

# DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Art imitates life  
Photo by John Tadigiri

As all Melbournians were ordered to mask up in July amid a growing number of coronavirus cases, NewQuay’s renowned crouching sculptures that make up the *Meeting 1* artwork became the mascots for good health in Docklands.

## Activation strategy in the works

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PLANNING

Development Victoria (DV) and the City of Melbourne are busy working behind the scenes on an activation strategy dedicated specifically for Docklands.

In response to the closure of Central Pier and the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on Docklands, DV has engaged the services of events and activations company Alto Cibus to lead the strategy investigations.

Consultations with stakeholders, including *Docklands News*, began in July and are expected to continue until mid-August, with a final report by Alto Cibus due to DV and the council by the end of the year. The company has previous experience in delivering events and strategies for the likes of the AFL, South Melbourne Markets, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) and Luna Park.

Investigations are understood to be largely focused on the precinct surrounding Victoria Harbour and NewQuay in an effort to bring permanent and sustained activation to Docklands and its waterways.

While the challenges of COVID-19 present a great deal of uncertainty around future planning in the precinct, early feedback suggests a strong appetite for more community-driven activations that are both permanent and water-focused.

A number of key issues raised in early investigations have included a lack of car parking, community infrastructure and connectivity between the major precincts.

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce’s (DCC) proposal for a laser and light show, as reported in the February edition of *Dockland News*, is understood to be central to investigations.

DV group head Geoff Ward said work was continuing closely with the City of Melbourne to develop the strategy.

*Continued on page 5.*

## Pandemic reaches crucial phase as local cases confirmed

*Confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) cases throughout Docklands in July has further emphasised the need for locals to stay at home, wear a mask and socially distance where they can.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
HEALTH

Among the cases were employees at both National Australia Bank (NAB) and Woolworths Victoria Harbour, plus reports of a resident at 888 Collins Street.

And given there were 560 cases within the City of Melbourne at the time of publishing this edition, it was expected there would be more unknown cases in the local area.

During the past month, cases within the municipality moved beyond those in hotel quarantine and out into the local community.

At Victoria Harbour, Woolworths notified the public that an employee had tested positive for the COVID-19.

Woolworths became aware of the case on Tuesday, July 21, and the store was closed that night for deep cleaning before reopening at 7am the next morning.

The team member last worked at the Victoria Harbour Woolworths on Saturday, July 18 and did not present with any symptoms of illness at the time.

They then moved into self-isolation.

“Customers and team members should be assured they can continue to safely shop and work at our Victoria Harbour supermarket,” a spokesperson told *Docklands News*.

“Any customers who shopped in our Victoria Harbour store on Saturday, July 18 and feel unwell in the next two weeks should make contact with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).”

The news followed the case of a National Australia Bank employee

who tested positive after working at the bank’s 700 Bourke St office in the first week of July.

The positive case was confirmed shortly after NAB announced it would be indefinitely closing its two main office towers, both of which are in Docklands.

The bank said that offices at both 700 Bourke St (between Southern Cross Station and Marvel Stadium) and 800 Bourke St (on Victoria Harbour promenade), which house most of its 34,000-strong workforce, would be mothballed.

The bank sent a letter to local businesses, many of whom will feel a distinct pinch from the temporary closure, stressing that the move was not permanent and reiterating it had been a “proud part of the Docklands community for the past 16 years”.

“We appreciate this is a difficult time for many small businesses and recognise the business that NAB colleagues bring to the Docklands precinct,” NAB executive Susan Ferrier said.

“I want to emphasise that these changes are temporary and will be regularly reviewed. We will continue to update you about when and how our colleagues return to work in the office.”

“Our Melbourne-based workforce who need to be in the office, will all work from 500 Bourke Street.”

Later in July, reports of another positive COVID-19 case emerged, this time of a resident at 888 Collins St.

The cases further reaffirmed the importance of the state government’s stay-at-home directives as Melbourne looks to see off a now tragic second

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# Labor calls for “culture change” at Town Hall

WORDS BY *Sean Car*

ELECTIONS

For the first time in recent memory, the Labor Party has formed a serious ticket in its bid for Town Hall in 2020 and its team says it wants to “change the culture” and create a “real city government”.

Led by Lord Mayoral candidate Phil Reed and Deputy Lord Mayoral candidate, business-woman and multicultural campaigner Wesa Chau, Mr Reed said his team was looking to bring “good government” with a track record of delivery to Town Hall.

And Mr Reed, who currently works as head of government and stakeholder relations at Slater and Gordon, cited the City of Melbourne’s poor record of underspending its capital works budget as prime motivation to overhaul the council’s management.

“When you look at the stark contrast between the way the Andrews Government has got on with the job of delivering large capital projects like the metro rail tunnel, and the abject failure of council projects like the Southbank Boulevard parks, there’s a clear need for cultural change at Town Hall,” he said.

“We’re going to change the culture from that of a local council to a real city government where the decision makers and the bureaucrats have to take accountability for the full performance of their projects - not simply run a tender and then expect to turn up for the ribbon cutting.”

“My own background in executive management has taught me the importance of having proper accountability in management and it starts with making decisions, not excuses.”

“This is vitally important as we see a large amount of infrastructure spending proposed for the City of Melbourne, and we face a restructuring of city workforces and workplaces.”

The Labor ticket vying for office at the October 24 local government elections includes local resident and small business owner Davydd



▲ *Phil Reed and Wesa Chau.*

Griffiths, former Mayor of the City of Glen Eira Mary Delahunty and community liaison Hamdi Al.

Mr Reed said his team was busy putting the finishing touches on one of the most “comprehensive policy agendas” to be put before voters since the city’s governance structure was reshaped in the early 2000s.

He said the city needed policies that addressed a long-term vision for key issues such as transport and affordable housing, as well as the short-term challenges of economic recovery in the post COVID-19 environment.

“It is this real-life experience that will lead the City of Melbourne out of lockdown,” he said. “Labor has people on our ticket who understand business and what it means to live and work in our City of Melbourne communities.”

“Davvyd Griffiths’s pub has been shut down and lost trade like so many small businesses, Mary Delahunty works for one of the biggest Industry Super funds and understands the climate we need to create to stimulate activity, and Hamdi Ali lives and works in Carlton as a community leader among some of our most disadvantaged public housing communities.”

Mr Reed said his team was currently developing a set of policies called “COOL Melbourne”, which stood for “Coming out of Lockdown”.

With city businesses hopefully looking to emerge from lockdown in the last quarter of 2020, he said there were a lot of things “big and small” that could be done.

He wants to start by removing permit fees and restrictions for businesses who wish to promote their business at the front of their premises and overhaul the council’s website to become a “real community directory”.

Describing Central Pier as “Melbourne’s Bennelong Point”, he supported “ambitious” ideas for reimagining a key “focal point” of Docklands, and said his team was open to “keeping our options open” on a tram extension to Fishermans Bend until the government was ready to start building.

Mr Reed also added that addressing connectivity between the major precincts remained Docklands “greatest challenge”, and said the City of Melbourne needed to show it could do a “better job” in delivering for residents and businesses before staking a claim for a greater role in infrastructure from Development Victoria.

Despite speculation of a preference deal being done with Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Mr Reed dismissed the claims, saying his team would wait to assess the “full field” of participants.

The Labor ticket is the first to be publicly announced ahead of the October 24 elections, which will be conducted by postal ballot.

While she is yet to reveal her ticket publicly, Lord Mayor Sally Capp is expected to run alongside Cr Nicholas Reece as her deputy, with Cr Kevin Louey understood to have earned a place on the ticket.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood is also yet to formally reveal his plans, with the futures of fellow incumbent councillors from former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle’s team Beverley Pinder and Susan Riley also unknown. Cr Jackie Watts is expected to run again on Gary Morgan’s ticket.

Cr Philip Le Liu is expected to run first on a Liberal Party ticket, while long-term Greens Cr Rohan Leppert will go around for another term. However, it’s understood his colleague Cathy Oke will not be recontesting ●

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# Yarra’s Edge site closed for deep cleaning

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
HEALTH

As the number of COVID-19 cases increases in Melbourne, managers of construction sites are being forced to make some tough decisions and close down sites for deep cleaning.

Yarra’s Edge developer Mirvac confirmed that its Voyager construction site was shut down on Friday, July 13 after the developer was notified about a positive COVID-19 case.

“Work ceased immediately on site and all workers were sent home,” a Mirvac spokesperson told *Docklands News*.

“Contact tracing was done and any close or casual contacts were notified and requested to undertake testing before returning to site. A full deep clean was undertaken in accordance with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) guidelines.”

The closure of the site, believed to be Melbourne’s third since lockdown measures were introduced by the state government in July, has escalated fears among construction workers about health protocols.

A source connected to Mirvac’s Voyager development on South Wharf Drive, who asked not to be named, told *Docklands News* following the closure that workers were confused about how long they should isolate for after testing.

“People are taking the precautions themselves,” they said. “Do they need to isolate for 14 days? They [the workers] were not told by DHHS.”

A spokeswoman for the CFMEU said that the union had not been notified about the closure of the Mirvac site.

“The CFMEU has put in guidelines that have worked and enabled people to remain at work,” she said.

She said that there had been a couple of COVID-19 cases on building sites and that the union was working well with the DHHS.

“We’ve definitely had two [closures]. They were open within a day. DHHS oversees it.”

*“Contact tracing was done and any close or casual contacts were notified and requested to undertake testing before returning to site. A full deep clean was undertaken in accordance with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) guidelines.”*



A policy on the union website dated July 14 states that anyone who has had casual contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 can continue to work providing they test negative and have no symptoms. Workers can use their sick leave while waiting for results.

The source said that while Mirvac had been upfront about the closure, he was concerned that developers and builders in the industry were trying to keep cases under wraps.

“The health and safety of our employees and



▲ Mirvac’s Yarra’s Edge construction site back in operation on the Tuesday after a COVID-19 scare.

any visitors to the site is our top priority,” a spokesperson for Mirvac said.

“Mircac has received confirmation from DHHS that all necessary steps were completed and that the site had taken extra safe and cautious measures.”

The site was reopened on Tuesday, July 21.

It is understood that one worker at the site had been in contact with a positive case but subsequently tested negative ●

# Pandemic reaches crucial phase as local cases confirmed

Continued from page 1.

wave of infections.

Notably for Docklanders, the state government has also finally provided guidelines assisting residents and owners’ corporations (OCs) living in apartment towers limit the transmission of the coronavirus in multi dwelling buildings.

The new guidelines follow two roundtable meetings conducted by the Department of Job, Precincts and Regions in July, which included Victoria Police, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Department of Justice, City of Melbourne, as well as resident groups and student and community leaders.

While the guidelines provide a uniform model for how OCs should be approaching the management of coronavirus, they acknowledge that, “each property is unique and should develop a tailored plan based on the information contained in this guide”.

The 14-page document, now available on the DHHS website, provides recommendations, actions and checklists on how to manage the likes of common property such as lifts and stairwells, visitors and deliveries, resident welfare and compliance.

The DHHS has also released a new directive against short-stay accommodation in July due to COVID-19. For more information, read We Live Here’s regular column on page 24 of this edition.

For more on the roundtable discussions regarding new COVID-19 guidelines for apartment buildings, read Dr Janette Corcoran’s *Skypad Living* column on page 23 ●

For more information:  
[dhhs.vic.gov.au](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au)

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# New soil disposal rules for tunnel project

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
ENVIRONMENT

New rules on how toxic soil is handled have been released by the state government, in a move that could help break an impasse on the protracted West Gate Tunnel project.

The regulations, effective from July 1, aimed to create new standards for waste disposal companies on how to manage potentially dangerous soil.

The new code allows landfill operators to handle contaminated soil provided they have an “environmental management plan” that has been approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Waste from the project will be dumped in a “containment system” that, according to reports, now crucially won’t attract a levy.

For months, construction on the \$6.7 billion project that links the West Gate Freeway in Yarraville and CityLink in Docklands has been at an impasse due to the uncertainty on how to dispose of contaminated soil from tunnel-boring work.

The state government, operator Transurban and the project’s builders have disputed who is responsible for managing the problem.

Tunneling for the new toll road, billed as an alternative to the city’s congested West Gate Bridge, was due to start around October last year, but has been held up by the deadlock.

How and when the Andrews government’s flagship road project proceeds are, however, still unknown as the government, Transurban and the joint venture responsible for building the project (CPB Contractors and John Holland) face off in the Supreme Court over costs and delays relating to the disposal of PFAS-contaminated soil.

PFAS, or per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, according to a Health Department factsheet



are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in a range of common household products.

They are considered useful because they are heat, water and oil resistant and have been used products such as nonstick cookware, stain protection applications and food packaging.

While evidence is not conclusive, at higher levels it is considered potentially carcinogenic.

PFAS is also used in firefighting foams, which was dispersed on a toxic blaze at Coope Island, just west of Docklands, in 1991.

The fire-fighting foam used during the blaze then soaked into soil where the tunnel project, almost 30 years later, will be built.

A report by *The Age* in March revealed that the results of borehole tests near the site of the 1991 blaze were hundreds of times worse than a threshold set by the EPA.

In May the Andrews Government admitted for the first time that its troubled toll road would not be finished by 2022, with completion now set for 2023 •



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# Enrolments open for Docklands Primary

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
EDUCATION

Docklands Primary School (interim name) is opening its doors in January 2021. Its architectural design and proximity to the city will offer a unique educational opportunity – and enrolments have just opened.

As reported in the July edition of *Docklands News*, the school’s foundation principal Adam Bright was recently appointed and said he was very excited about meeting the students and families who will make up the first year at Docklands Primary School.

The school will incorporate modern learning spaces, a library, music and art room, outdoor learning terraces and a competition-grade indoor court for basketball and netball.

“An on-site early learning centre with two kindergarten rooms and 66 kindergarten places will also be included. Having the kindergarten and school together will help local children make a smooth transition from pre-school and reduce the number of drop-offs for some

parents with kindergarten and school-aged children,” Mr Bright said.

“The school will develop a knowledge rich curriculum and have a strong focus on developing the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy. It will strive to develop professional excellence and knowledge of world’s best practice and will constantly inspire students to become curious and engaged in authentic learning experiences.”

“Social and emotional wellness will always be at the forefront and the school will ensure children have an active voice in their development. Additionally, physical activity and healthy life habits will be taught and promoted. Students will learn to be resilient and self-motivated with an ability to articulate their goals and aspirations.” •

**More information and enrolment forms:** *adam.bright@education.vic.gov.au*

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# Plans to transform “ugly” old police HQ

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne has unanimously endorsed designs for partial demolition and redevelopment of the old Police Headquarters building in Docklands.

The owner, Zone Q New Central Investments, has proposed \$73 million to turn the building – part of the World Trade Centre complex at 633 – 669 Flinders St – into a revamped office building.

Councillors commended a Cox Architecture-designed proposal they said turned an “ugly” building into a positive contribution to Docklands, at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on July 21.

“Most Melburnians would know that this for a long time was part of the police HQ in this town and it was a building which was pretty ugly,” planning portfolio chair Cr Nicholas Reece said.

“There’s been a very clever design undertaken here to improve the building’s appearance. It will go a long way to improving the amenity and vibrancy of what should be a fantastic precinct and quarter of Melbourne along the river there, but for a variety of reasons over decades has just not been everything that it could be.”

The proposal would increase office floor space, reduce the number of car parking spaces and introduce new ground level retail tenancies. All windows and frames of the building and large parts of the northern façade and some of the eastern façade would be demolished.

It would also create new entrances on both Flinders and Siddeley streets.

Cr Rohan Leppert echoed Cr Reece’s support of the proposal.

“This is currently a pretty austere building and it is not the most beautiful part of our city, but the proposal here to redevelop and rejuvenate that part of the city with quite an innovative reshaping of what is currently there is really welcome,” he said.



▲ A render of the proposed transformation of the old police headquarters on Flinders St by Cox Architecture.

“  
There’s been a very clever  
design undertaken here.  
”

“The proposal is going to improve not just the use of a very solid building but the appearance. The extent of demolition is welcome, it’s not too much.”

“The new way of making new entrances to Flinders St and the façade treatment to ensure this building looks new and fresh and considers its context is going to create something that will change the way this part of the city looks and feels in a really positive way.”

The plans will now go to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for approval ●

# Activation strategy in the works

*Continued from page 1.*

“Development Victoria and the City of Melbourne are working on an activation strategy for Docklands to offer Melburnians more day and night activities in the precinct, with the aim of increasing visitors post COVID-19,” he said.

“The first phase of the strategy is working with stakeholders to understand how they have been impacted by the drop in visitors and what ideas they have for future events and activities. That work is continuing.”

Lord Mayor and Docklands resident Sally Capp said the activation plan sought to leverage water transport, tourism and maritime heritage.

“Like many areas in our city, Docklands has been significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, particularly the reduction in workers and visitors coming into the precinct each day,” she said.

“As part of our annual plan, we are working with DV to identify initiatives that will increase visitation to Docklands and bring life back to the precinct once restrictions lift. This will culminate in an activation plan to leverage Docklands’ water transport, tourism and maritime heritage.”

DCC president Johanna Maxwell said that early consultations with Alto Cibus had been “really positive” and that it looked forward to continuing discussions with both local and state governments ●



Sean Car  
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# RATE RELIEF FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES



The City of Melbourne is supporting businesses and residents through the COVID-19 pandemic with rate relief, and a zero percent average rate rise for 2020—21.

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The City of Melbourne has also announced rate relief in its Recovery Budget for 2020—21 to fix costs for residents and businesses. Fees and charges for community services such as recreation centres and children’s services will also remain the same, and fees have been suspended while facilities remain closed. These are just some of the ways we are supporting residents and businesses during this current public health challenge.

Read the latest updates on our response by visiting [melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au)







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# Screen industry's light in Docklands

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
ARTS & CULTURE

In October last year, the Victorian Government announced a \$46 million investment into an expansion of Docklands Studios. This year, the film and television production industry all but shut down.

Lockdowns have closed the shutters on production while the industry confronts the long-term question of how to safely run production in an era of social distancing.

But Docklands Studios CEO Rod Allan said the expansion project was on track and had become a source of hope for the industry.

"As it turns out it's been very good timing because of two things. One is the federal government announcement in July that \$400 million will go into the location incentive fund, which is used to attract international productions to Australia," Mr Allan said.

"The other thing that's happened is that international companies, studios, and producers recognise that Australia is by comparison a safe place to be working at the moment, so there's a lot of interest coming here."

"From that perspective I think that there will be a lot of big production coming to Melbourne in the years to come."

The expansion of the studios includes a new soundstage a quarter of the size of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). Mr Allan said construction of the stage was currently out to a group of builders for tender, work would start in October and was expected to be completed at the end of 2021.

He was confident that Docklands would be a focus of the federal government's location incentive due to the standing of the studios in the Australian industry and the effect the expansion will have to boost it.

"It's there to attract international production to the country. Really in Australia there are three main big studio complexes – the Gold Coast, Sydney and Melbourne in Docklands," he said.



▲ A render of the expansion at Docklands Studios.

"What we're doing here is increasing Docklands' capacity so we will be on a more equal footing with the other two. So, I don't think there's any doubt at all that Docklands will be getting its share of that."

It was a welcome announcement for the studios and the industry in general, which the pandemic has thrown into a position of doubt and instability.

"Here at the studios some productions were suspended with the first lockdown. *Dancing with the Stars* finished just before that lockdown and we have another production that is in pre-production getting ready to shoot again," Mr Allan said.

"So, there is pre-production activity happening here but it's fair to say we're not operating at full capacity at all."

The industry, like most, is now faced with

an enormous task of reorganisation. Mr Allan said there was a lot of thought going into how to keep the industry moving in a safe manner.

"It's difficult, a lot of production has shut down and those productions that have resumed film production are quite involved for the producers," he said.

"They have to develop strategies for managing the production, respecting social distancing and hygiene and cleanliness, which makes film production much more difficult."

"Making films and shows is very labour-intensive work, people work in close proximity to each other. Every aspect of the work, down to how you handle props, needs to be reconsidered."

The industry had developed overarching principles – the Australian Screen Production Industry COVID-Safe Guidelines – but Mr



▲ Docklands Studio CEO Rod Allan.

Allan said most individual productions would have to develop their own protocols on top of the guidelines.

"But the nature of the industry is that its resourceful and the people in it are resourceful," he said.

"Filmmakers are always needed solve problems in their work, so if any industry is capable of evolving the way they work in this new environment I suppose it's the film industry." ●



Meg Hill

JOURNALIST

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# Let's bring light and love back into the city

WORDS BY Brendan Nottle  
LYRICS BY Jim Curnow

## INSPIRATION

**From July 2 until August 11 Brendan Nottle and others will be tackling an ancient spiritual discipline by only taking one meal a day.**

The fasting over a 40-day period is a way to help Brendan and the 614 team focus on our city and its current impending needs.

"The more I speak to people in Melbourne, the more I realise how devastating COVID-19 has been. The city is like a ghost town," Major Nottle said.

"I and many others want to bring light and love and positivity back into the city. We need to withdraw, focus, reflect, discuss, debate, collaborate and act if we want to see significant change and improvement. Could the city end up being a better place than it was pre COVID-19? I have no doubt - in fact, in many ways, it needs to be a better place.

Since March 1, the Salvos in the City have:

- In partnership with Victoria Police, City of Melbourne and Victoria Government, helped 216 people into temporary hotel accommodation.
- Along with several other agencies, distributed tens of thousands of meals (soups, main meals, fruit salads and cakes) cooked by the Parliament of Victoria kitchens (which have cooked more than 30,000 meals).
- Provided thousands of food parcels to people in need, as well as clothes and other assistance.
- Hosted primary care nurses from St Vincent's Hospital, who have given hundreds of instances

“

*I and many others want to bring light and love and positivity back into the city.*

”

of medical support to people in pain and discomfort at Salvos in the City at Bourke Street.

If you feel compelled to assist, please scan the QR code below with your phone camera to be taken to the Pray With Brendan website”.

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



**This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine**

**This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine**

**This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine**

**Let it shine, let it shine,  
let it shine...**

*This Little Light of Mine - Jim Curnow*

**“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”**

**- Matthew 5:16**



# 40 DAY FAST

02.07.20 - 11.08.20

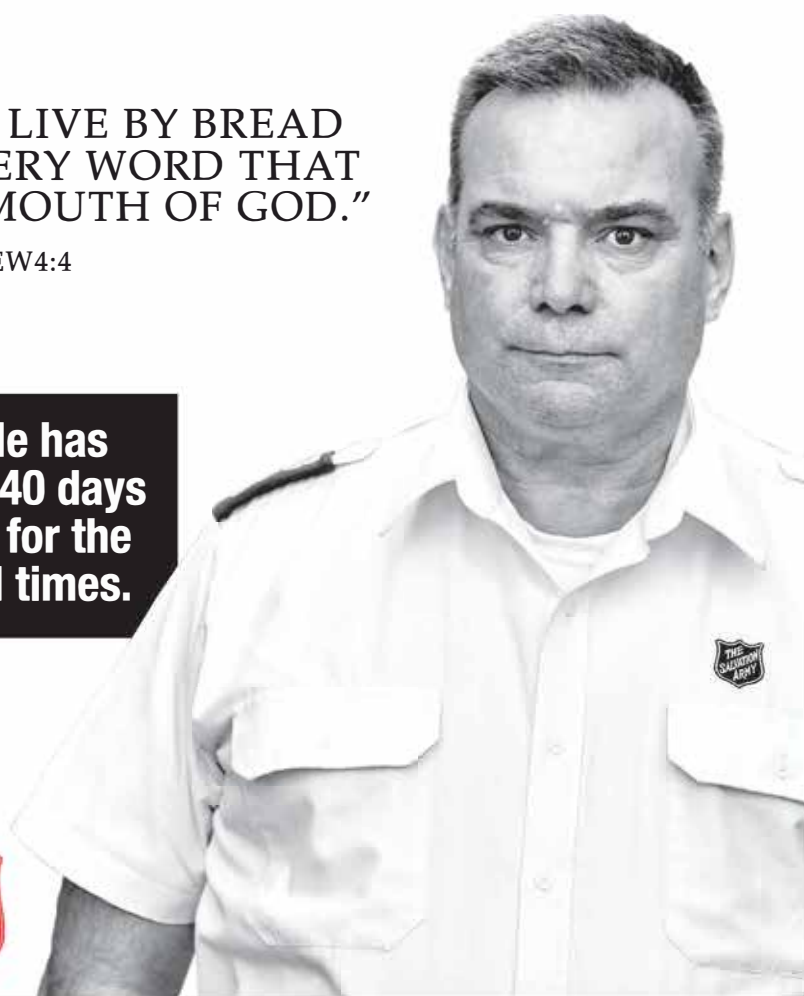
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[www.praywithbrendan.com.au](http://www.praywithbrendan.com.au)



**“MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.”**

**- MATTHEW 4:4**

**Major Brendan Nottle has committed to fast for 40 days to pray and meditate for the city in these troubled times.**





# Business help amid “devastating” impact of lockdown

WORDS BY *David Schout*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*

BUSINESS

Docklands businesses will benefit from a \$20 million lifeline after the state government declared inner-city businesses had been “uniquely hit” by the coronavirus (COVID-19).

In announcing further assistance, the government’s CBD Business Support Fund aims to help businesses faced with a “large and sustained shock to their trading environments”.

While details of the grant were yet to be released at time of publishing, a government spokesperson confirmed that, despite what the name suggested, the grants would be available to both Docklands and Southbank businesses along with those in the CBD.

The announcement came after a City of Melbourne survey before the second lockdown revealed around 15 per cent of businesses were either unsure of their future or would close permanently as a result of the pandemic.

While more than 80,000 businesses within metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire would be eligible for a \$5000 grant, small and medium inner-city businesses were set to receive even greater support.

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Martin Pakula said the government was aware of the distinct problems faced by local business owners.

“[Central Melbourne] has in some respects been uniquely hit by the fact that stay-at-home directives have particularly kept people away,” he said.

“And the absence of foot traffic in the CBD has meant many businesses in the city, and Docklands and Southbank, have been particularly affected by the restrictions that have been imposed on Victorians.”

A usually vibrant central Melbourne and Docklands was again rendered desolate after stage three restrictions were re-imposed on July 9.

Pedestrian activity was down 81 per cent compared with this time last year.

The government said it would especially look to assist tourism operators and businesses associated with the night-time economy.

Mr Pakula said the latter had “suffered greatly”.

“It is a very important part, not just of Victoria’s economy, but of Melbourne’s culture. It is one of the things that has set Melbourne apart over many years; our bars, our restaurants, our laneways, our theatre district,” he said.

“And it’s why we’re providing specific support because we want to see all of those businesses, or at least as many of them as possible, through to the other side. They’re going to be a crucial part of returning us to the Melbourne



▲ Traffic of all varieties has plummeted in Docklands, as seen here on a normally bustling Collins St.

we love ... we want to see those businesses survive. There are some critical differences, and some critical responses needed, in particular for that night-time economy in Melbourne.”

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood, the council’s finance chair, said the package was “much-needed”, but acknowledged some businesses were on a knife’s edge during the second lockdown period.

“Our city has taken a massive hit,” Cr Wood said.

“The biggest of any capital city. We need bold thinking and ideas to get us through. Otherwise recovery will take years. My only worry is that this Victorian Government business support won’t be enough to see many struggling businesses through the next six weeks after impacts since March. Any help is absolutely welcome though.”

Cr Wood said the council would also issue temporary free parking permits to food premises to help them deliver takeaway meals during lockdown. The parking permits will be available from July 21 and will apply until further notice.

“We want to support restaurants and cafes to set up their own home delivery services,” the Deputy Lord Mayor said.

“Each business will be eligible for two passes so they can park for free in areas with green signs close to their business or near their customer’s delivery address where that address is within the City of Melbourne,” the Deputy Lord Mayor said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said while she was obviously pleased many Melburnians were adhering to stay-at-home measures, the huge dip in foot traffic had a “devastating impact” on businesses.

“

*Our city has taken a massive hit.*

”

“We usually have about 950,000 people coming into the city every day, [but] with people listening and complying with the restrictions it means that we don’t have those hundreds and thousands of people coming in to support our local retailers and hospitality,” she said.

On July 21, the federal government announced that it would be extending its JobKeeper program from September until March, but that fortnightly amounts would be scaled back to \$1200 a fortnight. A payment of \$750 will be provided to those working less than 20 hours per week. Businesses will also be required to report turnover quarterly to prove eligibility.

The JobSeeker unemployment benefit will also change, with the \$550 coronavirus supplement cut to \$250 through until the end of 2020.

**City of Melbourne Business Concierge Hotline:**  
9658 9658

## Lord Mayor launches new advisory board

The Bringing Melbourne Back Better advisory board was established by Lord Mayor Sally Capp last month to look at ways of reactivating the city amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

In its first meeting held in mid-July, the board, which includes the likes of trucking magnate Lindsay Fox and National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) director Tony Ellwood, highlighted three key actions in its first meeting:

Encouraging more cultural activity in key city parks and open spaces by hosting live performances and partnering with nearby local bricks-and-mortar businesses to expand their hospitality and retail offer outside;

Developing a “headquarters strategy” to target national and international companies to establish their head offices in Melbourne; and

Supporting the establishment of arts and creative hubs in vacant city office space.

It had been previously reported by some media outlets that the board would also be exploring the prospect of converting vacant commercial office space into housing, as well as installing projections onto city buildings during evenings.

But Lord Mayor Sally Capp said one idea discussed at the first meeting explored how local cafes, restaurants, bars and retail stores could benefit from a program of live performances held at inner-city public spaces.

She added that the headquarters strategy would help attract high-wage jobs back to Melbourne’s CBD, establishing arts and creative hubs throughout vacant commercial office and retail spaces would help attract more people into the city, at an appropriate time after restrictions had eased.

“The feedback from the Advisory Board was that many arts and creative organisations have always wanted to be based in the CBD but the cost of rent was prohibitive previously,” the Lord Mayor said. “By encouraging these artists and arts organisations and commercial landlords to work together to establish empty spaces will be invigorated and our city will become more vibrant.”

“This [headquarters] strategy will examine the best ways to encourage new global businesses to establish their headquarters in Melbourne’s CBD, which will help support our many cafes, restaurants, bars and boutique retail stores.”

The Lord Mayor said the advisory board would hold weekly meetings until late August to discuss short-, medium- and long-term solutions to revive Melbourne’s economy and cultural life.

“This is going to be a very tough period for many people in our community but I’m amazed at what can be achieved when Melburnians work together,” she said ●

## Glenn Harvey answers your legal questions

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# Melbourne City Council postal elections

*Your Melbourne, your vote*



## You must be enrolled to vote

A general election will be held for Melbourne City Council in October 2020. To be able to vote in this election, you must be enrolled by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**. Two categories of voters can vote in the Melbourne City Council election: State-enrolled voters and Council-enrolled voters.

### State-enrolled voters

#### Am I enrolled to vote?

You are already enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 **AND**
- you live in the City of Melbourne **AND**
- you are on the State electoral roll for your current address.

#### You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 **AND**
- you live in the City of Melbourne and you are not on the State electoral roll **OR**
- you have lived at your current residential address within the City of Melbourne for at least a month and have not yet updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

#### How do I enrol?

You can enrol online at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

You can also download an enrolment form from the website.

All enrolment applications must be received by the Victorian Electoral Commission by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**.

#### How can I check if I am State-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details online at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) at any time, or call 1300 805 478.

## Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for everyone who is enrolled in the Melbourne City Council election, including non-Australian citizens and corporation voting representatives.

## Thinking about standing for election?

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate for Melbourne City Council, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Melbourne City Council **AND**
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected **AND**
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

For further information, visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

*This notice is published by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of the Registrar for the Melbourne City Council voters' roll.*

### Council-enrolled voters

#### Am I enrolled to vote?

You are already enrolled for this election if you own or occupy rateable property within the municipality and live in Australia, but you are not a resident of the City of Melbourne. A maximum of two owners and two occupiers can be enrolled as Council-enrolled voters for any one property.

#### Who else can enrol & vote?

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you own or occupy rateable property in the City of Melbourne and reside in the council area, but are not on the State electoral roll (includes non-Australian citizens) **OR**
- you own rateable property in the City of Melbourne but live outside Australia **OR**
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation (or hold an equivalent position in an Association) that occupies rateable property solely or jointly within the council area\*.

\*If a corporation that solely owns or occupies rateable property in the City of Melbourne does not validly appoint two voting representatives by **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**, Melbourne City Council is required by law to enrol the first two of the following (to be taken in alphabetical order):

- the company secretaries whose postal addresses are in Victoria
- the company secretaries whose postal addresses are elsewhere in Australia
- the directors whose postal addresses are in Victoria
- the directors whose postal addresses are elsewhere in Australia.

#### How do I apply to be a Council-enrolled voter?

If you meet any of the mentioned criteria and wish to enrol, contact Melbourne City Council on 1300 735 427 or visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/elections](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/elections) for a council enrolment form. Council enrolment forms must be received by Melbourne City Council by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**.

#### How can I check if I am Council-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details online from mid-August at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/elections](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/elections) or anytime by contacting the Melbourne City Council election helpline on 1300 735 427.

## Enrolment closes

# 4 pm Friday 28 August

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

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Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic







## Melbourne Quarter taking shape

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
DEVELOPMENT

The second of Lendlease's three Melbourne Quarter towers has reached practical completion as the \$2.9 billion precinct at Batman's Hill starts to take shape.

The tower – Two Melbourne Quarter – is 50,000 sqm and 24 levels and features a new staircase connecting the Collins St streetscape to Wurundjeri Way and Aurora Lane. Lendlease managing director Matthew Mears said its completion was a significant milestone and “delivers on our vision to create the best places”.

“Melbourne Quarter is our latest in next-generation technology-enabled workplaces and is one of Melbourne's largest mixed-use urban regeneration developments,” Mr Mears said.

“The precinct's design is based around city living, a vibrant retail mix and green public spaces that are synonymous with Lendlease's global ethos of connecting people and buildings in an urban environment to improve amenity, productivity and liveability.”

Meanwhile, the commercial landscape has also taken shape. Three new tenants have

signed leases for Two Melbourne Quarter in Datacom, a leading IT service provider, the federal government advisory body the Productivity Commission and international education organisation IDP.

In 2018 the tower was bought by First State Super and the Australian Prime Property Fund Commercial.

First State Super chief executive officer Deanne Stewart said the company was “delighted” to have partnered with Lendlease.

“Following our merger with VicSuper which was finalised on July 1, we now have more than 400,000 members in Victoria and are pleased to play an active role in helping to support the State's economic growth and development through investments like this,” she said.

“We are particularly proud to be involved in such an industry-leading development that combines world-class commercial and retail spaces with a mix of innovative sustainability and green initiatives.”

Once complete, the Melbourne Quarter precinct will comprise approximately 140,000sqm of agile commercial space for more than 14,000 employees and be home to around 3000 new residents ●

## Ready to fight the virus

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
COMMUNITY

As Melbourne takes on the mask to stop the spread of the virus, some trend-setters were already out displaying their prowess on the boardwalk at Yarra's Edge days before the Thursday deadline.

Docklands resident Harry van Manon had hand sanitiser in one pocket and hand cream in another, weapons he teams up with his obligatory mask.

He was worried for a while about the mask looking “a bit busy” in a design sense.

But he thought he could get away with the black and white stripes against a colourful pom pom scarf from Gorman, given the down mood in Melbourne.

“It's my catwalk,” Harry said, trying to make the most of a situation, which he believed Australians had been slow to accept.

The English teacher from Great Britain began wearing the mask at the beginning of the second lockdown, before many others, because he began worrying about community transmission.

He had lived in Japan and thinks Australians have been slow to catch onto the way masks work.

“I think Australians didn't really understand masks,” he told *Docklands News*. “They haven't taken time to work out their benefits like Japan, South Korea and China.”

Masks are used in Asia to protect society from infection rather than the other way around.

“Japan is a collective society, so everyone is looking out for each other. Anglo/Celtic cultures are more interested in individualistic ideals.”

Harry thinks the slow uptake here could be a macho male thing which sees the mask as a sign of weakness.

Harry has a plain black mask and a leopard skin one coming in the post. He's urging people to accessorise.

“I think plain black is very macho. You could



▲ Harry van Manon armed with his COVID-19 weapons.

turn it into a Superhero thing. It has a Ninja vibe,” he said.

The new bravado that is apparent now that masks are compulsory is an improvement on the first lockdown when some Docklanders were too scared to come down to ground level, feeling they should self-isolate.

A mother told *Docklands News* that the closure of the playgrounds meant that she was keeping her son inside.

The second lockdown has found people more willing to do what is necessary. With everyone wearing a mask, they feel safer, plus there is a talking point attached to the different styles of mask.

Harry lives just across the river in a flat without natural light and depends on Yarra's Edge for his daily walks.

“There's an open space, not too much wind, boats you can dream about to escape from the coronavirus. Light hits the buildings well.” ●



Rhonda Dredge  
JOURNALIST  
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# Think Pink brings community together

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*  
COMMUNITY

Isolation is difficult enough without the added stress of a breast cancer diagnosis.

So, for the Think Pink Living Centre at Yarra's Edge—a foundation which provides support programs to those diagnosed with breast cancer—finding new ways to bring people together during lockdown was vital.

Chairman Ron Smith said that since Think Pink shifted its free support, exercise and wellness programs to Zoom, the response had been overwhelming.

"We've had women coming online from around Victoria and interstate because of the ease of participating in the current COVID-19 climate. In some cases, Think Pink's activities numbers have tripled," Mr Smith said.

"Our classes used to have seven or eight people for pilates, now there's 30."

Due to the dramatic increase in numbers, Think Pink is looking to get additional support to continue providing their free services to women all around Australia.

"Right now, we're looking for sponsors and for people to make donations to help us maintain our services which you can do on our website," Mr Smith said.

Aside from Think Pink's Zoom activities, Mr Smith and his business partner Bob Winters have also developed a new bird watching app—Birds of the Bay—which was released on July 24.

The free app, which contains pictures of 120 birds along with descriptions and birdwatching tips, is designed to promote Docklands as a place to visit and encourage a wider appreciation of the environment.

"We thought it would be good to do something that lives in your phone that's a conversation starter for people walking along the beach, or something to talk about with your friends, children or grandchildren," Mr Smith said.

"It comes at a time when people are looking for things to do at home, and also to help people



▲ Great egret. Photo by Bob Winters.

reconnect with nature, which is great for people's mental health."

An important feature of the app, which is being launched in partnership with Melbourne Star Wheel, is that it doesn't collect any emails or data from users.

"When I was designing this, I wanted to make it available to everyone, not cost anything and not infringe on privacy. This is a real community, free operation," Mr Smith said.

Birds of the Bay will also have a Facebook group for people to upload pictures of birds they see and connect with others in the community.

"We're hoping to start up a big group of people, particularly for people who are in the breast cancer area because that's who we had in mind when we were designing it," Mr Smith said.

The Birds of the Bay app is dedicated to the frontline medical staff, nurses, doctors, political leaders, and all of the people involved in the fight against COVID-19 to keep Australia safe.

**Download the app:**  
[birdsofthebay.com.au](https://birdsofthebay.com.au)



# Café reaches out to locals

WORDS BY *Marco Holden Jeffery*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*  
BUSINESS

It's been a common theme across the country this year: the toughest times can often bring people closer.

Sarah May was drawn back into close quarters with her family by the pandemic, working alongside them at Harbour Coffee House, and now she wants to share that sense of community with the people of Docklands.

"Our previous customer base was largely workers, and obviously a lot of people have stopped coming to work and are staying at home," she said.

"We really want to engage with the local community and change the image of the business."

Harbour Coffee House was founded 10 years ago by Sarah's parents Noel and Mary, and along with her siblings Sarah spent her early years helping out in the café before moving on to her own career in hospitality.

But when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out earlier this year, the café was quick to close out of concern for the health of its workers and customers.

"Mum is from Wuhan, and from all the stories she was hearing from back home she was worried about the repercussions of staying open," Sarah said.

The café closed completely for four months in which time Sarah, alongside her brother William, decided to reinvent the business as not just a place to get a coffee but a community hub for Docklands locals.

"We really want to get a better picture of what it's like for people in Docklands, living and working from home, and what people miss about their hospitality services that they can no longer access," she said.

The café was considering expanding its offer-

ings from coffee and takeaway lunch to include delivery, preorders for meals, essential packages and hosting collaborations with artists.

But for Sarah it was important to hear what the community wanted - she was planning a survey of locals on their needs and their ideas for creating a connective focal point for Docklands during lockdown.

"If we provided fruit and vegetable packs that we bought from the market, for example, people could come to us to pick them up - and that's an excuse to come to the coffee shop and have that connection with the community," she said.

Working alongside her brother and parents, Sarah had appreciated the time spent with her family and the different skills each of them brought to the table.

"It can be a bit stressful, we're all very different people - but for the pandemic we've all come together and become a lot closer as a family," she said.

After a period being closed and a second lockdown, Sarah recognised it would be hard to for Harbour Coffee House to stand out, but felt they were resilient enough to evolve with the times.

"Honestly I think this is a real big test for hospitality - the market itself is really changing, whether that's going online or offering delivery services," she said.

"I'm hoping that if we really focus on what we can provide people at home, we can ride it through."

Harbour Coffee House is located at 2/198 Harbour Esplanade. To take the survey, email Sarah at [harbourcoffeehouseaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:harbourcoffeehouseaustralia@gmail.com) ●

**For more information:**  
[harbourcoffeehouse.com](https://harbourcoffeehouse.com)

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## Empty space multiplied by job losses

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
PROPERTY

There were roughly 8400 apartments up for rent in Docklands in mid-July, prompting real estate agents to warn that the property market would not return to normal for a long time.

City Residential Real Estate told *Docklands News* there was roughly 27,000 apartments up for rent in the CBD, Southbank and Docklands combined, according to statistics supplied by realestate.com.

"The numbers are rising pretty steadily by 3000 a month or 500 a week. The normal number would be around 15,000 across the three suburbs, with the apartments included in that number continually rotating," City Residential managing director Glenn Donnelly said.

"This time last year there were probably 5000 apartments for rent in Docklands."

Mr Donnelly said there were multiple pandemic-related factors at play. The industry was first hit in March by border closures and the collapse of the short-stay sector.

This continued to be a factor but had been compounded by the impact of job losses and underemployment due to the two lockdowns in Melbourne.

"There's absolutely a percentage of people who are leaving because of job losses, they can't afford the rent," Mr Donnelly said.

"People who were living by themselves might move into a share situation, people are moving back in with their parents, people looking at other options because of the situation of losing their jobs or not being able to travel home."

Mr Donnelly said rents were continuing to drop as a result, and that the property market would be different for the long-term.

"To get these leased we have to convince the owners to drop their rents, so it stands out," he said.

"Apartments are leasing out at 25 to 30 per cent less than what they have in the past, probably on average \$100 to 150 a week less."

"I see this as being a long-term thing, even after COVID is finished. If borders open up it would have to be at least 12 months before the market would start to recover," he said.

"By the number of apartments

that are coming on to the market, it's going to take a long time for those to be filled."

At the same time, office space in the city sitting idle due to lockdown and working from home arrangements has led to speculation about the commercial property market's future in suburbs like Docklands, the CBD and Southbank.

NAB announced at the beginning of July that its Docklands offices, at both 700 and 800 Bourke St, would be indefinitely closed.

David Anderson, a property consultant at Nelson Alexander Docklands, said it would be a while before the effects on the commercial market could be properly seen and assessed.

He said this was due to help given to tenants and owner-occupiers through short-term assistance from banks and governments and private arrangements with landlords, as well as the longer leases in the commercial market compared to residential.

"There's been government directives to enable private negotiations between tenants, owner-occupiers, landlords and banks and that information doesn't get reported, so it's hard to measure exactly what is happening," he said.

"We might not be able to see what's going on until well after Christmas, once that initial six month period of government direction is up, and that is going to be a bit like what people were foreseeing about job keeper ending – will the government put in further directives? Will the banks extend loans?"

"If there's a shift to move it all back to normal, pre-pandemic rates, it could hit the industry quite hard."

Mr Anderson said the effect of moving to work-from-home arrangements would also likely be delayed.

"People are saying we don't need this level of office space that we've had in the past, but commercial leases are generally of a longer nature and you can't necessarily change mid-stream," he said.

"Most Docklands leases are on a minimum of three years. It might be 18 months or more before we find out how much people have elected to reduce their office leasing and that's only going to come out when we have a situation where the majority of people could go back to their office." ●

## Extended building hours continue

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
BUILDING

Weekday construction work on job sites can continue for 14 hours-a-day during Melbourne's second coronavirus lockdown, despite growing frustration from affected residents stuck inside.

As Victorians are being asked to stay indoors following a surge in COVID-19 cases, the impact of extended construction hours has taken its toll on those living near building sites.

City of Melbourne councillors confirmed with *Docklands News* they had received a "significant" level of complaints from disaffected locals across the municipality.

Since April 2, the City of Melbourne has allowed construction activity to take place from 6am to 8pm on weekdays as a way to "fast-track projects, save jobs and help limit the economic impact of COVID-19".

The special exemption allows job sites, usually bound by 7am-7pm rules, extra time to offset the time lost to social distancing and other safety measures.

Normal 8am-3pm rules on Saturdays have also been extended by three hours (from 7am to 5pm), giving the industry an additional 13 hours on-site per week.

Procedurally, the move to extend construction hours has caused some disagreement at Town Hall.

The City of Melbourne made the decision "under delegation" earlier this year without going before councillors, a decision both the planning chair and deputy planning chair said was wrong.

"When COVID-19 hit Melbourne there were a lot of decisions that were made very quickly. And with the benefit of hindsight, I think that decision is one which should have gone before a council meeting for proper consideration and endorsement," Cr Nicholas Reece said.

His deputy Cr Rohan Leppert went a step further.

"It's a terrible, terrible policy," he said.

"It should have gone to council. If this is going to be a policy that lasts throughout the pandemic – and the pandemic is not going away for the rest of the year and the rest of 2021 at least – then yes, it should still come back to council. This isn't a sustainable situation."

A council spokesperson maintained that the special permits were considered on a case-by-case basis, and said it was sympathetic to residents' current predicament.

"We understand construction work has an impact on residents, so we have significantly increased proactive inspections to monitor compliance and enforce observed breaches," the spokesperson said.

"Our inspectors are out every morning and night to ensure works do not start before permitted times and are consistent with the conditions of the out-of-hours permits."

Those additional inspections saw the council issue 103 infringement notices to builders between May and July, an average of more than one per day.

Both Cr Leppert and Cr Reece argued that the maximum penalty of \$2000 for breaching the local law was simply not enough of a deterrent.

And at the July 21 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, the pair put forward a motion calling on the state government to increase the fine.

*"It's a terrible, terrible policy. It should have gone to council. If this is going to be a policy that lasts throughout the pandemic – and the pandemic is not going away for the rest of the year and the rest of 2021 at least."*



"For the largest construction projects, it [the \$2000 fine] is simply being built into the cost of doing business," Cr Leppert said.

"This isn't about curtailing construction activity in the City, it's about curtailing illegal construction activity."

Cr Leppert said he was contacted about early morning construction noise "more than any other issue" and argued there was a public health element to the issue while many residents were spending a significant amount of time inside.

"There are 50,000 residential apartments in the CBD, Southbank and Docklands. Every central city resident knows that they live in a high-density area with plenty of construction activity. But we limit construction activity to daylight hours for a reason. The consequences of repetitive early morning breaches of construction hours on community health and wellbeing are significant."

Cr Reece said repeat offenders should be held to account.

"We cannot have a situation where construction companies are openly flouting the rules and include the risk of copping a fine as part of business costs on a project," he said.

"There are still too many issues of permit breaches of permit conditions occurring and we need to increase the fines to such a level that they create enough pain for builders to force them to comply."

The motion passed unanimously at the meeting, and the council will now write to the Andrews Government seeking to amend the relevant law ●

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Your City of Melbourne Community Update

# 10 VIRTUAL SERVICES FOR MELBURNIANS

Get access to business support, wellbeing services, inspiring conversations and more without leaving home thanks to the City of Melbourne’s expanded virtual services.

As COVID-19 restrictions continue, here is some information from the City of Melbourne about just a few of the virtual services on offer.

**1 Books, music, movies and more**

Our digital library materials, including ebooks, audiobooks, music and movies, are extra popular at the moment, and our book clubs, conversation clubs and storytimes (for children and adults) are continuing online. If you need book recommendations, check out our podcasts or eBook Valet service. If you have borrowed books from our libraries, loans will be extended during the closure and no fines will accrue. Find out more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries)

**Melbourne magazine online**

To keep in touch with the latest news from the City of Melbourne, visit [magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au) and subscribe to our newsletter.

**2 Business support**

Our Business Concierge Hotline is here for all businesses affected by COVID-19. Simply phone 9658 9658 and press 1 for business from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday. You can also submit your query online at any time, and subscribe to our business e-newsletter, at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/business](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/business)

**3 Online exercise**

Keep moving while our recreation centres are closed, even if you aren’t a member, by using our free Active Melbourne app and virtual classes, such as yoga and tai chi. We have also

continued to offer outdoor personal training as appropriate. For details, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne)



Online exercise

**4 Creative activities for kids**

We are publishing videos and activities prepared by local artists to help keep kids entertained at home. To dive into some creative adventures, including circus skills and juggling, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/artplay](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/artplay)

**5 Online council meetings**

Council and Future Melbourne Committee meetings have moved online until further notice. The system allows councillors to vote, and members of the public to participate, from their homes. For details, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil)

**6 Telehealth consultations for parents**

We continue to provide maternal and child health services to families via telehealth consultations, with face-to-face consultations for all infants aged up to 8 weeks. Immunisation services are available to all families at community sessions by appointment. New parents groups and parenting information programs are delivered via Zoom. Find out more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/families](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/families)

**7 Community Food Guide**

We have updated our guide to finding healthy and affordable food in and around the City of Melbourne to reflect the current landscape, as many organisations have adjusted their operating models. Find out more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/communityfoodguide](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/communityfoodguide)

**8 Melbourne Conversations**

In the coming months, hear from pros about future tech and how COVID-19 could spark a digital awakening, discuss future preparedness with an Australian Defence Force expert, and cast your mind forwards to a potential ‘leisure society’. Visit Knowledge Melbourne on Facebook for livestream event dates.

**What’s On in Melbourne**

Things are changing quickly in Melbourne as COVID-19 restrictions continue, and businesses and events launch innovative offerings. To keep up-to-date, visit [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au) to subscribe to our weekly What’s On newsletter.



Digital library materials



Telehealth is being using to provide maternal and child health services

**9 Family violence support**

We are providing support for people experiencing family violence during restrictions. If you are experiencing family violence, or if you are concerned for another person’s safety, there is help available. Find out more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/familyviolencesupport](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/familyviolencesupport)

**10 Virtual citizenship ceremonies**

We have been holding online citizenship ceremonies for individuals and family groups. We usually hold six to eight in-person citizenship ceremonies each year, with about 100 new citizens participating in each ceremony.



To find out more about the City of Melbourne’s response to COVID-19, including support for vulnerable people, and temporary closures and adjustments to services and facilities, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)



Find healthy and affordable food using the refreshed Community Food Guide



Online creative activities for kids



Support for businesses



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Your City of Melbourne Community Update

# A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

As we continue to face the biggest public health challenge we've ever experienced, the City of Melbourne is here to reassure you that the health and wellbeing of our community remains at the heart of all our decision-making.

You can still count on us to continue to deliver services such as waste and recycling; support for the elderly, isolated and at risk; children's services; homelessness services and animal management. It's what we're here to do. We won't let you down.

We are committed to supporting all residents and businesses by delivering essential services and helping respond to the challenge of COVID-19.

To all Melbourne businesses: we know you're facing tough challenges. We are right beside you and are advocating on your behalf. We know businesses are the lifeblood of our city.

To help you find support and information, we're continuing our Business Concierge Hotline which has provided advice to thousands of businesses in recent months.

We will recover and together we will build a stronger city. For the latest on City of Melbourne support, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Take care, stay connected, and look out for each other.

**Melbourne City Council**



(From left) Cr Susan Riley, Cr Kevin Louey, Cr Beverley Pinder, Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley MBE, Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Cr Nicholas Reece, Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood AM, Cr Rohan Leppert, Cr Cathy Oke, Cr Philip Le Liu and Cr Jackie Watts.

## HELP FOR BUSINESSES FACING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

The City of Melbourne's Business Concierge Hotline is here for all businesses in the municipality affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

The service has been expanded to cater for 300 calls a day, and it is staffed by a dedicated team of people who speak to small business owners directly and help them navigate the support options available.

This includes the Victorian Government's recently announced


\$534 million boosted relief package for businesses affected by the reinstatement of restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire.

To get support, call the Business Concierge Hotline on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business) from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday. You can also submit your query anytime online, and subscribe to our business newsletter for regular updates, at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/business](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/business)



**Council's vision**  
Find out more about the Council's shared vision for the city, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/councilplan](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/councilplan)

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CITY OF MELBOURNE



# Award-winning dancer takes ballet classes online

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*  
HEALTH

Award-winning ballet dancer and Docklands resident Jane Casson knows better than anyone that the show must go on.

So, when dance studios shut for the second time under lockdown restrictions, she was quick to move her ballet classes at City Adult Ballet onto Zoom where she could continue to share her love of dance with her students.

“I conduct the classes via Zoom where I’m able to see everyone really clearly. So, I can still offer live corrections like I would in a studio environment. And the dancers love it because they feel like they’re essentially getting a one-on-one class where I’m able to correct them personally,” Jane said.

“They really feel like they’re being held accountable in their training and being pushed and motivated in this digital era.”

Aside from the personalised training, the online environment also allows people to be more flexible with their schedules. And the feedback has been so positive that Jane intends to continue the online classes even after lockdown ends.

“Being live and online has enabled guest teachers to join us from around Australia and we have had dancers in class from interstate and overseas. It has been a wonderful experience to connect with everyone despite being thousands of kilometres apart and in different times zones,” Jane said.

“The no travel time and no traffic driving to a studio are also big wins for everyone.”

Before opening City Adult Ballet, Jane was a professional dancer with The Australian Ballet and the Royal New Zealand Ballet, spending 15 years of her career traveling the world and dancing up to 200 performances each year.

Some of the highlights of her career include performing in front of the Queen and touring with The Wiggles for six weeks in 2019.

“I essentially came out of retirement for The Wiggles and it was absolutely worth it. It was such a delight to perform with them—they’re the most beautiful people and they give so much of their energy and love of music to the crowd,” Jane said.



▲ Jane Casson in full flight.

“It was like being a rockstar performing to these sold out crowds of children. It’s was a magical atmosphere and the experience of a lifetime.”

Although Jane still loves professional dance, after years of demanding performance work she decided to open up City Adult Ballet in 2015 to fulfil her dream of starting her own business.

“After having my family, I had a beautiful transition going from a performer to a teacher and sharing everything I’ve learnt in my career. I’m a big people person too so I love getting to interact with people I’m teaching and form real connections with them,” Jane said.

In Jane’s view, dance can be especially important during lockdown because it provides a sense of community and accomplishment while people are cooped up at home.

“Everyone gets to take an hour for themselves, which is so important during this time that we’re going through,” she said.

“You get to feel a sense of community with other dancers, listen to the music, and learn a beautiful art form at the same time—so people are really grateful to have this outlet.” ●

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



▲ PhD student Damian Rogers is seeking the help of Docklanders to help with his research into urban waterways.

## Researching underutilised waterways

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*  
WATERWAYS

Swinburne University PhD student Damian Rogers is seeking input from Docklanders as part of his research into activating urban waterways to enhance public space.

While his research isn’t specifically focused on Docklands, he said the area’s transformation from post-industrial waterways to the renewed urban precinct it was today was a central component of his study.

He said he was interested in the insights of Docklanders living and/or working in a waterfront precinct.

“The redevelopment of post-industrial waterways has brought the city to the water’s edge, but the process has neither created a sense of place nor added to the social capital of the city,” he said.

“The expansive underutilised waterways provide new opportunities for activation to integrate them into the context of the city and

provide that sensory experience that builds sense of place.”

“This research project will investigate activating post-industrial waterways to reposition urban waterways as public spaces through the activation of the water body to enable a public experience of the water and build a sense of place.”

Mr Rogers is seeking a small group of willing Docklanders to contribute to his research by completing anonymous 20-minute survey, which includes still images and videos that pose questions in response to viewing them.

He said the data gathered in his project may be used in academic publications (journals, conferences, industry journals and/or books) and no identifying information would be included in the publications●

To take the survey email:  
[damianrogers@swin.edu.au](mailto:damianrogers@swin.edu.au)

# Health provided to workers at home

WORDS BY *Marco Holden Jeffery*  
HEALTH

For anyone working from home, staying active and healthy - both physically and mentally - can be difficult.

So when Push!Fitness managing director Andrew Ward was approached by shipping and logistics company ANL CMA CMG Group in March to run a three-month online fitness programs for its employees, he knew how valued exercise would be for those working remotely.

“Fitness is part of their lifestyle and how they manage stress and their physical and mental wellbeing, so we had to move really quickly to transition them from face-to-face fitness to online,” he said.

The Healthy@Home program ran throughout the first statewide lockdown, offering the company’s employees five classes per day, seven days a week, including everything from yoga and pilates to HIIT and functional fitness sessions.

It wasn’t just fitness either - the program also offered advice on how to manage things like stress and nutrition while at home and keeping good posture when sitting at your desk.

It was also important that employees weren’t feeling alone and kept engaging with the other people in their workplace.

“Productivity is a real concern for companies when people start working from home because they miss the teamwork and the engagement you get in the office,” Andrew said.

When setting up the program, it became obvious that it was key for employees to keep a sense of their pre-pandemic routine - what time they got up, when they had their coffee, and



▲ Andrew Ward conducts an online class.

when they did their exercise.

“If someone’s regular working routine was to go to the gym before work, or if it was to go to a class on their lunch break, we made sure that we maintained that,” Andrew said.

The program was a roaring success, with 150 people from the company across Australia and New Zealand signed up after the first week, and a month in Push!Fitness began offering a similar online program to the general public.

“Our classes weren’t pitched at elite athletes - we made sure they were all achievable for first time exercisers,” Andrew said.

And by ensuring the classes were accessible,

the gym managed to capture a whole new cohort - although some participants were regulars at the gym, about 70 per cent were entirely new faces.

Feedback and reactions from participants had been positive, with some employees getting their whole family involved in the workouts and others just grateful for the routine it provided.

“In the lockdown period if you’re with your partner or your family there’s a bit more sanity, but for some people who live alone these sorts of programs mean a lot to them,” Andrew said.

Like many things in the post-pandemic world, Andrew found delivering fitness online was uncharted territory and there weren’t any “off-the-shelf digital solutions” yet established when ANL CMA CMG Group approached him in March.

The team at Push!Fitness had transitioned well to the online space, but for trainers used to face-to-face motivation and offering corrections when teaching a class there had been challenges.

“If you work in fitness, you love to move, you love to be around people - you’re a certain kind of character,” Andrew said.

With gyms shut once again and a second lockdown now in place, Push!Fitness will continue the Healthy@Home program and their adjacent Push!Fitness Online offerings to the general public - something Andrew believed would outlast the pandemic

“Even when we opened last time, we had committed to run our online program to the end of the year,” he said.

“The response has been great, we’ve had people from as far as Hong Kong sign up for classes, so I think we’ll always have online content and services as part of our product.” ●



# Should government convert empty Airbnbs into affordable housing?

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*  
HOUSING

As COVID-19 continues to restrict international and interstate travel, the once-bustling central city has turned into a ghost town.

Thousands of short-stay apartments which would usually be full with tourists and visitors have been left vacant, leaving a question mark over what to do with these now indefinitely empty apartments.

In Lisbon, Portugal the government has sought to solve this problem by offering an incentive to landlords to convert their short-stay rentals into affordable long-term housing for locals. It's a scheme which could potentially be adopted in Melbourne where the issue of affordable housing is more pressing than ever.

Under the program, Lisbon landlords rent their apartment to the city for a minimum of five years, while the city takes on the burden of finding tenants through an affordable housing program targeted at young people and lower income families.

Rents are also capped at 30 per cent of the tenant's net income, as the city subsidises the difference between the tenant's payment and market rent.

Director of Housing All Australians (HAA) Rob Pradolin said that the Lisbon scheme had "a lot of merit" and that HAA was currently in talks with a major real estate firm interested in a similar deal.

"We haven't approached the City of Melbourne or state government yet, but it's very obvious to us that if the state or the city guaranteed the lease there's a lot of people who would take that guaranteed income rather than leave the apartment empty," Mr Pradolin said.

"There would be requirements in terms of occupants providing information about their income to make sure they qualify, but it's a smart way of using existing buildings that are sitting there empty."

Aside from Airbnbs, Mr Pradolin said that the scheme could also work for landlords seeking to fill their empty long-term rental apartments to help solve the housing affordability crisis facing the city.

This is a particularly pressing issue as the city's vacancy rate is currently sitting at around eight per cent, while Southbank's recently hit 16 per cent due to the unemployment and lack of tourism caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

"We've got an oversupply of apartments in the city and all these owners with empty apartments saying 'what are we going to do with them?'" Mr Pradolin said.

"So, assuming the state government is for the idea, they could guarantee a rental for these apartments and forego the vacant residential land tax for foreign investors as well."

Dr Tamlin Gorter, senior manager of strategic initiatives at Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, said vacant private rentals could be converted into affordable housing.

"The conversion and use of vacant private rentals into affordable housing rentals could offer opportunities to increase affordable rental stock. It is important that these properties are of a suitable quality," Dr Gorter said.

"Programs whereby government or community organisations lease homes from the private sector for affordable rental, and manage those tenancies, have proved successful, especially when they are accompanied by tenancy support programs."

For local residents, the lack of regulation around short-stay rentals has been an ongoing issue for years and locals are looking for other solutions.

We Live Here representative and Docklands resident Barbara Francis said that until COVID-19 hit, residents had been "powerless" to stop commercial short-stay operators from damaging buildings and driving out potential renters.

"COVID-19 has turned Airbnb back to what they were intended to be, a vehicle for mums and dads to make a little bit of money which is what it should be instead of a commercial operation," she said.

Ms Francis said that while she and other residents would be open to a Lisbon-style solution, Melbourne had a long way to go with Airbnb regulation first.

"Lisbon made it difficult for Airbnb right from the outset with a registration process they had to go through, which is what we've always wanted but have never had," she said.

Dr Stan Capp, president of CBD residents group EastEnders, also said that locals were tired of commercial short-stay operators and were open to alternative solutions.

"The stories that we've heard from We Live Here are just horrific and the whole issue hasn't been addressed well by state government since it was brought up over five years ago," Dr Capp said.

"During COVID-19 Airbnb has been restricted and as a result many people have moved out of the short-stay business. For us this has been a good thing."

Mr Capp said that with proper planning, the Lisbon scheme could be a long-term solution for the city which should be explored.

"The big downside of the way we've developed apartment towers in Melbourne is we've not really been inclusive of social housing and there's a huge demand that needs to be aggressively met," Mr Capp said.

"This is not just for affordable housing but also for homelessness. In principle, the ability to make integrated social housing initiatives is one that I would support, however it needs to

be carefully managed and have infrastructure suited to the task."

Currently social housing makes up only about 3.2 per cent of all housing in Victoria, well below the national average of 4.5 per cent.

And with thousands of apartments sitting empty while over 80,000 people wait for social housing in Victoria, there's a clear opportunity for the state government to lend a hand to essential workers and vulnerable Victorians during this crisis.

At the time of writing, not the council nor the state government were considering any such solutions to use the plethora of empty Airbnb's to combat the affordable housing crisis which has been exacerbated by COVID-19.

A spokesperson for Treasurer Tim Pallas said that there was already a number of schemes in place to address the issue of housing affordability, including the Homes for Victorians package, the HomesVic shared equity scheme and the Social Housing Growth Fund.

"There are all sorts of innovative ideas that we're only too happy to have a good look at. Right now, our focus is on fighting the coronavirus crisis and ensuring Victorians are safe and supported," the spokesperson said.

However, Mr Pradolin remains adamant the state government needs to work with the private sector now to make affordable housing an economically viable long-term solution.

"We need to get things done to scale and we need to do it now with the smarts from the private sector because we've got people struggling to make ends meet during this crisis," he said.

"Housing and the lack of housing is an economic issue and we will never solve homelessness unless we solve the upstream supply of non-market housing."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said while the City of Melbourne continued to work with partners on long term accommodation options for our homeless community, it was also taking measures in response to COVID-19.

These measures included the roll-out of pop-up testing clinics, connecting Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness with culturally appropriate care and accommodation and establishing a network with Launch Housing and the Salvation Army.

"We commend the State Government's decisive action to accommodate up to 1000 vulnerable people in temporary accommodation across Melbourne," the Lord Mayor said.

"Having almost everyone accommodated has provided a once-in-a-generation opportunity to re-envision our approach to homelessness."

"We will continue to build on this momentum to secure a long-term approach in Melbourne"

The Victorian Government's initial crisis response is in place until the end of July. In light of the re-introduction of stage three restrictions, we strongly support the continuation of

temporary accommodation beyond July to ensure that those who sleep rough on our streets are cared for during this pandemic."

"We continue to pursue the opportunity to refurbish buildings across inner metro municipalities to help create supported accommodation and wrap around services."

On July 28, the state government announced a \$150 million "From Homelessness to a Home" package.

Minister for Housing Richard Wynne said the funding would also see the government extend current hotel accommodation until at least April next year while the 2000 Victorians were supported to access stable, long term housing.

"We will arrange to lease 1100 properties from the private rental market, providing a permanent home for people once they leave emergency accommodation, Minister Wynne said.

"This investment will give Victorians a roof over their head in the short-term, while also providing long-term support to help them find their home – and the security, stability and sense of belonging that goes with it."

The first of the government's promised 1000 new social housing units are coming online now and will also support people to transition out of homelessness and into a home.

Each client will have access to flexible support packages while in crisis hotel accommodation – including mental health, drug and alcohol and family violence support for those who need it. This same support will be available to help sustain a tenancy once they move to other long-term housing.

The state government's Private Rental Assistance Program will also gain extra funding to encourage more people leaving emergency hotel accommodation to set up their own private tenancy, helping with the bond and initial rent. Funding will also be allocated to homelessness agencies.

Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) CEO Jenny Smith said that while the package would make an "enormous" difference, more investment in social housing was still urgently required.

"To keep people housed permanently, after funding for rental leases expires, we also need the government to invest in new social housing," she said. "Subsidised leases are a great medium-term housing option, but we don't want to see people get a home now, only to lose it when the subsidy runs out and they return to a private rental housing market they can't afford."

"Victoria needs at least 6000 properties a year for 10 years to meet need for social housing, and to get Victoria's level of social housing up to the national average. Social housing is perfect economic stimulus in this time of economic downturn and the federal government also has a vital role to play." ●

## Connect with your local community

**The Docklands Community Hub** is a free online space to connect with fellow Docklands locals, stay in the know, post requests for help, share skills and local knowledge, ask for recommendations, discover local services, classes, retailers, events and more!

This Facebook group is owned by **Docklands News**.

If you're a local resident or business you can join up here:

[www.facebook.com/groups/docklandscommunityhub/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/docklandscommunityhub/)

**f DOCKLANDS**  
CommunityHub



# Freckelton report released

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The findings of a report commissioned by the City of Melbourne investigating claims of sexual misconduct by former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle were made public on July 6 after Victoria Police dropped its investigation last month.

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

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

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

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

And on July 6, a supplementary report of the independent investigation was released by Mr Hanney at the consent of Ms Williams.

The report concluded that, based on the *Briginshaw* standard (considering the seriousness of the findings and their potential consequences), Mr Doyle behaved in a sexually inappropriate way towards Ms Williams at a Melbourne Health event on June 25, 2016.

The report found Mr Doyle, who attended the event as Lord Mayor and Melbourne Health chairman, behaved in a "sleazy" and "sexually

*“There was no justification whatsoever for Mr Doyle’s behaviour — it was completely inappropriate and there was no contextual legitimacy for it.”*



inappropriate way” towards Ms Williams, who was attending the event with her then-fiancé Dr Mark Walterfang, who was seated on the other side of her.

Mr Doyle was accused of repeatedly placing his hand on the inside of the leg of Ms Williams, who was seated next to him. He was also accused of speaking to her in a “sleazy and inappropriate way” and placing his hand on her lower back near her buttocks after drinking “substantial amounts of red wine”.

In his report, Ian Freckelton, QC, found the allegations raised by Ms Williams and Dr Walterfang to be “compellingly credible”.

“I have reached the firm conclusion that their accounts are compellingly credible,” Dr Freckelton wrote. “There was no justification



▲ Former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle in 2016.

whatsoever for Mr Doyle's behaviour — it was completely inappropriate and there was no contextual legitimacy for it.”

“It was opportunistic and occurred in circumstances of significant power imbalance between Mr Doyle and Ms Williams.”

“Mr Doyle's conduct was foreseeably highly distressing and was fundamentally inconsistent with the dignity of the office of Lord Mayor and the reasonable expectations of the public as to how a Lord Mayor should behave.”

Dr Freckelton noted in the report that between January and August 2018, Mr Doyle was invited on numerous occasions to attend an interview, speak to investigators on the phone and provide evidence and submissions through his solicitor.

“In the period of 14 months commencing January 17, 2018 Mr Doyle did not avail himself of any of the options offered to him to participate in the investigation,” Dr Freckelton wrote.

“Instead he asserted through his solicitors that the allegations raised by Ms Williams did not fall within the terms of reference for the investigation and that he has not been well enough to respond to what has been alleged against him.”

“He has had ample and fair opportunity to provide accounts of events. Put another way, he has been extended full natural justice and procedural fairness.”

Robert Doyle didn't respond to *Docklands News* for comment.

City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney said the issues that confronted the council in 2017 and 2018 were “very serious” and it had since taken significant steps to improve its workplace.

“We acknowledge the great courage shown by the women – including Ms Williams – who called out the behaviour of Mr Doyle and came forward,” he said.

“Our organisation and those who represent it must ensure that the working environment is safe, equitable and free from sexual harassment.”

Since the events, he noted that the council had taken significant steps to improve our workplace policies and processes, including:

- A new code of conduct for councillors
- A suite of new policies and protocols to report sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior, and in relation to the consumption of alcohol
- The introduction of an Independent Adviser to support councillors in reporting complaints of inappropriate conduct
- Councillor training and education on new policies and ways to report misconduct
- Successfully advocating for changes to the *Local Government Act 2020*.

“We commit to our staff and community that we will continue to hold ourselves accountable and uphold a culture that does not tolerate misconduct and supports the calling out of unacceptable behaviour of all types,” Mr Hanney said ●

# MAGNET goes online

WORDS BY *Marco Holden Jeffery*  
ARTS & CULTURE

On the eve of the opening night of MAGNET Galleries' latest photography exhibition, the Victorian government announced it was reintroducing stage 3 lockdown restrictions.

It wasn't the first time the gallery's hopes had been cruelly dashed by the pandemic - co-director Susanne Silver said although they were able to host the opening night of their last exhibition in March, only 12 people showed up as many were already making the decision to stay home.

But this time, MAGNET was prepared and was able to transfer the show - an exhibition of finalists from this year's Mullins Australian Conceptual Photography Prize - to an online, virtual gallery.

“This is the first virtual gallery we've done, so there's been a bit of a learning curve and time spent working out the nuts and bolts of how to use the program,” Susanne said.

The virtual exhibition, available free on MAGNET's website, would allow viewers to tour a digital gallery space, with all the works arranged and framed as originally intended.

The exhibition, which runs online until August 1, showcases the year's best Australian conceptual photography, with an awards night live-streamed from MAGNET on July 9.

MAGNET Galleries was founded six years ago, evolving from a commercial gallery run by Susanne and her partner Michael into a not-for-profit dedicated to building a community around photography in Australia.

“The mission is to provide an opportunity for photographers to show their work and for members of the public to have the opportunity to see good photography in all its various facets,” Susanne said.

As well as curating and showcasing exhibi-



▲ Susanne Silver displays recent works in the MAGNET window front.

tions, before the pandemic MAGNET would also host seminars and competitions, and offered scanning and printing services to the public.

A specialty of the gallery, in fact, was the restoration and digitisation of older, archival films and plates - part of Susanne and Michael's passion for what photographic archives could tell us about history.

“We want to develop an understanding

“It's the way forward for us.”



among people of photography as not just an art form, but a form of communication and a form of historical record,” Susanne said.

The shift online would allow their community of creators and photography lovers to keep engaging with the gallery throughout the lockdown - but Susanne anticipated virtual galleries would be a permanent part of MAGNET's future.

“It's the way forward for us - even when we get to a stage where we can open the gallery doors, I can't see us not using the virtual gallery as an adjunct to what we do,” she said.

“From here on, people are going to looking for entertainment and information in that virtual world.”

Susanne believed building a community, both digital and physical, that could outlast the lockdown was paramount to the gallery's long-term success.

And that meant engaging with the community in the real world - Susanne and Michael had been curating a weekly window display of featured works “so the six people who walk by during the week have something to look at”.

With more virtual exhibitions expected in the coming weeks, Susanne said MAGNET was ready for whatever challenge the pandemic might throw at it next.

“We're always full of ideas - and as a matter of fact having this time in lockdown actually gives us more space to develop our ideas,” she said.

“That's always been our modus operandi: we'll think of something and we'll give it a shot.” ●

For more information:  
[magnet.org.au](http://magnet.org.au)



# Councillors call to review the *City of Melbourne Act 2001*

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Cr Jackie Watts has led a unanimous push by City of Melbourne councillors calling on new Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane to undertake a review of the *City of Melbourne Act 2001*.

Mr Leane was appointed to the vacated portfolio in June following the sacking of previous minister Adem Somyurek following branch stacking allegations aired on 6o *Minutes*. The scandal followed the passing of a new *Local Government Act 2020*, however, not all of the reforms applied to the City of Melbourne, which has its own Act that Cr Watts noted had not been reviewed since its introduction.

Her motion, which went before councillors at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on July 21, called on the state government to commit to a review of the Act ahead of the 2024 elections, which also reconsidered representation of First Nations people.

“This is an opportunistic motion, we have a new Minister for Local Government and I’m seeking the support of my colleagues to draw to his attention that the review of the City of Melbourne Act is long overdue,” Cr Watts said.

“Nothing has been done to address the gerrymander that exists in our local government for this municipality. This matter is very dear to my heart. I have been campaigning for electoral reform in this city for a very long time.”

Cr Watts’s final motion unanimously supported by councillors also called for the implementation of a number of interim measures in time for the forthcoming council elections in October, including:

- The disclosure of any donation and/or in-kind gift within three business days of receipt;
- Capping donations at not more than \$4000 from any one person or organisation within any 12-month period; and
- Prohibit taking donations from persons who personally own or hold controlling interests in companies that actively engage in the property or gambling industries.

The original motion from Cr Watts had also included a restriction of donations to candidates to be from persons on the Victorian electoral roll, but was removed due to opposition from some councillors.

As local governments also brace for an election during COVID-19, the motion called for council officers to investigate options for the City of Melbourne or other entities to establish platforms for democratic debate that adhered to social distancing.

Cr Nicholas Reece said that other levels of government, both here in Australia and abroad, such as South Korea and Singapore, had successfully demonstrated democratic participation during both debates and elections on virtual platforms.

“In Singapore thousands turned out – wouldn’t that be wonderful to see here,” Cr Reece said.

“The idea is that we’re inviting the City of Melbourne officers to put forward, through the council, ideas for potentially digital or other platforms that can be utilised to encourage democratic debate.”

Cr Leppert welcomed the calls for a review, stating that the age of state governments “stonewalling” the issue was over.

“We are lagging behind other states. It’s absurd how much our system can be influenced by donations from certain sources,” Cr Leppert said.

“

*We are lagging behind other states. It’s absurd how much our system can be influenced by donations.*

”

“The current makeup of the City of Melbourne [electoral] roll, which, excuse my gratuitous aside, enfranchises wealth to an extraordinary degree, results in the most male electoral roll in the country, is 61 per cent non-residential and gives every non-residential entitlement two votes to every residents’ one.”

“Even if you think that’s fine, hot tip, I don’t, there are still things you need to review to ensure the system is working adequately and when you consider that MICM alone gets 1700 ballot papers sent to their head office and it is taken on trust that someone working that office will forward those ballot papers on to 1700 eligible voters in order to fill in those ballot papers and return them, that system could do with some improvement.”

“I’m not alleging that fraud has taken place, I’m suggesting that the system is prone to fraud.”

Under the current system, a resident of the City of Melbourne is granted one vote in local government elections, while businesses are entitled to two votes.

Councillors lamented the fact that a business, which might rent as little as a desk within the municipality, were entitled to greater participation, as well as the opportunity to run in elections, than local residents.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said that he hoped that the issue would be addressed in the review.

“As a ratepayer, as someone who lives in the municipality and has a business in the municipality I must say I would very much support the day when a desk doesn’t qualify you to be elected in the City of Melbourne,” he said.

“I think to have some sort of ownership and some sort of relationship to the city in which you’re making decisions for on behalf of so many people I think is a very important thing and I think if that gets picked up as part of this review then all power to you Cr Watts.”

That issue also exposed what Cr Nicholas Frances Gilley described as the City of Melbourne Act’s lack of meaningful acknowledgement of traditional land ownership, which too was addressed as part of Cr Watt’s motion.

“I think what is interesting is that we haven’t included traditional owners with the opportunity to have that vote and yet, we do recognise them as traditional land owners, but we give two votes to people who are absolutely not residents,” he said.

“I think both ministers for Aboriginal Affairs and Local Government have an opportunity to answer the point of debate around ‘Black Lives Matter,’” he said.

“We know that residents matter because they get a vote, we know people who own property who may have never even been to Melbourne can vote, we know businesses – even with one desk – can vote, but yet, traditional owners who have been custodians of this land for 60,000 years haven’t had that vote.”

The matter was followed up at the July 28 council meeting, where Cr Watts moved a recommendation for Lord Mayor Sally Capp to formally write to Minister Leane to commit to the review ●

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Here’s an idea ...

I read with interest your article in the July issue titled “Too much rubbish”.

I also appreciate that the council is under-resourced in this area, and that Docklands is not a high priority area for rubbish collection.

But there is a much cheaper solution to stopping the rubbish in the water that collects around the old piles and on the rocks adjacent to the NAB building on Harbour Esplanade.

Now that Central Pier is being demolished (albeit on the sly) there is a yellow floating spill boom (or extruded sausage) that presently surrounds the Pier to stop debris, that will no longer be needed.

Why not move it to the outer line of old piles where this rubbish collects (as your photo shows)?

The yellow boom will stop the rubbish where it can be collected easily by the existing rubbish boat that already floats around this waterway, as opposed to the rubbish being laboriously picked up by hand as it is now, not very successfully, or often enough.

I would be happy to assist the council by being the site manager for this minor project at no cost.

Keep up the good work.  
*Daryl Mead*

### Where’s the family fun?

Dear *Docklands News*,  
My partner and I moved into Docklands from North Melbourne last year with our four kids, and live in a high-rise on Docklands Drive.

There are many things that we love about life in Docklands - mainly from a practical point of view, and from the availability of excellent transport and amenities (mind you, a tennis court would be a welcome addition!).

What we really struggle with here in Docklands is the lack of community-oriented activities for families, as well as ways to connect with those around us.

We go on daily walks along NewQuay Promenade and never stopped feeling amazed at what a waste of potential it is. Both my partner and I are originally from overseas, and are both well-travelled, and can’t help but feel that the area really fails to deliver on its potential when relative to comparable districts abroad. In particular, we really struggle understanding (coronavirus restrictions notwithstanding), how come there are no more activities and attractions for children and families in the area - we are not short of ideas, from street performers, through to street children-theatre, to pop up musical outfits on the weekends - the area truly could use some life injected into it! Young children have absolutely no attractions for them on the promenades - no playgrounds or sand pits, not squares where families might want to sit around and interact ...

Related to that is the feeling that many of the residential buildings in the area have management policies that make the prospect of contact between residents/neighbours appear really poor. More often than not, concerns around privacy and the need to maintain a quiet living environment prevail over initiatives that aim to bring people together, to get to know one another, and to build a sense of community.

We have now been in Docklands for over a year, and have just signed

a lease to move into the Banksia building for another year - however, I must say that unless the local council prioritises initiatives to make the area feel more community-oriented (and not simply concerned with attracting outside tourists), we are very unlikely to remain long-term residents of the area. My partner Marlene and I would love to know if there is a way for us to become involved in advancing relevant community-related initiatives.

Kind regards, and thank you for reading.  
*Alex*

### COVID-19 support for high rise communities

Dear Editor,  
I wrote a submission of support for the motion by Sally Capp, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, to increase targeted health promotion information for residents living in high-rise apartments.

Health promotion is not about re-interpreting health advice or information, it’s about ensuring that everyone in our community is able to understand that advice and apply it in the same way.

It’s about safeguarding the whole community, not just those who for whatever reason are better placed to hear, understand and apply the advice in its original form.

This is achieved by engaging and connecting people in our buildings with whom we share doors, lifts, carparks, walls and rubbish bins.

I think that Sally Capp called for the council to better support those of us in owners’ corporations (OCs) seeking to understand the ability of each resident to comprehend health advice and work together to overcome barriers, such as language, education or social connection. Otherwise known in health promotion as the social determinants of health.

It’s rubbish to suggest - as Aaron Wood and Beverley Pinder have - that this will somehow expose OCs to additional legal or health risks, or confuse residents. It’s about how rules are applied locally and in the unique circumstance of our physical environment in a fair and understandable way for those who live here.

In practice, health promotion can increase personal responsibility and engage otherwise apathetic or isolated individuals to be active contributors to help solve community problems, such as the spread of COVID-19.

Helping communities communicate better during stressful times makes sure that everyone understands what is required of them to keep disease and infection away from where we are most vulnerable: here, where we live, in high-rise apartment buildings.

I certainly appreciate what the Lord Mayor is trying to do here and support her wholeheartedly.

Best regards,  
*Daniel Brace*

## Lendlease opens homelessness and housing grants

HOUSING

Coinciding with Homelessness Week in August, Docklands developer Lendlease will put the call out to not-for-profits providing solutions to housing stress and homelessness to apply for a grant via its shared value initiative FutureSteps.

Through a combination of grants up to \$200,000, the program seeks to empower vulnerable people by partnering with established not-for-profit organisations to boost the availability of quality accommodation and support services in the community, and by investing in targeted skilling, training and jobs programs.

The grants will be open to organisations who are committed to directly increasing the supply of accommodation for individuals or families experiencing homelessness or housing stress in Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

Since its establishment in December 2018, FutureSteps has already provided over \$300,000 in grants to not-for-profits in NSW and Victoria.

“With the values of sustainability and collaboration at its core, FutureSteps will foster long-term relationships with grant recipients, providing the resources and skills needed to build an organisation’s capacity for a lasting impact,” Lendlease CEO of property Australia and FutureSteps advisory committee chair Kylie Rampa said.

The FutureSteps grant program will be open for applications between August 3 and 28 ●

**For more information:**  
[futuresteps.com.au/grants](https://futuresteps.com.au/grants)



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



DOCKLANDER



# Lormier St towers get full makeover from Docklands’ “Foyer Queen”

*As a self-professed “foyer queen” with a keen eye for boutique design, Mandi Chambers was the best person for the job of refurbishing the Lorimer St towers.*

WORDS BY Katie Johnson

Having already completed the rooftop and foyer of Tower 2, this year Mandi was approached by management to refurbish the foyer of Tower 4, which she gutted and re-did to a higher standard.

“Beforehand it looked like a corporate tower with a black leather couch, a coffee table and nothing else. It didn’t suit a waterfront property,” Mandi said.

“My style is boutique hotel and I wanted to make it look luxurious, unique and 5-star.”

As a seasoned commercial interior designer who began her career in fashion, Mandi said that every project she completes is unique as she custom designs all of the elements.

“Design is my passion and it’s a combination of everything I know,” Mandi said.

“For my projects I’m on-site every day and I custom design everything from the furniture, coffee tables, carpet to panelling so it’s all unique and nothing is repeated.”

As a resident of Tower 2, Mandi has also completed multiple projects in the building, including Tower 2’s rooftop terrace.

“It’s got barbecues and a Zen area. It’s a really beautiful, big space that people can go up and sun bake or spend time with their families, so it really completes the tower,” Mandi said.

Mandi’s earliest project in Tower 2 was re-doing the two main foyers four years ago,

which won her the Polytec Design Award for commercial work.

“When I first moved in it was the standard couch with two armchairs, and some ugly artwork which looked like someone vomited. So, it needed a lot of work,” Mandi said.

“I work with an amazing builder, Coco Fitouts, who has been great because I’m very fussy about the work I do, and I want to complete my vision to the highest standard.”

Since the recent transformations took place, residents like Karen Williams have been delighted by the creative, modern spaces they now get to enjoy.

“Mandi’s clever design maximised our budget to create a luxurious, inviting space, filled with warmth and light,” Karen said.

“Her end-to-end approach including custom made furniture and carpets have thrilled the residents, who cannot believe the transformation in four short weeks.”

Aside from the Lorimer Towers, Mandi has completed many other projects in Docklands and the CBD including restaurants in Marvel Stadium, 19 Genesis Care offices and Deakin University.

And as a Docklands resident of 12 years, Mandi is all too happy to add value to the spaces which she has come to love.

“The tower is a boutique, waterfront location so it needed designs that match that. As soon as I enter a space, I start thinking about how to improve the design and the function,” Mandi said.

“I’m known for the wow factor because I’ll never do something boring.” ●

**Contact Mandi: [mandi.com.au](http://mandi.com.au) and see more of her work on Instagram at [@mandichambers](https://www.instagram.com/mandichambers)**

HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS

# Housing All Australians – a new paradigm

*Welcome to the first of our 12-part series which will attempt to explore the role that housing can and should play within Australian society and why it is important to our economy that we house all Australians, rich or poor.*

This series intends to draw on a range of perspectives centred around housing and homelessness. We will hear a range of views from business, the not-for-profit sector and hopefully government, as to why they believe housing is an important social and economic building block for Australia’s future prosperity.

Let me start by saying I do not believe that housing is a human right. That is a decision for an entire society to make. And if half the population agrees with that view, there is the other half that doesn’t. This causes dissent and arguments and no conclusion. To get action, we need to achieve a consensus. And to get consensus, we need to ask the right question.

However, while housing may not be a human right, no one can deny that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need. And without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that span generations.

Based on learnings over my career, I have come to a clear and unambiguous view that we are leaving a future society with a significant economic and social burden as a consequence of not investing in sufficient public, social and affordable housing. These consequences manifest themselves through the development of mental and physical health issues, family violence, policing, justice and then long-term welfare dependency. We need to invest in initiatives that prevent future social and economic consequences.

There is no silver bullet in solving this housing challenge. That is why, as the convenor of this column series, I am always open to hearing other people’s perspectives as I believe we should always be open to new thoughts and ideas while having ours respectfully challenged. And in doing so, we need to be open to having our collective views evolve. No one has all the answers. And when we live in such a diverse society that is rich in opinions, consensus will always involve a degree of compromise.

I will also be approaching this topic with a commercial lens. Having been a residential property developer for my entire career, I have a reasonable understanding of what drives the market to deliver appropriate housing typologies. The shortfall in public, social and affordable housing is so significant that unless the market is involved with the solution, we will not achieve the scale needed to service the entire population and prevent the long-term consequences mentioned above. But there needs to be compromises. The housing needs to be funded.

The coronavirus pandemic has made us all realise that we are equal and all vulnerable to this invisible enemy that has declared war on humanity. The virus does not discriminate. Whether you are black or white, rich or poor, if you are exposed, you get infected.

To their credit, all our governments have reacted quickly and even the homeless that were inhabiting our streets were housed. The

business community also responded with Quest Apartment Hotels, through the Salvation Army, offering access to their serviced apartments at 140 locations, nationally, at cost. No profit. The Master Builders and the Unions issued a joint press release encouraging the creation of jobs through the construction of more social housing. This is a time where ideological differences need to be put aside so we can all work through this crisis together.

On the topic of homelessness, we have all heard that governments around the country are saying that we should not return to seeing homeless people on our streets. That sounds sensible but that means we need to build more housing and that does not happen overnight. So, what is the plan?

As a society we have to face the facts – there is a current chronic failure that results in people being out in the cold, being vulnerable and isolated. The reality is, when an individual faces challenges in their life that tests their purpose of being.

Without a safe place to gather your thoughts and without people around you that care about your wellbeing, those dreams and possibilities have nowhere to go. You become lonely and isolated. Without a stable and safe place to call home, how can an individual form a productive life? How can they work, study or raise a family properly? To continually fund the services needed becomes a very expensive burden for society as a whole. People need to be housed.

Whether they are rich or poor.

So, we hope the series will result in different perspectives being presented and potential new solutions emerging. Nothing significant has been done for decades and doing nothing now is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts.

## About Housing All Australians

A private sector for purpose organisation that believes it is in Australia’s long-term economic interest to provide housing for all its people; rich or poor. It was established to facilitate a private sector voice and to reposition the discussion with an economic lens. It advocates that the provision of housing for all Australians is economic infrastructure, just as the provision of roads, schools and hospitals.

Any proceeds generated through this column series will be made as a donation to Housing All Australians to help end the fight against homelessness ●



**Rob Pradolin**  
FORMER GENERAL MANAGER AT FRASERS PROPERTY AUSTRALIA AND FOUNDER OF HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS (HAA)  
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# Explore public art in Batman’s Hill

*Hello again from Batman’s Hill. It seems every time I put fingers to keyboard, we are at the height of lockdown.*

For that reason, I thought yet again I’d give you something to do when you are out exercising. This time I will tell you about the public art you should be checking out in Batman’s Hill. There’s lots of it, so much in fact that I won’t be able to cover it all here, but I’ll provide a taste.

Before I start, you may not be aware that there is an app available on Google Play and the App Store which provides guided art and historical tours around Docklands. It’s called Docklands Walking Tours and, while not perfect, is still definitely worthwhile. Check it out.

I’ll start outside the World Trade Centre on the Siddley St roundabout opposite the newly opened Melbourne Quarter residential tower. There is a sculpture of what looks like an emaciated, distorted, panicked horse in the middle of the roundabout. I know nothing about it but feel it’s got a bit of a 1960s vibe. It’s a great piece but if you’re feeling happy, maybe give this one a miss!

From there, walking up Siddley St, away from the city there is a tiny laneway called Wharf Lane on the left where you will see a big strange kind of fish on a stick. Further down the laneway there are three more fish on sticks. If you don’t recognise them, these were some of the fish that floated down the Yarra during the opening ceremony of the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. They were only ever designed to be temporary sculptures so they are looking a little worse for wear in parts but are still clever and interesting pieces of art.

After your fishy experience, keep walking away from the city to the end of Siddley St then cross Wurundjeri Way at the pedestrian lights in front of the multi-storey carpark. Just off to your right, past the Goods Shed you will see Aurora Lane. If you are there at night, look up past Bunjil the Eagle (the giant aboriginal cre-

ator and spiritual leader) and you will see a colourful and interesting piece of illuminated art/design on the edge of the Melbourne Quarter podium. It’s okay during the day but better at night.

Right near the entrance to Aurora Lane on the right-hand side there is a newly opened staircase which goes up to Collins St level (and a glass lift a bit further down the lane). Make your way up the stairs, past Bunjil the Eagle and have a look around. It’s all brand new and will be an interesting and vibrant area once people are around again. Again, thanks to the lights, this is better to see at night. Walk through onto Collins St and turn left. Down the hill a little way at Collins Square is a huge structure which looks like it’s made of giant yellow straws and is called *Supersonic*. It’s inspired by an F-18 fighter breaking the sound barrier and I can see why.

From there, if it’s during office hours take a few steps to the Tower 1 foyer, Collins Square. Directly opposite the entrance is a MASSIVE bright yellow painting called *King Sun*. It’s by famous Australian artist John Olsen. Because he’s old and not very mobile, he painted it by walking around on it with a paintbrush on the end of a stick. If you’ve got good eyes you might be able to make out some tiny frogs in the painting – obviously a pretty heat tolerant species. You can see a bit of the story on a two-minute video at [fourdonkeyfilms.com/the-king-sun-dvd-sales/](http://fourdonkeyfilms.com/the-king-sun-dvd-sales/). If you feel like checking out the foyers of the other (interconnected) Collins Square buildings you will find more spectacular art, particularly some amazing oversized aboriginal artworks.

From there make your way down to Village St which is the street under the Collins St overpass. There’s a lift and stairs under *Supersonic*. Head towards the river and find Brentani Way



on the right. At the end of the street on the left, built into the residential tower (and not very visible because of a tree) is a piece called *Wave*. It represents all the associations of the word “wave”, particularly those relevant to a former dockyard. Think waving goodbye and hello, the waves in the water, a ship figurehead etc. A few metres past *Wave* is a covered laneway with a wall filling mural which reminds me of faded old early 20th Century advertising.

At the end of the laneway turn right and walk up Batman’s Hill Drive (nothing to see here), cross Collins St and make your way up Waterview Walk. Two thirds of the way along is a giant black bunny (slightly Jeff Koons-ish) called *Signature Work* – a bit of fun. At the end of Waterview Walk, turn right at *Continuum* – the column of people and animals climbing over each other. Make your way up Bourke St back to the corner of Village St where you’ll see three upside down cones of crumpled metal. The piece is called *Unfurling* (which I guess is a suitable name) and there is a little plaque to read which really doesn’t leave you much the wiser. Meh.

Opposite *Unfurling* there is a bell tower built with brick from the section of the Goods Shed that was knocked down to build the Collins St overpass. It is supposed to chime at civil twilight every day (which is not sunset - look it up) as a reminder of Dockland’s maritime history. I suppose it chimes but I’ve never heard it. Maybe one day. If you walk back down Village St you’ll find periodic little white plaques on the wall of the Goods Shed with poems, stories and more; all bell related.

Docklands is full of art, some of it quite well hidden. Particularly in these cloistered times it’s worthwhile getting out to explore to see what you can find. I’ll almost guarantee there is something somewhere that will be a surprise.

Until next time, happy exploring ●



Tim Martin  
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## OWNERS’ CORPORATION LAW

# VCAT declares that committees have the power to terminate an OC manager

*Many high-rise buildings will be aware of terms embedded within an owners’ corporation (OC) manager’s agency agreement.*

These agreements permit a manager to be appointed for a period of five years (with subsequent options) and require that they may only be terminated by ordinary resolution or special resolution at a general meeting of all owners.

Often enough, it will be impossible to achieve an ordinary or special resolution because the OC manager holds the strata roll (and won’t release it) which makes it very difficult to run a ballot or gain sufficient support from the other owners.

However, Member Buchanan of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) has just delivered a very handy judgment that will assist other OCs to find a way through to terminate the OC manager agreement by way of a committee decision.

The case concerned the Upper West Side development in the CBD, which consists of thousands of apartments and many commercial lots.

In this particular instance, the cases concerns only one of the residential OCs (OC6).

In 2016, the developer appointed Australian Property Management (APM) to be the OC’s manager for a period of five years, with a further option at its election.

In due course, the developer relinquished control to the lot owners, and a committee was formed. The committee passed an email ballot

(and later ratified at a committee meeting) to terminate APM as manager, and acted to appoint a replacement manager.

APM did not accept that it had been terminated and pointed to the wording of the resolution that the developer used to appoint it at its inaugural general meeting, which required any resolution to terminate it to be done by way of special resolution.

In publishing the decision, Member Buchanan stated, “I find that the answer to the preliminary question is yes. I find that the committee of the OC had the power to terminate the APM management contract.”

The proceedings are still ongoing at the date of this publication, and while there may be an appeal filed, at least as matters stand in Victoria, an OC need not find itself “stuck” in an uncommercial or untenable contractual arrangement set up by the developer.

The committee of the OC must act fairly, honestly, diligently, in good faith and exercise all decisions in the interests of all lot owners. So, as long as committee members take good legal advice from a specialist strata lawyer on the exact circumstances of their case and exercise due diligence, then there are opportunities for the committee to terminate an OC manager agreement before expiry ●



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## CRITIC

# A vote for uncertainty

*A photograph that asks a question about whether people should confront the uncertainty in their lives with other people is attracting the attention of Melbourne’s locked-down community.*

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

The photograph *Life’s Uncertainty*, by Tony Harding, is in a competition of conceptual photography at Magnet Galleries.

Manager of the gallery, Michael Silver, came up with the idea of a people’s choice to attract viewers to their site at The District Docklands.

People are invited to vote for their favourite photograph in the Mullins Prize, a thought-provoking virtual exhibition that is compensating for the trials of the COVID-19 era.

The Mullins Prize was initiated last year by the Australian Photography Society but due to coronavirus restrictions this year, the awards night was live-streamed.

People were travelling from many parts of Australia and Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp was due to open the show on the day the second lockdown began.

“We ended up with a Zoom event and our first virtual gallery,” Michael said.

Conceptual art focuses on the idea behind a work rather than the finished art object, forcing the viewer to examine the work more closely.

*The Hairy Panic*, a picture of an installation in the desert by Sophie Dumaresq, probably comes closest in meaning to the style which



began in the 1960s.

Strange pink forms in the foreground of her landscape photograph cause the viewer to ask questions and search for answers.

Her blurb says that the forms are pink models of tumbleweeds inspired by the invasion of Wangaratta by these plants in 2016.

A more restful image is *Escape* by Nola Sumner, a black and white photograph of an abstract staircase, which takes its imagery from modernist, aesthetic preoccupations.

In many ways, the image speaks against the overthinking of art and offers an escape from life’s decisions.

These two works might be seen at opposite ends of the conceptual framework, with others such as Sandy Mahon’s *The Rainbow Serpent* seeing symbolism in the pink spotted gum and Andrew Ralton’s extraordinary *The Party’s Over* inviting viewers into a dystopic rendering of a swimming pool.

Conceptual photography is not specifically about lighting but the visual effects Ralton gets into this strangely lit scene are disturbing and cinematic.

The Mullins Prize for Conceptual Photography, Magnet Galleries, voting until August 1 ●



MARITIME

Celebrating our *Enterprise*

*Mid-winter, July/August is a significant time year for maritime heritage enthusiasts in Melbourne.*

Why so? Docklanders today will be familiar with the Heritage Fleet on Collins Wharf and the sight of Melbourne’s very own tall ship *Enterprise* on North Wharf.

Imagine the original vessel *Enterprise* sailing in mid-winter from Launceston on July 21, 1835. It was not an auspicious start for the voyage as the vessel was detained for some days by creditors in George Town in northern Tasmania before setting sail once again across the wild turbulent Bass Strait on August 1, 1835. No doubt closely watched by Aboriginal tribes as they headed up the bay, the vessel zigzagged in search of a place to settle on the mainland. They first investigated Westernport, to the east of Port Phillip, eventually finding the Yarra River at the head of the bay. After warping (arduous hauling on ropes attached to the river-bank), the ship crept upstream where it moored alongside the riverbank at the foot of the rocky natural barrier which separated the brackish Yarra estuary water from the fresh flowing water upstream. On August 30, 1835 the settlers disembarked and the first permanent European settlement in Melbourne had begun. We now call the place they landed *Enterprise* Park. See [enterprise.org.au/aboutenterprise](http://enterprise.org.au/aboutenterprise)

Interesting to note that today, mid-winter 2020, the replica *Enterprise* in Victoria Harbour is undergoing almost exactly the same maintenance routine as the original *Enterprise* would have undergone. Maritime heritage maintenance practices on such ships have changed little. Seafarers are constantly busy afloat and onshore. Currently, Docklanders

will note that the *Enterprise* looks bare. The running rigging, sails, booms, spars and yards have all been removed for winter checking and maintenance by volunteers.

Much to the delight of tall maritime enthusiasts, the *Enterprise* today conscientiously uses traditional seafaring material and adopts traditional practises, e.g. hemp rope rigging, flax canvas sails and tallow lubrication. Traditionally, hemp and other natural fibres were the norm for rope production, but it would quickly rot when exposed to rain, so was tarred to preserve it. This tar, as you can imagine, stained the hands of ships’ crews. Thus, British Navy seamen became known as “tars”. It is fascinating to note that the market forces at play to control this valuable commodity were held by a single Swedish company holding a royal monopoly on its export from Stockholm. Hence the name Stockholm Tar (pine tar). It is the basis of many maritime preservative products, such as spar tar for the timbers, and rope tar for the rigging. Rigging is dipped through heated Stockholm Tar, all timbers are scraped or sanded, and spar tar applied. In the 1830s, when the *Enterprise* operated as a coastal trading vessel between Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania) and the Port Phillip District of NSW, these various tars were used. The original *Enterprise* disappeared from the shipping register in 1847, having been wrecked on the bar of the Richmond River in northern NSW.

Traditional ship materials and skills are maintaining the replica *Enterprise* today. It successfully completed the annual survey inspection of the entire the ship and equipment to comply with the stringent Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) standards. Come spring, hopefully post-COVID with all maintenance tasks completed, *Enterprise* will welcome all Docklanders aboard – once more. Surely this is a rite of passage for all who call Docklands home.



Contrary to the mid-winter busyness of maintenance attached to preserving heritage sailing ships, life in lockdown mark two is less hectic for the City of Melbourne (CoM) Waterways Unit looking after modern boating around Docklands. The CoM Waterways Unit, staunch supporters of the Heritage Fleet, describe their work in terms of what is NOT happening. New COVID-19 restrictions mean that the Melbourne City Marina and Yarra’s Edge Marina are closed. The three water-based recreational clubs in Docklands - outriggers, dragon boats and Docklands Yacht Club - are hibernating in the boat shed on North Wharf. Charterers are all experiencing great economic distress and the City of Melbourne has granted a six-month fee waiver to assist. A reminder that the CoM and the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network are committed to progressing ASAP the establishment of the Melbourne Boat Service Depot on the south side of the Yarra (Bolte West Precinct). During a peak boat maintenance period such as mid-winter, just imagine how much

frenetic, recreational boating repair and routine maintenance activity would be taking place to enliven Docklands at this time of year - if such a depot existed. Stay-tuned.

In the grey dampness of mid-winter Melbourne, exacerbated by the grim reality of our second COVID-19 lockdown, it might be timely to take a look at fabulous footage of Docklands. It’s guaranteed to cheer you and remind you of why you live here.

See Melbourne Waterways - Our Story: [youtube.com/watch?v=K7VizVPm3Hw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7VizVPm3Hw)

See more of the beauty of your Docklands waterfront captured on Instagram: [#docklandsmelbourne](https://www.instagram.com/docklandsmelbourne) [#docklandsmelb](https://www.instagram.com/docklandsmelb) ●



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

CHAMBER UPDATE

Where to now?

“  
*If I had the answer, I’d have probably ordered a warehouse full of masks like our good friends and members – the HoF hotel – please contact them for good, cheap bulk supplies.*  
”

But I don’t and no one realistically does. What Melbourne and Docklands has seen is that there is no foreseeable end to this until a vaccine and/ or a cure is released.

The winners

Market Lane at The District Docklands has literally changed my life. What was a once per week shopping trip, car, bags, parking fees, etc., is now a daily social outing of sorts.

I specifically only shop daily now as it’s an outing and I have loved the new shops popping up. As I write this, I am planning a cheese raid on Gourmet Deli House while munching on a Roast Pork Banh Mi from The Humble Baker. There’s a few more to open in coming weeks and I’ve made note on our socials and website that the Woolworths is one of the few places to not have been stripped of basic supplies during the entire lockdowns.

The losers

In a recent survey, some 92 per cent of businesses are seeing a downturn but who I feel for most at current are the businesses in Victoria Harbour, specifically the cafés and lunch restaurants. These businesses were dependent on some 60,000 ANZ, NAB and Myer staff daily. There are another 25,000 employees who join them in Docklands every day but are currently not. Small family operations like Vin Tam have continued, the others haven’t and if you look at it realistically, who can see sunlight at the end of the tunnel?

NAB has mothballed its Victoria Harbour building, possibly permanently. This is the new world and not one of us knows where it is going, only that we will never ever be the same.

What the Chamber is doing

Without events on the horizon, every single effort of ours is currently focused on supporting our members through grant applications, advertising through socials and our newsletter and liaising with the City of Melbourne on their behalf. We’re still exploring a permanent activation of the Harbour with the council and Development Victoria, but obviously other issues are taking priority. Our members and residents are always our priority ●



*Shane Wylie*  
MEDIA DIRECTOR  
[DOCKLANDSCC.COM.AU](http://DOCKLANDSCC.COM.AU)

10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

AUGUST 2010 | ISSUE 56 |

DOCKLANDS NEWS

Council given more planning powers

*On July 8, Planning Minister Justin Madden announced that the City of Melbourne would be given increased planning powers over Docklands.*

WORDS BY *Alison Kinkade*

Under the new arrangement the City of Melbourne will become responsible for the developed areas of Docklands – including parts of Harbour Town, Digital Harbour, Victoria Harbour, Waterfront City, Batman’s Hill, Yarra’s Edge and the Stadium Precinct.

VicUrban will continue to be the planning decision-maker for the remaining undeveloped areas and will continue to lead the further strategic development of Docklands.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said: “We are delighted with Minister Madden’s decision to include the City of Melbourne at the table to plan for the next decade, and are confident the genuine partnership between the Brumby Government and the City of Melbourne will benefit our waterfront precinct as it moves into its second decade.”

Mr Madden said the time was right for the City of Melbourne to shape the planning future of Docklands.

“VicUrban will still play a lead role in master planning development in the Docklands area.



▲ Planning Minister Justin Madden faces the media in Docklands on July 8.

However, there is an enhanced commitment to working with the City of Melbourne in planning the expansion of this new community.”

Cr Doyle said the decision strengthened the genuine partnership formed between the State Government and the City of Melbourne to ensure the best future planning outcomes for the city.

Mr Madden said he looked forward to working with the council to make the next decade of Docklands even more successful.

“Six billion dollars worth of investment, 98 per cent of the developable land contracted to private developers, and the relocation of 40 major corporates to the area have all been achieved in this first ten years,” he said.

Both Mr Madden and Cr Doyle agreed it was critical that future planning for the suburb married community infrastructure alongside private development.

“To ensure we get this planning right, we call on the residents, workers, investors, visitors – everyone who has a stake in Docklands – to participate in the ‘Second Decade’ consultation process,” Cr Doyle said ●



HISTORY

# A view to a hill (with an explosive secret)

It's late 1855, and a new gasworks has been built west of Spencer St to help supply gas for the city's growing energy needs.

Young photographer Walter Woodbury is looking for an opportunity to take a unique photo. He finds it at the top of the gasworks 195-foot (59.4-metre) chimney, which still has a steam engine-powered cradle that recently hauled up 30 guests to a platform for a celebratory tea party on completion of its construction. Upon reaching the top, he takes four photos to create the first known panoramic image of Melbourne.

One of them is this grainy image showing the corner of Spencer and Flinders streets. If one squints, you not only see the first Princes Bridge, but also Queens Wharf (which stretched between Spencer St and the current Aquarium site). Further to the right are the abattoirs that lined the Yarra, slowly polluting it with foul animal remains and noxious chemicals. At the bottom of the photo is the muddy flat of the nearby Melbourne Swamp, which was located north-west of Melbourne until drainage started in the 1870s.

Then, in-between all of this, is Batman's Hill. It is hard to believe for many Melburnians today, but the west side of Spencer St was originally an 18-metre hillock covered in she-oak, that sloped towards the Yarra. It was there that the city's founder, John Batman, had his house. If one focuses right of centre of the hill, you can see the house standing on top, barricaded by a picket fence. When Batman died in 1839, it became a Government Office, and was later used as a hospital.

It also was a notable leisure site, as the founding members of the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) played some of the city's first games there, and gentlemen would settle scores with dramatic pistol duels. Most famously, the hill worked as a makeshift grandstand for fun-seeking citizens on March 6, 1838 when the first horse race in Victoria commenced from the swamp then along the grassy flat at the hill's base. In the 1850s, the 40th Regiment of Foot band would perform there for any curious passersby in a musical mood.

On the far left of Woodbury's photo is a boxy building surrounded by a square wall known as the Powder Magazine, which stored the city's

supply of gunpowder. It was designed by Royal Engineer George Barney and construction was overseen by architect Henry Ginn, who by 1855 had left Victoria and his Richmond residence had been converted into the pleasure gardens, Cremorne Gardens.

From the late 1830s, there had been public pleas to erect a powder magazine, especially to bolster the city's defenses. An 1845 article from the *Port Phillip Gazette* and *Settler's Journal* suggested one should be built at Indented Heads "in times of war with the French" who at the time were "striving for supremacy in the South Pacific". Gunpowder was commercially sold in gun shops, as seen in an advertisement for J. Blanch's store in the *Port Phillip Gazette* on December 29, 1838. Unfortunately, Blanch and his wife would be killed in a tragic accident in December 1839 when a gun went off and ignited his supply. At the time, the government was blamed for a lack of urgency on a safe storage space.

During a visit to Victoria in 1841, Governor George Gipps was reported saying by both the *Port Phillip Patriot* and *Melbourne Advertiser*, that a magazine would be built near the beach near the Pier Hotel in Port Melbourne. However, it wasn't until 1846 that construction started at Batman's Hill, costing about £2000 and finishing on January 22, 1848. The powder was moved from its former storage in Williamstown, and a Captain Sutherland was assigned the magazine's keeper. The magazine's completion coincided with the introduction of a new Act that allowed the importation of gunpowder into Port Phillip. Under the Act, gunpowder had to be transported between 7am and 5pm, failure to deliver to a government magazine attracted a penalty of £5 to £50, and all ships with gunpowder on board had to hoist the Union Jack on the mainmast when entering a port. In 1854, around 247,883lbs of powder had been imported into Victoria's ports, much of which would've been stored in the magazine.

However, local citizens didn't exactly feel safe about the magazine's close proximity to the city. Writing to the editor of *The Argus* on May 30, 1857, A. Gordon suggested that a magazine should be "three or four miles distant from any residence". An 1861 report about Victoria's



▲ From the RHSV Collection, GN-GN-0339



defenses agreed with the sentiment, with J. Chatfield Tyler noting that having 80 tonnes of explosives near a timber yard and gasworks was "dangerous to the safety of the city". In the same report, the Superintendent of Military Works, P.H. Scratchley, complained about the hazardous conditions, such as a lack of copper at the doorways, and the close proximity to wooden sheds.

Whether or not the magazine addressed these issues, it didn't matter. With Spencer Street Station needing more land for its freight sheds, a contract was signed in 1863 to tear down the hill. By 1866, the levelling was complete at the cost of over £24,000. The gunpowder would be moved to a magazine at Royal Park, while Batman's Cottage and the original magazine were left to the mercy of progress. In its wake, a 12-foot-high embankment remained until further Spencer Street Station extensions destroyed it in 1892.

*Today, the hill (and the gasworks) are gone and the site is now the home of the Bunjil sculpture, based on the eagle deity of the Kulin Nation, who sternly gazes west towards Docklands. Alas, that salubrious view was a short-lived luxury as now all Bunjil can gaze upon is a high-rise apartment •*



Ashley Smith  
RESEARCHER  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

SKYPAD LIVING

## Finally, vertical villages are on government's radar – but is the focus right?

*Mention was made in last month's column of a COVID-19 silver lining, especially that high-rise living was being recognised as a distinct and increasingly mainstream way of living.*

And, over the past month, there has been a flurry of activity around high-rise apartment living.

This started with the Docklands Representative Group's (DRG's) webinar for owners' corporations, ironically entitled "Coming out of COVID-19 for OCs". This was a pragmatic question and answer session where the regulatory aspects of reopening common property and OC funding were discussed.

The next event of significance was the City of Melbourne's virtual session, entitled the Strata Community Workshop, held on June 25. An initiative of Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Cr Nicholas Reece, this session brought together a cross section of local community groups who discussed the challenges encountered in strata living during COVID-19. A follow up session has since been held to translate some of these issues into proposed actions. This marks a

much-needed return by the City of Melbourne to active engagement in the vertical living sector and, most encouragingly, there are signs that the specific nature of residential strata living is being appreciated, including a recognition of the regulatory environment that shapes what can and cannot be done.

Watch this space.

The state government has also awakened to the specific challenges of high-rise living during a pandemic. Provoked into action due to the events in local public housing towers, a hastily convened roundtable was hosted by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on Monday, July 13. The stated focus on this session was upon the unique risks around COVID-19 infection control in high-rise apartment living. Significantly, the scope of the roundtable included several different types of high-rise living such as student accommodation as well as residential strata. The format of the roundtable was more mutual information exchange with DHHS staff available to answer – or take on notice – specific questions on health protocols.

It was openly acknowledged that DHHS was on a rapid learning curve about the complexity of high-rise living and was taking note that high-rise living was not a uniform sector – public high-rise apartments being very different to student high-rise accommodation which is very different to residential strata living. The

point was strongly made that, for their advice to be useful, the regulatory context must be taken into consideration. This is because how decisions are made and who has the authority to implement and enforce them, differ between these types of high-rise living. For example, the management of a student accommodation building can implement procedures in shared spaces that OCs in residential strata buildings may not have the authority to do (i.e. where lot owners have a legal stake in shared spaces).

Armed with this input, DHHS proposed to consider the material with a view to developing supporting guidelines.

Then, a second quickly convened session was hosted by DHHS on Friday, July 17.

The pace of this second session was not as frantic and more detailed scenarios were put to DHHS staff who, this time, were able to answer procedural questions with more certainty – such as the source of authority to ban short-stays.

The session closed with a commitment by the DHHS to produce guidelines specific to the high-rise sector on issues such as:

- General public health information and directions for high-rise apartment living;
- Specific public health advice for shared accommodation and communal areas;
- Approaches when residents in high-rise apartments test positive; and

- Issues of mental health and isolation.

However, what has been lost between the first and second sessions is an explicit recognition of the differences between types of high-rise living – that dedicated high-rise student accommodation shares little with high-rise residential strata. In particular, there are different ways that decisions are made which are embedded in very different legal structures.

And that, dear DHHS, is where we need assistance – not only in identifying the gold health standard but in translating this in terms of who has the responsibility or authority in relation to these guidelines (a tenant, an owner, a manager?) and to what extent can they / must they implement or enforce these? – or are they more "suggestions".

The devil is in the detail and thought must be given to the specific context for these guidelines – and, in particular, care must be taken not to undermine or circumvent existing ways of operating.

Hey City of Melbourne – perhaps this is something you can help your State colleagues in understanding! •



Dr Janette Corcoran  
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT  
LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/SKYPADLIVING/



# Stage 3 lockdown fines for short-stays

*Reimposed COVID-19 lockdown restrictions and massive fines have the potential to damage the entire short-stay industry beyond recognition.*

All operators of short-stays, including apartment owners and commercial operators (beyond just Airbnb), can now look forward to fines ranging from \$1652 to \$9913 for each booking, with each guest facing a fine of \$1652. Prior to the current lockdown, the COVID-19 pandemic had already seen a dramatic collapse of the short-stay industry, especially among commercial operators managing numerous properties in high-rise residential buildings. Short-stay operations have proven to be incompatible with controlling the spread of this highly infectious virus:

- short-term letting flouts social distancing rules; and
- the continual movement of strangers in and out of buildings increases the risk of spreading disease.

Since COVID-19 began, apartments previously used for short-stays either have been sold to owner-occupiers or have reverted to long-term rentals. Many buildings are now reporting to us that they have zero short-stay apartments. Despite this extraordinary outcome and perhaps not surprisingly, We Live Here has been made aware of a few operators trying to find a way back into residential buildings. Police have been in contact with Airbnb over concerns that the short-stay platform is continuing to operate illegally.

**Now the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has jumped into the battle, releasing a new directive effectively banning Airbnb ...**

The DHHS published the directive on its website. Section 11 (2) of the new directive specifically proscribes “private holiday rental facilities including Airbnb” and “serviced apartments” and only allows limited operations for emergency accommodation. If you see any illegal short-stay activity in your building, report it immediately to the police assistance hotline on 131 444. Your owners’ corporation (OC) should issue a breach notice to the lot owner. If your OC rules are silent on health and safety, you can breach a holiday-let lot owner under the *Owners’ Corporation Act 2006* model rules, which apply to all OCs in this scenario - rule 1.1: “A lot owner or occupier must not use the lot, or permit it to be used, so as to cause a hazard to the health, safety and security of an owner, occupier, or user of another lot.” You can also contact We Live Here if you require any advice or assistance.

**Short-stay apartment dodges fines and tries again**

If you needed proof that the short-stay industry lacks regulation, consider the case of 15 people who were slapped with \$1652 fines for partying in a short-stay apartment in Southbank just prior to the July lockdown. Announcing the fines, Chief Commissioner Shane Patton labelled the actions of some Victorians “stupid, selfish and reckless”. Soon after, red-faced police were forced to reverse the fines. It turns out that restrictions at the time allowed for up to 20 people to gather

“at tourist accommodation.” Not content with dodging \$25,000 in fines, the same apartment was used for another potentially COVID-19-spreading party just days after the lockdown started. With the new DHHS directive, we hope this time the fines stick!

**Cladding – speak up**  
Does your building have combustible cladding and you haven’t received a notice of inspection from the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) or a building order from your local council?

If you haven’t heard anything, it means that you are not on the list of buildings to get financial assistance. You might be able to change this situation if you act quickly. Email the VBA at [customerservice@vba.vic.gov.au](mailto:customerservice@vba.vic.gov.au) and let them know that you have combustible cladding and you want your building inspected. In your email you are welcome to say that We Live Here referred you. You may need to wait for up to six weeks to be advised of an inspection date. Let us know if there are excessive delays.

**Minister Wynne’s plan to fast-track cladding**

In June this year, the Victorian government announced a plan to accelerate the cladding rectification program from 100 buildings per year to 400 over two years. Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) was expected to work with a select group of reputable builders to work without profit. Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said, “only reputable builders will be eligible for the

accelerated program. Those found to have done the wrong thing will not be able to participate.” “This is a chance for the original builders to become part of the solution and keep their workers employed during these challenging times.” No details were provided about costing or processes. It is difficult to see how the program could achieve its stated aim of doubling the speed of rectification. An injection of funds to CSV to speed up the established program would perhaps be a better way to go. Since the announcement of the plan no further information has been forthcoming from the government, and it looks as though it may have been quietly shelved.

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



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



## ABBY’S ANGLE

# Getting through lockdown 2.0

*It’s always harder the second time around. It’s harder to draw the same positivity as the first time - and it’s easier to remember all the bad parts of last time.*

Sometimes when we have used all our strength and determination to get through things, going back a second time is overwhelming. We wonder if anything is going to make a difference. But there are definitely things that do. A month ago, I was preparing for some long-scheduled surgery. It was a pretty big op but I had my specialist, family for support, a well-stocked fridge and a clean house ready. I had been told the constant pain I was living with, would only stop with this surgery. So, I thanked my body for her service, for the beautiful gift of my son, and I signed the form to have a significant part of myself removed. In pre-theatre at the immaculate private hospital, I felt safe with a warm blanket wrapped around me and constant care. There was always a nurse chattering, and reassuring. The anaesthetist arrived and took off her mask – at distance – so I could see her face and her smile. She said she found it helped people connect. Then we embarked on a mindfulness exercise. I was told to imagine an all-expenses paid trip to any destination, to imagine every detail, from stepping onto the plane, to the hotels, and experiences – I could almost feel the sun on my face, the sea on my skin. As I finished my plan, she started the anaesthetic - “here is your champagne madame, enjoy your trip!”. In recovery, I felt fantastic. The pain meds were spot on, but it was more than that – I felt happy, as though wonderful things were going to happen. My surgeon saw me in recovery, and explained that if you can visualise something wonderful before undergoing surgery, your dreams will be peaceful and happy. This was such a powerful experience, and as I was wheeled to my room to continue recovery I felt grateful. When I left, I felt healthy and


empowered, I had a team that had gently and carefully guided me along a path that could have been scary, painful and lonely (no visitors with COVID-19 restrictions). My excellent recovery continued, and life felt back to normal. Until it didn’t. Unexpectedly, things took a dramatic nosedive and I ended up in Emergency. I kept calm, as I reassured my 16-year-old son everything was “just fine”. We both knew it wasn’t. I was relieved to say goodbye and disappear into the corridors of chaos as it was exhausting pretending I wasn’t nervous. The nurses were lovely, smiling sympathetically. The doctors were concerned, but reassuring. But this was my “second time” and I wasn’t feeling the same as the first time. This time it didn’t feel fair, and I didn’t want to be here. This time I felt that I had done the right thing the first time, and I was angry that it hadn’t worked. I didn’t want to go back into surgery, especially without “my team” of doctors and I just felt like simply saying “I’m not going to do this”. Then a young emergency doctor arrived who changed everything. She was vibrant and upbeat, and she sat down and smiled. She was empathetic but overtly positive. She told me we would have to go to theatre and promised me they would take good care of me. And so, into theatre I went, at one in the morning. It was scary this time. The walls were peeling. The clock above the door didn’t work. And it was freezing. No one took their mask off to smile, and I was alone in pre theatre. I dug deep and remembered what I did “the last time”. And I visualised my imaginary trip away, in all its glorious detail as a mask came towards me and put me to sleep. Back on the ward, the nurse piled several warm blankets on me and a toasted sandwich

*But this was my “second time” and I wasn’t feeling the same as the first time. This time it didn’t feel fair, and I didn’t want to be here. This time I felt that I had done the right thing the first time, and I was angry that it hadn’t worked.*



from the nurses room. He was wonderful, and a sandwich never tasted so good at 4am. Later my doctor returned and was just as positive – how she found time for me in that incredible schedule and system they follow I don’t know, but I was grateful. I wrote to the hospital afterwards - the chaotic, cold, peeling walled hospital that I was terrified in, and thanked them for the PEOPLE that made a difference.

And that, after this long story, is my point. It is the people that make the difference in our lives. It’s the smiles, the encouragements, the reassurances and knowing they are waiting on the other side. The first time we experience things, we focus on what we can do with the situation, just like the restrictions. We are determined, we are positive, and we feel empowered we are taking control of things. The first time we are rescuers protecting our community and our vulnerable. It’s harder the second time, because we have more fear. We question how it’s happening, and we feel like the victim - because we didn’t want to end up here again. It’s easy to slip into this questioning - to look for who is to blame, what went wrong. We need to realise this is an understandable cycle, and that we can stop it. We can become the rescuer again, as I have had to do. I have rested and drawn on all the positive things I learnt from the “first time” to get through it all again. And I have learned new things the second time – that the way we communicate makes all the difference. Sometimes the systems aren’t perfect, but the people in them can be. So please know that there is something that makes a difference in all of this – and that’s you. Stay strong Melbourne x ●



Abby Crawford

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## THE DISTRICT DOCKLANDS

## Your local delicatessen has arrived!

*With more than 20 years in the hospitality industry, this family owned and run Gourmet Deli House is ready to share their passion for fine food with the local community.*

The team is proud to provide you the very best in gourmet dishes from around the globe, including its very own signature marinades inspired by true love for traditional recipes.

When you walk into Gourmet Deli House, you will think you've arrived at a traditional delicatessen in a small town in Greece, so before you rattle off your list of desired meats and cheeses to the staff, let them make you a coffee. They're brewing coffee using Evolve beans, proudly and lovingly roasted in Melbourne.

At Gourmet Deli House you will only find the finest range of quality products, starting with naturally wood smoked butcher's smallgoods including Hungarian and Casalingo salami, capocollo, pancetta, every kind of ham you could possibly dream of and even wood smoked kransky.

But where do we begin with their variety of cheese? They stock an award-winning range of local and imported cheeses that will make your mouth water. From Amsterdam gouda to Greek kefalograviera, yummy parmesan and Jarlsberg, strong pecorino to creamy and sharp

Romano, every cheese you need for the perfect snack board or platter.

And it doesn't stop there. Toulla, one of the proud owners, is excited to share her love of food with her customers, proudly sharing a selection of homemade recipes. From dips and pesto, marinated olives and seafood to semi-dried tomatoes, caramelised onions and stuffed jalapenos. With herb and garlic roasted capsicum and mushrooms, lemon and garlic artichokes and a secret recipe ready-to-eat cabbage rolls, Gourmet Deli House really is a one-stop-shop for all your favourites.

The sweet tooths among us are not forgotten! You'll find traditional sweets including Turkish delight, Italian nougat, macarons and baklava. Stock your pantry with olive oil, duck fat, pasta and sauce, salt and pepper blends and more. And when lockdown is over, and you can slowly get back to normal life, let Gourmet Deli House cater your next event, with their delicious and picture-perfect grazing tables and centre pieces, offering gluten free, dairy free and vegan options to accommodate all needs.



▲ Andrea Calleja and Toulla Christofe, Gourmet Deli House.

So, if you've got food FOMO, add Gourmet Deli House to your visit list on your next essential shopping trip to Market Lane at The District Docklands. Toulla invites you to try before you buy, because she wants you to "taste the homemade difference".

Gourmet Deli House is open 7 days a week, located opposite Woolworths in The District's fresh food precinct, Market Lane ●



Ivana Molnar

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## BUSINESS

## Docklands Dental Studio becomes an industry leader

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

In an age where meticulous cleaning, relentless disinfecting and vigilant public health practices have become the new standard, Docklands Dental Studio is putting minds at ease with pioneering industry technology.

Traditionally reserved for hospital rooms, equipment and operating theatres, Ultraviolet-C (UV-C) light can disrupt the DNA structure of bacteria and viruses, subsequently preventing it from replicating or further infecting.

Now, following a second stage 3 lockdown and growing public anxiety of COVID-19 community transmission, Docklands Dental Studio's owner and principal dentist, Dr Pia Oparkcharoen, took it upon herself to become the first dental clinic in Australia to utilise UV-C technology.

"With this technology, we are staying on top of infection control and can provide the highest standard of cleaning practices," Dr Oparkcharoen said.

"We do not know if and when you can get it [COVID-19], so for patient confidence, we wanted something that could kill germs and even viruses."

Dr Oparkcharoen and her team use the UV-C light at the beginning of each workday, between patient appointments and before closing to ensure a comprehensive clean.

Although UV-C disinfecting is used in some hospitals around the world, Dr Oparkcharoen is employing the services of emerging Melbourne start-up MUVI (Mobile UV Innovation).

"It was important for me to work with a local company. Just as we want locals to use us, we wanted to use MUVI," Dr Oparkcharoen said.

"Coronavirus can come and go, then come back again. We wanted to have this equipment for the long term."

With more hospitals and health care businesses moving away from a human only clean, citing its inability to control human error or missed surfaces, UV-C is paving the way to a cleaner future.

MUVI director Murray McDonald said although popular among the health care sector, UV-C disinfecting is relevant for almost any workplace or shared space setting.

"We put the light system into a room and turn it on via a remote, then radiates all the highly touched surfaces in the room," Mr McDonald said.

"In a dental theatre, there are many surfaces that people are touching plus aerosols which come out of people's mouths, and as we now know, COVID-19 is a mix of droplets and airborne particles. With office spaces, we see some businesses using this UVC between meetings, as well as before and after the workday."

"It's a new technology, so people don't know too much or even think about it, as it's human-less. At the moment, people think 'let's get more chemicals and clean more often; this is a technology that is doing a bit more than just wiping a surface.'"

According to Mr McDonald, industry-standard cleaning and disinfecting is a five-step process. Using UV-C technology, this process is halved.

"Murphy's law says the spot you miss, is the spot that people touch and that's the spot that is infected," Mr McDonald said.

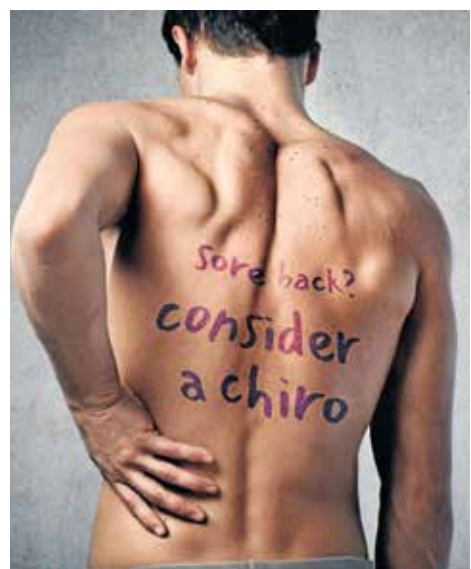
"We've had a number of enquiries from different industries from commercial worksites to gyms and offices. This is the first of many technologies we are developing into this space, and all of our products are locally built."

Docklands Dental Studio is open for business and offering all dental services except cleans ●



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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING



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## Managing aches and pains

*Has back pain, neck pain or headaches stopped you from doing the things you love?*

Docklands residents and workers are being asked to consider their options for health intervention on back pain after it was found that an estimated 2080 people in Docklands are impacted by the potentially debilitating disorder.

According to the Institute of Health and Welfare, around four million Australians (16 per cent of the population) have back problems. It is estimated that 70 to 90 per cent of people will suffer from low back pain at some point in their lives and migraines affect nearly five million Australians.

Local chiropractor Dr Brittany Talbot believes that while pain is the main symptom, we know low back pain is now the leading cause of disability worldwide.

"The challenge for someone suffering from back pain is they understandably think the only way to treat the problem is through medication. We need to know that we have options when it comes to spinal health, and to consider a chiropractor for a drug free alternative to alleviate pain," Dr Talbot said.

According to Pain Australia, with chronic pain being one of the most common reasons for people of working age to leave the workforce, it's important that we understand all the options for treating pain.

The focus on back pain comes as Spinal Health Week (August 17 to 23) approaches and we are being asked to "Consider a Chiro" when it comes to ailments such as back pain, neck pain and headaches.

The "Consider a Chiro" campaign was born out of research that showed Australians were unaware of the type of support and services that the profession provides.

"Once a person comes in for a consultation with a chiropractor, they are likely to return for future care. However, what we also know is that for a lot of people they are unclear about the type of care chiropractors can provide," Dr Talbot said.

It is important that we understand all the options when it comes to caring for our health and wellbeing. The good news is that chiropractic offers you a drug free alternative to not only help prevent and alleviate pain, but to promote a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle.

This Spinal Health Week is a perfect time to make an appointment with us to see how we may help if you suffer from pain ●



Dr Mike Edgley

CHIROPRACTOR  
DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU



# 政府资助 受创商家

撰稿：David Schout

由于新冠病毒(COVID-19)对地方商业的“特别冲击”，CBD的商业将受益于州政府所宣布的2000万澳元“救援”补助。

州政府在宣布这次拨款时指出，对CBD商业的资助旨在帮助那些面临“对其商业环境有巨大和持续冲击”的商业。

尽管这个资助拨款的细节尚未公布，但政府发言人证实，该拨款顾名思义将同时向Docklands港区、Southbank区和CBD的商家提供。

墨尔本市政在第二次封锁前进行的一项调查显示，由于这次疫情，约15%的商家不确定自己的未来，或者将永久关闭。

墨尔本大都市区和米切尔郡(Mitchell Shire)的80000多家商业将有资格获得5000澳元的新资助。墨尔本CBD内的中小商企业将会得到更多的支持。



州政府主管“工业支持和恢复”部长马丁·帕库拉 (Martin Pakula) 表示，政府意识到当地商家业主面临的独特问题。

他表示：“墨尔本市中心在某些方面受到了独特的冲击，因为居家指令使人们远离市区”。

“CBD街上缺乏行人，这意味着市中心，包括Docklands港区和Southland区的许多商家，受到州政府限制措施的影响尤为严重。”

第三阶段的封闭限制于7月9日重新实施后，通常充满活力的墨尔本市中心再次变得荒凉。与去年同期相比，行人活动减少了81%。

州政府表示，将特别关注和帮助旅游运营商以及与夜间经济相关的商业。

帕库拉先生说，与夜间经济相关的商业“遭受了巨大冲击”。



# 工地关闭 深度清洁

撰稿：Rhonda Dredge

由于墨尔本的COVID-19确诊病例增加，迫使建筑工地的经理做出一些艰难的决定，关闭工地进行深度清理。

Yarra’s Edge的开发商Mirvac证实，在得知Voyager建筑工地有一例COVID-19确诊病患后，于7月13日星期五关闭。

Mirvac发言人告诉Docklands新闻：“工地立即停止施工，并要求所有工人回家。”

“我们进行了有关接触人员的跟踪，并通知所有密切的或偶然的接触人员，要求他们进行检测，然后再可返回工地。根据卫生和公共服务部 (DHHS) 的准则进行了深度清洁。”

自7月州政府采取封锁措施以来，该工地是墨尔本第三个被关闭的工地，增加了建筑工人对有关卫生规则要求的担忧。

在South Wharf Drive 大道上的Voyager开发项目工地关闭后，一位不愿透露姓名的相关人士告诉Docklands新闻，工人们检测到后应该隔离多长时间感到困惑。

他们说：“人们正在采取预防措施。”“他们（工人）需要隔离14天吗？DHHS没有告知。”

建筑业、林业、矿业、能源业联合工会 (CFMEU)的一位女发言人说，工会尚未收到有关Mirvac工地关闭的通知。

她说：“工会已经制定了有效的指导，使人们能够继续工作。”

她说在建筑工地上有几例COVID-19确诊病患，工会与DHHS配合得很好。

“我们确实有过两次关闭。可是他们一天之内就开工了。DHHS负责监管。”

7月14日工会网站上的一项政策规定，任何偶然接触过COVID-19确诊病患的人都可以继续工作，只要他们检测呈阴性，而且没有任何症状。工人们可以利用他们的病假等待检测结果。

这位相关消息人士称，尽管Mirvac对关闭一事直言不讳，但他担心该行业的开发商和建筑商试图掩盖确诊病例。

Mirvac的发言人说：“员工以及任何来往工地人员的健康和是我们的首要任务。”

“Mirvac已从DHHS获得确认，所有必要步骤均已完成，并且施工现场已采取额外的安全谨慎措施。”

据了解，工地现场的一名工人曾接触过一阳性病患，但随后检测呈阴性。



在最近的记忆中，工党第一次在备选2020年的市政选举中，郑重地组成了一个的竞选团队，希望“改变市政文化”并创建一个“真正的市政府”。

# 工党呼吁“改变市政文化”

撰稿：Sean Car

竞选团队由市长候选人菲尔·里德 (Phil Reed) 和副市长候选人，女商人和多元文化活动家邹慧心 (Wesa Chau) 率领。里德先生表示，他的团队希望把一个有政绩的“好政府”带入市政厅。

里德先生目前在Slater and Gordon律师行担任政府和利益相关者关系主管，他认为墨尔本市政在基本工程方面的支出低于预算的不良记录，是这次改革市政管理的主要动机。

他说：“当你看到安德鲁斯(Andrews)政府在地铁隧道等大型基建项目上的表现与市政南岸大道公园等项目的惨败形成鲜明对比时，显然需要进行改变市政文化了。”

“我们要把这种文化从地方市政议会转变为真正的市政府，让决策者和官僚们对项目的整体表现负责，而不是简单地进行招

标，然后他们期望来剪彩。”

“我从自己在行政管理方面的背景得知，在管理中要有适当的问责制非常重要，问责制始于决策，而不是借口。”

“这一点至关重要，因为我们看到墨尔本计划投入大量基础设施建设资金，而且我们面临着城市劳动力和工作场所的重组。”

在10月24日的地方政府选举中，竞争公职的工党候选人还包括当地居民和小企业主戴维德·格里菲思 (Davydd Griffiths)，Glen Eira市市长玛丽·德拉亨提 (Mary Delahunty) 和社区联络员哈姆迪·阿尔 (Hamdi Al) 。

里德表示，他的团队正忙于为选民呈现“全面的政策议程”做最后的润色，这是自2000年代初城市治理结构重组以来最全面的政策议程之一。

# 计划改造“丑陋”的 警察总部大楼

墨尔本市政一致同意对位于Docklands港区的旧警察总部大楼进行部分拆除和重建的设计方案。

大楼物主Zone Q New Central Investments已提议出资7300万澳元，将该建筑——位于Flinders街633号-669号世界贸易中心大楼(World Trade Centre)的一部分——改造成一座办公楼。

在7月21日举行的未来墨尔本委员会 (FMC)会议上，议员们赞扬了Cox Architecture的设计方案，称赞他们把一个“丑陋”的建筑变成对Docklands港区的积极贡献。

规划组合主管尼古拉斯·里斯 (Nicholas Reece) 议员说：“大多数墨尔本人都知道，很久以来这是警察总部在该区的一部分，而且那栋建筑非常丑陋。”

“为了改善大楼的外观，进行了非常巧妙的设计，将大大有助于改善墨尔本这个沿河区域本应有的舒适和活力。过去由于种种原因，几十年来一直不尽人意。”

该提议方案将增加办公面积，减少停车位数量，并引入新的底层零售铺面租赁。



该大楼的所有窗户和框架以及大部分北立面和部分东立面将被拆除。还将在Flinders街和Siddleley街上修建新的入口。

罗汗·莱珀特(Rohan Leppert)议员赞同里斯议员对该提议方案的支持。

他说：“该大楼目前是一个相当简朴的建筑，不是我们城市最美丽的部分，但是现在的提议方案以创新的方式重新开发和振兴城市的这一部分，这真的很受欢迎。”



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THE DISTRICT  
DOCKLANDS

# An update from The District Docklands

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