

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Keys to life

By John Tadigiri

Eight-year-old Lim Ky has been playing keyboard for three-and-a-half years. He plays at the District every Sunday without fail, even when sick.

Passers-by, shopkeepers and shoppers gave him loud applause at the end of every song on Sunday, December 1.

Ky's parents, Paul and Leng, said Ky had ADHD but focused intently on the instrument. Paul, an amputee, took pride in his son's talent and drive.

"Ky's real blessing is not just playing the keyboard but sharing his skills and instrument with his friends, encouraging them to make music as well," he said.



VCAT losing patience with short-stay operator

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) has almost lost patience with local short-stay apartment operator Shivesh Kuksal.

In a report to the Supreme Court, VCAT deputy president Ian Proctor says Mr Kuksal may be "restrained" from appearing in the future. He left the way open for Mr Kuksal to be represented by others.

In his October 28 report, Mr Proctor outlined his reasons to the Supreme Court (to which Mr Kuksal has appealed) for refusing an

October 23 application to "reconstitute" a tribunal and have its presiding member replaced.

In the report, Mr Proctor says Mr Kuksal's reconstitution application "was a ploy to achieve a refused adjournment and delay matters."

"He regularly seeks delay as a strategy in proceedings before this tribunal," Mr Proctor said.

He reported that Mr Kuksal had won an adjournment of an earlier hearing after calling an ambulance for "a severe health condition" as well as refusing "to be in the same room as the applicant's representative on the grounds that an interim intervention order was in force".

He described Mr Kuksal's action to call police for protection against this real estate agent who was in another room taking part in the October 23 hearing "when there was no threat to his safety" as "outrageous".

"Mr Kuksal's conduct before me in this hearing was unacceptable, with him being unreasonable, argumentative and misleading," Mr Proctor wrote.

Mr Proctor pointed the Supreme Court to earlier VCAT decisions where "I and other members of the tribunal have recorded unacceptable conduct by Mr Kuksal."

As an example, in *Wang v Efektiv Pty Ltd*, Mr Proctor lists multiple abuses of processes by Mr Kuksal and his many related companies, which he said were "well known" to VCAT.

"The companies lease hundreds of apartments, predominantly in the Docklands area, and sub-lease or license the apartments via AirBnB and other companies to international students, holidaymakers and perhaps others," Mr Proctor said.

"Many landlords have made applications to VCAT against the companies, and Ms [Lu Lu] Xu and Mr Kuksal as tenants, seeking possession of rented premises due to non-payment of rent."

"Landlords have also made application seeking compensation for unpaid rent, cleaning expenses and repair expenses. Holiday makers or students who have rented premises from one of the companies or who

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VCAT losing patience with short-stay operator

Continued from page 1.

were licensees staying in the premises have made applications to VCAT seeking recovery of 'security bonds,' Mr Proctor said.

"Once applications were before VCAT for decision, the companies have routinely conducted themselves as litigants at VCAT in a variety of unacceptable ways."

"The following VCAT decisions serve as examples: In *Tam v The State of Our Times Pty Ltd (No. 2) (Residential Tenancies) [2019] VCAT 1167*, Member Powles said at [64]: It is scandalous that [State of Our Times] focuses on pedantic and overly technical submissions on the means by which it was served with documents in this proceeding, while not contesting the landlord's allegations [where] the arrears had grown to \$20,670."

"In *Tam v The State of Our Times Pty Ltd (Residential Tenancies) [2019] VCAT 1037* at [23], when dismissing an application for reconstitution (made seeking to replace Member Powles in the above case), Deputy President Lulham said: I am satisfied that [State of Our Times's] application for reconstitution of the tribunal in this proceeding was not made for genuine reasons, but was instead made to engineer an unnecessary delay in the disposition of the proceeding. [State of Our Times] succeeded in causing that delay, but its

application for reconstitution was vexatious and an abuse of process."

"In the same decision, deputy president (DP) Lulham described a request by Mr Kuksal for VCAT to provide an interpreter for Ms Xu as misleading. DP Lulham had heard submissions from Ms Xu and regarded her English as fluent. He considered Ms Xu to be 'play acting' while Mr Kuksal made the submission."

"The multiple times Ms Xu has appeared before me in hearings, demonstrate her fluency in English. As far as I am aware, Ms Xu has never herself sought that VCAT provide an interpreter."

"In *Li v Kornucopia Pty Ltd (Residential Tenancies) [2019] VCAT 877* at [17], VCAT concluded Mr Kuksal had during the hearing attempted to intimidate agents for the landlord."

"The companies' representatives have frequently arrived late at VCAT hearings claiming 'traffic' or making no excuse at all. VCAT records show this as well as representatives arriving one after the other, disrupting the flow of the hearing."

"On many occasions, the companies have not appeared at VCAT hearings, later seeking a fresh hearing of my application for review ... The companies have repeatedly, without apparent justification, refused to pay rent to landlords."

Hoon sting

Melbourne Highway Patrol officers carried out a "large-scale" operation in Yarra's Edge on November 30 targeting ongoing vehicle gatherings in the area.

Police conducted the operation from 3pm until 11pm in partnership with Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) officers, who set up testing bays in Hartley St to check vehicle sound emissions.

Highway Patrol units were in unmarked vehicles during the operation and identified and intercepted eight vehicles, directing them into the testing bays. Of the eight vehicles pulled in by the EPA, five were issued with fines over \$800 for failing emissions tests while three were issued with warnings.

Highway Patrol officers have told *Docklands News* that the operation would be the "start of a few weekends of blitzing the area" and it is expected that EPA officers will join as part of a monthly operation.



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Projections on Shed 14 at Central Pier last month.

Maiden voyage

Port Phillip Ferries' new service, the Geelong Flyer began its twice-daily services between Docklands and Geelong on Monday, December 2.

The first service departed Geelong at 6.45am and arrived in Victoria Harbour at 8.15 am.

Port Phillip Ferries celebrated the historic first journey by handing the first 50 passengers a selection of gifts from Daniel's Donuts, Melbourne Star, Peppers Docklands and Edge Geelong.

The new route connects Geelong and Melbourne via ferry for the first time, creating an alternative and environmentally friendly means of travelling between Victoria's two largest cities.

The 400-seater ferry features indoor and outdoor spaces, an on-board licensed café, bike racks, charging stations and free Wi-Fi.



Port Phillip Ferries CEO Paul Little at Geelong Waterfront last month.

Heat mounts on Development Victoria

Development Victoria (DV) will submit its defence to the Federal Court on December 6 as a petition circulated by tenants of Central Pier attracts growing support from the community.

More than 2700 signatures had been added to the petition via the website savecentralpier.com.au at the time when *Docklands News* went to print as new revelations regarding engineering works at the pier emerged last month.

In conjunction with the U2 concert at Marvel Stadium on November 15, tenants also organised a series of projections onto the side of Shed 14 to continue shining a light on the issue. The installations read: "The future of events was here ... but now Development Victoria ... has shut down Central Pier."

CEO of Central Pier's anchor tenant Atlantic Group Hatem Saleh emailed

tenants in November summarising a phone conversation between himself and Development Victoria's group head, precincts Geoff Ward.

In the email, Mr Saleh alleged that Mr Ward provided him the following updates regarding current rectification works by DV's engineers KBR on Central Pier:

"Following the evacuation on 28 August, KBR did not begin its inspections on Central Pier until four weeks later on 25 September - this was one day after the closure was extended until January 6, 2020," Mr Saleh said.

"The current focus is on a thorough inspection of Shed 14 and random inspections of Shed 9. Underneath Shed 14, they have found that 28 per cent of the piles inspected have some form of defect."

Mr Saleh added that he was also informed that previous bi-monthly inspections undertaken prior to the pier's closure had focused on Shed 9, because engineers had "assumed" it was in worse condition than Shed 14 (Peninsula).

"Repair works on the piles can be completed by January 6, however if work needs to be done on the deck then this will be after this date."

"Development Victoria has no intention to extend any further support to the tenants or staff on Central Pier."

Mr Saleh said the conversation only raised more questions that tenants were "desperately" seeking answers to; mainly, why KBR only begun inspections one day after the closure was extended after a four-week shut down from August 28.

"What information was used to justify the extension of the closure if no further inspections had taken place?" Mr Saleh wrote to tenants. "How did Development Victoria's "expert" KBR not know about the condition of Shed 14 despite undergoing inspections every two months for the past year?"

Tenants of Central Pier launched legal action against DV in October.

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Wellbeing in a heating city

Advertorial by Meg Hill

Melburnians look forward to summer every year, but for some groups within the community high temperatures can pose serious health risks.

The CBD environment adds its own complexities to heat health. As climate change escalates, the City of Melbourne has prioritised heat health.

Between 1981 and 2010 Melbourne experienced, on average, 8.3 days per year above 35 degrees. In 2018 there were 10 days above that temperature. CSIRO modelling suggests that by the 2050s this could increase to between 13 and 21 days on average.

Marina Rahovistas, a senior environmental health officer at the council, said there were a number of groups which council action particularly focused on.

“Some of those are senior members of the community – 65-year-olds and older, and infants and children,” Marina said.

“But there’s also groups like international students, residents and visitors who don’t know the local weather, as well as low socioeconomic groups that of course includes those experiencing homelessness.”

Marina also highlighted how the residential



Marina Rahovistas using one of the council's 60 drinking fountains.

nature of the CBD complicates heat health.

“With a heat wave there are often power outages, so people in apartments really need to know who their neighbours are,” she said.

“People need to know if there are elderly people there, or someone else who’s vulnerable, who needs assistance so they can check on them. They could also engage with body corporate groups to discuss the risks and what to do when a heatwave event occurs.”

Going into summer, the council has engaged in pre-emptive communication with vulnerable community members and aims to ensure that all resources are available while urging people to plan ahead.

When bad days hit, alerts go out to different channels and create a “ripple effect”.

“Once I send out all those messages to all the relevant work areas, all the service agencies, then they put their plans into action,” Marina said.

That might mean, for example, service providers going out to check on the people they care for. Another example is a collaboration between CoHealth and the council to deliver a homeless brokerage program.

“When we send those heat health alerts out, CoHealth issues resources like movie passes and pool passes to people experiencing homelessness in the City of Melbourne, so they can have respite in some cool spaces.”

Council prioritises giving advice and making sure community members think ahead, as it’s often small things that can make a big difference.

“We try and make sure people do keep their homes cool, that they do simple things like close curtains, hydrating themselves, knowing where cool places are around the city if they have to go out,” she said.

Council’s head of the people city portfolio Cr Beverley Pinder said the City of Melbourne is well prepared for extreme summer conditions this year.

“Extreme heat is a danger we face every summer here in Melbourne,” Cr Pinder said.

“We want to educate people on the risks associated with extreme heat and provide practical advice and services to help them respond.”

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

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Leading job growth

By Aphrodite Feros-Fooke

Docklands has experienced a 243 per cent employment increase in the past decade, the equivalent of 51,600 jobs, according to the City of Melbourne's 2018 Census of Land Use and Employment (CLUE) released in November.

In response to the data, Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp said Docklands was "coming of age" and "leading the city in terms of job growth."

The CLUE data has found the City of Melbourne's economy is now worth more than \$100 billion annually for the first time in the city's history. The gross local product (GLP) grew more than five per cent to reach an estimated \$100.3 billion in 2018.

Cr Capp said the city's economic growth rate was significantly higher than the national average.

"Melbourne is one of the fastest growing cities in Australia and we are now unequivocally a major driver of the national economy."

"Incredibly our \$100.3 billion GLP is more than the gross state product of Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the ACT – a combined \$96 billion," she said.

The report recognised Docklands at the forefront of job growth in the municipality with half of new employment opportunities in the past two years occurring in Docklands, with 14,200 extra jobs.

Docklands also accounted for 70 per cent of all job growth in the past decade in the City of Melbourne.

"Despite the well-known teething problems with such an ambitious urban renewal project, Docklands is now a crucial hub for job creation in our city. The employment growth in Docklands shows confidence in the future of the city's economy," Cr Capp said.

In comparison, Parkville showed a 34 per cent increase, Southbank a 23 per cent increase, and the CBD a two per cent increase in jobs since 2008.

According to the CLUE data, the industries leading this growth are business services, finance and insurance, and public administration and safety.

Collins Square, one of Australia's largest commercial developments, was named in the CLUE report as a predominant contributor to the job growth in Docklands with the complex alone adding 7900 jobs in the past two years.

Major businesses such as the Commonwealth Bank, Australian Taxation Office, Mercer, AECOM, KPEG, Penguin Publishing and Tabcorp Holdings have established their head offices in Collins Square since its completion in 2017.

The report showed residential development in Melbourne has also been a major contributor to the city's growth over the past decade.

"The growth in our CBD alone is the equivalent of the entire amount of housing within the City of Adelaide," Cr Capp said.

The data showed that 12,630 new residential dwellings were added in the CBD, 5910 in Southbank and 5200 in Docklands during the past decade, with the northern parts of the CBD specified as having contributed a significant increase.

For a copy of the full CLUE report visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/clue

Waterway without boats

By Jeff Gordon

Imagine visiting a major capital city in Europe or Asia or North America and not being able to access the water, not being able to get on a boat and enjoy the city and its views from the water.

Imagine not being able to access the water in London or Paris or Stockholm. Then ask yourself why Melbourne's commercial boats are disappearing off our waterway – our two rivers, the Maribyrnong and the Birrarung/Yarra – and the Port of Melbourne.

Commercial passenger vessels are the means by which the people of Melbourne are able to access their waterway in a safe and enjoyable manner. Safe because in Australia all commercial vessels have to comply with stringent safety regulations, both in the way the vessels are built and maintained and the way they are operated.

Add to these regulations, food and liquor service regulations, Port of Melbourne regulations, City of Melbourne and Parks Victoria regulations and you are beginning to understand the complexities of operating a commercial passenger vessel in Melbourne.

All the commercial boats operating in Melbourne have tried their hardest in an increasingly difficult economic climate.

But they are asking themselves, why carry on? It is just too hard to do business with all the government overlords, squeezing the life out of the Industry?

New operators coming here are soon made aware of the complexities of operating on these waterways. In Docklands, Development Victoria has just shutdown Central Pier and removed all the commercial craft leaving less space in Victoria Harbour. Upriver, Parks Victoria has recently gone through a tender process for berthing alongside Southbank.

This reallocation has resulted in one long-term operator pulling the pin, another losing his back-of-house area and another being cut out of the process altogether.

Over the past 25 years the members of the



Melbourne Passenger Boat Association have been to many forums and attended many meetings, but have rarely seen positive outcomes.

They have pressed their case for recognition for better terms and conditions, but the bureaucracy has only been interested in increased regulation and increasing the collection of fees.

It's all very well to want a world-class tourism experience on the water, but it's simply un-achievable with temporary short-term licences, inadequate infrastructure and poor management practices and decisions.

Operators have asked for typical common retail leases over their berths, but they still exist under a "David and Goliath" licence arrangement that puts all the power in the hands of the bureaucracy and gives them nothing other than a place to temporarily call a home or pick-up berth.

Parks Victoria had an opportunity to create leases upstream on the Birrarung/Yarra, but in the end it only offered 10 year licences. All other capital cities in Australia offer leases for their commercial craft, giving them tenure and an opportunity to renew their vessels and to improve their products.

The Melbourne Passenger Boating Association feels that to properly recognise the waterway and to give it the value in the community that it deserves, a single management authority and local port should be established from Herring Island to the Bolte Bridge including the navigable reaches of the Maribyrnong. With the present multiple waterway managers, how can they all be on the same page?

A single government authority that has the City of Melbourne, Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria in support, will have commercial and environmental outcomes for the rivers and the city and most importantly the people that live and visit.

Jeff Gordon is the president of the Melbourne Passenger Boating Association.



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- Stay cool and hydrated by drinking tap water.
- Sign up for heat health alerts.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwaves



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Call for upgrades to community garden

By David Schout

The popular Docklands Community Garden says the time has come for proper infrastructure to support their 111-strong group of volunteers.

The group, which recently celebrated 10 years at their Geographe St location, requires a public toilet, shading and a water pump to back its efforts.

Head volunteer Greg Wise said a committed group of volunteers wasn't getting the assistance it needed.

"There is a total lack of public toilet facilities around the Docklands area and most particularly this part of Docklands," he said of its location, between Bourke and Collins streets.

"This is a major challenge for the garden as a community because at least 50 per cent of our volunteers are women and a lot of them are elderly ladies. When we have major events in the garden such as replanting, we'll be doing that for four to six hours, and the need for a toilet is obviously quite extreme after that period of time. There's really nowhere that's anywhere near for them to go."

Mr Wise said almost all of the local cafes



Greg Wise with Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell at the community garden last month.

around the area were closed on Sundays, and the public toilet on Harbour Esplanade was too far for many volunteers to walk.

He said they have even had to set up a bucket in an enclosed pavilion for some members to use

"It's not fair for anybody. It's not just for the garden - a public toilet would be a very useful asset for the entire community. Whenever we're in the garden on weekends we get tourists who wander through here and tell us what a magnificent and wonderful place it is, but inevitably ask the question: 'can you tell me where the nearest public toilet is?'"

Mr Wise said while the toilet was a primary concern, the group was also concerned with

the lack of shade around the garden heading into summer.

"We're always working in all seasons, particularly in summer during the day," he said.

"We always finish off our working bees with a picnic lunch for all of the volunteers. And for the next hour or so while we're having lunch everyone has to sit in the sun because there's no alternative."

Greens MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell visited the garden in November and congratulated the volunteers on their anniversary, pledging to push the City of Melbourne for improvements.

"It's a remarkable achievement, 10 years of

the Docklands Community Garden," she said.

"Thanks to all the volunteers who've put in so much hard work - it's a beautiful space and I'm looking forward to continuing to support it. The volunteers raised a number of issues with me from toilets to a drinking fountain to some shade, and a water pump for their watering system, and I'll be raising those with council to make the space even better than it is now."

Mr Wise said volunteers had recently replanted the spring and summer crop, and encouraged anyone to come down and pick what they needed.

"The garden is very much for the community and everybody is welcome to come down, have a look and pick what they want for their next meal."

He said the number of volunteers was hugely pleasing and most importantly, fostered a feeling of community in the area.

"The more volunteers, the better. There's plenty of work to be done and an enormous amount of enjoyment comes from working in the garden. We've found that it's a great opportunity for residents of Docklands to meet other residents."

"When you come into the garden and see someone else doing something it's the easiest thing in the world to strike up a conversation because there's already something in common."

ESCALA

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A committee meeting to remember

By Stephen Mayne



As the nation collectively groaned over petty partisan finger pointing about bushfires and climate change in recent weeks, there was a political ray of light emanating from the Melbourne Town Hall.

The marathon 3 hour and 49 minute Future Melbourne Committee on November 12 will go down as one of the best meetings ever.

This paper has lamented the lack of meaty topics coming before council in the post-Doyle period, with councillors reluctant to put up controversial notices of motion and a surprising lack of substantive policy debates coming forward from the administration.

Well, that all changed on November 12 when there were three issues which dominated – inclusionary zoning policy, pill testing at music festivals and the Melbourne Cup Parade – all of which could have been completely left alone.

If you weren't there or missed the live

webcast (a commendable transparency measure in itself), I encourage readers to visit the City of Melbourne website and have a listen to all three debates, which were conducted with passion, honesty and powerful arguments. The inclusionary zoning discussion ran for 24 minutes (starting one hour and 32 minutes into proceedings), pill testing went for 43 minutes starting at (1 hour and 56 minutes) and the horse racing debate went for 55 minutes (starting two hours and 50 minutes).

Town Hall did not necessarily need to weigh in on the state government's policy review on tackling housing affordability but landed with what planning chair Nicholas Reece declared was a "momentous" policy shift towards supporting inclusionary zoning to mandate a slice of affordable housing in new major developments on private land.

Whether Spring Street agrees is another matter but the councillors shirked making this change when they last looked at this policy in late 2014 and, with Melbourne having the lowest amount of affordable housing of any capital city, the switch is well overdue.

The support for inclusionary zoning was particularly noteworthy for the Lord Mayor Sally Capp, given her strong opposition to such a policy in her previous role as CEO of the Property Council.

The submission supporting a pill testing trial at music festivals was another state government issue that many councils across

Victoria just ignored. But this council was up for the debate, unafraid to buy in.

The reports by the officers supporting both a pill testing trial and the policy shift to embrace inclusionary zoning were well argued progressive positions, which both prevailed, although some remnants of the old Team Doyle (Crs Susan Riley and Bev Pinder) plus the solitary Liberal councillor Phillip Le Liu opposed the pill testing position.

However, there isn't a lot of factionalism or party politics amongst the current councillors, which actually leads to better debate, independent thoughts and good decision-making.

Cr Rohan Leppert's motion to withdraw council's support for the Melbourne Cup Parade down Swanston St on the Monday before the Melbourne Cup was the most ambitious and contentious push by the Greens councillor that we've seen. It attracted 170 overwhelmingly supportive written submissions and five oral presentations on the night but ended up going down 6-3 with only Cr Nic Frances Gilley supporting the two Greens.

The Lord Mayor, backed by Cr Le Liu and all the former Team Doyle councillors came up with a much softer alternative motion which gave the racing industry a minor whack over the animal welfare issues highlighted on ABC TV's 7.30 program but then ultimately backed the parade, albeit with a nudge to bring forward the banning of the whip.

There has never been a debate like this about racing, gambling and animal welfare inside Town Hall. Passions ran high with Cr Cathy Oke in tears over the poor treatment of animals. Ultimately, it was rare defeat for Cr Leppert but was nice to hear Cr Le Liu commend him for bringing forward a motion that reflected the concerns of many of his constituents.

At the end of the evening it was apparent that the Capp council has certainly become more progressive than the previous Robert Doyle-led councils – witness the earlier support for declaring a climate emergency and the ambitious transport plan to reduce car access in the city. But taking on the Melbourne Cup was a bridge too far as the Greens suffered an increasingly rare defeat.

The conservative *Herald Sun* newspaper responded to all this with a highly critical article suggesting the Lord Mayor has become too left wing and anti-business.

The anti-business line is patently unfair but Victoria is the most progressive state and it becomes more progressive the closer you get to the City of Melbourne, so why shouldn't the council reflect this shifting ground?

And if only our state and federal politicians could conduct respectful public debates on tricky policy questions without reducing it to an unedifying slanging match. Let's hope we see a lot more of this in the period ahead as November 12 was quality democracy in action.

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Gateway to community services

By Meg Hill

A new investment in Docklands aims to “fill the gaps” in community service for the growing community and its vulnerable.

The North and West Melbourne Neighbourhood House – “the Centre” – was granted \$136,000 from the City of Melbourne to kickstart a Docklands branch in May.

Staff said they became aware of a need as Docklands grew and vulnerable Docklanders started frequenting the Centre on Errol St in North Melbourne.

“We realised there wasn’t enough service providers in Docklands and people had to step out of their local area to get the help they might have needed,” said community development worker Carolynne Venn.

“We don’t want to suggest that Docklands has a stigma or a lot of problems, but it’s just like most places and with its relatively recent and unique development there are gaps to fill.”

The Centre has been helping and developing its community for over 40 years. They run educational programs, community programs, social groups, awareness campaigns, counselling, employment services and more.

They’ve even run their own local newspaper for 20 years.

The Docklands pop-up opened on November 19 in its temporary home at The District.

“We’ll be at The District for at least six months, but then we will probably share the love across Docklands.”

“The funding we’ve received from the City of Melbourne will last until 2021 and we need Docklanders to get involved to solidify a permanent status for us in Docklands.”



Ms Venn said that new arrivals were a big priority in Docklands due to the high number of migrant workers and international students in the area.

The Neighbourhood House has also become aware of a lack of amenities and support services for other marginalised communities in the area, including the disabled, LGBTIQ+ and the homeless.

“There’s probably not a lot that we don’t do, that’s the reality,” Ms Venn said.

“We have an impressive list of courses, events, festivals, services – but we’re also not exclusive to the things we’ve already set up.”

“If someone tells us they’re after a specific service, experience or course we will do our best to provide it.”

“Basically, we want to be Docklands’ gateway to community services, and we want to be a voice for the people who are voiceless.”

She said she had been “on the ground” in Docklands since July gathering information about the area and establishing a presence.

“We’ve been engaging with some local residents and workers, meeting with local stakeholders and organisations.”

But they need Docklanders to get involved for the project to ultimately be successful and remain a permanent fixture in Docklands.

“This pop-up is for Docklanders and we need Docklanders to volunteer to help us make it a success for them,” she said.

“If they want to see a Neighbourhood House in Docklands this is an opportunity to come and see what that would look like, give us ideas and suggestions and be a part of making it real.”

The pop-up Neighbourhood House is currently open 10am – 3pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at The District.

If you’re interested in volunteering or would like any further information contact Carolynne Venn on **9328 1126** or **commdev@centre.org.au**

Festival Hall on the market

Festival Hall is for sale – a year after the Heritage Council granted the iconic live music venue protection.

The sale is being handled by Colliers International via expression of interest, which was due to close on November 28. The hall is one of three parcels being offered either separately or together.

Colliers said buyers had two options to earn a return on their investment – as a live entertainment venue or as a mixed-use urban renewal development.

Advertising material says: “Festival Hall enables a new owner to continue operating the iconic live entertainment venue. The niche asset may accommodate up to 5400 patrons making it the largest, privately-owned stadium in Melbourne.”

Under the mixed-use heading, the agent says: “The prime city fringe location, large underlying land area, extensive street frontages and flexible zoning enables a variety of exciting future potential uses to be explored (STCA).”

In January, 2018 the hall’s owners revealed plans to demolish most of the building and sell the site to a developer with permission for two 16-storey buildings. They said the venue was no longer financially viable due to overwhelming competition from larger stadia.

But the news provoked an outcry from nostalgic music fans who lobbied for heritage protection. In May 2018, Heritage Victoria recommended the building be added to the Heritage Register – a request that was successful in November last year.

Commenting on the heritage listing at the time, Planning Minister Richard Wynne, said the listing did not stop redevelopment, but did restrict it.

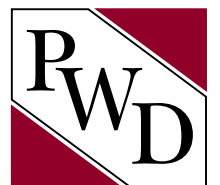
Eilish Cooke answers your legal questions

Q. I live in Ringwood and my ex-wife has recently moved from Croydon to Warrnambool with our children. I want to see my children at Christmas, but she is refusing to come to Melbourne with them. What can I do?

A. As you are living too far apart to comfortably travel on Christmas Day, I suggest that you alternate Christmas each year. You could suggest that this year you meet in Geelong on Boxing Day and that the children stay with you until 28 December. Next year, you could meet in Geelong on 24 December and the children could stay with you until 26 December. If she refuses your proposal, you could attend Mediation at Relationships Australia or a Family Dispute Resolution Centre to try to reach an agreement.

Call for advice on wills, probate, estates & trusts; property law & conveyancing; family law; commercial & business law; litigation – commercial, civil & general and mediation & alternative dispute resolution.

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DOCKLANDS



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And join us for Carols for Cover, an evening of live music and entertainment.

Sunday 22 December at 7.30pm, supporting Kids Under Cover

Right next to the Melbourne Star

Visit thedistrictdocklands.com.au for full details and terms and conditions



Dan Murphy's



HOYTS



Poly's public art contribution

Docklands' public art initiative will continue with a contribution from Poly Australia's 1000 La Trobe Street dedicated to the site's industrial and rail history.

Perth artist Stuart Green was chosen to design and create the sprawling artwork, with a seven-metre-high sculpture centrepiece.

"The site was formerly cut through with branching rail lines linking the docks to the rest of the state," Mr Green said.

"The new artwork draws on the parallel character of these travel lines cutting through the space to create a tall looped path in heavy metal and segmented colour."

"The resulting sculpture is massive but silent, with the curves having a bodily muscular sense as the eye follows the form through its swoop and tangle with the enveloping space."

A combination of red hues and a few grey tangencies will illuminate at night, retelling the times gone by of train lights irradiating the depot into the night through an abstract emulation.

A puzzle-like structure will intertwine steel



The red circles mark the locations where Poly Australia plans to install new public artworks on its La Trobe St site.

tubular columns, resembling rhythm and sculptural mass in a striking loop formation said to imitate the train carriages that frequented the tracks of the area.

Poly Victoria executive director Steve Wang said the concept from Mr Green was a standout due to its mindful integration of the site's history.

"As Melbourne's key destination connecting the city to the sea, 1000 La Trobe plays

tribute to the historical importance of the site through its design," he said.

"It will now be further illustrated through Green's abstract imitation of the railway and its interconnectivity."

"It was important to us that the design showcased a synergy with our building and the precinct it will stand in for years to come through a unique formation that will instigate curiosity and conversation."



A tree stump on La Trobe St.

Trees removed

Five London plane trees have been removed to enable construction of a multi-level commercial development at 1000 La Trobe St.

Upon completion of the development City of Melbourne said replacement trees would be planted.

For further information contact City of Melbourne's urban sustainability team on

9658 9658 or trees@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Are you ready for the peak season in the Docklands rental market?

Some property investors may be unaware that the December/January period is often the busiest time of the year for the Docklands rental market.

This is particularly apparent for those landlords with property suited to the Corporate leasing market, as many multi-national companies use this time of year to relocate key staff members interstate or overseas.

So if you have a rental property that is currently sitting vacant, or is about to have a change of tenant, don't hesitate contact our Property Management team for an OBLIGATION-FREE DISCUSSION on how we can help you achieve a better result from your property investment.

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0419 229 176



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Local mega mural

Melbourne street artists Kitt Bennett and Juddy Roller delivered an Australian first in large-scale public art at Lorimer St over October.

Kitt's signature large-scale aerial mural work was combined with satellite technology to create the world's largest independently produced work of animated "gif-iti".

The term was coined by a UK artist to describe gif-style graffiti or street art which is viewed online.

The mural covers 9000 sqm of disused waterfront ground space at Port Melbourne's Fisherman's Wharf precinct along Lorimer St.

The project took Kitt 30 days to complete.

700 litres of paint were used to compose the 10-piece series of individual 30-metre long figures. They come together to form separate frames of a "moving" animation.



Fire at Digital Harbour

By Rhonda Dredge

Drama struck the offices of Digital Harbour on a quiet Friday last month when a fire broke out in the shrubbery just after lunchtime.

The fire brigade arrived promptly at around 2.15pm but many in the Life Lab Hub were unaware of the fire behind their building.

Officers quickly got the blaze under control

with smoke billowing through the greenery.

The fire was probably lit by a cigarette, said one fireman, who was keeping onlookers back from inhaling smoke.

"That will open a can of worms," said one worker in the building.

"There are people who smoke everywhere," said Jack Hayes, a marketing coordinator who works on the first floor.

Mr Hayes rushed down to take a picture when he saw a fire engine turn into Digital Drive.

"They took 20 minutes to put it out," he said.

CHRISTMAS at Collins Square

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cschristmas.com.au

COLLINS SQUARE 



Reflecting on 2019

By Janette Corcoran - Docklands Representative Group

2019 has been a year of experimentation for the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) where different formats and venues have been trialled.

March saw the DRG host a community debate on the proposed tram bridge's impact on liveability in Yarra's Edge. This session featured Yarra's Edge local Keith Sutherland, a neighbour from across the Yarra River, Montague Community Alliance convener Trisha Avery and public transport expert from Monash University Professor Graham Currie. While this issue elicits very strong emotions, this session provided an opportunity for neighbour to speak to neighbour, with the benefit of an expert to inform what is really feasible - thank you Professor Currie! With over 70 locals attending, this was a great christening of the Yarra's Edge Neighbourhood Space, a new community facility located at 100 Lorimer St.

June saw a return to more traditional format at the Performance Space at Library at The Dock. The theme for this forum was "Sharing our vision for Docklands: Building Place" and featured sessions about projects that will shape the nature of Docklands.

In September, the DRG took a hands-on role in supporting the launch of a new Docklands community group - Love Our Street Docklands (LOS3008). Along with Rotary Docklands and Neighbourhood House, over 50 Docklanders came together to show that they cared about their neighbourhood. All were shocked at the amount of cigarette litter polluting their streets and this led the DRG to endorse the aim of a "butt-free Docklands."

As the year draws to a close, the final event for 2019 will be different again. In conjunction with the City of Melbourne



The DRG led a Spring Clean of Docklands in September, which saw more than 50 locals come together.



DRG chair Jason Ting.

and other community groups, a Christmas gathering will be held at Library at the Dock. "This is an opportunity for all the community to come together," DRG chair Jason Ting said. And there is an open invitation to all Docklanders - residents, workers and their children - to come to Library at the Docks on Thursday, December 12 from 5pm till 7pm to celebrate.

As for 2020, there are many significant changes in the pipeline for Docklands



The tram bridge forum at Yarra's Edge in March.

including the release of the long-awaited Marvel Stadium Plan, Harbour Esplanade Masterplan and activities around the West Gate Tunnel. And already the DRG is planning activities to involve Docklanders around these changes, which makes very timely the City of Melbourne's recommendation for a Connected Communities Impact Grant to help the DRG undertake activities of importance to Docklands.



Market Lane now open

Docklands ushered in a new era in fresh produce last month with the launch of Market Lane; The District Docklands' new fresh food precinct.

Deputy Lord Mayor Aaron Wood joined The District Docklands CEO George Karabatsos for the cutting of the big green ribbon to mark the official opening of Market Lane.

Also in attendance was master of ceremonies Lee Chan (My Kitchen Rules) and Emma Dean (MasterChef winner) who ran cooking demonstrations for the salivating onlookers.

Retailers at Market Lane include Woolworths, Dan Murphy's, Priceline, The Humble Baker, The Butcher Club, Market Place Fresh, Empire Asian Supermarket and several independent shops.



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In Docklands, next to the Melbourne Star





A window from the side of a Docklands Drive building last month popped out due to high winds.

Wind pops window

Thursday, November 21 saw record high wind across Melbourne and frequent emergency alerts. In Docklands, a window of a high-rise residential building almost fell crashing to the pavement.

Kristofor Lawson works in an office building on Docklands Drive. He said he walked outside in the morning to see a window dangling from the 22-storey Aquil Promenade.

"I saw all these fire trucks and police and looked up on the side of the building, which is residential, and there was a window dangling from the edge halfway up," he said.

"Within two or three minutes it was pulled back in."

"I was talking to one of the cops and she said that they were really lucky someone realised it was falling out with the crazy wind that day and was somehow able to prevent the window from falling and hold it until the firefighters were able to get there."



Fire crews respond to the incident.

A spokesperson from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) said the window was dangling from the 12th floor.

"Just after 10am MFB firefighters were called to the corner of Docklands Drive and Doepel Way," the spokesperson said.

"MFB high angle rescue crews arrived on scene within seven minutes and accessed the 12th floor of the building to assess the incident."

"MFB crews quickly developed a strategy to remove the glass pane and made the scene safe."

A City of Melbourne spokesperson refused to comment on the incident.

Butt out Docklands!

By Janette Corcoran

November saw over 30 Docklanders come together for another local street clean.

This time the group targeted the area between Collins St and Harbour Esplanade.

In just under one hour, the group collected 44 bags (34 of rubbish and 10 of containers) and 3kg of cigarette butts (estimated to be more than 8000!).

Also, three shopping trolleys were retrieved and organised for return.

Most of the litter can be sorted and disposed of straight after the clean-up – recyclables to their collection points and general rubbish to landfill.

But cigarette butts, especially in view of the volume collected, are another matter – as putting several thousand individually into local butt bins would take us a really long time!

Enter the wonderful people at Degraevs Street Recycling Facility!

Organised by the City of Melbourne, Love Our Streets (LOS3008) took its first store of cigarette butts – around 14,000 – to Ross Iremonger who had the unenviable job



Ross Iremonger deals with the cigarette butts.

of manually sorting these. The next step is transportation to Terracycle where the organic waste is separated and composted. The remaining plastic is then mixed with both other recycled plastics and virgin plastics to be used in the production of low-grade items such as shipping pellets and bollards.

Perhaps our unwanted cigarette butts could eventually return to Docklands in the form of more attractive bollards!

The final LOS3008 clean for 2019 was with Ocean Crusaders on December 1. The first 2020 LOS3008 clean is scheduled for Sunday, February 16 and we are already looking forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!



Locals following last month's LOS3008 clean-up of the area surrounding Harbour Esplanade and Collins St.



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Rudolph comes to Docklands

By Aphrodite Feros-Fooke

For the month of December Docklands will be home to an eight-metre-tall reindeer, a new addition to this year's City of Melbourne Christmas Festival.

Now in its 18th year, the festival will host a range of events, activities and installations from November 29 through to December 25.

The program includes Santa's House at Federation Square, Gingerbread Village by Epicure, a giant present box at Southbank and a Gravy Day sing-along with guest Clair Bowditch and Christmas Projections.

The Princes Bridge will be part of the Christmas Projections program for the first time this year alongside the State Library and Melbourne Town Hall.

The State Library will host the feature show - *A Very Melbourne Night Before Christmas* - written by Marieke Hardy and narrated by Lee Lin Chin.

The city will be decorated with 500,000 LED lights, 2000 giant baubles, 20 giant nutcracker statues, four neon Christmas installations and a giant present box at Southbank.

Federation Square's Christmas tree will stand at 16 metres tall and be decorated with 30,000 LED lights.

This year City of Melbourne has introduced a Christmas collective initiative.

"This year we have chosen to showcase our local talent by having businesses and groups share how they celebrate Christmas, which will provide a uniquely Melbourne experience for our visitors and locals," the Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"People will be able to take part in Christmas cooking master classes, join a festive silent discos as it winds through the city and peruse pop-up markets in some of our iconic



buildings and laneways."

Chair of the City of Melbourne's small businesses, retail and hospitality portfolio Councillor Susan Riley said the festive season is vital for the business community.

"December is the most important period for our retail and hospitality businesses and the increased number of city visitors coming to enjoy our Christmas Festival generates an economic uplift of \$73 million."

"By supporting our retailers and community groups through funding the Christmas collective, we aim to show off all that's on offer here in Melbourne and promote our city's hidden gems."

She said they are expecting the Christmas Festival program to attract record numbers into the city centre.

Christmas Projections at State Library, Melbourne Town Hall and Princes Bridge, November 29 to December 25.

Santa's House at Federation Square, November 30 to December 21.

Christmas Compass VR at Melbourne Town Hall Visitor Hub, November 30 to December 24.

Gingerbread Village by Epicure at Level 1 St Collins Lane, November 30 to December 24.

Gravy Day Sing-along at Federation Square, December 21.

For more information on the City of Melbourne Christmas Festival 2019, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/christmas

Docklands Representative Group Christmas Event - Thursday, December 12, 5pm - 7pm, Library at the Dock.

Celebrate Christmas alongside your fellow Docklanders as the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) hosts a fun and relaxing event for the entire family, which will feature music, childrens' activities, a barbecue and even a visit from Santa!

Community groups, including the likes of Docklands Rotary, Alma Doepel, Mission to Seafarers and Love Our Streets 3008, will also be in attendance offering locals the opportunity to tap into their local community! For more information email secretary@docklands.org.au



Cool down for summer

No matter the temperature outside, it's always cool inside O'Brien Icehouse.

With activities for all ages it's the perfect venue to enjoy a day out during the summer holidays.

"We want to provide a fun day with plenty of activities for the whole family during the school holidays and the skating will be non-stop, every day of the holidays," said O'Brien Icehouse CEO Lee Gordon.

The summer program includes:

- **All day unlimited public skating:** from 9am to late every day, skate while your favourite music is playing (closed Christmas Day).
- **Under eights' ice fun:** between 9am to 11am ice ambassadors will take children through games and will set up a snow play area to provide an exciting ice and snow experience for younger children.
- **Free lessons for beginners:** get started with a free 15-minute lesson from the experienced ice ambassadors to help non-skaters and give them the skills required to enjoy their experience. Every hour from 11am to 2pm.

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Elements Of Focus

Elements Of Focus is a very important project that brings together the two passions of Andrew Follows; motor cars and photography.

The cars in this project range from some of the rarest in Australia to even a few common examples, but they are being photographed and presented in a way that has never been seen before.

Being a legally blind photographer with tunnel vision, Andrew's images offer viewers a different perspective through his lens as he takes them on a visual journey.

"My tunnel vision means that I can't see the object as a whole. When I'm photographing

a car, I take shots of each individual element of the car, and then piece the final image together like a jigsaw puzzle."

For this very exciting photographic project, Andrew has been mentored by Dishan Marikar, one of the best car photographers in Melbourne.

The exhibition is being held in December at Magnet Gallery at The District Docklands.

"I am very honoured and proud to have Dishan teach me new skills in the area of photography he is so well known for," Andrew said.

The team at Magnet has been great to work with and I am very excited to showcase my project there."

The exhibition will be on display from December 7 to 21.



ArtVo is back!

Docklands' famous immersive gallery reopened to the public on November 16.

You don't want to miss out on seeing the the new jaw-dropping displays. ArtVo is open seven days a week from 10am to 6pm and is located at 26 Star Crescent, Level 1, The District Docklands. For more visit artvo.com.au



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More stories are being revealed

By Sue Dight

It has been a busy time at the Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) and even with the scaffolding up all along the front of the building, activity is rife inside!

The old render that is coming off along with a century of dust and dirt, (the horrific graffiti also) means that there is a bit of dust around the outside, but inside is open and welcoming.

Currently on show is an exhibition in the Heritage Centre until the end of January called *Encountering People, Places, Things at the Mission to Seafarers* - a photographic exhibition by Professor Uma Kothari. It is a great opportunity to discover more about the Mission and its history. The foundation stone trowel recovered earlier this year is also on display.

We have also been working on a film, to be released in February, on the Ladies of the Harbour Lights Guild and the Merchant Seafarers of WWI. It highlights the work that the women did to support the sailors and soldiers during the conflict. It also shows how Melburnians supported the work of the Mission to ensure the current building met its fundraising targets to provide for the men a comfortable and safe place to be.

A story we have pieced together from the archive based on this picture of a cake; a party was organised for Saturday, December 8, 1928 at 3pm and Captain Charles Alfred Melbourne Derham, son of Frederick Thomas Derham, partner and managing director of Swallow & Ariell Pty Ltd (biscuit company founded in 1854 in Port Melbourne) donated a 21st Birthday cake.

The Derham family had been involved with the Port Melbourne Mission since the beginning as the factory was producing "ship's biscuits". The company was renowned for its patriotic fundraising



campaigns during both world wars. They also supplied the Mission with plum puddings for every one of its Christmas events.

Captain C.A.M Derham enlisted in 1915 and was discharged in 1919. The same year he married Eileen Cuscaden; sister of Beatrice Cuscaden (Honorary Secretary of the South Yarra branch of the LHLG) and daughter of Dr George Cuscaden, previously ship's surgeon, honorary surgeon of the Women's Hospital and director of Swallow & Ariell.

Families and businesses supporting the Mission at all times

You can continue to support MtSV as we continue to take care of the seafarers who deliver your Christmas. Your tinsel, new phones - all delivered safely over the ocean to you. Many crews will be at sea on Christmas Day. Others who will be in port, others stuck out in the bay as anchorage is cheaper than being in port. How about a present for these seafarers? We know they all love chocolate, chips, nuts, and something for their families when they get home. Would you like to contribute to a special parcel for the crews? Drop something in, or write them a card to say thank you, as we will be packing boxes on December 10, so that parcels will be ready for opening on Christmas Day.

All of this is taking place while the Mission remains open to not only the seafarers, but to hundreds of people who are celebrating the silly season with parties and get-togethers in the courtyard and the newly refurbished Main Hall. Drop in anytime - the Mission is open 365 days of the year from 10am to 10pm. It is a great place for a quiet drink after work, or the lovely, shady secret garden, will re-open in January.



Marvel Stadium management change

By David Schout

The AFL has announced a change to the management of Marvel Stadium, revealing it plans to integrate the stadium into its organisation within the next year.

The AFL, which took ownership of the stadium in 2016, said a new senior executive would replace current CEO Michael Green and it would move the venue into a business unit within the organisation.

A new general manager will be responsible for the overall performance of the stadium, including its awaited redevelopment, and will report to AFL boss Gillon McLachlan, while Green will remain in a senior role.

More pertinently for Docklands residents, however, is that long-awaited details on the precinct's redevelopment remain unclear as the Harbour Esplanade masterplan is still yet to be released.

In October, City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney said the it would likely be available in November.

But Development Victoria, the agency responsible for the development of the City to Waterfront masterplan, told *Docklands*

News it had no further updates or timelines on its release.

McLachlan said the shift in management structure came at a key juncture in the future of both the stadium and the surrounding area in Docklands.

"We are entering a really exciting period over the next few years where we are redeveloping the stadium and surrounding precinct into what we believe will be the most fan-friendly multi-purpose stadium in the world," he said.

"I am excited by what the redevelopment will deliver inside and outside the stadium to create a better experience for fans, particularly families, who attend the Docklands precinct."

In April last year the state government announced it would allocate \$225 million to the project in a landmark deal with the AFL.

The considerable government input means the stadium will remain a multi-sport and entertainment venue.

It is hoped the redevelopment of the stadium precinct will improve the economic potential of the area during both events and non-event days.

Among a swathe of changes, the large-scale upgrades propose a "more vibrant" connectivity with the stadium and both the CBD and Southern Cross Station, plus new public space on the southern end of the concourse.



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Self-defence classes launched

By David Schout

Fancy learning a new skill while exercising with other Docklands locals? The Hub on Harbour Esplanade may have just the answer.

Launched in mid-November, self-defence 101 classes encourage attendees of all ages to come work closely with instructors who take you through self-defence manoeuvres and some strength and technique work.

Conducted by trained martial arts specialist Damien Chauremootoo, the after-work classes (6pm - 7pm) run weekly on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

YMCA programs and facilities team leader Tony Crawford said the classes' benefits were twofold.

"The goal was to bring in a program that would one; give people some exercise and two; cater to people that perhaps live in the shadow of the city where self-defence can be bit of a concern," he said.

"You look at some of the statistics within the City of Melbourne and it's something like 67 per cent of people feel comfortable or feel safe at night. You can't necessarily take away the threats but providing something like this might give people a bit more confidence or



(Left) A self-defence class in action and (right) a class is held at The Hub on Harbour Esplanade.



empowerment to look after themselves in certain situations. So, it was a no-brainer, really."

After speaking with *Docklands News* in August shortly after taking up the Docklands post, Mr Crawford has since met with a number of locals at recent community events which has given him a greater gauge of how

best they can use the space at The Hub.

"It puts you in a better position to actually deliver on the needs that people are asking for," he said.

He praised the new Docklands Sports Club as a great example of a grassroots initiative that could benefit the community.

In other news, the Docklands sports courts alongside The Hub are being resurfaced from December 2, with works expected to be complete by mid-December.

For more information about self-defence classes at The Hub, drop into the reception at 80 Harbour Esplanade or call **8622 4822**

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Wizards unite!

Have you seen a dragon on the docks? A quaffle on the quay? A boggart on Bourke? How about a death eater in The District?

Docklands may not be Hogwarts, but it's a world of fantastic beasts and magic creations in *Wizards Unite*, the third game from developers Niantic, best known for the explosively popular *Pokémon Go*.

Set in the Harry Potter universe, *Wizards Unite* creates a virtual Docklands of mystic greenhouses, cosy travellers' inns, wild magical creatures, and grim fortresses guarded by hostile foes.

Docklands resident Annabel convenes a *Wizards Unite* group at Billy's District Cafe, where players regularly team up to strategise, collaborate, and tackle bigger challenges than when playing alone.

"I love that *Wizards Unite* keeps the Harry Potter universe alive, and it's so much more fun playing with other Potterheads and levelling up faster," Annabel said.

"The wizarding community in Singapore welcomed me with open arms when I visited recently and I wanted to recreate the magic in Melbourne."

The magic may be virtual, but the geography is real, and an ambitious wizard must be on the move from point to point in order to find spells, potion ingredients, and lost creatures to capture and return safely to their homes in the magic world.

"I've tripled my physical activity since I

became a wizard," Annabel said.

At one table, a group of wizards is led by Anthony Constant, a well-known player and vlogger of the game. "I like the community side of it. 20-odd people here for this, and I think this is the single biggest gathering we've had," Anthony said. "Getting out and being able to speak to people online as well as locally ... I've got friends around the world from this game."

Raz, a newcomer to the group, said the game promoted community by encouraging veteran players to team up with junior wizards, but the Docklands group was leading the way.

"I've 'convinced' my housemates into playing," he said. "One needed more convincing than the other because he already played *Pokémon Go*. I've looked for groups across Melbourne and this group has players that really know their stuff. What's really lovely is that they're happy to help others like me, learn to become better at the game."

Can Docklands bring the magic? Anthony said he saw potential: "Docklands is good for us. Billy's has welcomed us and we're within range of three inns and a fortress, and we know we can walk over towards Costco and find more."

"It's perfect [but] we don't have any sponsored locations in Australia like there are in places like Japan. If Docklands and Niantic could somehow liaise and get sponsorship and a focus for our community, the wizards will come."

Find the Docklands Wizards at [facebook.com/groups/WizardsUniteMelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WizardsUniteMelbourne)



The Opening, Commonwealth Parliament by Charles Nuttall

Our founding father

By Rhonda Dredge

Artists had their troubles back in the days of Federation as they were conscripted into recording the public life of the new nation.

Tom Roberts was one artist who was commissioned to produce more than 200 likenesses of parliamentarians and VIPs.

It's on the record that he nearly went mad with the repetitive nature of the job.

The parliamentarians looked pretty similar, if *The Opening, Commonwealth Parliament* is anything to go by with just six unshaven faces out of more than 100 upstanding gentlemen.

Charles Nuttall was a Melbourne illustrator who was also at the opening of the first parliament in 1901 and he appeared to have relished the job.

In his photogravure of the scene, some 111 gentlemen stand stiffly side by side, facing a group of royal dignitaries with hundreds more in the gallery.

Each parliamentarian has been rendered separately then inserted into his rightful place in the historic tableau like a cardboard cut-out.

If getting everyone right broke the artistic spirit of Tom Roberts, who was paid per likeness in his famous painting now hanging in Canberra, Nuttall appeared to be in his element.

He went on to reproduce the likenesses separately in a series dedicated to "representative" Australians. Now, we might balk at the dominance of white males.

The parliament print is from the collection of Alfred Deakin, the father of Federation, and is part of an unusual exhibition at Deakin University's Downtown Gallery.

Exhibits are from the Deakin Library and have been documented but not interpreted so it is up to the individual visitor to put his or her own spin on the show.

If Deakin's artefacts are anything to go by, our first prime minister was a thoroughly public man.

Most of the items on display are certificates and invitations relating to public life, a precarious time for Deakin in that he lost the office of prime ministership three times in a seven-year period.

Satirists took advantage of this period and one enterprising illustrator got mileage out of this game of political football, producing a postcard with the caption "A Throw-in for Deakin."

Deakin is depicted in full beard on a footy field in long johns, red socks and a pale green sweater about to catch a football entitled "Office." There's an overweight heavily-striped opponent behind him, Sir George Reid, the fourth prime minister.

The exhibition was curated by Kristen Thornton, Special Collections at Deakin Library.

"I wanted to show the range of materials in the collection, so I've highlighted Alfred Deakin," she said. "There's material that relates to him personally, and to how he managed one of his most significant public achievements - Federation."

A very special collection, Deakin Downtown, Level 12, Tower 2 Collins Square, 727 Collins St, until December 13.



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Voluntary housing fails

By Meg Hill

The City of Melbourne last month called for state-wide mandatory affordable housing provisions, admitting the developer-incentive policy had not secured anything since it was adopted in 2014.

“There is a shortfall of at least 5500 affordable rental homes in the City of Melbourne and that is anticipated to increase to approximately 23,000 by 2036,” planning chair Cr Nicolas Reece said at the November 12 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“That is simply an unacceptable situation for a civilised society and a world’s most liveable city like Melbourne. It is also the case that the current mechanisms in the Melbourne Planning Scheme which seek to encourage affordable housing are yet to deliver any affordable homes.”

Affordable housing refers to rental housing costing at under 30 per cent of a low- or medium-income household’s income.

The City of Melbourne’s submission to the state government included modelling by SGS Economics that suggested a mandatory inclusion mechanism could be used to deliver 10,000 affordable housing dwellings in the city.

The submission recommends a minimum state-wide requirement to be determined by modelling, but flexibility for local governments to increase it where needed.

It also recommends a cash-in-lieu option for developers to fund affordable housing elsewhere if it can’t be included in a development.

Mandatory affordable housing has been implemented to different extents in South Australia and the ACT, as well as overseas in the UK, Canada and the US.

Cruising through life

By Rhonda Dredge

Every time Judy or Brian Halsted go to the fridge they’re reminded of all the great times they’ve had on the oceans, cruising between continents and islands, befriending captains and staff and generally living a life of action.

There are 30 cruise ships up there on fridge magnets in their little gallery plus one of the sayings they treasure about their chosen lifestyle.

“Kiwis don’t fly. They prefer to cruise,” the magnet says.

Judy is from Auckland and Brian from a town near Manchester, England and they have settled together on the 10th floor of their Yarra’s Edge apartment building when they’re not out on the ocean.

During their 62 years of marriage, this adventurous couple has been on more than 70 cruises. Next month they’ll leave on three back-to-back.

They’re such old hands at cruising that when bad weather diverted their boat four years ago from Fiji to Hobart they didn’t kick up a fuss.

“Brian and I don’t mind where we go,” Judy said. “We would’ve complained if we hit storms.”

The Docklands couple live in the first tower built at Yarra’s Edge and these seafaring addicts will always be able to watch cruise ships dock at Station Pier from their window.

“That’s the *Celebrity Solstice*,” said Judy, looking out the window. “It’s got 15 decks and 2850 passengers.”

They track the ships that arrive during the season and keep abreast of cruises on offer. Their knowledge of the scene is impressive.

“There’ll be 76 cruise ships in this year,” Judy said. “Sometimes we go down and have a look.”

Brian caught his first ship at 15, travelling alone cross the world from England to New



Judy and Brian in their 10th floor Yarra’s Edge apartment

Zealand and he’s been a fan of the sea ever since. The ship only stopped twice on the way but that didn’t worry him for he prefers the water to the land.

When they first settled in Melbourne they ran a milk bar at Seaford, then later lived on The Esplanade before settling at Yarra’s Edge 18 years ago where they can keep an eye on the scene.

The journeys have merged a bit in their memory over the years. The worst trips were around Cape Horn before the opening of the Suez Canal.

“A couple of people didn’t survive one trip,” Brian said. “The lifts opened but they’d jammed. They stepped in and lost their lives.”

Another time, on the classic *Achille Lauro*, they hit a storm and Judy and the three boys were told to stay inside their cabin for their safety.

Brian prides himself on his loyalty. He favours an American cruise company and gets special deals as a result. Return tickets to Singapore in February with a 14-day cruise is costing them only \$1900 each. And they went



on a world cruise in 2012 and got 106 nights at a price of \$19,000 in a two-for-one deal.

They’re cruising, Judy and Brian, in their high-rise life watching the world go by.

“If you’re going past and want a cup of tea drop in,” Judy said. She likes to offer hospitality in a cruise-like fashion. “We invite strangers in.”

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Docklander

Dental saving kids in Timor Leste

Through meeting a community group after moving to Docklands, Kim Hindmarsh was able to turn a personal passion into charity caring for 2500 kids in 10 schools in Timor Leste.

Solar Smiles Dental Charity provides solar powered backpack dental chairs to rural communities in Timor Leste. It sends teams over four or five times a year and now has a full-time employee in the country.

But it started as a personal experience for Kim.

"I was really sick between 2007 and 2009, I was suicidal," she said.

"I was finally well enough at the end of 2009 that I wanted to get out from underneath it and Cambodia flashed up."

Kim said she'd spent lots of time travelling the world to see temples like Angkor Wat, but was naively unaware of Cambodia's political history.

"My last day of the tour was at the killing fields, walking around the mass graves and teeth are coming up through the dirt paths."

"I sat next to the 8000 skulls and sat down and cried."

"I had a real head and heart moment. I thought I can do something; I have a background in dental. I'll bring back toothbrushes."

She went back a couple of years later with 100 toothbrushes and handed them out to a



Kim Hindmarsh.

remote hill tribe.

"They were absolutely delighted. It took

me a while, but I fell into a Cambodia project down here in Docklands and that's how it

really started."

"And now I look around and ask 'how did this happen to me?'"

"I'm a high school dropout and yet just over two months ago I was standing in the Ministry of Health in Timor presenting to their ministers to take on our project."

Kim stumbled across Docklands Rotary after she moved here from Townsville in 2014. The club had a stall about Cambodia.

"I loved Cambodia obviously, so I got involved in that project and after a while they asked if I wanted to be a Rotarian and I said 'hell, no!'"

"I thought I didn't want to hang out with a whole heap of old people, but for nine months I got more and more involved and started going to a few meetings."

"I had my own idea about this dental project, and they let me run with that, and then I realised it's not really an age thing anymore I just want to be associated with people with hearts like mine. People who wanted to leave the planet in a better place than they found it."

solarsmilesdentalcharity.com

Sustainability

A sustainable festive season

Our environmental impact might not be at the forefront of our minds during the rush of the festive season and many of us are more concerned about just getting through it. However, the lead up to the end of the year is the perfect time for us to reflect on our habits and excesses.

Christmas is one of the most extravagant Western celebrations. According to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), in the four weeks leading up to Christmas, household waste increases by 25 per cent. That amounts to an extra 100 million tonnes of trash making its way to our landfills each week - affecting our environment, our health, and our planet's future!

Together, we can make small sustainable decisions that will help lead to big change, such as:

Buying from local food suppliers, as we use less fossil fuel in transportation.

Increasing the proportion of plant-based foods and serving low-carbon, sustainably farmed meat.

Focusing on the following areas will have a real effect on reducing your environmental impact this festive season ...

Make your own recycled gift wrap

Did you know that some Christmas gift wrapping isn't even recyclable? Keep bags of trash out of the landfill by creating your own simple gift wrap from recycled shopping bags, old newspapers or craft paper.

Energy consumption

For Australia, electricity is a major source of environmental impact, as approximately 86 per cent comes from fossil fuels. The biggest energy consumer in your household is space heating and cooling. About 40 per cent of residential electricity use, depending on your local climate, goes into indoor temperature control. Fans, on the other hand, typically use about 20 per cent (or less) of the energy consumed by air-conditioners. So, rather than running the air-con all day, why not sit on the balcony or use a fan, and make sure you're stocked up on refreshing drinks!

Shop local

Reduce your emissions and support a sustainable local economy at the same time. Support them by checking out local boutiques, farmers' markets, family-owned businesses and craft fairs to find unique, handmade gifts.

Diet

Most people link greenhouse gas emissions to transport. However, the livestock industry and other meat production produce more than all forms of transport combined. On average, meat, poultry, and dairy products have far greater pressures on nature than other food. The

carbon footprint of a heavy meat diet is considered to be double a vegetarian diet and even more than a vegan diet! Meat and dairy also tend to be worse for the use of water and energy and across many pollution and soil degradation issues. So, try minimising meat and dairy intake during the festive feast, and plan for how much food you need to minimise the risk of overconsumption and waste.

Flowers

When choosing flowers for gifts or decoration, select in-season locally-grown varieties.

Party time

Serve up locally-produced food and drink and choose products with less packaging. Set up recycling bins before your party starts to make it easier for your guests and halve clean-up time. Deck out the tables with reusable plates and cutlery so they can be washed and used again.

Burn clean

Candles provide a warm light to dark winter days. Instead of choosing candles made from petroleum-derived paraffin, seek out candles made from beeswax, soy or vegetable wax. As a bonus, beeswax has a sweet all-natural aroma that will scent your home as you light the night.

Gifts

Gift-giving is a central part of the festive season but they also often come with a large footprint. As a first step, consider buying fewer gifts and purchasing your loved ones gifts that will last a long time,

are energy and water efficient, disposable and biodegradable. A great way to reduce your material footprint is to go for non-consumptive, non-material gifts in the form of services such as e-books, massage, yoga classes, cinema tickets, and gym memberships. As a bonus, many of these have additional health benefits.

Another crucial part of improving sustainability is buying ethical, fair trade gifts that don't exploit workers of wages and safe work conditions, and consider child labour and environmental harm issues.

Conversation

One of the most important presents you can impart to your children is the gift of conversation and knowledge about climate action.

Such changes need support across the community. So, another lifestyle change could be committing political support for renewable energy, energy efficiency, better public transport and more compact cities, alternative long-distance travel modes, and more.

So, happy festive season! Let's make it a festive season this year, next year and every year after that!



Dr. Kaushik Sridhar

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Abby's Angle

The symbolism of the arrow

"An arrow can only be shot by pulling it backward. So, when life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means that it's going to launch you into something great. So just focus, and keep aiming."

I heard this quote some time ago, and I have to say that I've been holding onto it a lot this year. Trying to reflect on it for reassurance, to help maintain some motivation when things have gone wrong. On my journey this year, I have frequently felt that life is pulling me back where I have visualised progress, where I have seen situations moving forward and seen myself succeeding in my goals. While there have certainly been successes along the way – it is

not, after all, all negative – overall, I have felt that I have been pulled back from so much of that which I could see ahead.

It has felt like the love that I thought would be secure has been withdrawn. It has felt like the trust that I thought would never be broken has been shattered. It has felt like the vitality that I thought would never be eternal has shown itself to be fragile and finite. This is not from the actions of people per se, but simply from the consistent knock downs, the consistent "backwards steps" that no matter how hard I try I can't seem to make move forwards, and the devastation of some catastrophic events that have left me breathless and broken.

And certainly, within my circle of "nearest and dearest," I am not alone. And so, I have been hanging onto the symbolism of the arrow. I have focused on the meaning of the arrow, as representing courage. Courage is one of the highest qualities of the spirit; it takes courage to face the events of life without fear, and it takes courage to live a

life of making decisions out of love. It takes courage to move forward, and the arrow portrays staying focused and having courage to aim for your dreams. Life may present in all sorts of circling lines, running up and down without rhyme nor reason. But an arrow is straight, and shoots direct to its target only when pulled back, and aimed.

So, as we end this year, I reflect on loss, on sadness, on broken dreams. But I also reflect on the closing of a decade that through all its monumental highs and devastating lows has been an incredible journey. And I also realise that the feeling of being pulled back, or being held back by some force I have not quite been able to come to terms with, has in fact been my arrow slowly pulling back to maximum torte. And so, I now stand, in a metaphysical warrior pose, ready for this new decade to begin. I now take my hand and pull my imaginary arrow back to my cheek and I am starting to focus on where I am aiming. And when I am ready, I will launch my arrow and I will be fully

ready to courageously follow my path to my destination, to my success, to my happiness.

At the closing of this year, at the closing of this decade, I wish you courage in all you pursue. I hope that you can make your decisions with love, and I hope that you find great peace within your travels. I wish you success, I wish you joy, and I wish you prosperity. And I pray that we all may find this new decade soothes the wounded, replenishes the givers, and restores peace. May it bring great hope, and deliver worthy outcomes.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Thank you for the privilege of writing for you for another year.

With much love, Abby x



Abby Crawford
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Health and Wellbeing

Setting SMART goals for 2020

It's that time of year again. Many of us start to think about aspects of our lives we'd like to change. What's on your list? Get fit? Lose weight? Drink less?

According to a *US News & World Report*, by the time February rolls around, 80 per cent of us will have failed to keep our resolutions. Why is this?

According to research, it's because our goals are often unclear, unrealistic, and not truly aligned with what we want out of life. Sometimes we are not ready for the changes we think we want to make. A well-worn path to failure is making resolutions in order to please other people. You must really want it for yourself!

As a physiotherapist I sometimes encounter patients who come into the

practice and want to change everything. Posture, diet, fitness, weight, stress, sleep ... the list can be quite lengthy. Unfortunately, without proper guidance and assistance with goal setting, they tend to burn out on their endeavours within a month or two. Why? It's quite simple. We take on too much and soon become overwhelmed. It becomes an all or nothing situation that more often than not, ends up with nothing. Unrealistic goals set an individual up for failure.

Here are a few tips that can help you kick goals in 2020 – and be proud of yourself when 2021 rolls around.

Goals need to be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Limited. When thinking about a resolution for the new year, be specific about what you want to change. Let's use weight loss as an example. "I want to lose weight" is a broad goal that lacks all the necessary components of a SMART goal. Let's take this broad goal and make it SMART!

Specific: "To increase my health, mood, wellbeing, and energy levels, I want to lose five kilograms in five weeks. I will do this by modifying my diet and increasing my physical activity. I will do this with the help of a dietitian, physiotherapist, and GP." Be as specific as possible.

Measurable: Weight loss can be measured. Your food intake can be assessed and structured by a dietitian. Recommended physical activity levels can be set by a physiotherapist. When you can measure different aspects of your goal and record them along the way, you're more likely to stay motivated to see it through to the end. You will see how small increments of change begin to add up.

Achievable: Setting several smaller incremental goals often works best as we feel good when we achieve a goal. If you want to lose 50kg, start by aiming to lose 5kg, then 10kg, then 15kg etc.

Relevant: Make sure the goal is relevant to

you. If you are choosing a goal, ask yourself why you want to make that change. Is it for yourself? Will it result in a direct benefit to you? Or are you doing it to please someone else?

Time-Limited: Most people work better with a deadline. Giving yourself a realistic time frame of five weeks is a great way to create accountability and gives a deadline that is not too far off into the future.

Even though we are heading into the silly season, there's no reason why you shouldn't start off 2020 by being SMART!

Docklands Health would like to wish all of our patients, fellow residents and readers a wonderful Christmas season and an active and healthy New Year!



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We Live Here

Short-stay violence spurs action

The short-stay industry is facing regulation on both sides of the Atlantic in Canada and France as city governments try to resolve safety and community concerns.

In Toronto, the city has passed new regulations requiring owners to live at the premises and to register with the local government as a short-stay provider.

In introducing the new rules, the government had argued that the short-stay industry incentivised landlords to remove housing stock from the long-term market.

Toronto mayor John Tory says regulating the industry is a step in the right direction in "keeping our neighbourhood liveable".

In Paris, the city government has limited short-stays to 120 nights per year and insisted on property registration. Like Toronto, Paris has accused Airbnb of compromising community safety and exacerbating the housing affordability crisis.

Multinational Airbnb has resisted the new rules on both sides of the Atlantic with arguments focusing on "host and guest safety".

Rocked by increasingly frequent reports of violence and the Halloween deaths in the United States, Airbnb has hit back with a very narrow safety message. Amazingly, the multinational operator makes no mention of "community" safety as it resists global moves to regulate the industry.

The deputy mayor of Paris, Ian Brossat, lashed out at Airbnb, tweeting that it is "totally irresponsible given the disastrous consequences Airbnb has had on our towns and cities. We are dealing with a company that doesn't have the means to pay its taxes

in France but can find the means to sign a deal with the IOC (International Olympic Committee)."

Paris City Hall is also taking legal action against Airbnb for payment of a €12.5m (AUD \$20 million) fine for failing to remove hosts who failed to register. Globally, the move to have hosts register their properties is seen as an essential measure.

Following the Airbnb Halloween deaths in the USA the company has started a campaign to restore trust in the brand, setting up a hotline for hosts who feel threatened by guests.

What about the neighbours? We don't figure in the Airbnb economic equation.

If we must argue on economics – a favourite tactic of Airbnb – let's talk about the tax that is not paid.

In Australia, Airbnb pays about 3 per cent of the GST that any other accommodation provider pays.

NSW taking on short-stay fire risks

An announcement by the NSW state government that it is tackling fire risks associated with the short-stay industry, is welcome news.

We Live Here has met dogged resistance from the Victorian state government even to consider this issue. We have long campaigned on the nexus between short-stays, the infamous cladding debacle and the need to take immediate action, but it has fallen on deaf ears.

A new proposal by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will require short-stay hosts to take basic fire safety measure to protect guests and neighbours.

Under the plan, all short-stay premises would be required to have integrated smoke alarms in bedrooms and corridors, heat sensors in kitchens, fire extinguishers, fire blankets, emergency exit lights and

evacuation maps.

These safety measures sound like basic requisites that you would expect to be in place in any commercial accommodation business, including a short-stay apartment.

So, what does Airbnb think of regulations to mandate fire safety in short-stays?

According to *Domain*, Airbnb public affairs manager Julian Crowley says it's "grossly unfair".

Victorian residents on their own in the cladding debacle

Unless you live in one of the handful of buildings on the anonymous list of high-risk buildings that will receive government funding, OCs are now being forced to take out loans to remove their combustible cladding. Owners can look forward to increased levies for years to come, resale of apartments will become more difficult and a drop in property prices will be inevitable.

Further, if you don't take responsibility for removing your cladding you can expect repeated building orders from your municipal council to ensure compliance.

Government report card

Following their resounding success in the 1918 election We Live Here called on the state government to:

1. Amend the *Owners Corporation Act 2006* to regulate the short-stay industry – far beyond the scope of the woefully inadequate pro-Airbnb "party" bill that was shamefully passed just before the election. The Airbnb "party" bill made it even harder for OCs to recoup costs of damage and it completely ignored issues of security, amenity and community development.

No evidence of anything positive has emerged since the passage of the Bill, but one owner was recently reported as keeping

a baseball bat near his front door after a stranger wandered into his apartment!

2. Restore powers to OCs to make decisions about use of a lot, which were lost in Justice Riordan's Supreme Court decision in July 2017.

Has not happened.

3. Give powers to OCs to determine if short-stays should be permitted.

Has not happened.

4. Revise the proposed (unworkable) scheme for individual owners to take out a bank loan to remediate flammable cladding and repay the loan via their council rates.

A handful of high-risk buildings are to be provided funding by the government. The hundreds of buildings deemed a moderate risk have been ignored – see above.

5. Engage with We Live Here. Talk to us – we represent more than 200 buildings throughout Melbourne and Victoria.

Not much has happened since we were invited to a meeting at the Minister for Consumer Affairs' Office in June and were invited to provide a submission on the Exposure Draft of the Amendments to the Owners Corporation Act 2006, the deficiencies of which we have previously reported on.

The Bill was introduced into Parliament in September, but has now stalled and there is no indication when debate will resume.

6. Final Report from a disappointing year: *D – could do much better.*

With community support from all Victorians 'We Live Here' will continue to lobby the government until it starts to listen to us.



www.welivehere.net
emails to campaign@welivehere.net

Business

Best noodles close to work

By Rhonda Dredge

Asian street food is a popular lunchbreak alternative and there's nothing like the drama and sizzle of noodles, fresh vegies and spices hitting the hot oil in a dish cooked specially for you.

If you work at Digital Harbour there's no street food vendor within eyesight so it's a case of going exploring.

Tucked in behind NewQuay Promenade where the flasher restaurants offer their sit-down deals, hides a noodle artist.

You can be into his den then out again in five minutes because the crowd hasn't

caught up with the news.

At the top of the list at Wok on the Dok is char kway teow, a traditional Chinese dish with flat rice noodles sold on the street in Malaysia.

In second place is the house specialty, satay beef with rice noodles; a dish recommended by Simon Li, manager and artistic director of the menu.

Simon is ready to impart a bit of wisdom about the humble noodle and the vast range of dishes it graces.

In third place on the Wok Toss lunchtime list is Singapore noodles which appeals to the palette of the local office worker.

Singapore noodles can be made in a number of ways, according to Simon.

"The Hong Kong method is to keep it dry while in Singapore and Malaysia they add sauces," Simon told *Dockland News*.

Simon prefers the Hong Kong method which includes a pinch of curry powder.

"It's very reliable," a regular told *Docklands News*. He works nearby in the 401 building and orders Singapore noodles at least twice a week.

A more daring choice off the menu is sweet and sour Udon soup, a fusion dish that includes wide thicker rice noodles from Japan with a traditional sweet and sour spice base from China.

Docklands News took a takeaway soup to a seat by the water. The thickened soup might not appeal in consistency to everyone but the combination of chilli oil, pepper and red vinegar was pleasurable on the tongue.

Simon has made his way from Vietnam to Docklands via restaurants in Cooma and Canberra where he has tested out his dishes.

"My partner bought this place and I came here to give it a try," he said. "It's not a normal Chinese restaurant but a little bit different in taste."

Laksa lovers who can't be bothered with all that hot liquid in the warmer months can



Simon Li.

have a stir-fried laksa.

"It's a Melbourne first," Simon boasted

Wok on the Dock is located at 27 Rakaia Way and is open Monday to Saturday. For bookings: **9600 0008**

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

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The District Docklands

Supporting Kids Under Cover this Christmas

A *Carols for Cover* fundraising event will be held to support Kids Under Cover – a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to preventing youth homelessness.

The festive season has begun and as we count down to the big day, a huge feast, presents and holidays, we often forget that there are many that don't have a home to go to, a high percentage of those are young people.

Over the past 18 months, The District Docklands has been fundraising for Kids Under Cover, which is dedicated to supporting vulnerable young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years who are either already homeless or at risk of homelessness.

During the early stages of our transformation, The District Docklands took the opportunity to partner with our builder, architect and project managers to build a cubby house that was auctioned off at the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show in the 2018 Cubby House Challenge, raising \$15,000 for Kids Under Cover. It was then that our fundraising for Kids Under Cover began and we realised the importance of continued efforts to help make a difference in our community.

The Kids Under Cover youth homelessness prevention initiatives are practical, simple and effective. Homelessness is not just about having a roof over your head. Kids Under Cover is invested in providing young people with the foundations of a secure



and stable place to call home, supported by scholarships for education and job training.

The issues that lead someone to become homeless are complex and varied. Many young people are burdened by the disadvantages of poverty, neglect, abuse,

unemployment, substance abuse, health complications, disability and mental illness. Often, they feel like the only option is to leave. Kids Under Cover relies on fundraising to build relocatable studios in the backyard of a family or carer's home, to relieve

overcrowding and provide young people with a safe environment where they can continue to thrive, while staying connected to their home, education and support networks.

The District Docklands fundraising efforts have seen over \$60,000 go towards homelessness prevention initiatives and we are not stopping there! In November, The District team joined Kids Under Cover CEO Jo Swift for a four-day trek to raise money to build more studios, allowing Kids Under Cover to achieve another amazing milestone, handing over the 1000th studio key to a new recipient. But let's not forget the families on the waiting list. To close off the year, join us for a night of carols as we raise money for this incredible organisation. See Anthony Callea live, along with supporting acts, The Voice Australia finalist Aydan, Australia's Got Talent contestant Jael Wena, Santa and a fireworks display - Sunday, December 22 at 7.30pm, next to the Melbourne Star.

To donate to Kids Under Cover visit kuc.org.au



Ivana Molnar

Marketing & Communications Manager The District Docklands
ivana@thedistrictdocklands.com.au

Owners' Corporation Law

Embedded electricity networks are ripping off consumers

A new study by the Victoria Energy Policy Centre has found that customers in apartment buildings in Victoria on embedded networks are paying up to \$439 a year more than the best deal they could get if they were able to access the free market.

Put another way, the study, which was commissioned by the state government, found that a typical customer on an embedded network was paying 36 per cent more than the best publicly-advertised deal.

In an embedded network, an owners' corporation (OC) buys its electricity in bulk and on-sells the electricity to residents.

In theory, residents on embedded networks should get a better deal, thanks to bulk buying their electricity.

However, this study has found that this is not always occurring, and in fact, residents end up paying more.

The developer often decides at the time of construction of a building as to whether to enter into an embedded network with a private company that operates embedded networks. If they do, the embedded network company will usually install the meters and connections on behalf of the developer, in return for the developer agreeing to a five- to

20-year embedded network agreement.

The developer gets to save money because it doesn't have to pay the costs of installing the meters and connections and having this infrastructure classified as common property. The embedded network company gets to save money because it has the guarantee of a long-term service agreement and can buy the electricity in bulk at a cheaper rate while on-selling the electricity to the residents for a profit.

Some embedded network companies offer a lower cost for electricity for the common property areas and for owner-occupiers, and charge a higher rate for tenants, meaning the tenants are effectively paying too much and subsidise the owners and the OC.

I have seen some agreements from embedded network companies that also restrict and restrain the OC from installing solar panels on the rooftop because the developer has made the embedded

network company responsible to provide all electricity generation for the building and its residents.

Sarah McNamara, the chief executive of the Australian Energy Council said in an interview to the ABC: "We are aware that there has been some frustrations experienced by customers who feel that the embedded network framework doesn't allow them enough flexibility. We simply encourage them to ring their retailer, or ask their strata committee to ring their retailer, and talk to them about whether an embedded network is the best available deal."

These comments aren't particularly helpful when considering that the embedded network companies use contracts that are so one-sided that it is impossible to break the contract before the five- to 20-year term expires.

The state government has not sought

to regulate or otherwise restrict the operation of these embedded networks in its new draft OC Bill that is currently before parliament. That is a great shame and a missed opportunity for residents and OCs. In New South Wales, an amendment to the strata legislation was inserted last month to regulate the embedded networks.

When this matter next comes before parliament, and now that the state government has received this study by the Victoria Energy Policy Centre, it will be interesting to see whether the government seeks to take a stronger position on this for the benefit of the community.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.
Tom@stratattitlelawyers.com.au

Vertical dwelling is now mainstream

In Australia, the past three years have seen high-rise residential apartments (ie builds greater than nine stories) comprise 32 per cent of all new dwellings.

This change is well-evidenced in our major cities with the City of Sydney now having more than 80 per cent of its residents living in apartments while the City of Melbourne pips this by having more than 83 per cent of residents being "high-risers".

In view of this, one would think that our vertical living preferences should – and I'm not saying will – have close attention paid by those involved in apartment design and increasingly, redesign.

Indeed, with many existing apartments already aged in double digits, and with a sizeable proportion of these fast approaching their twenties, many vertical villages are in need of some "refreshing".

So the question is, what apartment trends might we see our fellow vertical villagers incorporate when refreshing their abodes in the year ahead?

Here are three trends that are likely to make an appearance:

In-built, multi-function and adaptable spaces:

We vertical dwellers have long appreciated the benefits of furniture that pulls double duty, like our coffee console that converts into a dining table.

But the bar has been raised and what is increasingly demanded are more integrated facilities which can transform a space to what is needed at a particular time. IKEA's latest response to this takes the form of a robotic wall called, Rognan.

The transformational power of this automated wall comes from its ability to move (thereby providing up to an additional eight sqm of living space), and its capacity to incorporate different facilities on each side. One side, for example, may have a desk (which requires the wall to be in one position), while the other side might have an entrainment system (requiring the wall to be in another position).

The idea is that when you are working, you do not need to see your TV, and vice versa. While not yet in Australia, the promise is that it is "definitely" coming down under.

Downsized facilities: In direct contrast to the ground-bound (ie house) sector, which are seeking banks of double ovens in their over-sized kitchens, we vertical dwellers are increasingly opting for a simpler kitchen layout.

This is not merely because we have less space but that we are also preferring to

exert less effort when preparing our food. This claim is supported by the tremendous growth in services such as Hello Fresh which delivers pre-portioned fresh ingredients and recipes, Lean Cuisine which delivers prepared frozen meals, and Uber Eats which delivers ready-to-eat restaurant meals.

Combined with our proximity to actual restaurants, this ease of access to prepared food is seeing apartment dwellers demand less of their kitchen spaces and a preference to reallocate any excess space to entertainment activities.

Shared amenities: To date, new builds have sought to offer an increasing array of in-house amenities – multiple pools, theatrettes, specialised gyms, diverse entertaining areas, etc.

However, these amenities come with significant and ongoing maintenance costs. In addition, it has come as a surprise that many residents do not frequently use these in-house offerings, often preferring to socialise outside their buildings.

This is prompting a rethink of about in-house amenities and we are seeing the emergence of two distinct approaches.

One approach is towards a user-pays option which requires monitoring "who uses what" and for how long.

The other approach involves negotiating reciprocal access arrangements with

nearby facilities (including neighbouring apartments). For example, one apartment building may offer the use of its theatre in exchange for access to another building's conference facilities.

However, both these scenarios require significant changes to common property access (and existing by-laws), and so this trend is more likely to manifest in sites undergoing major redevelopment.

If sufficient numbers of residents embrace these trends, the coming year may see some vertical villages fundamentally reinvent themselves, while others (with low adoption rates) may start to be regarded as "fading".

However, installing robotic walls and changing floor layouts requires the involvement of an owners' corporation. And this brings into play both possibilities in terms of benefits from group procurement as well as challenges in terms of regulations and permissions – both of which are topics to be explored in 2020!

And until then, I wish all vertical dwellers a Merry Christmas.



Janette Corcoran
Apartment living expert
[facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/](https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/)

Letters to the Editor



Thoughts?

Hi,
I am a resident of New Quay. I'm just wondering if you would be interested in this photo I took from last Friday night?

Regards, Helen



Send your letters to news@docklandsnews.com.au

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DOCKLANDS FASHION



Dragon boat festival returns in 2020

By David Schout

After the resounding success of this year's inaugural event, the Lunar New Year Dragon Boat Festival will return to Victoria Harbour in early 2020.

Over the weekend of February 8 and 9, an action-packed program of racing will see community and corporate groups compete on the Saturday, before the state's elite battle it out on the Sunday.

For spectators, there will be lion dances, cultural shows, market stalls, food trucks and children's activities along Victoria Harbour Promenade.

Run by Dragon Boat Victoria in conjunction with non-profit group CNY United, entry is now open for groups to participate in the event.

No experience is necessary for prospective entrants, and team entry into the festival includes a two-hour training session with a seasoned coach and steerer.

Dragon boat racing has cultural origins in ancient China and has evolved into a highly competitive sport - the long boats have become a common sight in the harbour.

The long boats are powered by dedicated crews rowing in unison to the beat of a large drum.

The festival is free for spectators.

For more info visit dragonboatvictoria.com.au



Simi, CBD student

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: A plain shirt in black and white with jean shorts and sneakers. It's all black. The shirt is men's wear.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING?

Denim things and jackets.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

Because we are living in the city, today we are having lunch around this area.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

It's not too many things. Easy, comfortable street style. I don't wear dresses.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

For me, I can feel it. Very comfortable. Not too many colours.

Melissa, change management consultant

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: a black dress with pockets and zip and court shoes.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING?

Jeans. To work I wear dresses.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

Work.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

I like to be simple and comfy. This is comfy.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

When the colour co-ordinates and comfort. It makes you feel good.

Ash, IT worker

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: checked Zara shorts, a plain black Seed top and a Pilgrim jacket. The jacket is also checked. It's Boho style. The bag is Witchery.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING?

This coat actually. Jeans and t-shirt.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

My job at NAB.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

Casual, gamine, like Audrey Hepburn.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Something I like and am comfortable in.



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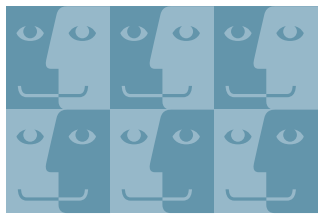
Suite 2, Shop 18, Level 4, 100 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands (Located opposite Gate 1 of Marvel Stadium)

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DOCKLANDS FACES OF



ELLEN-MARY, CREATIVE

Less by Andrew Sean Greer. It's very entertaining. It was a satire. I read a bit of everything.



FELIX, MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. It's a novel. I'm still on the first page but I've read some other books she wrote. She's Nigerian and been writing books about the civil war like Biafra. I think that someone heard about it when growing up in the '60s.



LIZ, RETAILER

The Weekend. It's a novel by Charlotte Wood. It's funny and topical. It's about my age group, all the funny things that happen to you after you turn 70.



VINCENT, STUDENT

A comic. I'm a big fan of Marvel ... *Iron Man*.



LURIE, BOAT-BUILDER

A boat-building book. I'm working as a boat builder on the Alma Doepel. I read a lot of war history. I love my history.



ASHLEA, INSURANCE UNDERWRITER

The Year that Changed Everything by Cathy Kelly. I picked it up at the op shop. I started yesterday. I like that each chapter is a different character. Typically, books bring them all together. I'm travelling here so I don't keep them [books].

Question:

What book are you reading at the moment?

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Pet's Corner



Superheroes: Mark, Rex and Hunter.

On the wild side

They're a dynamic trio of superheroes down at Victoria Dock with wide expanses of sea, sky and timber to fire up their imaginations.

That could be the coast guard chuffing past on a mission out to sea. There might be a crime scene developing as well.

The trio is ready for any eventuality in this one last wild place in Docklands where there's room to hoon around.

Mark Hedger has his patter to keep the action going. Hunter has his bike tricks. And Rex, the bravest of them all, is in training to be a search and rescue dog.

"If a building collapses you do air duty," Mr Hedger said. "The dog sniffs the air. Our

bodies carry scent."

Since all three live in an apartment in Dock 5, they need to get out quite a lot.

They tear down the dock at a million miles an hour, with Hunter in the lead on his bike.

"I'd be going faster if he wasn't with us," Mr Hedger said.

He's training Rex and that means vast walks through the CBD. The distance Mark and Rex cover each day is mind-boggling.

Mark works as a manager for celebrities and talent and he'll be down at Channel 7 working out an angle to get coverage.

He's just as adept at building up Rex's profile. The Border Collie cross will eventually move towards the more macabre end of the detection spectrum, the cadaver squad where he will hopefully take up a post sniffing out human remains.

"He'll sniff out the ground for bodies. That's the end goal."

Precinct Perspective

Celebrate at Victoria Harbour

In my last article I wrote about a typical day in beautiful Victoria Harbour.

As the holiday period approaches I wanted to feature some of the new restaurants, highlight what is being offered by venues that have been in Victoria Harbour for some time and also suggest some low-cost and free festive ideas.

Along Collins St we have seen Pony Boy Fish Bar and Grill (839 Collins St), Thai Thani and Chilangos Mexican open recently. Pony Boy and Chilangos will be closed for the main Christmas period but Thai Thani is trading through and has an excellent offering for families and groups looking for a special lunch or dinner on Boxing Day. Between December 26 and January 4 Thai Thani will be opening from 11am - 9pm. For the rest of December, other than Christmas Day, they offer coffee, cakes and snacks from 8am. They also have a function room that can cater for large groups. Pop in to talk about your dining needs at Shop3/851 Collins St or email them at thaithanidocklands@gmail.com

Close by, Tap831 (831 Bourke St) has a special Christmas menu and even has vegan

options. Christmas dinners are available from November 25 to December 20, but bookings are required. The last day of trade for the festive season is December 24 and then Tap takes a break until January 9. For those who do not know, they now offer all day breakfast on Saturday and Sunday from 9am and on Friday nights have a DJ from 7pm and extended trading with late night food options and \$10 pizzas 5pm until late. For bookings and for function details call **8592 1220** or email events@tap831.com.au

At Min Café (868 Bourke St) all your Christmas gift needs are sorted. They are offering a free giftwrapping service on all their gift and clothing items for purchases over \$50 (which includes some adorable baby soft unicorn and bunny toys). They also carry a large range of clothing and jewellery. For purchases over \$100, there is free wrapping and a free coffee. Min has recently introduced soft serve ice cream with Belgian Waffles and their new summer menu features healthy salads and a range of plant based, gluten and dairy free options.

Saluministi (892 Bourke St) will be trading up until Christmas Eve before it takes a two-week break. The team is currently taking orders for its exclusive Dolce and Gabbana Pannetone and house-made Porchetta rolls, which are a perfect ready-made main course fare for your Christmas table. These sell out

very fast. Saluministi also offers fully catered corporate and business functions across from its café at Knowledge Market. For more information: info@saluministi.com.au or call **9088 2999**.

If you would rather not leave your home, Pizza@888 will be trading every day other than Christmas Day and offers delivery until 3am every Friday and Saturday night and until 1am on other nights. Call in at shop 5, 888 Collins St or call **9088 8266**.

Another relaxed dining option would be to pop into Woolworths at Merchant St, which will be trading right up until 11pm on Christmas Eve (closed Christmas Day) and buy all the items you need to enjoy your own picnic at one of the beautiful green spaces at Victoria Harbour. Choose from the likes of Buluk Park outside the Library at the Dock, the Community Garden between Import Lane and Geographe St or Docklands Park, which inhabits a large block bordered by Harbour Esplanade, Collins and Bourke streets and Navigation Drive. There are also lots of spots to enjoy the view along Victoria Harbour Promenade where you can stroll to the end of the wharf and enjoy looking at the ships being restored by the Enterprise Ship Trust and also take a look at the stunning octopus mural at the tip of North Wharf Rd.

There will be a free Christmas party at the Library at the Dock on December 12

between 5 and 7pm. Everyone is welcome and there will be elf face painting, a visit from Santa, a sausage sizzle with vegetarian options, local community groups like Docklands Representative Group, Docklands Rotary, Girl Guides, Dragon Boats greeting the community, Christmas crafts, Christmas tree decorating and live music.

Once more this festive season, the Open-Door Singers Docklands will be giving a free concert on the waterfront opposite the Fish Bar on December 8 at both 5pm and 6pm. Come along and join in the singing or just enjoy the performance.

Whatever you choose to do, have fun, smile often, be kind and enjoy Victoria Harbour!

If you want me to cover any particular aspect of Vic Harbour life or you would like me to feature your venue or event in future articles just send me an email.



Stella M. Barber

Victoria Harbour resident
stellambarber@gmail.com

Chamber Update

Strategic goals for 2020

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC) hosted its annual planning day on November 28 with our new executive committee, which is still being led by long-term president Johanna Maxwell.

It's an annual chance for new and old voices to direct the attention of the chamber for the coming year. Along with continued action on behalf of the entire precinct, continued planning, lobbying and financing of the business plan and ultimate development of an activation for Victoria Harbour was agreed upon as our major initiative. This business plan will shortly be released for community consultation and we hope it is met with as much excitement as by those that have already seen it. This is a long-term promise by the chamber to the Docklands community that we firmly believe permanent activation of the Harbour is the key to the prosperity of the precinct.

Docklands Business Awards

We have launched the Docklands Business Awards for the year 2020. docklandsbusinessawards.com.au is the host site for registrations and information for this formal gala event on February 15, 2020. All DCC members are open to enter the awards - that means tough competition with over 200 businesses eligible across nine categories. A formal evening including three course meal, drinks and wonderful entertainment by the very talented Alex Rose will keep everyone enthralled. We

also have sponsorship packages available for businesses interested with five of these already taken up. They can also be viewed from the home page above. All minor sponsorships of the event have been taken up with only the naming rights sponsor left available. At the time of writing we already have entrants in every category and the excitement is building.

New Year's Eve Fireworks and Australia Day

As is the norm for these two events there has not been much publicly made available regarding the plans. This is done primarily in the interests of public security. We will be releasing any and all information across our websites - docklandsc.com.au and visitdocklands.com.au in the coming weeks along with our Facebook page - Visit Docklands Melbourne.



Shane Wylie
Media Director
docklandsc.com.au



10 Years On

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

DECEMBER 2009 | ISSUE 49

DOCKLANDS NEWS

Top yachts to compete at Docklands

Top rated international yachts will stopover at Waterfront City, Docklands in January for two days of racing as part of an "invitation only" series.

The Docklands Invitational is an annual competition which features Australia's best racing yachts who will compete in a five race series staged on Port Phillip Bay.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to wander the docks at Waterfront City, talk to visiting crews, try sailing with the "Go Sailing" program, and participate in the Audi One Metre Challenge with radio controlled yachts.

In addition to the big boats, there will also be high impact twilight racing within Victoria Harbour with the King of the Docklands. Competing for one of the richest prizes ever offered in Australian sailing, crews will battle it out in identical SB3 yachts to determine just who is the King of the Docklands.

Spectators will enjoy live commentary explaining the unfolding tactical side of things from a purpose built marquee catered by the Melbourne Yacht Club Hotel. Rivaling cricket's 20/20, the event is guaranteed to test the skills of competitors who will have to endure fluky winds and a pressure cooker environment.

Docklands Invitational event co-ordinator Doug Jarvis said: "The Docklands program aims to bring sailing into the heart of a major city, allowing the general public to experience sailing first hand in a free environment."

Activities will commence from 4pm - 8.30pm on both Thursday, January 21 and Friday, January 22. For further information please visit www.victoriaweek.com The events form part of Audi Victoria Week, which is Australia's largest sailing regatta and Victoria's oldest sporting event.

The six-day program will start in Melbourne with the Docklands Invitational and the King of the Docklands before the fleet of yachts compete in the traditional passage race from Melbourne to Geelong, which is scheduled for Saturday, January 23 and the program will conclude on Australia Day, Tuesday, January 26.

Audi Victoria Week is proudly sponsored by Audi, the Victorian State Government, City of Melbourne and City of Greater Geelong.

WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | **DEC** | JAN

TUESDAYS-WEDN-THURSDAYS AT THE HUB - 12-2PM (1H CLASS) COME AND LEARN FRENCH

Share your lunchtime with colleagues and friends and learn something new. It's a lot of fun!

Contact Amanda on 0405 086 480 or at frenchlyspeaking@gmail.com

DECEMBER 12, 5PM-7PM @ LIBRARY AT THE DOCK CHRISTMAS PARTY

Celebrate Christmas alongside fellow Docklanders with a free evening of fun family activities at Library at the Dock.

Info: secretary@docklands.org.au

FRIDAYS 7 AND 7.30 AM, AT THE HUB BASKETBALL COURTS EARLY MORNING FITNESS

\$10 per class after the first month. 30 minute high intensity classes designed to fire the metabolism and burn fat.

Call Bill on 0438 628 301

11AM EVERY SUNDAY SUNDAY WORSHIP

City Light Methodist Church at St Peter the Mariner's Chapel. Mission to Seafarers, 717 Flinders St. English and Chinese service
中文

TUESDAYS 6:30-8PM, THE MULTIPURPOSE ROOM, COMMUNITY HUB AT THE DOCK, 921 COLLINS ST. GIRL GUIDES DOCKLANDS

Girls aged 5-17 are invited to come to our Unit meetings. Helping girls gain new skills and make a difference in the community.

03 8606 3500 email: leilahusy@inet.net.au

SCOUT GROUP PORT MELBOURNE

Is looking for Leaders, Adult Helpers and new Scouts for their scout troop located at the Fishermans Bend Community Centre in Port Melbourne.

Susan Harris: portmelbscouts@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY 6.20PM HUB AT DOCKLANDS, 68-90 HARBOUR ESPLANADE DOCKLANDS DOCKLANDS SOCIAL NETBALL

Join the new October seasons. We place you in a team or bring your own team.

www.melbournenetball.com
Call or Text 0419 88 77 19

EVERY WEEKDAY 6.30AM CORNER OF SOUTH WHARF DR AND POINT PARK CRES, YARRA'S EDGE LIVE LIFE GET ACTIVE

Free outdoor fitness classes, including X-training, boxing and yoga. Register at lifelifegetactive.com

SUNDAYS 10AM-5PM NEWQUAY PROMENADE DOCKLANDS SUNDAY MARKET

A variety market featuring arts and crafts, books and more. For more info, ring 0412 910 496

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 9.30AM-12PM LIBRARY AT THE DOCK CHINESE BOOK CLUB

Come along for morning tea and a look at the new Chinese books at the Library at The Dock. Meet other readers, have a chat and find some new Chinese books, magazines or DVDs to borrow. **FREE**

TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS 12-2PM SATURDAYS 11AM-3PM SHED 2 ALMA DOEPEL RESTORATION

Tour "Behind the Scenes" the work involved in restoring this 115-year-old Australian three-masted top sail schooner. Learn the rich history, the purpose of the restoration and the challenges. **FREE**

TUESDAYS 2-4PM SASSONE, 70 LORIMER ST YARRA'S EDGE SOCIAL CLUB

Come along to connect with your neighbours, and/or join one of our mini-clubs. Casual & friendly.

www.facebook/YarrasEdgeSocialClub

6.30-8.30 PM 1ST, 3RD & 5TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK - COMMUNITY ROOM MIGHTY DOCKLANDS TOAST- MASTERS

Boost your public speaking and leadership skills.

<http://mightydocklands.easy-speak.org/>

SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 10AM-12PM, MEET AT THE LIBRARY COUNTRY WOMENS' ASSOCIATION (CWA)

Connect with other women in Docklands.

cwadocklands@gmail.com or
0407 884 857

1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 11.30AM, MEET AT TAP831 (UPSTAIRS) 'STARTS AT 60' COMMUNITY MEET UPS

Meet likeminded over-60's in your local community, coffee, lunch and outings

club.startsat60.com/meetups
Contact Shane 0425 857 739

EVERY OTHER SUNDAY 11AM-4PM DOCKLANDS YACHT CLUB COMMUNITY SAILING DAY

Come and try sailing with the community. No age limit and no fitness requirements. People with disabilities are welcome.

\$20. docklands.yachting.org.au

2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 2-4PM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK ADHD SUPPORT GROUP

Peer-support meetings or Q&A sessions with expert about ADHD in adults. Adults affected by ADHD and their families and friends are encouraged to attend. \$2.

Facebook @AdultADHDMelbourne

WEDNESDAYS 5.45-7PM LIBRARY AT THE DOCK OPEN DOOR SINGERS DOCKLANDS

Find your voice, experience the joy of singing in a choir and meet new friends.

www.opendoorsingers.org.au

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS 9AM-12PM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK WESTJUSTICE

(TAAP) provides specialist advice, casework and representation to vulnerable and disadvantaged people who are having residential tenancy issues and is funded by Consumer Affairs Victoria. **9749 7720**

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 10AM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

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Contact mssp.docklands@gmail.com

TUESDAYS, 9-10AM. MEET AT THE WHARF CLUB YARRAS EDGE, 86 SOUTH WHARF DRIVE, DOCKLANDS YARRA'S EDGE WALKING GROUP

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LIBRARY AT THE DOCK - WEEKLY PROGRAMS

STOMPERS MONDAYS AT 10.30AM

Encourage your child to have a life-long love of books by coming along to Stompers, Melbourne Library Services weekly program for toddlers aged 18 months to three years.

SONGBIRDS WEDNESDAYS AT 10.30AM

Come along for songs, rhymes and stories to engage your budding book worm's mind and introduce them to the fun and rhythm of language. Suitable for babies and toddlers aged up to 18 months old.

CREATIVE KIDS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

WEDNESDAYS 4.30PM TO 5.30PM

Ever wanted to 3D print your own superhero figurine? At the Creative Kids After School Club you can. Come hang out and create in our maker's space. Projects will include jewellery making, game design, paper crafts, comics and more.

EVENING TABLE TENNIS EVERY THURSDAY 7-9PM

Challenge yourself with friends at this regular catch up of ping-pong enthusiasts.

TAI CHI AT THE DOCK EVERY THURSDAY 7.30-8.30AM

Come along to find your inner peace and power at this weekly community Tai Chi session that is open to people from all walks of life. The ancient Chinese martial art is a tranquil and graceful way to keep fit. Beginners welcome. **FREE**

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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE

Sports club ready for a big 2020

By David Schout

After recently celebrating its official launch, the newly-formed Docklands Sports Club (DSC) is readying itself for a huge 2020.

On November 24, over 200 people attended Ron Barassi Snr Park to celebrate the official opening of a club that has had a meteoric rise in the area.

In just a matter of months, the club has already enrolled 50 children in junior soccer and cricket programs.

Next year, it aims to continue with these while adding an Auskick (AFL) program, as well as entering nine- to 10-year-old junior teams into competitive leagues.

President Carina Parisella told *Docklands News* that the launch day was a “huge success.”

“Part of the anticipation is whether people will actually turn up. So, to see many kids and parents there was so pleasing,” she said.

On a sun-drenched Sunday morning, representatives from the North Melbourne Football Club, Melbourne Stars cricket team and the newly-formed A-league outfit Western United were all on hand to introduce new skills and promote their clubs.

Lord Mayor and Docklands resident Sally Capp was also in attendance on the day,



(Main) Lord Mayor Sally Capp helps to officially launch Docklands Sports Club last month, while (top right) the committee and (bottom right) two young fairies celebrate!



which was opened with a traditional smoking ceremony to cleanse the land.

Parents were seen helping out on the barbecue and other activities, which Ms Parisella said was one of the most pleasing aspects of the day.

Many commented that “it was about time” a club formed in Docklands, and that they no longer had to look to surrounding suburbs to find sporting opportunities for their kids.

She said while DSC – which officially formed in August – was focusing on starting

grassroots junior programs, there was also a desire to see adult sport at its home ground, situated next to the Bolte Bridge.

“It was great to see so many conversations happening about what people want to see in their local club. Obviously, there was a big focus on children but there seems to be good appetite about adult play and competitions, so we’ll definitely look into that.”

The club currently offers adult yoga classes on a Thursday night.

Ms Parisella said the committee was pleased with the early success of the club.

“The biggest challenge is getting the club properly established,” she said.

“I speak with presidents from clubs that have been in place for years and have 30-40 teams and you wonder ‘how will we ever get there?’ But if you break it down, you’ve just got to start somewhere. If you get the buy-in from the local community, which we’ve had, then things go from there.”

For more information about upcoming programs and news at DSC, visit the club’s Facebook page [@docklandssportsclub](https://www.facebook.com/docklandssportsclub)

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