against Mr Doyle, Mr Rimmer appears unable or unwilling to conclude the investigation.

It's also not insignificant that the council's signature Queen Victoria Market redevelopment project languishes in limbo, mired in state political intrigue.

Victorian legislation limits councillor contact and influence exclusively to the chief executive officer. The CEO is the only council officer they can hire or fire.

Following Mr Rimmer's appointment in 2015, former councillor Stephen Mayne wrote extensively about his sense of excitement on Crikey.com: "We now just need the new CEO to be a superstar when working for the first time in local government and to a board," he concluded.

"No pressure there for the former professional violinist who used to busk on the streets of Melbourne before filling out that remarkable CV covering honours in Law and Arts, [being part of the] Boston Consulting Group, an Oxford MBA and then senior posts such as deputy secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet in Victoria before being Kevin Rudd's lead negotiator on hospital reform, and Tony Abbott's man running a major change program at Centrelink with 40,000 staff."



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# Bringing the waterways threads together

*Melbourne councillor Jackie Watts has searched out the many and various threads that define Docklands’ waterways and has knitted them into a coherent policy document that just might lead to its salvation.*

Cr Watts stepped up last year to help Docklands’ three heritage vessels present a co-ordinated proposal to make a permanent home for themselves in Victoria Harbour.

The complexities and contingencies that emerged led to a wider examination of our waterways – including heritage, transport, berthing, tourism, infrastructure, access, education and governance.

“What I found was layers of intersecting issues and opportunities and it took me a lot of time, meetings and research to nut it all out and bring it all together in a single document,” Cr Watts said.

The result is an 8000-word document which outlines all the players, the context and the opportunities to progress the local waterways.

In particular, Cr Watts wants to see a maritime heritage museum established in Docklands. She chairs the City of Melbourne’s “Knowledge City” portfolio, which covers education and museums.

“There is general acknowledgement among stakeholders that an opportunity exists to establish a Docklands museum as a permanent tourism attraction in Docklands,” Cr Watts said.

“The absence of a Docklands museum should be understood to be an undeveloped cultural asset. The point of ‘differentiation’ for this proposed museum is the specific focus on commerce or trade, stevedoring and specialist shipping.”

Her document looks beyond Docklands to other maritime-related entities and attempts to pull them all together under a banner of a “Maritime Heritage Docklands Network”.

Cr Watts primary objective is to: “Sustain and celebrate Melbourne’s Maritime Docklands Heritage Network – a comprehensive approach to exploiting the as



City of Melbourne Cr Jackie Watts.

yet undeveloped cultural assets and creating new maritime assets.”

Cr Watts goes on to warn that action needs to be taken urgently or the momentum may be lost.

“Melbourne has effectively turned its back on its rich maritime heritage,” she said. “There is an urgent need for state and local government to properly acknowledge that trade by sea was, and is still, crucial in underpinning economic prosperity.”

“Unless responsible authorities progress a comprehensive plan to both recognise and exploit the cultural assets held within the Melbourne Maritime Docklands Network, the return on investment to date will not occur,” she said.

“The original vision for Docklands will dissipate. Inaction now carries the risk of the Docklands Precinct becoming just a sterile real estate development, which fails

to capitalise upon the wonderful waterfront location,” Cr Watts said.

“In developing Melbourne’s Maritime Docklands Heritage Network, there is an opportunity not only to optimise the value of our rich, nationally significant cultural assets but also to activate the Docklands precinct benefitting tourism, the community and the wider public.”

In June, Cr Watts negotiated a late addition to the City of Melbourne’s new budget to: “Advocate to Development Victoria to ensure that Melbourne’s maritime heritage is considered as part of the development of Harbour Esplanade and Victoria Harbour. Goal 8 - A city planning for growth - shall involve researching the appetite of Development Victoria, other government departments and agencies, significant stakeholders, and any potential models, for the establishment of a Maritime Commercial Heritage Museum at Docklands.”

She says her research clearly shows that such an “appetite” exists and that a clear pathway for implementation is opening up.

“Now the time has come for everyone, all of the many enthusiastic stakeholder groups, both levels of government and all relevant agencies to work together to ensure we make the most of this opportunity for future generations,” she told *Docklands News*. “As is the case for other comparable museums around the world, corporate, government and philanthropic funding will support the project.”

Cr Watts points out that the comprehensive background research is hers alone and has no official status within the City of Melbourne. She is happy to share the report with interested locals or other stakeholders and would welcome their input. Email her at [jackiewatts@netspace.net.au](mailto:jackiewatts@netspace.net.au) for a copy.

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# Owners to be offered loans to pay for cladding

By Meg Hill

*The state government announced its plan to deal with the removal of combustible cladding on July 26 by providing owners with loans to cover the costs.*

There has been long-term speculation over who would foot the bill for the non-compliant cladding on buildings around Melbourne after the 2014 fire at the Lacrosse Building in Docklands.

The Cladding Rectification Agreements will be between owners (or owners' corporations), lenders and municipal councils. Loans will be paid back out of rates, over a minimum period of 10 years.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said: "The scheme is the first of its kind anywhere in the world and offers owners the cheapest and most efficient way of removing dangerous cladding from their buildings."

But there has been hostility to the onus falling on owners instead of on construction companies and the building surveyors who approved the cladding in the first place.

Rus Littleton, a director of the We Live Here owners and residents group, said the plan was a compromise.

"We sense a hint of contrition from the state government, whose imprimatur was firmly stamped on the use of flammable cladding for many years," he said.

"Victoria's deregulated building approval system allowed dangerous building materials to become widespread here."

"Financial assistance is not quite the mea culpa that owners deserve from the government. But, it does go some way to acknowledge the government's responsibility and also ameliorate the impact on unfortunate owners caught up in this dangerous, costly, bureaucratic mess."

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) has almost completed an audit of 1369 planning and building permits, and has issued more than 100 building orders to residents.



## New river apartments

*Mirvac has unveiled 11 new Wharfside Residences at Yarra's Edge.*

The developer says the spacious homes are built over four levels and vary in size from 332 sqm to 493 sqm.

Mirvac's general manager residential Victoria, Elysa Anderson, said the homes' orientation overlooking glistening water, luxury boats and city lights was comparable to the spectacular settings of glamorous waterfront cities such as Monte Carlo and Hong Kong.

"Waterfront living is a status symbol around the world, and we've created the perfect haven for those who want a luxurious family home with a proximity to the Yarra River unavailable anywhere else in the city," Ms Anderson said.

Yarra's Edge resident and former Olympian, Sue Stanley, said she chose a Wharfside Residence because of the exceptional lifestyle on offer.

"Yarra's Edge is a truly unique place to live, with so many places to visit nearby and a second-to-none view of the most liveable city in the world. It's safe, clean, well-lit, dog-friendly and full of friendly residents - it feels like a real community," Ms Stanley said.

The Wharfside Residences offer private lifts, double garages and oversized bedrooms.

Rooftop decks maximise the views of the river and city skyline, while taking advantage of a desirable north-facing aspect.

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# Train driving in the Goods Shed

*It's a lovely coincidence that the state's V/Line train drivers are being instructed in the Goods Shed North, a spiritual home of Victoria's railways.*

The Docklands railway shed was built in 1889 and, back in the day – before being cut in half to make way for Collins St – was the longest shed in the southern hemisphere.

Today the sheds (both north and south) are home to a number of disparate organisations and businesses – among them V/Line.

Driver training and development manager Brad Sullivan oversees the professional development of a squad of about 70 at any one time. Currently, trainees spend only about 15 to 20 per cent of their time in one of two Velocity train cab simulators on site.

“We hope to build this to about 25 to 30 per cent of classroom time over the next two or three years,” Mr Sullivan said.

Unlike a drivers’ licence, which enables a driver to take to any road at any time, train drivers are trained specifically for each line.

The Goods Shed North simulators were introduced to teach drivers to navigate part of the multi-billion-dollar Regional Rail Link – between Southern Cross and Little River. But V/Line hopes to extend the offering to other lines in the future.

And if it looks like fun, be reassured – it is.

Docklands News was able to take control of a three-car Velocity train and safely arrive at Sunshine station. But there’s a lot to think



Trainee driver in the Velocity train cab simulator.

about. There are doors to open and close, horns to blow, signals and speed limits to obey and, of course, a timetable to adhere to.

The simulator is very realistic, with the drivers seat moving in reaction to acceleration and cornering. The train is big, it’s strong and it’s smooth – coasting down the slightest incline without any power being applied.

Mr Sullivan said trains were many times more efficient than rubber-tyres vehicles because they not impaired by as much

friction.

The site was chosen for the simulators because of its amenity and close proximity to Southern Cross Station. It’s a happy coincidence that it links with the birth of railways in Victoria.

Docklands’ Good Sheds are a shining example of how heritage buildings can be respected while restored and repurposed to serve the present. And driving a train inside them is a curious connection between the past and the here-and-now.



Locals gather at the Woolshed for last month's Docklands Social Club event.

## Social Club

*The next Docklands Social Club event is at TAP831 on Tuesday, August 14.*

Come along at 7pm and meet some fellow Docklanders over a drink and a meal.

TAP831 is on the corner of Merchant and Bourke streets in Victoria Harbour.

The group gets together each month at the different local venue. Everyone is welcome.

Our photo above shows last month’s event at the Woolshed on July 11. Thanks to John Tadigiri for the snap!



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**3:00pm:** Beat the office aches  
and pains, see Massage  
Therapist **Adrian** from **New  
Energy Physio Docklands**

**TUE - AUGUST 28**

**11:00am-3:00pm:**  
Tips and Tricks with a  
**Napoleon Perdis**  
Make-up Artist

**WED - AUGUST 29**

**10:00am-3:00pm:**  
Bone Density Testing  
\*bookings preferred  
**12:00pm-2:00pm:**  
AMPLIO Vitamins

**THU - AUGUST 30**

**12:00pm- 2:00pm:**  
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Physio Docklands**

**MON - SEPTEMBER 3**

**11:30-2:00pm:**  
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with **L'Occitane**

**TUE - SEPTEMBER 4**

**10:00am-3:00pm:**  
Therapeutic Skin Clinic with  
**La Roche-Posay** consultant  
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**WED - SEPTEMBER 5**

**12:30-1:00pm:**  
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**12:00pm-2:00pm:** Ultimate Guide  
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**FRI - SEPTEMBER 7**

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# Is granitic sand silting the Yarra?

By Meg Hill

*Silt build-up in the Yarra River around the Webb Bridge and Collins Landing may be largely due to the widespread use of granitic sand, according to long-time Yarra's Edge resident Len Wright.*

Mr Wright has been living in Yarra's Edge for 16 years. During that time, granitic sand has been taken up for use by a number of different government and residential authorities operating near the river.

A decade ago it was placed in nature strips in the intersection of the Westgate and Wurundjeri Way and behind Lorimer St. Six years ago, it was placed around the trees on Yarra's Edge, a few metres from the water.

Since then, it has been added to additional nature strips and similar adornments in the area.

Mr Wright showed *Docklands News* where the level of the sand in the nature strips had eroded away directly into a drain. He said he watches the trucks replenish the sand in the intersection at least a couple of times a year.

"It doesn't consolidate; it blows away in the wind and washes away in the rain," Mr Wright said.

At low tide, the sand is visible in the south side of the river next to the Webb Bridge, where caution buoys have been placed. Mr Wright estimates the water level there at low tide would be around 200mm.

Captain of Williamstown Charters Mick Trezise said the water level in that area is constantly decreasing.

"Particularly over at Collins Landing, it's very shallow. We've hit the bottom there many times at low tide," he said.

"The last twelve months it's been getting worse. We try and keep clear of Collins Landing and we watch what the tide is doing."

Mr Trezise said that he couldn't however corroborate the theory regarding granitic sand.



Granitic sand from here...

"I don't know much about granitic sand, but the river used to be naturally flushed out. There's more moorings and things that stop the natural flow now," he added.

Mr Wright said he believes there are a number of causes contributing to the problem: "I'm not saying all of it is granitic sand."

He's complained to a number of authorities multiple times over the years, including Melbourne City Council, VicRoads, the EPA and Parks Victoria.

He said that each time he complains to the council they "take notes, say they'll pass the message on and they're acting on it" but that he had seen "no action".

Mr Wright said when he explained the issue to Parks Victoria they claimed it wasn't their area.

"I said 'you work for Parks Victoria, if I went and tipped four gallons of oil into that water you'd want to put me in jail. But this has been going on for years,'" said Mr Wright.

A joint statement from Parks Victoria and City of Melbourne began by defining the division of labour between the authorities: "City of Melbourne is the committee of management for Yarra's Edge Marina, and Parks Victoria is the local waterway manager for the navigation channel in the Yarra River."

It continued in reference to the Marina: "The granitic sand build up in the Yarra's Edge Marina is in a non-navigable area near the edge of the river."

"An investigation is currently being undertaken by City of Melbourne and measures are being taken to prevent and remove build-up of granitic materials in Yarra's Edge Marina."



...to here.

In regards to the navigation channel it stated: "Silting in the Yarra River is a natural process that occurs from silts being deposited in sections of the river that have slower flows of water."

"Vessel operators are responsible for the safe navigation of their vessel and should do all they can to ensure they operate safely on the river."

The build up in the river has been a problem for years. When a fire caught at Yarra's Edge Marina in 2012, a Port of Melbourne fire-fighting tug ran aground attempting to get close.

It was reported in *Docklands News* at the time that the same tug had performed fire-fighting demonstrations in the same location less than two years earlier without issue.

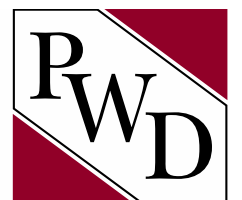
## John Henry answers your legal questions

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**A.** The safe custody of legal documents is essential. The risk of losing them through fire, theft or misplacement is very real. Storing these valuable documents in a solicitor's strong room is far safer than in your home. Pearce Webster Dugdales offers, to our clients only, storage of important documents in our firm strongroom, where they can be accessed at any time.

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THE DISTRICT  
DOCKLANDS



# The District Makers Market

## – Winter Edition –

Take a walk through the creative and colourful market stalls showcasing a variety of art, craft, jewellery, homewares, gifts and artisanal produce. Taste delicious treats and get involved in workshops by the Docklands Art Collective pop-ups. Plus, there'll be live entertainment for everyone to enjoy, and a mini pop-up farm. A perfect day out for the whole family.

**Every Sunday in August | 11am to 4pm**  
**Wharf Street, Docklands Art Collective Precinct**

[thedistrictdocklands.com.au](http://thedistrictdocklands.com.au)



# First timber office block for Docklands

*The first cross laminated timber (CLT) office building approved in Melbourne is to be built at The District Docklands.*

WOODWORK, on Waterfront Way, has planning approval for a ground floor lobby, retail space and four large upper levels that can be interlinked to create functional, open plan space of almost 8000sqm.

WOODWORK consists of 80 per cent CLT, an efficient prefabricated mass timber building method which has a far lower carbon footprint than other building materials. Its natural insulation moderates the internal climate of the building and all timber is sourced from sustainable forests.

WOODWORK is part of the next phase of the \$250m revitalisation of AsheMorgan's The District, Docklands.

Also in the wings, and due to roll out in September, is a new entertainment offering at The District. This will include a state-of-the-art Hoyts cinema complex, complemented by Archie Brothers Cirque Electriq (the company behind Strike tenpin bowling and mini-golf venue Holey Moley), as well as Asian hawker-style restaurant 8Street and the Urban Alley Brewery.

This entertainment offering will be followed by The Market fresh food precinct, a 3800sqm full-line Woolworths supermarket, complemented by Dan Murphy's, a large scale Asian grocer and Priceline Pharmacy – all due to open in mid-2019.



A render of the new WOODWORK office building.

Marriot Hotels is also building a five-star, 200-room hotel at the site, which is expected to open in 2020. AsheMorgan is meanwhile progressing master-planning for an additional 200,000sqm of commercial office space.

Michael Moss of AsheMorgan said: "Our vision for WOODWORK is to create a

commercial A-grade building designed with wellness in mind."

"We wanted to deliver open floor plans with exposed timber and high ceilings that promises comfort, quality and abundant natural light, with the possibility of natural ventilation and an energy efficient, low-temperature variable air volume system."



## Star upgrades

*Melbourne Star Observation Wheel's (MSOW) technical team will execute a planned upgrade to the attraction's LED lightshow from August 31 to September 9.*

The project will cost more than a million dollars to re-design and manufacture a more energy-efficient and impressive lightshow.

The upgrade will be implemented in conjunction with Melbourne's leading lighting engineers. MSOW's regular flight schedule will not operate during the planned 10-day upgrade.

While MSOW is temporarily closed to guests the attraction will offer visitors 10 days of giveaways via a social media campaign.

The major prize will allow local schools, sports clubs and community groups to have their colours light up the new LED show during the September school holidays.



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THE DISTRICT  
DOCKLANDS

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Every Saturday & Sunday in August

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12pm to 4pm  
last session at  
3.45pm

**Snow Slinger Virtual Reality**  
12pm to 4pm

**Live Ice Carving Shows**  
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[thedistrictdocklands.com.au](http://thedistrictdocklands.com.au)



# Living in Docklands – a Sydney view

By Julian Smith

*Sydney people get Docklands. They instinctively understand the value and magical, calming appeal of waterfront living in a way it seems that many Melbourne people don't, won't or can't.*

I say that because, after 15 years away from this city, the responses I get when I reveal Docklands as my current home address oscillate between a mildly surprised “Oh, really?” and oblique – perhaps unintended – casual disparagement.

Seems the Docklands brand has a problem on its home turf.

Not with me or my Sydney friends though – we take Docklands on face value and we like what we see. Sydneysiders express amazement at the apartment prices here. Why? Because they have a broader frame of reference: if these apartments were located in the Sydney CBD-contiguous waterfront precincts of Darling Harbour, Barangaroo (the developers of which took their community-building advice from Docklands’ developers), Potts Point or even Pyrmont, many would sell for up to double. Even more.

To the unbiased outside observer, Docklands has some of Australia’s most under-valued real estate. Perhaps the most vivid evidence of the Sydney view of Melbourne’s under-appreciated waterfront asset has been the acquisition, expansion and rebranding of Docklands’ Harbourn town shopping centre in 2017 by Sydney-based financial outfit AsheMorgan.

The new northern owners are in the process of revitalising the previously moribund centre, now known as The District. (I preferred “Harbourn town”, but I guess that brand had baggage.) \$150 million worth of upgrades presently in progress include new “destination” retailers, a Hoyts cinema complex, new weather protection, an Asian-style hawker food strip and a new “leisure activity concept”.

Already, this place is pumping on weekends. Good luck getting a table at peak times without a lengthy wait for the excellent yum cha at The District’s Gold Leaf Chinese restaurant. If you call after midday Sunday to make a booking, you simply won’t get through – they’re too busy to answer the phones. Their yum cha is almost as popular on weekdays.

When I returned to Melbourne after 15 years in Sydney, much of which I spent living on that splendid harbour at Darling Point, I was keen to continue to enjoy a water outlook.

I grew up south of the Yarra, so I knew little about Docklands. My early impression was that – in global terms – it seemed less like the London equivalent than a sort of hybrid, somewhere between a mini Marina del Rey and Manhattan’s Upper West Side river walk. I liked it immediately and saw the value and potential. So although I’m only here for a couple of years (for a work project) I snapped up an apartment in the Conder building at the top of the waterside walk in NewQuay.

Anyone who sees waterfront property through the Sydney lens would have done the same. Given the population projections and rapid infrastructure development, a Docklands apartment with water



Docklands resident Julian Smith.

views seemed an outstanding long-term investment. One year on, my view hasn’t changed.

Which brings me to what I love about Docklands – and of course it all revolves around the location.

Melbourne’s CBD, way more attractive, inviting and accessible than Sydney’s, is my backyard. If I don’t have time to walk there, I can jump on a tram for free, via four different routes which run right past the rear of my building. Those trams can whisk me further ... to parks, or concert, exhibition and sporting venues beyond the Free Tram Zone. Alternatively, Southern Cross train station is a short uncrowded stroll away.

South Melbourne, with its historic market, shops, eateries and multiple supermarkets, is a few minutes by car. Albert Park Lake, Port Melbourne and the Bay beachfront aren’t much further. Don’t underestimate the novelty of being able to stroll to Costco, either!

But it’s not just about amenities. I quite like seagulls squawking outside my windows in the morning. It feels beachy. But, surprisingly, there’s other bird life as well: I have even heard the plaintive song of the blackbird – as quintessentially Melbourne as a tram’s bell-ring – from my block’s modest green-tree areas.

I like the architectural modernity, youthful cosmopolitan vibe and ambience of Docklands. At night, the Bolte Bridge is bathed in lights which change colour every week. Those colours are superbly reflected in the flat waters of Victoria Harbour.

Of course, living in Docklands isn’t perfect. Any location close to the CBD that balances business and recreational facilities with residential ones is bound to have downsides.

Chief among these is noise pollution.

If the mechanical moan of the leaf blower is the diurnal scourge of the suburbs, then the nocturnal scourge of Docklands has to be the reversing beeper. Occupational Health and Safety advocates will no doubt fiercely spring to a justification of the typical reversing beeper’s penetrating amplitude, but I am at a loss to understand why a proximity safety device needs to be heard from hundreds of metres away. Surely any immediate danger is within a car’s length of the rear of the reversing vehicle. Two, tops.

On a recent weekend, the building behind ours engaged a massive scissor lift device to hoist a couple of window cleaners aloft. Parked there all day.

Saturday, this mechanical monster beeped loudly and incessantly, the strident monotone pitch bouncing off the glass surfaces and ricocheting between the surrounding buildings. Even with all my windows and doors closed, I couldn’t escape this sonic onslaught. I had to go out. If this was North Korea and I was Kim Jong Un, I’d have had an anti-aircraft gun trucked over and personally climbed aboard to despatch a couple of dozen rounds into the backside of this tiresome device.

Sometimes, it gets almost as bad at night. God knows what essential services are routinely carried out in the wee small hours of the morning by vehicles which seem to spend most of their time travelling backwards. But their near or distant beeps frequently and persistently ring through the still night air.

There are worse things, though. Generally, these emanate from Central Pier on Friday and Saturday nights.

In the context of the sleek and lofty

architectural milieu of Docklands,

Central Pier is the visual anachronism. With its low corrugated iron roofed buildings housing pop-up nightclubs and venues for rave parties, some weekends this place is a magnet for noisy, over-imbibing crowds.

But the carousing is the lesser problem. It’s the low-frequency “foomp foomp foomp” bass beat of massive music amplification equipment that’s much more intrusive. The unrelenting din pumps and pulses straight out and across the water, hitting the residential towers opposite with undiminished intensity. Like the Saturday reversing beepers referred to above, this is noise that can’t be closed out with windows and doors. It penetrates your living space completely and the only way to get relief is to dial 000, complain and wait.

There are other sensory irritations too. Over to the west beyond the bridge lies Melbourne’s industrial heartland. I have no idea what enterprises are over there (perhaps an organic glue factory that boils down old horses) but sometimes eruptions of eye-wateringly malodorous intensity drift over to Docklands. Once sniffed, these massive industrial farts cause you to jump up with alacrity and close all your windows and doors to lock them out.

Mercifully, this seems to happen only a couple of times a month.

Parking in Docklands can be a challenge for visitors. Unlike most of Sydney’s apartment towers, few Docklands ones have any visitor parking facilities, or even forecourts for dropping passengers off. At least the parking meters are free after 6pm.

Finally, there’s my neighbour who smokes. If you haven’t guessed it already, I’m a fresh air freak. I always have the windows and doors at least partly open, regardless of weather. But when he/she decides to pollute his/her lungs on their balcony, errant breezes waft tendrils of smoke across and into my apartment.

This prompts an indignant imprecation as I spring up and summarily slam all my windows and doors shut. In a world where smoking is prohibited in so many public venues and around food, surely it’s only a matter of time before the legislature enshrines my right to clean breathing air in my own home over another person’s right to smoke outside theirs.

But no home is perfect 100 per cent of the time. Especially an inner-city one. Despite the occasional beeps, foomps and farts, I’m happy living at Docklands with my water view and CBD playground. Now halfway through my sojourn, I’ll enjoy my second year here and miss it when I leave.

But I’ll certainly continue to enjoy from afar the appreciating asset of my excellent Docklands water-view apartment in the years ahead.

Julian Smith is a communication consultant at [www.communIQation.com](http://www.communIQation.com)

# Ballot story sparks probe

*Docklands News's exclusive lead story in last month's paper has led to a Local Government Inspectorate investigation into electoral irregularities raised.*

On July 2, chief municipal inspector David Wolf tweeted: "As the Local Government Inspectorate's remit includes electoral matters, we are working with the VEC on these ballot paper issues related to the lord mayor election and will advise when the investigation has concluded."

Acting chief municipal inspector Ross Millard elaborated two days later, saying in a press release: "The inspectorate is investigating the potential misuse of ballot papers related to the Melbourne lord mayor election."

"Recent media reports have suggested the result in the lord mayor election may be challenged, owing to alleged incidents of misuse of ballot papers by real estate agents and property managers," Mr Millard said.

Victorian electoral commissioner Warwick Gately earlier took issue with some of the matters raised in our story.

On June 29 he said: "In your article, 'Doubt cast on mayoral result' in the July issue of the *Docklands News*, you seem to have confused facts and made several assumptions."



**David Wolf @CMI\_Vic · Jul 2**  
As the Local Government Inspectorate's remit includes electoral matters, we are working with the VEC on these ballot paper issues related to the Lord Mayor election and will advise when the investigation has concluded



**Doubt cast on lord mayoral result**  
By Shane Scanlan There is doubt over Melbourne's recent lord mayoral by-election as up to 8313 enrolled voters were potentially denied a vote due to a known ...  
cbdnews.com.au

"The VEC has stated publicly that mail delivery timeframes mean that it is difficult to get postal ballot packs to overseas voters and back in time to be included in the count. Despite this difficulty, the VEC did receive ballot papers from some of the 15,000 overseas voters who were sent their ballot packs directly and were able to return them in time. Several thousand ballot packs were sent to an agency, which was the postal address on the roll for these voters. Many of the voters with agency postal addresses live in Australia, and would have had time to return their ballot material."

"You claim that the election result is open to fraud, because there is no record of the signatures of this category of voter and the agents could fill out and return the ballots. In fact, the VEC has processes to check all returned ballot material. Material that does not comply with legal requirements is not included in the count and anything doubtful is investigated."

"It is unfortunate that you have used a difficulty with postal deliveries overseas to make a series of unsubstantiated claims about the integrity of the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election. I have every confidence in the integrity of both the process and the result for the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election."

On July 1 *Docklands News* responded with a series of questions seeking clarification:

- How many overseas ballots were received?
- How many ballots from c/- third parties were received from overseas? and
- What "process" does the VEC use to check returned ballots from c/- third party-forward ballots for electoral irregularities?

His office replied on July 2: "I have sent this to Mr Gately, who will respond in due course." At the time of publication, no response had been received.



Chamber members enjoy the evening.

## Connecting with the water

*Docklands Chamber of Commerce members took to the water last month, with a cruise and networking event on July 18.*

For the first hour, guests cruised Victoria Harbour and the river aboard *Calypso Lady*. After that, it was back to Cargo for more connecting conversations and cheer.

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce can be contacted at [admin@docklandsgcc.com.au](mailto:admin@docklandsgcc.com.au).

# DEDICATE A DAFFODIL

## DAFFODIL DAY INSTALLATION

*Mon 20 - Fri 24 Aug*  
*Collins Square*

More information via [collinssquare.com.au/whats-on](http://collinssquare.com.au/whats-on)



# Brian Tanti hits the road

*After more than 20 years working in and advocating for Docklands, love has lured Brian Tanti north to the Harbour City.*

Brian is moving his automotive operations to Sydney to be with his new life partner. He has been closely involved with the Fox Classic Car Museum at Queens Warehouse since late 1996.

Brian well remembers arriving in Docklands. In essence, there was nothing here. Tumbleweeds rolled freely through the abandoned industrial zone. If you wanted lunch, you could buy a crusty pie from a caravan catering to the few remaining wharf workers.

"The move from Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield was not popular and there were two or three resignations," he recalled. "I was a coach builder and soon became manager of vehicle operations for the collection and later director."

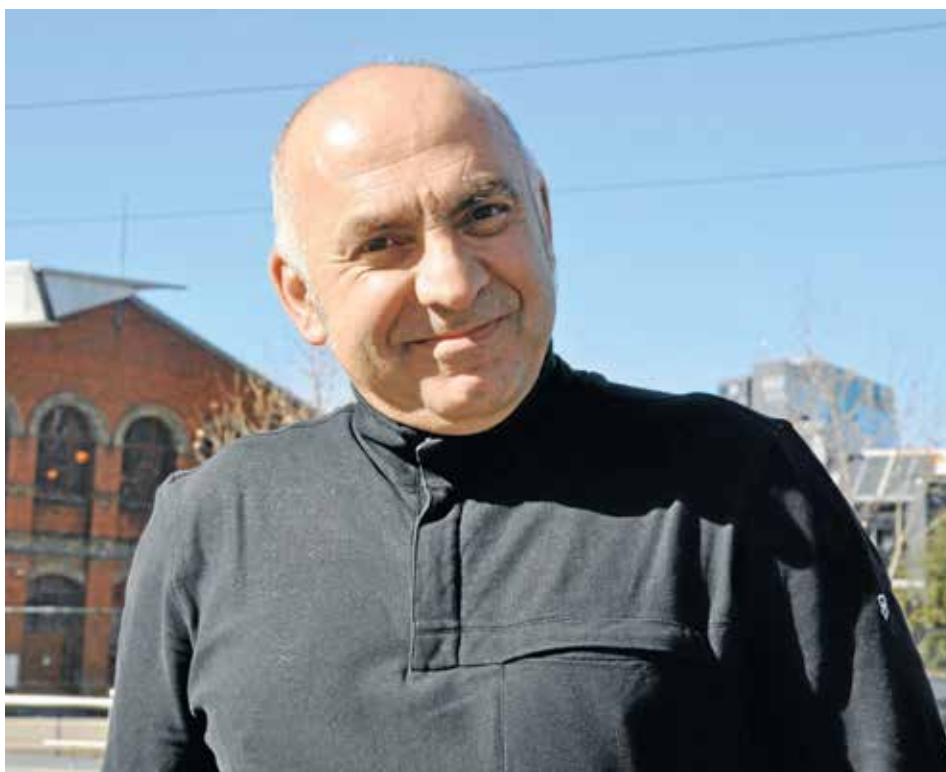
The newly-established Docklands Authority embraced the car museum as one of only a few established entities in the area (the significant other being the Mission to Seafarers in Flinders St).

Queens Warehouse became a community meeting place and Brian was encouraged to help pioneer the fledgling Docklands Chamber of Commerce – serving five years in all, the final two as the chamber's second president.

"We would advocate for the precinct at every opportunity, even though there was not much here to promote," he recalled.

A trust associated with the museum had earlier been granted a generous lease over 10 acres in Docklands. Subsequently, a sub-lease saw the establishment of stage one of the Automotive Centre of Excellence – now a part of Kangan TAFE.

As part of the deal, the museum maintains a workshop within the school and this has been Brian's base for many years. It was here that he conceptualised and built the Auto Horizon Foundation's FR-1 concept car (still



Brian Tanti is farewelling Docklands.

to be completed!).

Being there from the start means that Brian has seen pretty much the whole Docklands development emerge before his eyes. Much of the surrounding land needed to be rehabilitated before it could be used for construction.

Brian particularly remembers the extreme excavation required to decontaminate the site of the ANZ Centre in Collins St (of course Collins St and Bourke St didn't even extend that far west in the beginning!).

"ANZ is built on the site of the old gasworks and required a \$50 million clean-up before they could start," he said. "It was like a quarry, with trucks disappearing into this pit. The soil was green and the stench was extraordinary."

But he has plenty of good memories too – particularly of the people he met and the experiences that only Docklands made possible.

"It's been really good," Brian said. "It's been a real honour to be involved."

"When you see it day-in-day-out, the change seems gradual. But when you look back, the transformation has been amazing – how it has blended with and redefined the western end of Melbourne."

"The thing I take with me from the area are strong relationships and the experience of being part of the whole thing," he said.

Locals can keep in touch with Brian through his website: [www.briantantisworkshop.com](http://www.briantantisworkshop.com)



## Arnsdorf pop-up

*Melbourne womenswear label Arnsdorf opened a pop-up store and offered personal styling at Collins Square from July 19 – 27.*

Arnsdorf prides itself on its environmental and ethical focus when designing and producing clothing. It has an in-house factory in Collingwood and recently opened its first bricks-and-mortar store in Fitzroy.

"A lot of people can't get to us, so it's really nice to have a space in the city. It's a great opportunity to reach more people," Brigit Ryan, Arnsdorf's space designer said.

"Collins Square is a nice environment where women who are busy and working and don't have time to shop can easily find us on their lunch break."

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# August activities at Docklands Art Collective

*The Docklands Art Collective is running a range of weekly events throughout August at The District Docklands.*

## TREE PAPER COMICS

Demonstrip/Draw My Steed Charity Zine Launch and Fundraising Charity Event, Friday August 3, 6pm to 9pm.

A zine launch and fundraising charity event for Amaroo Wildlife Shelter in Monbulk - Hosted by Tree Paper Comics Friday.

There will be a silent auction, a drawing competition, prizes to win, drinks and snacks.

[facebook.com/events/298168660726819/](https://facebook.com/events/298168660726819/)



## DODGY PAPER

Solo Show David Zeker, Friday August 3, 6PM to 9PM

PERSPECTABLE by David Zeker: David challenges you to use the power of perspective to view and enjoy his works, as looking past the obvious will allow your views to change.

## TRASH PUPPETS

Puppetry Course: eight week course Tuesday Nights August 7 – Sept 25.

Book here:

[jhessknight.com/upcoming-events/](http://jhessknight.com/upcoming-events/)

## THE ARTISTS GUILD

FemZine Launch and Pop Up exhibition August 10 – August 18.

Opening / Launch night Friday, August 10.

## AT CURRENT GALLERY

At Current is pleased to host their group exhibition titled 'IMPETUS' as part of the August Wharf Street Open Night. Visit for the opening on August 3 for drinks 6pm to 9 pm.



## THE TIGER IN THE JUNGLE

Emily N3Ver solo show at the Tiger in the Jungle as part of August Wharf St Open Night August 3, 6pm – 9pm.



## CROWTHER CONTEMPORARY

Crowther Contemporary is proud to present Ara Dolation's solo exhibition. Join us for opening night Friday, August 3, 6pm – 9pm. Dolation's interdisciplinary practice explores the relationship between cultural landscapes and the natural ecosystem.

## THE AUSTRALIAN CARTOON MUSEUM

Visit during the August Friday Open Night, 6pm – 9pm, and have a squiz at the John Spooner collection.



Doctor Who fans at The Hub last month.

# Whovians unite!

By Niccola Anthony

*The Doctor Who Club of Victoria (DWCV) held its Annual General Meeting at The Hub on July 14.*

The formalities were followed by an afternoon of comedy and humour, where local "Whovians" were encouraged to share their funniest memories of the long-running television series.

President Phillip Nicholls says that members generally find out about the club through social media, with their membership base ranging in age, gender and occupation.

"Some are new and some are old. Many have come with the new series [featuring Jodie Whittaker]. It's an exciting new era which is bringing in many more fans," Nicholls says of the club's members.

The DWCV was formed in 1979, with early meetings held at the various houses of members around Melbourne.

These days, the club holds bi-monthly meetings at The Hub, a space they have been using for around two years.

The "central nature" of Docklands is the major reason why Nicholls and the DWCV have settled on The Hub as their home base.

"There's more space here, you're not limited to the one room. It gives us a lot of options for activities," says Nicholls.

If you'd like to find out more about the DWCV visit [dwcv.org.au/wp/](http://dwcv.org.au/wp/)

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# A better world might begin soon

By Rhonda Dredge

*Writers deal with painful truths, and the chapel at Mission to Seafarers will open up its doors in August and September so the literary community can have its say about everything from abuse to self harm.*

The romantic courtyard, Spanish mission arches and terracotta tiles have overheard many a tale of woe from seafarers arriving in Melbourne over the past century.

Now the Melbourne Writers Festival (MWF) will fill up the cloisters with the cries and whispers of a different kind of traveller.

Justin Heazlewood, from Burnie in Tasmania, will perform a mock church service on 2 September to honour his child self.

Justin's recently-released memoir *Get Up Mum* is a poignant recount of a year in his life as the only child of a single mum with mental health issues.

Life dealt Justin a bum hand but he has survived and prospered.

*Get Up Mum* is entertaining and confessional with the young 12 year-old Justin adapting to his mum's bouts of illness but wishing that one of the voices she heard was his.

The curious and the empathetic will have a chance to help Justin recover by logging into the MWF website and booking a session with him.

An irreverent approach to life marks the Heazlewood style. A previous book *Funemployed* looked at the sometimes cruel antics of the entertainment industry from the perspective of a struggling performer.

The Mission is in the business of welcoming visitors. Often the chaplain is behind the coffee machine. He makes a mean

cappuccino. The sound of children's voices can also be heard wafting through the Flying Angel room as a seafarer skypes home.

Separation from family is a big issue for the 60,000 seamen and women who arrive in Melbourne after long ocean journeys, says manager Sue Dight.

"We go and pick them up in buses and bring them here. Just having someone to talk to that is not part of the crew helps," she says. Some have only four hours' shore leave to offload before they're on their way.

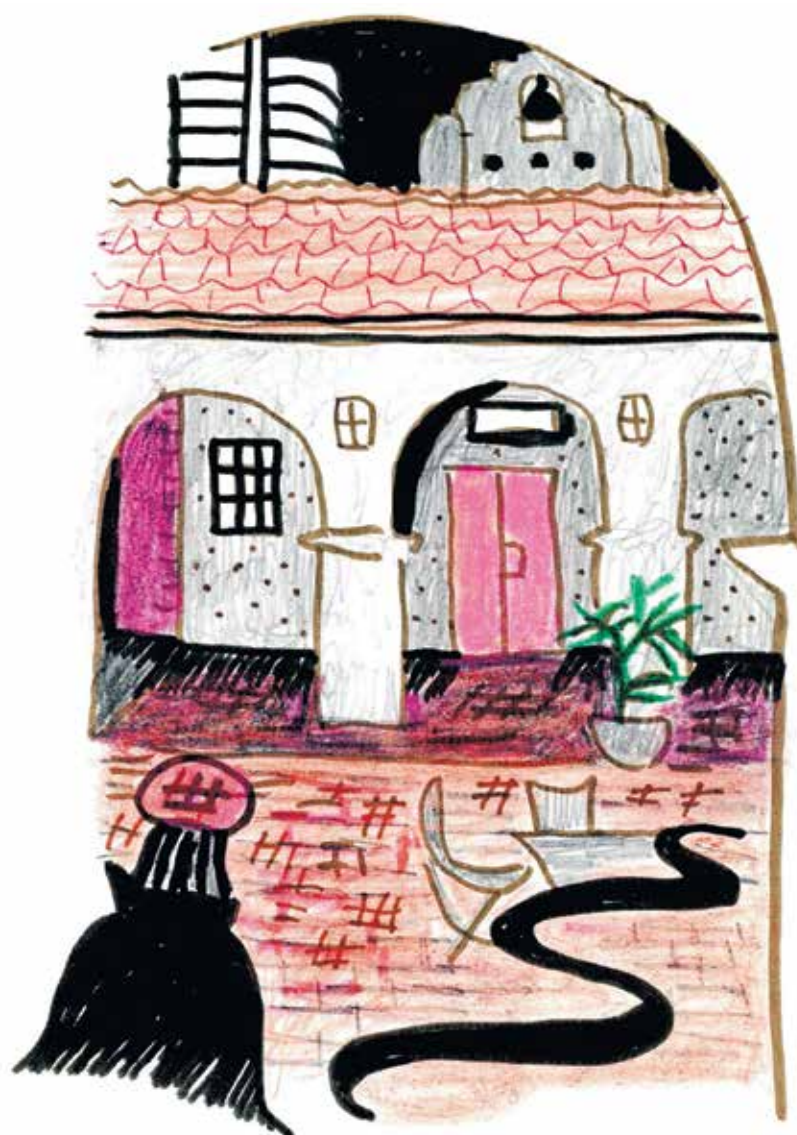
The MWF will bring a new level of conviviality to the Mission, one of the city's most evocative spaces in terms of history. The building, designed by Walter Butler in the Arts and Crafts style, is still intact.

Twenty-eight events will be staged over two weekends, including a Better World Starts Here with human rights activists and a free talk with Bulldog footballer turned author Bob Murphy and TV presenter Will Anderson.

Death is a major theme of this year's festival and it won't be to everyone's tastes. Festival director, Marieke Hardy, has a dark streak.

There will be several sessions on eulogies, famous last words and "living dyingly". Comedian Catherine Deveny will talk about her mental health and philosopher Raimond Gaita will speak on facing death truthfully.

There's a bar at the Mission for those who find it all too much. A better world might begin soon.



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# DOCKLANDS FASHION



## Fashion on the streets of Docklands

### Emilie Hou, 24, Melbourne CBD

**LOCATION:** Collins Street

**DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE**

**WEARING:** I've got a student ceremony later today, so that's why I'm wearing quite formal clothes. I've also tried to colour match my outfit to make it more trendy. My bag is Longchamp and my shoes are from Windsor Smith.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE**

**OF CLOTHING:** Probably a LBD (Little Black Dress). A girl should always have one in her closet!

**WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE**

**DOCKLANDS:** I'm here for a work meeting.

**DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE:** More corporate. But on the weekends I like to wear comfier outfits.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A**

**GOOD OUTFIT:** Depends on the occasion. If you're just having fun, then I'd go for a more casual look. For formal occasions, you have to go formal obviously.

### Abdullahi Mohamed, 32, Brunswick West

**LOCATION:** Collins Street

**DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE**

**WEARING:** I bought all the clothes I'm wearing from Bossini at Highpoint Shopping Centre. My shoes are from Connor. I'm not sure where my scarf is from.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE**

**OF CLOTHING:** I like wearing suits. I also don't mind a bit of tweed.

**WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE**

**DOCKLANDS:** I just came from a job interview at the Department of Transport. I think it went well.

**DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE:** I like keeping up with the latest fashions.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A**

**GOOD OUTFIT:** Anything that makes me happy!

### Bob Stoneham, 31, Reservoir

**LOCATION:** Collins Street

**DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE**

**WEARING:** I actually don't know where any of my clothes are from! My missus buys my stuff. She's got good taste.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE**

**OF CLOTHING:** My Kathmandu jacket. It keeps me nice and warm.

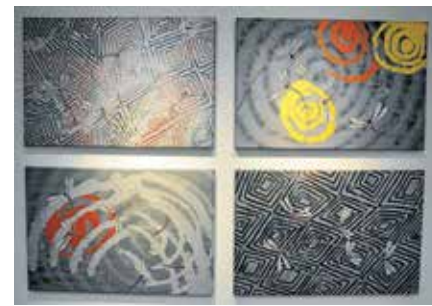
**WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE**

**DOCKLANDS:** I work at VicTrack in signalling as a project manager.

**DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE:** Pretty casual I guess. I don't think too much about it, I just put things on.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A**

**GOOD OUTFIT:** Jeans and a shirt. Whatever people feel comfortable in.



Featured works from the exhibition.

## Downtown lights the way

By Niccola Anthony

*The most recent exhibition at the Deakin Downtown gallery, "No Turning Back – Artworks from The Torch", will become a mainstay event in future years.*

The annual exhibition, which features artworks from a number of incarcerated and post-release indigenous prisoners, wound up its second run on July 13.

The exhibition is run by The Torch, a not-for-profit organisation that provides support to indigenous Australians within Victoria's prison system.

The Torch gives participating artists an opportunity to sell and licence their artworks, in an effort to create an economically viable vocation before prisoners are released.

More than 170 artists currently take part in The Torch's initiatives, which include both an "in prisons" and "post-release" program.

"By the time the men and women hit the post-release program, they're pretty well versed in what that connection to the industry can entail for them and their ability to build a legitimate, self-generated income," said The Torch's CEO Kent Morris.

"There they can begin to understand how, through expressing their culture through art, they can totally redefine themselves and their place in the world upon release."

Mr Morris also believes that the timing of the annual exhibition plays a significant role in boosting community awareness of the program and its initiatives.

So far, the annual exhibition has played a significant role in financially assisting many featured artists.

Deakin University purchased three artworks from last year's exhibition and one artwork from this year's exhibition, which have been added to the university's extensive indigenous art collection.

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Smiles all the way

## 10 Years On



August 2008 Issue 34:

# Homeless feel at home at Docklands

The nation's homeless and marginalised descended on Docklands last month for the national street soccer championships at Waterfront City.

New South Wales defeated Victoria Metro 8 to 5 in the grand final, after a series of round robin matches played in giant inflatable street soccer pitches on July 20.

Six teams of homeless and marginalised people from across Australia competed in the national championships, while also vying to impress coaches for selection to

the Aussie Street Socceroos to play in the Melbourne 2008 Homeless World Cup in December.

The Homeless World Cup is a world-class, annual, international street soccer tournament which this year will be held at Federation Square and Birrarung Marr from December 1-7.

## Letters to the Editor

### A lack of common decency

When Public Transport Victoria floated the idea of a tram bridge across the Yarra River from Collins St to Lorimer St (which is seemingly supported by both Liberal and Labor) there has never been any transparency of costs and damage to existing lifestyles.

This proposal is all about the future transport needs of Fishermans Bend, which we wholeheartedly support as the greatest infrastructure project in Australia, as long as it's done with proper planning safeguards.

During the past almost 12 months my wife and I have consulted with the Transport Minister and Opposition transport and planning shadow ministers, numerous politicians, Port Phillip Council, various Melbourne mayoral candidates, political advisors, engineering experts, business consultants and numerous other people, along with residents of Docklands and Yarra's Edge and, without exception, the only strong support for tram bridge proposal came from the Port Phillip Council.

The voters of Victoria deserve an explanation on cost, how tram routes 11 and 48 are going to cope with increased patronage, how emergency services such as police and firefighters would be able to handle a disaster at Marina YE, the damage a tram crossing over extremely busy Lorimer St would do to transport of containers from Port of Melbourne and the concrete industry. And does the building industry realise the massive increase in costs if the concrete industry was forced out of its current location?

It's my belief none of the above has been factored into making a common-sense approach to finding transport access to Fishermans Bend. The only way you will be able to service the expected increase of residents of up to 120,000 and 80,000 new employees is a train system.

Does PTV realise a further 126 new trams would be required to service peak hour traffic – and it's possible a tram could cross Lorimer St every 57 seconds when Fishermans Bend is completed. Have they bothered to check traffic along Lorimer St at peak hour?

Does PTV understand there are approvals and pending approvals for up to 18 new residential towers just in the Lorimer precinct, which could have at least a further 10,000 new residents using the already overloaded Lorimer St. Has PTV done its costings on a very expensive tram bridge, which will have major connectivity problems and, of course, a substantial bridge over West Gate Freeway? All these costs are before public acquisitions of people's businesses – just for a tram line.

There are better, less expensive options and ones that don't require acquisitions or create traffic hazards or wreck transport and the concrete industry but it seems that PTV and both ALP and LNP aren't prepared to look at them.

I realise that both major parties claim no decisions will be made until final Fishermans Bend Panel Review hands down its findings, but surely it's prudent to look at alternatives rather than have a closed mind?

Leading up to this year's state election surely it's incumbent on both major parties to discuss the tram bridge issue?

And it certainly will have a major impact on who gets elected to the seat of Albert Park. One of the most disappointing aspects for us has been the lack of common decency from our elected representatives.

The only politicians who bothered to respond were ALP's Jacinta Allan, Martin Foley, Liberal David Davis, Green Ellen Sandell and the Reason Party's Fiona Patten.

We did not receive a reply from all other members of the Southern Metropolitan Region along with all unaligned members of the Upper House.

So much for accountability of our Members of Parliament who are supposed to represent the people of Victoria.

Keith Sutherland

### Bring democracy back

In the City of Melbourne, businesses get two votes while residents only get one, and property owners have more power than residents.

This means residents make up less than 40 per cent of the electoral roll, while businesses and non-resident property investors make up more than 60 per cent. This makes the City of Melbourne electoral roll the wealthiest and with the highest proportion of men of any council in Australia.

The system is designed to take representation away from the community and give more to the big end of town.

Labor's Local Government Bill 2018 is currently being debated by the Victorian Parliament, but it does nothing to fix this rigged system. The Greens will introduce an amendment to make voting in council elections more democratic, including limiting the vote to residents.

Democracy means everyone should only have one vote, with one value. This is our opportunity to fix the system so our council truly represents us.

Call on the Labor Government to change the unfair system and return true democracy to our council. Sign the petition at [ellensandell.com/democracy](http://ellensandell.com/democracy).

Ellen Sandell

State MP for Melbourne

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We Live Here

# One woman’s stand gets results

One brave apartment owner has taken on the developer and the management company appointed to administer the common property for the owners’ corporation (OC) and won back residents’ rights that had been eroded in her apartment building.

In the June edition of this column we reported that the owner of the Stonnington apartment had embarked on a lone fight to expose some serious irregularities between the plans provided to purchasers in 2008 when the building permit was obtained and 2012 when settlement of the apartments took place, including:

- Allocation of residents' and visitors' car parks being vastly different to what was expected in the original plans;
- Access to the loading bay and goods lift denied to residents who were forced to carry out move-ins via dangerous kerbside parking near a busy intersection, with goods being taken through the glass front door; and
- A parcel of common property in the entrance foyer that had been set aside for residents handed over to an estate agent to conduct a commercial business.

Between them, the developer and the OC (which was under the control of the management company) had blatantly ignored the rights of owners who were virtually powerless to do anything about it.

With very little support, the owner took the only option available to her and lodged an application with VCAT.

The City of Stonnington, perhaps embarrassed by the VCAT action taken by the owner, stepped in and investigated the appalling breaches of residents’ rights.

It didn’t take too much digging to find out that an earlier VCAT determination was being flouted by the OC allegedly at the behest of the developer, including claims that the developer disposed of common property car parks for its own benefit; and that building plans had been falsified to support the alienation of common property.

The city’s senior planning investigator has now notified the OC that it has been breaching a VCAT determination that underpins the building permit, that it is illegal to try to overturn a VCAT determination, where a building permit was issued.

Consequent to the council’s recent action, the owner has deferred her VCAT action, with a right of reinstatement pending satisfactory resolution of the non-compliance issues.

After hundreds of hours of research, being denied a position on the OC committee by three of the current five members who, between them, hold proxies for hundreds of absentee owners – a blatant case of proxy farming – issuing complaints to the manager about breaches of the model rules which have been ignored, the intrepid owner had taken the manager to VCAT to obtain a ruling that residents can use what is legally theirs!

This owner’s win benefits all 500 owners

– despite having done it all on her own with the only assistance being provided by Consumer Affairs and freedom of information. Bravo!

## New service for monitoring short-term letting in strata buildings

In a We Live Here newsletter in February 2018 we reported on BnbGuard, believed to be an Australian-first monitoring service for residential property owners, building and strata managers wanting to find out the extent of short-term letting in their building.

We have now received further information from BnbGuard that five of its first 10 customers came as a result of the mention given to the service in our newsletter, and that it is now working with hundreds of customers across Australia helping them monitor and track short-stay lets in their buildings.

It is also working with several local governments across Australia – helping them track short-stays in their area and providing consultation and technology to implement local regulations.

For more information about the service check out its website at [www.bnbguard.com.au](http://www.bnbguard.com.au). Also check out its blog at [blog.bnbguard.com.au](http://blog.bnbguard.com.au) where it is starting to create a library of articles around the short-stay issue including;

- The recent changes in NSW;
- Analysis of best practice overseas; and
- Comments on the effects of short-stays on housing affordability.

## Developer bans short stays

Finally, some good news in the recent announcement by property developer, Capital Alliance, that it will write enforceable safeguards into the sale contracts of its new developments, including a \$250 million project in Docklands.

Although there are a number of buildings that already have caveats on title restricting short-term leasing this is the first instance we know of where a written guarantee has to be provided by the owner, before they can complete the purchase.

This is music to the ears of owners who bought into residential buildings believing it be their home then finding that it was being severely eroded by the impact of the rampant unregulated short-stay industry.

Let us hope that many more developers follow this lead.



[www.welivehere.net](http://www.welivehere.net)  
emails to [campaign@welivehere.net](mailto:campaign@welivehere.net)

Street Art

# A reactionary world

So, I was shunted off the tram like always on my way to my studio in Docklands.

We know Yarra Trams uses Docklands to make its trams run on time. I like to use the hash tag #yarratramshatesdocklands.

Anyway, while I was walking across the LaTrobe St bridge I noticed that they have put up temporary fencing.

This got me intrigued. This fence was making one of the major gateways to Docklands look really ugly. Why was it there?

So, when I did a bit of a search I found out that it’s to stop people from self-harm or suicide.

I thought that this fence was an over-reactive response to what I guess is a sad situation. The council and the government are so reactionary when it comes to tragedy and acts of nature they go crazy putting safety ahead of any logical aesthetic.

A good example was the concrete bollards placed around the city in response to someone using a car as a weapon. While I understand the motivation, those bollards where only there to make the public feel better. However, the giant disgusting ashtrays would not stop a similar incident.

We are so quick to respond to tragic things that as a community we do not think about



the long-term effect that our quick decisions have on our city.

Melbourne used to be a city filled with fountains and then we had a drought, so we ripped down most of our old and important fountains and then built a billion-dollar desalination plant that has yet to be used in a

practical way.

I guess I just want to bring up this important gateway to the Docklands, the LaTrobe St bridge, is an important feature that, if disturbed, should be done with care and consideration of the urban environment.

In the end these changes to architecture,

art and urban design will do little to help people with depression. If someone wants to hurt themselves there is little you can do about it through design changes.

It is derogatory and tokenistic.

What we need to ask ourselves is why someone would want to hurt themselves and what can we do as a community?

If you read this story reach out to an old friend or someone you think maybe having a hard time and go have a coffee with them.

We don’t need to be reactionary, we just need to be caring.

If this story has brought up any issues contact Lifeline on **13 11 44**.

Have an awesome month punkz. Follow me on Instagram: [doylesart](https://www.instagram.com/doylesart)

And let me know if you have a cool story about Docklands.



**Adrian Doyle**  
Street Artist  
Blender Studios founder and director

Business

# Neo Lemonade opens in Docklands

The owners of Neo Lemonade named their new local restaurant after their twin sons, born and bred here in Docklands.

When very young, the boys couldn't pronounce each other's names and they called each other Neo and Lemonade.

This modern Australian restaurant focuses on the best cuisine. At the forefront of chef Robert Oey's creative mind is a focus on pairing healthy seasonal produce with innovative breakfast, lunch and dinner menus.

The manager and front-of-house superstar Katie Farley has also used her creativity to invent a bunch of new cocktails for the drinks menu, although she says creativity at Neo Lemonade goes beyond the palate.

"I want all the staff to be creative and be themselves. It's how people flourish. You spend so much time at work that this is your family so you've got to be happy," she said.

"I'm a chef. I've managed venues before. I've opened venues before. I was looking for somewhere I could bring all of that together and this is it."

"We offer somewhere for the locals - somewhere for families to come in."

All-day brunch on weekends is one such thing for the locals. "No one in the area does brunch as far as we're aware," Katie said.

On the other hand, there's also corporate catering and function space available.

The venue is coloured with soft tones and greenery, comfortable chairs, bar seats to enjoy the atmosphere of the kitchen and, of



course, attention to detail.

Part of the charm is the butterfly pea flower water that turns violet when fresh citrus is added.

There is an abundance of gluten free, vegetarian and organic options. Katie has extensive experience in organic food and all

protein is ethically sourced.

### Cocktail highlights:

- Marshmallow: Candy vodka/ pomegranate seeds/ lemon/ bubbles/ foam.
- Sawatdii: Tequila/ lemongrass/ chilli/ ginger/ lime/ agave/ cilantro.

### Special menu items:

- Breakfast**
- Black Mamba: Morcilla black pudding/ Holly crumpet/ oyster mushroom/ crumbed egg/ charcoal aioli.
  - Baked eggs: Slow cooked cannellini beans/ smoked eggplant/ grilled zucchini/ roasted peppers/ Persian feta/ free range egg/ artisan bread.

- Brunch**
- Spiced lamb: Spiced coffee braised lamb shoulder/ cous cous salsa/ charred onion/ chimichurri.
  - Lost bird: Buttermilk crispy spiced chicken/ soft roll/ jungle slaw/ gochujang mayo/ melted cheese/ hand cut fries.

- Lunch**
- Specialty salad bowls using seasonal protein and produce: Neo bowl, winter bowl, black bowl.
  - Blue swimmer crab: Hand-picked crab/ shiitake mushrooms/ cherry tomato/ angel hair pasta
  - Braised free range beef ragout.

- Dinner**
- Freshly shucked oysters to enjoy with a glass of wine or champagne.
  - Aubergine hill: Thinly sliced eggplant/ truffle/ mozzarella/ basil/ toasted walnuts/ passata.
  - Rib eye steak.
  - Fregola Salsicca: freshly made sausages / fregola/ roasted cauliflower/ salted prawns/ chili/ sugo.

**Merchant St (near Collins St), Docklands, Ph: 9620 7030**  
**Instagram and Facebook: Neolemonade**  
**Web: <https://neolemonade.com.au>**

# Melbourne Cellar Door

Melbourne Cellar Door is the newest addition to South Wharf.

Brothers and owners Mark and Tony Pendreich have run the Valley Cellardoor in Moonee Ponds for eight years and were scouting locations for a new venue when they saw an opportunity.

"We were looking for somewhere south of where we are in Moonee Ponds. We both grew up in Aspendale and that's where my brother still is, so we were looking for somewhere from Aspendale through to the city," Mark said.

"We went to the footy this time last year at Etihad. We left there at 6pm and we wanted to drink some decent wines before we went to dinner. We couldn't think of anywhere we could go to have a choice of a range of wines that wasn't at restaurant prices."

This is what the Melbourne Cellar Door model provides: "We don't work on restaurant mark-ups here. If you have a look around you'll see that we have a retail price and then we just add \$20 on top of a retail price to drink it here."

As you might have noticed, Melbourne Cellar Door has an extensive focus on wine. Mark is a trained sommelier who worked in London for eight years for the likes of Sir



Terence Conran and Marco Pierre White.

Tony's expertise is on the beer side of things. Together, the brothers present the largest range of wine and beer in the Docklands precinct for drinking in or taking home.

"We have a range of wines that we rotate. My brother chooses beers from a lot of small breweries, there are a lot of wineries we've had relationships with for 10 years," Mark said.



Offerings also include back vintages and museum stock and a wine-knowledgeable team of staff.

The venue is spacious, even with hundreds of wine bottles stocked on the walls. There's multiple function spaces available for between 30 and 400 people, including the barrel room with AV equipment and speakers.

There are also special team-building events offered using wine/beer and food

matching, which can even be offered in Mandarin if required.

The kitchen dishes out pizzas, platters, tacos, artisan cheese and charcuterie.

There are 70 wines by the glass, and 600-700 wines to choose from.

**25 Dukes Walk, South Wharf.**  
**Phone: 9682 7463. Email: [enquiries@melbournecellardoor.com.au](mailto:enquiries@melbournecellardoor.com.au)**

Docklands-based businesses wishing to be profiled in this section should email: [advertising@docklandsnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@docklandsnews.com.au)

Vertical Living

# Vertical democracies

Democracy, the art of thinking independently together, may be the missing element for vertical village wellbeing, but are we prepared to risk the cost?

Strata living is claimed to have its own fourth tier of government, namely the owners' corporation committee (OCC). This is because the OCC is an elected group, imbued with decision-making power over the common areas of a building. And just like other levels of government, our own fourth tier faces growing issues of constituent disengagement and disillusionment.

In view of this, perhaps a leaf could be taken from the government sector handbook as to how to redress resident disconnect. One much bandied-about notion is participatory democracy which is promoted as a remedy to the growing disillusionment of citizens with their political institutions.

The central idea is that through the use of tailored technology, every citizen can have a direct say in how they live their life, for example, the prioritising of budget items.

However, according to NESTA, a global innovation foundation, there are few real instances of participatory democracy. And rarely do these initiatives involve actual collaboration with citizens, and very few ever hand over real decision-making power.

As to why this is so, charges are levelled against administrators for their reluctance to relinquish power (which may indeed be so). However, there is another key

element of participatory democracy and this relates to what is needed from us in order to "participate" – namely, our data. To "participate" requires transparency which involves the supply of our profile and "track record" – Who are we? What are our affiliations? What is our experience?

And perhaps we, citizen-residents, are not so ready to provide such data, not least because of what can be done with it once provided.

Consider the current discussion around My Health Record, the digital log of all our health information which can be viewed "securely online, from anywhere, any time".

In changing this system from an opt-in to an opt-out arrangement, we have until October 15 to action our preference. Many have already decided to opt-out, citing concerns over the risks of access by unauthorised parties – with arguably the weakest link being the 900,000 health professionals who will have access to this data but who may not keep their computer security up to date.

In terms of strata living, we of the Vertical Villages are already quite familiar with supplying our data in return for benefit.

Indeed, when we decide to live in high-rise strata, we agree (tacitly or explicitly) to

a great deal of data being collected about our activities, ostensibly for the purposes of ensuring our ongoing security.

For example, in most Vertical Villages, common areas can only be accessed by registered FOBS (e.g. car parks, gyms, lifts, etc.) with subsequent usage recorded by CCTV. This means there is a trail of where we have been (and possibly) what we have done!

In addition to real-time monitoring to detect questionable behaviour, depending upon the sophistication of the system, additional data analysis may also be undertaken to determine usage patterns, such as peak gym times (and short-stayer lift usage!).

This information is undoubtedly useful for confronting assumptions (e.g. "nobody will use the gym after 9.30pm") and improving decision making. And when the data is aggregated and deidentified, residents generally are untroubled by this use.

However, the situation changes when individuals are tracked and separate profiles compiled (the only benefit being to confirm an alibi – "no officer, I was home alone that night – look at my building's CCTV"). And currently there are great advances occurring in video content analysis where this material

can be automatically analysed to detect and determine temporal and spatial events.

In addition to this, more professional "on-boarding" in Vertical Villages have seen an increase in the amount and type of data collected about residents (for the purposes of better service):

- What are your preferred contact channels? (So we can best communicate with you);
- Do you have pets? (So we can supply relevant council updates to you);
- What is your car registration? (So we can identify strangers' vehicles); and
- Do you have a bike? (So we can plan better storage).

And this data is now formally recorded. Once again, aggregated, this is very useful for informing OCC decision making, but the creation and scrutinisation of an individual's profile is another matter entirely and brings into question, whose eyes are on this?



**Janette Corcoran**  
Apartment living expert  
<https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/>



What Women Want

# It's been an extraordinary month

The sun has been both literally, and figuratively, shining and there is a feeling of complete content and happiness. Extraordinary stuff. Particularly since it follows a period of intense stress ... as the stress abates and vacates its occupancy of my life, joy has a chance to check on in.

There's nothing noteworthy to be joyful about, except for the re-discovery of simple pleasures. Of not rushing. Of not feeling the weight of the world on my shoulders. Of having time to be a mum, helping with homework, having dinner ready at a reasonable time. Of actually having socks folded in matching pairs.

Sounds like domestic hell? Not to me,

not this month – this month has been just perfect.

Of course, the bank may not think so given my lack of revenue raising activities and my indulgence in spending on "little things" (but just a lot of them!). The new appliances to bake pies, press sandwiches, brew coffee and blast smoothies. The softer-than-soft "loungewear" (as I'm now home-based), the new running shoes for my return to fitness, the new bag to carry the new iPad because I have time for brain training (Sudoku, Solitaire and Scrabble).

These were all essentials to my new way of life post the "stressful incident of 2018" and my reviewing my life direction.

Of course, I know it will be short-lived but for the first time in more than 15 years I've decided to give myself a break. Yep, a break.

I'm taking a month or so to recover, heal and recuperate from an incredibly stressful time. And I'm investing in me, my mental health, my physical wellbeing and refocusing my energy on what is most important – my family. And I just can't believe how wonderful it feels.

Of course, after a glass of wine on such a wonderful relaxed day, I thought I'd visit an old thought of mine that I'd long forgotten – the thought of "I wonder if someone is out there for me".

So I popped online (what else can one do?) and checked if there was anyone who might be interesting/interested in potential dating.

Word of advice to any man out there in the dating world – do not, under any circumstances, send nude pics to someone you haven't met.

It doesn't matter how well the light shows off that pec, or how much the reflection in the bathroom mirror is just perfect to highlight your bicep, just don't do it. Please.

I promise all we do is squeal with laughter, tell our friends over a wine and move on. Good for a giggle though!

This month has been about relaxing, lightening up a little, reconnecting a lot, and waiting for the path to present itself. And it's feeling like everything is coming together.

What a woman wants is for her home to be her sanctuary and her heart to be her

strength. We all need to nurture ourselves and take a little time out to be able to give so much to those we love, to our dreams, to our future.

Please listen to your body when it's time to rest and recover and never underestimate the healing power that comes from the laughter with friends and love from your family.

I can't wait to see what this month will bring.

With love  
Abby

PS don't forget you can reach me at **life@docklandsnews.com.au**. Thank you for your emails x



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## Health and Wellbeing

# Winning at winter health and fitness

I haven't reviewed any data from the Bureau of Meteorology, but this 2018 winter has felt like a very cold, wet and bitter couple of months.

The reality is we still have the coldest and wettest month of the year (August) to live and exercise through, so here are some ideas to help you make it through the remaining dark and cold month of winter before we hit spring.

Make a commitment. Everyone finds it more challenging in these colder months to stay motivated and maintain daily exercise routines. We know this, so plan to overcome this from the today. Make a commitment with your colleagues, partner or family that will help motivate and mobilise each other, especially on the days when the weather is brutally cold and wet.

Keep it warm. Venturing out into the cold and wet to exercise or to get to the gym might not be too enjoyable or healthy during winter (you might catch a cold). Try and look for warm and inviting environments to exercise instead. Here are some ideas – swim laps in a heated pool, take a hot yoga class, take an Uber to the gym (if it's raining) and generate your own heat in a HIT class, or try using an infra-red sauna for some cosy personal relaxation.

Stay healthy. You won't be able to stay fit if you get sick. Winter is a great time to balance and improve your nutritional intake. Ensure

you are eating plenty of vegies and fruit so that you are gaining all the vitamins and minerals you need to fight off any colds and flu that might be getting around.

Get strong and stay strong. It's always important to train with weights and resistance. You don't realise how fast you lose your muscle mass and density through inactivity. Maintaining your muscle mass will ensure your metabolic rate stays optimised and high. Seeing that 70 to 80 per cent of your daily energy expenditure is through your body's metabolic functioning, allowing this to go backwards is not a great way to stay fit and trim.

Have fun. No one can maintain an exercise program that isn't fun and enjoyable. Make the most of the good days when the sun is out – get outside and enjoy the sunshine! Look for fun alternatives like running, boot camps, try cross-country skiing or take longer athletic walks in interesting places you haven't been before. That way you can lift your spirits, boost your energy and vitamin D levels when you get the chance. This will help you stay motivated when the cold weather tries to dampen your enthusiasm.

## Find your space – Meditation for beginners

There are so many reasons why we should all make time to meditate, many now backed up by medical science.

Common reasons why people don't take up the practice of mediation is time (or lack of it) and not knowing where or how to start.

The great news is that you don't need to set aside hours each day for mediation – you can start with just a few minutes each day and build on that as you go.

Here are five reasons why you should make time for meditation:

- Reduce stress and anxiety;
- Increase in kind thoughts and actions;
- Decrease blood pressure;
- Helps manage pain; and
- Improves sleep.

Here are some tips to get you going:

Create time and space. Start with two or three minutes each day, preferably in the morning. Morning rituals and habits are easier to form than later in the day when you are most likely tired and distracted.

## Getting started

- Choose between seated or lying position,

ensure you are comfortable;

- Close your eyes;
- Turn your focus to the breath, both the inhalation and exhalation;
- Observe how your body responds to your breath and breathing; and
- Maintain focus on your breathing for two or three minutes and then open your eyes.

## Next steps

Increase the time you meditate – consider your personal comfort. You can buy a meditation chair or use mats, pillows or bolsters to improve the experience.

Use technology – there are many great apps that you can download that will help guide and educate you on your mind body journey. Examples of apps are *Headspace* and *Calm*.

Consider a class – search for a local meditation class within a reputable facility or community centre.

Good luck!



**Andrew Ward**

Andrew Ward from Push! Fitness.

[www.push-fitness.com.au](http://www.push-fitness.com.au)

## Chamber Update

# Upcoming events in Docklands

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce hosted a lovely networking night on Victoria Harbour, and we have another special information night coming up on August 9 – Digital Docklands.

We will be presenting the most up-to-date best practices for website development, social media and bringing you up to speed with cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology. You can stay up to date and register here – [www.docklandsc.com.au/blog](http://www.docklandsc.com.au/blog)

## New website

The time has come to renovate and revitalise our website. We'll be bringing across all our current members but providing a more visual feel and hopefully bringing in many more visitors to our precinct. It's a perfect reminder to keep your membership up-to-date as only current members will be listed.

## Small Business Grants applications are open

The City of Melbourne Small Business Grants (SBG) program provides financial assistance to support market-ready products and services that enhance the City of Melbourne's reputation for innovation

and creativity, and contribute to a thriving, sustainable business culture.

Grants are open to forward-thinking small businesses currently located or intending to locate within the City of Melbourne.

Start-ups and established businesses from any sector are welcome to apply if you have a great idea and a sound business proposal that is going to proceed regardless of grant funding.

SBG workshops are currently available for those interested in applying. Head to the City of Melbourne website and search for grants.

## Chamber continues to produce

Stay informed and get involved – our Facebook profile has over 165,000 followers and always has the latest information regarding events and offers – [www.fb.me/MelbDock](http://www.fb.me/MelbDock).

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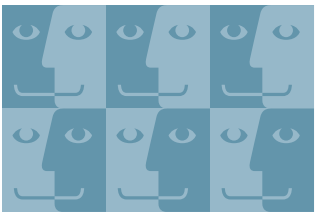
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# FACES OF DOCKLANDS

## Question: What do you think about the recent “plastic bag rage”?



ALISE JEEVES, 20S, SOUTH YARRA, EVENTS PLANNER

I think people just have to get used to it. Lots of countries have it in place already.



ZAC ROBERTSON, 26, DOCKLANDS, IT AND FINANCE

It's a hassle but, in the long term, it will be good.



NAZMUL HASSAN, 40S, DOCKLANDS, CORRECTIONS

It's not to do with age but more of the knowledge of how to fix the environment. My son who is in Year 10 is very positive about it.



KHUSHRU WADIYAH, 38, EAST MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE WATER

I think we need to control it in a strategic way, we need to have a balance on utilising plastic bags and at the same time should have some transitional plan so people develop it into their culture. I think Melbourne people are quite flexible to adaptation.



BEVERLEY MATTA, 67, ADELAIDE, RETIRED

I think it's silly. We have had it in Adelaide for a long time and you pay 15 cents for a bag. What's the big deal?



FIONA SMITH, 47, DOCKLANDS, SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR

All I'll say in relation to Docklands is the harbour's full of rubbish, some of which is plastic bags and we need to get on top of it. We need to be more aware of our consumption habits.

### Pet's Corner



## Sooky Romeo loves the attention

By Jacklyn Yeong

Romeo is a popular Maltese-Shih Tzu often attracting attention with his independent off-leash walks.

He was strictly trained for two months to stay in sight of his owner and away from dangerous areas. However, he might be caught cheekily trying to edge closer to the wharf to sniff out fishing or ducks.

His owner, Ron, revealed that starting young and identifying Romeo's weakness helped speed up the off-leash training process.

"Off-leash training is very hard," Ron said. "Although I found out whenever you use boiled chicken to train him, he will listen to you."

Ron said he took Romeo for at least five

walks a day as Romeo was very attached to him. He also prone to be jealous of Ron's other pets.

"I used to have a rabbit and he just got jealous," Ron said. "He started getting sick and stopped eating food. You can't ignore him."

If Ron left home for too long, Romeo would cry until he knew for sure that Ron came back.

The love is not a one-way street, with Ron eager to return home to see Romeo after work.

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Docklander

# Water views work for local novelist

Contemplating the calm waters of Victoria Harbour works for author Carol Jones, whose first “grown-ups” novel has been released internationally.

The Docklands resident has been published many times over many years in the children’s books and magazine space.

*The Concubine’s Child* is her first novel for the more mature reader and was released by British publisher Head of Zeus in June.

Carol said she didn’t know how local sales were tracking, but she’d heard that sales in South East Asia were going well.

This is not a surprise, considering the novel is set in 1930s Malaysia, inspired by what she knows of her husband’s family.

“The inspiration for this novel has crept up on me over the past 25 years of annual visits to Malaysia to stay with my husband’s family,” she said. “Abandoned ghost houses, inquisitive monkeys, smoky temples, thick jungle, Chinese funerals and a panoply of gods and demons have all played their part.”

She said the book was about 18 months in the making, with much of the research, writing and general contemplation taking place at her desk or on the couch in her Convesso apartment.

Even though she may have been actively working on the novel for six hours a day for five or six hours each week, the exercise was really all-consuming.

“I’d be thinking about it while walking the dog, before I go to sleep and night and when I woke up in the mornings,” she said.

Carol and her husband Vincent are classic “empty nesters”, having only recently seen the backs of their grown up son and daughter – leaving 16-year-old Billy, the family dog, as the sole recipient of their attention.

Carol theorises that, at 16, Billy could well be Docklands’ oldest dog. He certainly benefits from the bracing (health giving?)



Carol and Billy at home in Docklands.

Docklands breezes during his three walks a day.

Carol started her career as a secondary

school teacher and soon moved into writing – both fiction and educational books – for children.

After a decent break from writing while her kids tackled their senior school years, she more recently got back into writing seriously.

At her first attempted novel, her manuscript attracted an agent, but not a publisher. With her next effort, *The Concubine’s Child*, Carol landed a two-novel contract and has been working solidly on the new book.

The new novel is set in the Australian goldfields in the 1850s, which means even more research is required to be factually correct. This time around, she is up to the “revisions” stage in the editing process.

Carol and her husband bought off the plan and moved into their Victoria Harbour apartment in 2012. She has been on the owners’ corporation since the start and has made many lasting friendships since downsizing to Docklands.

“I love Docklands. I love the city being so close – the convenience,” she said. “The tram is so handy. We love going to the movies – the Keno is our local cinema. The restaurants are great and it’s a great place to walk the dog.”

“I love the views and I think Victoria Harbour has been well planned. Lendlease has done a pretty good job,” she said.

She said Docklands was very diverse – in terms of the range in the age of residents and their ethnicity.

“I like that. There are different people and different age groups – lots of young people. We wouldn’t get that if we were living in an apartment in the suburbs,” she said.

According to Carol, the only downside is short-term renting in residential buildings – a situation that is familiar to most locals.

## Owners’ Corporation Law

# OC discriminated against a disabled owner

Last month, a residential owners’ corporation (OC) in Travancore was found by the Supreme Court to be discriminating against a disabled owner by refusing to carry out modifications to its building to accommodate her wheelchair access.

The owner had applied to VCAT seeking an order that the owners’ corporation should make alterations to the common property, including modifying entry doors and the ramp to the car park door to make it easier for wheelchair access. She relied on the Equal Opportunity Act by raising the argument that the OC was considered to be

a “service provider” to owners and residents and therefore it should make reasonable adjustments for people with a disability.

VCAT found that the OC does indeed provide a “service” to owners and residents for the purposes of the Equal Opportunity Act. That decision was upheld by the Supreme Court on appeal.

The owner had purchased her apartment in 2013, but by 2015 had developed disabilities that affected her mobility, such that she required the use of a wheelchair or scooter. The owner claimed the OC should carry out modifications to the building for the doors to the car park, the main entry to the building, the rubbish disposal area and the courtyard and garden. All of these areas of the building are classified as common property and, as a member of the OC, the owner was entitled to access and enjoy all areas of the common property.

The court’s decision is interesting in that it ruled that an OC provided services in

characterising that the maintenance and use and enjoyment of the common property was a service.

In making the decision, the court did not need to grapple with the provisions in the Owners Corporation Act regarding special resolutions to alter and upgrade common property, and how to differentiate and apportion any levy to be raised to carry out those upgrades. The VCAT’s and court’s view was that these were separate processes that required an OC to expend money to upgrade the building, but were nevertheless separate to the question of whether discrimination had already occurred.

The Equal Opportunity Act, in purporting to oblige a service provider such as an OC, to “make reasonable adjustments” to accommodate someone who is disabled, effectively requires an OC to make the necessary modifications to the common property without delay and without the need to pass a special resolution.

In my view, the court’s decision was the correct one. In future, all OCs need to be careful and responsive to all persons (able-bodied or otherwise) in ensuring that they can all equally access, use and enjoy the common property.

I note this would be a very interesting case if there were different factual circumstances involved. Let’s say, for instance, it was not the owner of the property that was disabled, but instead it was someone who was a tenant.

Even someone who runs airbnb and wants to let their unit to disabled guests might be able to apply to enforce the OC to make modifications to the common property.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.  
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# Village St lights up

*The lights have been switched on in Village St as part of an activation conceived by Development Victoria and Walker Corporation.*

The initiative aims to enhance the street lighting underneath the Collins St bridge and make the space more attractive for community, retailers and visitors.

This place-making joint venture was proposed in July 2017 to improve the ambience of the area for pedestrians who use Village St, while highlighting a range of new retail “pods” located under Collins Square, such as Tribute Boxing.

Development Victoria’s general manager precincts, Simon Wilson, said Village St underwent an upgrade last year which transformed it into a pedestrian-friendly precinct and this project was an extension of that.

“This is a busy area on weekdays, but we identified that it needed some activation to encourage visitors and residents at other times,” he noted.

“Walker Corporation has attracted some great new businesses under the Collins

St bridge and it will be great to be able to showcase them.”

“This is a perfect example of collaboration with a developer to activate a space that has a lot of potential. The stadium end of Village St has benefited from an upgrade so this is a natural extension,” Mr Wilson concluded.

Melbourne-based specialty lighting firm Electrolight has been engaged to design the installation, with Melbourne’s unique laneways the inspiration behind the lighting activation.

Walker Corporation shares Development Victoria’s vision to ensure the light activation was in place to celebrate the Firelight Festival.

The light installation will be an ongoing feature of Village St and consists of a spectrum of six colours, each colour holds for 15 seconds before a transition to the next colour. The lights run every day from 5.30am-7am and from 5.30pm-7pm.

# Art auction: The Emmanueli Collection

*The Mission to Seafarers hosted an art auction on July 12, with works by well-known artists such as R\_O\_N\_E, photographer John Gollings and illustrative artist Jeremy Kyle.*

But it was artist Catherine de Boer who brought together their work, as well as her own, into the same room.

Late last year, Catherine climbed Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania – Africa’s highest mountain – and made a promise to her guide Emmanueli.

“During my final climb to the summit past midnight, I decided to turn back at about 3am with severe altitude sickness,” Catherine said.

“I was at 5400m altitude and Emmanueli assisted in my self-rescue. He linked arms with me, and we ran together at speed and through total darkness for over two hours.”

“More than that, he shared with me his dream that night, to complete his education. I recognised in him his true desire to complete his education and better his life and that of his family, but he could

not afford the fees.” Catherine promised to help Emmanueli, and started a gofundme platform. Since that night, she has raised nearly half his fees through the sale of art and direct donation.

“The auction at the mission went really well. There was a really positive and charitable atmosphere. Everyone had a really good time,” she said.

“We cleared over \$4000, over 30 art works were sold. The dome gallery space was amazing and the mission gave us great support”

Catherine is planning to fly back to Tanzania in July next year with enough money for Emmanueli to get his diploma in safari guiding and wildlife management.

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Visitors enjoy last month's art auction at The Mission to Seafarers.

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