

# DOCKLANDS NEWS

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**Drink it in, Docklands**  
Photo by John Tadigiri.

As Melbourne celebrated long-awaited freedom last month, the *Lady Cutler*'s skipper Jeff Gordon showed Docklands how it's done, with his boat now offering locals "Burgers and Beers by the Pier". *Continued on page 9.*

## Sally Capp is back as Lord Mayor

WORDS BY Sean Car  
ELECTIONS

Docklands resident and incumbent Lord Mayor Sally Capp has been returned to the city's top job by voters for her first full term on council following the City of Melbourne local government elections on October 24.

Ms Capp and her new Deputy Lord Mayor in Labor Party member Nicholas Reece defeated closest challenger Arron Wood and his deputy candidate Lisa Teh on the two-candidate preferred count 53 per cent to 46 per cent.

With results officially announced by the Victorian Electoral Commission on November 4, nearly two weeks after the election, Team Capp recorded nearly 28,000 primary votes in an election which saw the largest ever participation from voters.

While the Greens polled more than 1000 votes higher on primaries than Team Wood on the leadership ballot, the distribution of preferences saw Mr Wood climb to within seven per cent of Team Capp.

The newly-elected Lord Mayor said she was honoured to lead Melbourne again.

"With counting concluded, I am honoured to have the opportunity to continue to lead Melbourne," the Lord Mayor said.

"We face a big challenge to revitalise Melbourne after the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This will be a big job – and I promise that you can count on me and my team."

"We will work day in and day out to ensure that Melbourne once again becomes the economic engine room of the state and the nation."

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EDUCATION, PAGE 07  
**Docklands Primary School is built**



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## Docklands activation strategy advanced

*The City of Melbourne and Development Victoria's (DV's) long-awaited Docklands activation strategy is understood to be only a few weeks away from being shared with major stakeholders, with some programming expected to begin by year's end.*

WORDS BY Sean Car  
PLANNING

Despite last month's local government elections causing some minor delays in the process, the final report by events and activations company Alto Cibum is expected to be presented to the City of Melbourne and DV on November 10.

With the election winners revealed on November 4, *Docklands News* understands that the report will be presented to the council as soon as the new councillors and leadership team are sworn in.

While further details of what's included in the strategy isn't yet known, the progression of the plans comes as welcome news to the Docklands community following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

With much of the discussion surrounding the council's reactivation of Melbourne having been largely focused on the CBD, many local businesses have been questioning what Docklands-focused efforts are on the horizon.

While a range of stakeholders, including the Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC) and *Docklands News*, were originally consulted back in July, the impacts of the second wave of coronavirus on commercial traffic in Docklands has significantly changed the stakes.

But while much of the plan's big-ticket items are understood to be centred around office workers returning to the precinct, weekend events

for residents and visitors are also expected to play a part in reactivation over summer.

A spokesperson for the City of Melbourne said the plan sought to leverage "water transport, tourism and maritime heritage" and that the council was currently working with major Docklands employers on plans to bring their staff back to the office.

"Docklands is normally home to 72,000 jobs so it's crucial that we encourage office workers to return to the precinct," the spokesperson said.

"The City of Melbourne is liaising with major city employers about the best ways to safely bring workers back to the city, including Docklands. Ideas include staggering work times and days to reduce the risk of overcrowding on public transport and traffic congestion."

While Premier Daniel Andrews confirmed on October 26 that a return to offices in the near future was unlikely, he said the government would provide a clearer picture on November 8 as to when city offices could open.

"If you can work from home you must work from home," Mr Andrews said.

"Now I know that's frustrating, I know that there are many businesses, large and small, who want to get their staff back on site, but those environments at this stage are just too risky."

It's expected that Melbourne will follow the same model adopted in the likes of New South Wales, with COVID-safe plans and four sqm

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**CONTACT**  
 Suite 108, 198 Harbour Esplanade  
 docklandsnews.com.au  
 Tel: 8689 7980

**EDITOR**  
 Sean Car

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

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# Docklander Jamal Hakim is a councillor!

WORDS BY *Sean Car*

ELECTIONS

In what came as the shock result of the 2020 City of Melbourne local government elections, independent candidate and Docklands resident Jamal Hakim has been elected as a councillor.

In addition to the re-election of Lord Mayor Sally Capp, the new-look council now has two Docklands residents representing the local community, with Mr Hakim sneaking home on preferences.

Mr Hakim, who ran on the local independent Team Hakim ticket alongside his mother Safaa, said he looked forward to representing Docklands on the new council, and giving a voice to all City of Melbourne residents.

"As a Docklands resident, this chance to represent residents in Docklands and across Melbourne City Council is a privilege and I will work to ensure the interests of our diverse community is recognised in the council," he said.

"I look forward to working with the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the other elected councillors to oversee Melbourne City Council as we head into the new COVID-normal."

"My promise to voters is to ensure decisions are founded in evidence, take into account community needs, and are driven with focussed action to ensure real outcomes for our community, not just talk."

"Sitting on the council, I will work so that resident voices are not just consulted, but heard and taken seriously – driving decisions and action to better support our community every time."

The result is particularly remarkable given the barriers new independent candidates faced in campaigning in this election, with grassroots campaign methods such as doorknocking and physical meet the candidate meetings, banned due to COVID-19.

"Running a campaign during this pandemic has been unusual and even more limited," Mr Hakim said.



▲ *Jamal Hakim on November 4 after learning of his election as a councillor to the City of Melbourne.*

"Without a large budget, the support from volunteers who gave up their two hours of outdoor time each day, and online engagement from the community meant better reach in our message. We also relied more on online campaigning."

"Short to say, it was not a regular campaign, especially for someone who is not a politician!"

Mr Hakim said that while it was disappoint-

ing to see few local residents, and less women on the newly-elected council, he looked forward to providing the entire Melbourne community with greater representation at the council.

"I am greatly encouraged by the diversity of candidates in these council elections across Victoria, and I hope that this continues into the future," he said •

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Stats from 01/07/20 to 02/11/20

# Sally Capp is back as Lord Mayor

*Continued from page 1.*

"I'd like to congratulate everyone who was successful in the City of Melbourne elections. I look forward to working with you all over the next four years, during such an important time for our community."

The make-up of the new council was also revealed on November 4, with six new faces elected to the nine councillor positions.

Incumbent Kevin Louey was re-elected on the Team Capp ticket alongside new councillor and Liberal Party member Roshena Campbell, giving the Lord Mayor a bloc of four and casting vote on the new council.

The Greens Rohan Leppert was also re-elected alongside new face Dr Olivia Ball, who replaces the retiring three term Greens councillor Cathy Oke on the new council.

Liberal Party member Philip Le Liu was also re-elected on the Nick Russian-led unofficial Liberal ticket.

Team Arron Wood's Jason Chang, Jennifer Yang's number one councillor candidate and CFMEU representative Elizabeth Doidge and the Labor Party's first endorsed councillor Davyyd Griffiths were each elected.

But perhaps the biggest shock was the surprise election of independent candidate and Docklands resident Jamal Hakim, who despite recording very low on primaries, snuck home on preferences (read more on page 2).

While early predictions had seen Team Capp elected with a bloc of five, its vote would dip late, meaning its third indigenous candidate Mark McMillan, ultimately wasn't elected as the first Aboriginal councillor in the City of Melbourne's history.

Liberal Democrat candidate and Southbank resident Paul Silverberg was also in the running for a spot on council, having recorded a large number of dummy Liberal voters but, he too, missed out.

As well as Mr Wood, councillors from the previous term who ran in this election and missed out include Jackie Watts and Beverley Pinder, who both depart the council having served consecutive terms.

Overall, the new council consists of seven men and four women, and has less residents than non residents.

The new council is expected to be sworn in by November 9.



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp has been re-elected to the city's top job.

Your new look City of Melbourne council:

**Lord Mayor:**

*Sally Capp*

**Deputy Lord Mayor**

*Nicholas Reece*

**Councillors**

*Kevin Louey  
Rohan Leppert  
Jason Chang  
Davyyd Griffiths  
Roshena Campbell  
Olivia Ball  
Philip Le Liu  
Jamal Hakim  
Elizabeth Doidge*

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# A focus on Docklands

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*

PLANNING

Professional focus groups have been researching ways to help shape Docklands' future.

One is trying to rework the suburb's apartment living to cater to families, while the other will establish a new community event at Ron Barassi Senior Park – the Docklands Gift!

The focus groups – the Docklands Gift and Kids in Docklands – are part of a Committee for Melbourne leadership program called the Future Focus Groups. This committee's past future focus groups have initiated projects that have become a permanent part of the city, including the City Circle tram.

Phillip Roth is a town planner at Development Victoria and has been part of the Kids in Docklands group researching ways to make apartment living in Docklands more family-friendly.

"The trend we see in Melbourne is that we often see younger people as the dominant household type for apartments in the inner city, and when they get to an age where they're looking to start a family they often move out to the suburbs," Mr Roth said.

"That's an issue we wanted to address, to look at ways the inner city can become more attractive to those people when they have families and stay in the apartment market."

Mr Roth said the project specifically focused on Docklands by reviewing the design of Lendlease developments in the suburb and identifying changes that the developer could implement on a future Docklands development.

"Specifically, some of the actions we've come up with are changing a study nook area with a small desk into a storage area for prams," he said.

"Another aspect was the kitchen zone, to make it a safe zone through the use of an island bench which means parents can keep an eye on their kids."



▲ The Kids in Docklands focus group: (L-R) Jenna Yeates (Metro Trains), Phillip Roth (Development Victoria), Sophie Jordan, Nikolina Kilibarda (Swinburne University), Eric Savoie (Bushfire Recovery Victoria), Ellen Tarasenko (Herbert Smith Freehills) and Mark Dawson (Urbis).

"Usually kitchens only have benches facing the wall, so it can make a big difference."

They also identified that if developers could not fit bathtubs into apartment bathrooms, they could use extendable shower heads to fill up portable tubs with, and that if balconies had operable windows, they could be enclosed to create another room – effectively doubling the living space in some apartments.

Mr Roth's focus group began researching almost two years ago. The onset of COVID-19 meant they also encountered unintended opportunities.

"COVID-19 has meant that the whole communal working or co-working concept is getting a lot more momentum and we find everyone we speak to is gravitating towards that at the moment," he said.

"Working from home in your apartment is

“

*We want Docklands to have a Docklands Gift that is very similar to the Stawell Gift.*

”

not a successful model, but the idea of having work in your building is."

"Maybe instead of a new pool, developments would essentially put in an office workspace. I think over the next few years we will see developers starting to incorporate that aspect."

Over the same period another of the Committee's focus groups was researching how to connect Docklands as a community and promote it at the same time.

They came up with an event called the Docklands Gift in partnership with the Victorian Athletics League, the new Docklands Primary School and the Docklands Sports Club.

The inaugural Gift will be held at the Ron Barassi Senior Park on March 20, 2021. Colin McEvoy, the facility manager at Federation Square, has been part of the project.

"The Victorian Athletics League holds a number of events that kick off in November and culminate in the Stawell Gift in Stawell in country Victoria – it's Australia's largest running race," he said.

"We want Docklands to have a Docklands Gift that is very similar to the Stawell Gift."

Mr McEvoy said the event would be a pro-running event, which is a handicap race open to everyone.

The day would feature a number of races of different lengths, including races for children from the primary school, and would be managed by the Docklands Sports Club. The group has received permission from the City of Melbourne to hold the event.

"We wanted to do a community event, it's very much for the community of Docklands," Mr McEvoy said.

"But also secondary to that it's about advertising and promoting what the Docklands has to offer to people who wouldn't necessarily know about it. These races attract a lot of people from country Victoria and interstate."

Both projects are in the later stages and are preparing to hand over to Lendlease and the Docklands Sports Club for implementation •

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# Docklands activation strategy advanced

*Continued from page 1.*

metre rules instated by employers. But many corporates in Docklands aren't planning on a return to the office until 2021.

While this fact continues to present ongoing challenges to local businesses, many of which have already closed permanently, the activation strategy will be very much cognisant of this, with many of its larger activations proposed for possible rollout from March next year.

In the interim, Docklands can look forward to the Christmas Twilight Sunday Market on December 6 from 12pm until 8pm along NewQuay Promenade hosted by the Docklands Sunday Market and supported by the DCC and MAB Corporation (see details on page 17).

With the DCC also working with the council and local businesses on a range of other activations over the Christmas and New Year period, a council spokesperson said this summer in Docklands would be like "no other".

"We want to see Docklands' retail and hospitality venues buzzing," the spokesperson said.

"Docklands will look splendid for Christmas with decorations including the giant reindeer re-turning to Harbour Esplanade. Several Docklands businesses will also participate in our Christmas Collective program to spread festive cheer throughout the precinct."

"Our 'Always On' advertising campaign will ramp up again to promote the city reopening by highlighting precinct offerings, such as outdoor dining, event activations and retail to promote visitation and spend."

The council said it was also pleased to see Docklands cafes and restaurants taking advantage of outdoor dining.

Permits for extended outdoor dining have been issued to 29 venues including applications from the likes of Cargo along NewQuay Promenade and the Docklands Community

Sunday Farmer's Market," the spokesperson said.

"We have continued to provide local businesses with funding and support during these challenging times. Fifty-nine Docklands businesses have been successful in the initial batches of grants awarded across two of our business grants programs."

The company behind the activation strategy, Alto Cibum, 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 have been largely focused on the precinct surrounding Victoria Harbour and NewQuay in an effort to bring permanent and sustained activation to Docklands and its waterways.

It's not yet known what role, if any, a redeveloped Central Pier could play as part of the strategy, or the AFL and DV's new master plan for Marvel Stadium and Harbour Esplanade, which was due for release earlier this year before the outbreak of COVID-19.

With Docklands' maritime heritage understood to be central to the strategy, the recently announced business case by the state government and the council for a new maritime museum at the Mission to Seafarers building on Flinders St could also play a role.

However, with the council having earmarked the northern side of Central Pier for the berthing of heritage vessels including Alma Doepl and Enterprize in the future, many believe such a museum would be better suited as part of a reimaged Central Pier.

But whether these larger plans feed into the strategy or not, it's expected that it will help to significantly change Docklands reputation and improve communications among its major custodians •

# FOMO: council's activation plans revealed

WORDS BY Sean Carr  
BUSINESS

As Victoria slowly emerges from lockdowns, the City of Melbourne will soon look to attract visitors back to the city and its much-loved venues, restaurants and public spaces with a "big old dose of FOMO (fear of missing out)".

In what comes as welcome news to the city's businesses and residents following the devastating second wave of COVID-19 in Victoria, the council will soon launch a signature marketing campaign to revive the city with a range of COVID-safe events and activations.

Titled "FOMO", details of the campaign seen by *Docklands News* outline a strategy to drive visitors back to the CBD and its surrounds through a series of activities and promotions which showcase the city's range of uniquely Melbourne experiences.

While research commissioned by the council shows increasing challenges around the likes of crowds and public transport post COVID, consumers say the city is still the best location for events, festivals, museums, galleries, gigs, hospitality and shopping.

The FOMO campaign, expected to launch in January, will seek to reimagine the city and reconnect people with many of its favourite tastes, sounds and experiences that they've been "missing out" on during lockdowns.

Showcasing the best Melbourne has to offer to drive a real sense of FOMO, planned events and exclusive offers from the city's favourite venues and businesses will be aimed at drawing people back in a COVID-safe manner.

Further details around some of the campaign's activation ideas are expected to be announced later this year but many initiatives to support the strategy, such as pedestrianisation of "little streets" and outdoor dining infrastructure, are already being actioned.

But some promotions earmarked in the strategy, such as "FOMO Fridays" and dedicated FOMO events, will seek to partner with the city's precincts and businesses to provide special offers and experiences. Other activations flagged incorporate a range of ideas already canvassed publicly such as outdoor entertainment, dining and wayfinding experiences.

With the CBD bearing the brunt of Victoria's economic decline from the second wave of coronavirus, talk of plans to revive the city is nothing new, with Lord Mayor Sally Capp having established a high-profile advisory board in July to provide ideas to the council.

The City of Melbourne also established the City of the Future/Recovery Taskforce at the start of the pandemic, and in September councillors endorsed a COVID-19 reactivation and recovery plan. This was supported by a joint \$100 million recovery fund with the state government dedicated to the central city.

October 26 also saw the launch of the "Let's Melbourne Again" campaign by a host of big businesses, creative institutions and the City of Melbourne, aimed at encouraging people to return to the city.

City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney said the coming months would see the rollout of many initiatives from its reactivation and recovery plan.

"We will dramatically increase our marketing program to draw people back into the city. Our marketing of the city will be intensive, creative and highly collaborative, with opportunities for businesses to participate," he said •

**For more information:**  
[melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-melbourne/covid-19-recovery](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-melbourne/covid-19-recovery)

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# EIGHT INSPIRING MELBOURNE AWARDS FINALISTS



This year's Melbourne Awards shine a light on community champions who have shown great leadership, kindness and generosity during COVID-19.

The Melbourne Awards are the City of Melbourne's highest accolade, celebrating inspirational people who dedicate their time and energy to making this city a world leader.

The 2020 awards recognise people who have made a significant contribution in the following categories: business, digital innovation, youth, community, essential services, and arts and culture.

Read on to discover just a few of the finalists.

## 1 Virtual school holiday fun

Home-delivered activity kits for kids aged 5 to 12 and full days of online fun and education led by experts have been a great help for working parents in recent months. This innovation was the brainchild of KidsCo, a company that ran on-site school holiday programs at workplaces before COVID-19.

## 2 Live music in your lounge room

Enjoy live music from home thanks to the weekly Isol-Aid Festival on Instagram. At the end of each set, the musicians tag the next artist to perform, sending fans down a rabbit hole of new music discovery. This event draws a growing community each week, with more than 18,500 unique viewers.

## 3 Selfless service

Driven by sewa (selfless service) the Sikh Volunteers group has been working harder than ever to support people of all backgrounds during COVID-19. Every day, volunteers have provided free food and water to people in need, distributing more than 84,000 meals in the past four months alone.

## 4 High-school hackathons

Nathaniel Diong has spent his lockdown helping educators adapt to remote learning and running virtual hackathons to inspire thousands of high-schoolers to build startups with social impact. He also helped run the global #StartingGood Virtual Summit, a free event for social entrepreneurs.

## 5 Stirring street art

Keep an eye out in Southbank for Peter 'CTO' Seaton's eye-catching mural that depicts two masked people in a loving embrace. The self-funded artwork made a splash in the media and resonated with millions of viewers around the world who have been yearning for connection during restrictions.

## 6 Accessible pet care

The vets, vet nurses and animal welfare officers at Lort Smith have worked tirelessly to support much-loved Melburnian animals and their carers during COVID-19. They have also taken on a huge emergency caseload to help keep pets with their families regardless of financial circumstances.



## 7 Pioneering science

This Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory developed the first throat swab for COVID-19 and was the first lab in the world to grow the virus – a crucial step towards developing vaccines and treatments. The lab has also played an essential role in the Asia Pacific region's public health response to the pandemic, and local testing blitzes.

## 8 First responders

Cherylynn McGurgan travelled with AUSMAT to Wuhan in China, the epicentre of the outbreak, to retrieve hundreds of trapped Australians. After returning home, she set up Melbourne's first screening clinics at Royal Melbourne Hospital. Even contracting COVID-19 did not stop Cherylynn. As soon as it was safe, she was back on the frontline.

The Melbourne Awards are a great opportunity for community changemakers to be recognised, raise their public profile and create valuable networks to further their goals.

To read more about this year's finalists, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards)

## WATCH THE AWARDS CEREMONY

To see the winners of the Melbourne Awards announced on television, including the announcement of the Melburnian of the Year, tune in to Channel 9 at 2pm on Saturday 21 November.

## IN-BRIEF

### BUSINESS CONCIERGE SERVICE

The City of Melbourne's expanded Business Concierge service is here for all businesses affected by COVID-19. Phone 9658 9658 and press 1 for business from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday. You can also submit your query online and subscribe to our Business in Melbourne newsletter at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/business](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/business)

### FASHION WEEK REIMAGINED

Melbourne Fashion Week will return from 23 to 29 November to support local retail, fashion and hospitality industries as they respond to COVID-19. This year, for the first time ever, the program will feature both digital and in-person events, if restrictions allow. Get the latest updates at [mfw.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://mfw.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### OUTDOOR DINING

Local hospitality businesses are gearing up to expand trading onto footpaths, carparks, streets and laneways – as soon as COVID-19 restrictions ease. Our free, fast-tracked outdoor dining permits will help businesses operate safely within the health restrictions advised by the Victorian Government. Find out more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/outdoordining](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/outdoordining)

### COMMUNITY SERVICES REOPEN

The City of Melbourne has begun to reopen a number of its services and facilities, with modified operations and COVID-safe plans in place. For the latest information on childcare, pool-lane bookings, click-and-collect library services and more, view the frequently asked questions at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

### KEEP IN TOUCH

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# Docklands Primary School is built!

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*

EDUCATION

Construction was completed at Docklands Primary School in October. The school will officially open in time for term one in the new year.

The new vertical school includes a library, music and arts rooms, outdoor learning terraces and a competition-grade indoor sports courts for netball and basketball. The school is three storeys and will cater for 525 students.

Minister for Education James Merlino announced that works were finished on October 19.

"This is an exciting step for Docklands families, with local students set to attend a brand-new school in 2021 and receive the world-class education they deserve," Mr Merlino said.

The site will also be home to the Docklands Primary School Kindergarten, which will also open in the new year with capacity for 66 three- and four-year-olds.

The school also revealed its new logo in October. The logo – which is a depiction of Docklands' symbolic waterfront – was voted on by the school community.

It was revealed on the Docklands Primary School Facebook:

"Once a bustling dock with an extensive network of wharves, the introduction of containers saw Melbourne's original docks moved to the mouth of the Yarra to accommodate larger ships – what remained were the 100-year-old wharves and supporting pylons that have become synonymous with the Docklands, now redeveloped into a vibrant and exciting inner-city waterfront community," the post read.

"Viewed through the porthole of a ship, Docklands Primary School logo is an elegant union of old and new. A celebration of the illustrious history of the area, the 100-year-old pylons are highlighted by a modern design, reflective of today. The pylons are strategically



▲ Docklands Primary School's inaugural principal Adam Bright enjoys one of the school's new outdoor seating areas.

positioned to communicate success in terms that every Melbourne child understands, the kicking of a goal."

The school will be headed by principal Adam Bright and assistant principal Louise Spalliera.

Ms Spalliera said the school was focused on delivering the best education in the new year.

"We will deliver a knowledge-rich curriculum with a strong focus on developing the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy,"

she said.

Mr Bright said the school had already received more than 100 prep enrolments for 2021.

"Our school recognises the importance of providing an environment that supports and nurtures our students' social and emotional wellbeing," he said. "We will work to embed a positive educational model that actively promotes the development of happy, healthy and resilient kids."

"We look forward to opening our doors to our new community on January 28." ●



*Meg Hill*

JOURNALIST

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## Hoon trouble continues at Yarra's Edge

### SAFETY & SECURITY

Residents at Yarra's Edge continue to be disturbed by hoon drivers following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, with cars leaving fresh burnout marks along Lorimer St last month.

Residents said that hoon activity had returned to precinct within 24 hours of the state government relaxing its five-kilometre travel restrictions on October 19.

The Yarra Action residents' group, which formed last year in response to ongoing issues in its neighbourhood around car meet-ups near Point Park during weekends, shared photos of the incident the following day with local police and the City of Melbourne.

The images show that the vehicle barely missed the centre median strip on Lorimer St and residents are hoping that recently installed CCTV in the area will help identify those involved.

The incident follows a meeting in July between then Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood, the council's manager of on-street compliance services Dean Robertson and Inspector Troy Papworth from Melbourne East Police Station and more than 50 local residents.

The council and local police continue to work with residents on a range of preventative measures. To report any issues email [yarra.action@gmail.com](mailto:yarra.action@gmail.com) •

# Residents still concerned about short-stay

WORDS BY Meg Hill

STRATA

When Melbourne, and then Victoria, re-entered lockdown in July and August, some residents hoped that short-stay operators had been put out of business for at least the medium term, if not for good.

Guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services Victoria (DHHS) for multi-dwelling properties clarified that private holiday rental facilities (such as Airbnb) were not permitted under stage three or four restrictions, unless they fell into one of eight exceptions.

We Live Here founder Barbara Francis said those exceptions effectively created loopholes for short-stay operators to continue to operate.

"When strangers started appearing in some buildings, that is without the foreknowledge of managers or the owners' corporations (OCs), it indicated some die-hard short-stay operators were involved," Ms Francis said at a forum hosted by Residents First – a council ticket which ran in last month's City of Melbourne elections.

The DHHS guidelines stated exemptions were:

- to a person whose place of residence is the accommodation facility
- to a person who is ordinarily a resident of Victoria but has no permanent place of residence in Victoria
- to a person who has a permanent place of residence in Victoria, but that place is temporarily unavailable
- to a person, on a temporary basis, who has travelled to Victoria for work purposes
- to a person who was already a temporary guest of the accommodation facility on July 8 2020
- to a person who requires emergency accommodation, including in relation to family violence and other vulnerable groups
- to a person who requires accommodation



▲ Strata lawyer Tom Bacon addresses the Residents First webinar last month.

for work purposes, where their work is for the purposes of responding to the state of emergency in existence under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*

- to a person who is subject to a Direction and Detention Notice, the Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Direction or a Detention Direction

The short-stay industry was one of the hardest hit sectors when the pandemic began, and holiday travel stopped. Ms Francis said the industry posed a health risk in the context of a pandemic.

"It is simply that the modus operandi of short term letting is totally at odds with maintaining a COVID-safe plan, it actually creates a potential health hazard," she said.

Strata lawyer Tom Bacon told the forum apartment owners would have no control over keeping short-stays out of their buildings coming out of lockdown.

"There's just nothing that can be done and that of course is the great disappointment here," he said.

"The *Subdivision Act 1988* and the *Owners' Corporation Act 2019*, the legislation that governs short term stays, just has nothing express written in it regarding short term stays."

Mr Bacon said a court case that had tried to enforce rules created by OCs to stop short-stays was struck down by the Supreme Court because of the lack of attention to the issue in the legislation.

He said the only legislation on the issue was written subsequently by the Labor Government to permit short-stay letting.

"You don't have to be too smart to work out that it's the people coming from interstate or overseas that catch the bug and then if they don't quarantine for a period of time then it gets out into the community," he said.

"And if these restrictions lift and if hotel quarantine is lifted or Airbnb is allowed to be a form of quarantine then you've got potentially infected people that have come from all over the country if not all over the world in close proximity with all of the residents." •

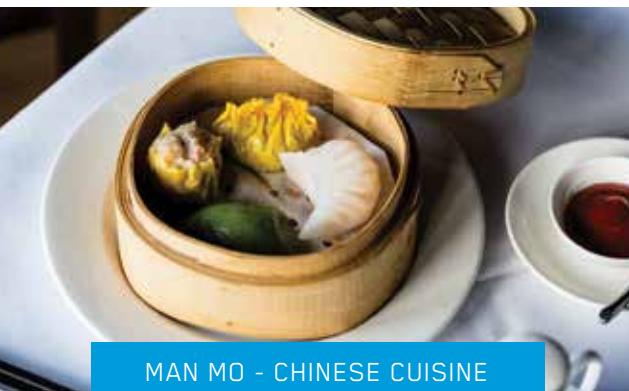
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▲ Jeff Gordon (right) with son Alec.



▲ The Lady Cutler crew and locals celebrate the opening of Burger Beers by the Pier last month.

## Changing the way we dine

WORDS BY Jack Hayes  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY John Tadigiri  
BUSINESS

Docklanders will be looking forward to a summer of alfresco dining as part of the City of Melbourne's plan to wake the area from a COVID-19 slumber.

It is hoped this opening of our boulevards, promenades and streets to outdoor dining will be the relief so many hospitality businesses are after.

One Docklands stalwart and local identity looking to make the most of the fresh air will be Jeff Gordon from the *Lady Cutler* and Melbourne Showboat.

As he is not able to have more than 20 patrons on his boat at any one time, cruising the waterways has taken a back seat for Mr Gordon. As a result, he is "pivoting" from usual practice by turning the *Lady Cutler* into Docklands first floating beer and burger bar.

Burgers and Beers by the Pier will act as both a restaurant and live music venue bringing much-needed life back to the Harbour.

"We are still waiting on the council to give



the final go-ahead for our outdoor dining layout, but we plan to open up the area between our berth and the Port Phillip Ferries café for diners to enjoy what I believe are the best burgers in Docklands," Mr Gordon said.

"We are open to the public between 4pm and 8pm seven days a week and if our COVID situation improves and allows us to have 50 or 100 people on the boat, we will be able to cruise either side of those hours; which will mean cruises at lunchtime and then after 8pm for night-time cruising."

As is the case for many businesses throughout Docklands, Mr Gordon and his team on the *Lady Cutler* have been decimated by the impacts

of COVID-19.

"We've been locked down and non-operational for seven months, since the end of March. Sadly, in that time there has been zero business," Mr Gordon said.

"And while business has stopped our costs to keep the boat on the water still keep coming, which is much the same for all charter boats on the Harbour."

Although he admits it would be easy to wallow in the face of a once-in-a-generation public health disaster, Mr Gordon is excited for his newest jaunt into the world of burgers, beers and live music.

"I would find it hard to imagine any better celebration of surviving lockdown than enjoying great food and company on the water," Mr Gordon said.

Along with the *Lady Cutler*, many businesses throughout Docklands will be taking to the pavement to expand their offering to locals.

According to Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC), venues who have applied for a \$10,000 grant from the City of Melbourne to prepare themselves for outdoor dining include Steakhouse Grill 66, The Harbour Kitchen, Tataki noodles and dumpling, Urban

Alley, BrewPub, Melbourne Star Observational Wheel, Souperman Café, Sir Basil Café & Restaurant, Sobo Japanese, Sassone Cucina, Cargo Restaurant Bar Café, Berth restaurant and events, TAP 831, Merchant Society and The HoF •

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

**For more about local venues adopting outdoor dining:**  
[docklandscc.com.au](http://docklandscc.com.au)



Jack Hayes  
BUSINESS EDITOR  
[JACK@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:JACK@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU)

## Glenn Harvey answers your legal questions

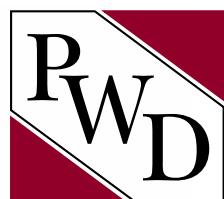
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# Making the case for independent retirement in Docklands

WORDS BY David Schout  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY John Tadigiri  
HEALTH

As the coronavirus pandemic exposes deficiencies in aged care within Victoria and more retirees consider independent living, one local believes Docklands is an ideal alternative to residential aged care.

Public sentiment has shifted on the issue, and a recent survey from agency Faster Horses showed 74 per cent of people said the government should focus on ensuring older Australians can remain in their own homes, up from 69 per cent last year.

The topic has also become a pertinent one for Warren Mills, a 15-year Docklands retiree who has a certain handle on what the local area can provide.

The NewQuay resident moved in with his wife Elaine in 2005, and joked that they're here "for eternity".

"We love it," he said.

"We know all about its shortcomings; it's windy and desolate, it was a vast overreach and badly designed. But the benefits vastly offset the disadvantages, particularly for retirees."

The Conder Tower resident said convenience, access to the CBD, security, lack of maintenance and proximity to freeways and airports made it an ideal retirement alternative — for those in the right position — compared with aged care.

He said the shift in public sentiment had been shaped by the events of 2020.

"I think that's a trend that's been exacerbated by the COVID experience, where we know for sure that aged care facilities are incubators and have been badly managed."

Mr Mills conceded that not everyone was in the position, both financially and health-wise, to do what he and his wife had done.

But for those that can, he has only heard positive reviews.

"We're both in good health; obviously we don't know how long we'll live but let's say it's 20 more years; what we hope is that we can stay here and care for each other, or get the care we need either commercially or from the council or wherever, so that we stay here until we need palliative care."

Even then, he said, the option for in-home care was in some cases possible.

Mr Mills' interest in high-rise living was first piqued when visiting relatives that had just moved into Surfers Paradise's first high-rise.

But for them, the aim was to remain close to family in Melbourne.

"Twenty years ago, retirees all went to Queensland. They were only there for two or



▲ Warren and Elaine Mills in their NewQuay apartment.

three years and came back because they missed contact with their family and friends. A sea-change or moving to the bush would have a similar effect of creating a distance between grandkids and friends. Which, depending on where your networks are, isn't the case moving into the city."

Before moving into Docklands, Mr Mills had lived in Albert Park and before that, the south-eastern suburbs with his family.

During trips to the inner-city, more and more he would see himself moving there permanently.

"When people asked us where we live and we say 'in Docklands, and we've been here for 15 years' they say 'oh, what's that like?' And they're sort of sceptical as to whether that could be viable thing. And I guess the difference is they haven't imagined themselves in this situation."

He said the pandemic had provided clarity on how retirees might live.

"For us to retain our individual sovereignty and dignity, we need to be responsible for ourselves and accountable to each other as much as we possibly can." ●

“

*I think that's a trend that's been exacerbated by the COVID experience, where we know for sure that aged care facilities are incubators and have been badly managed.*

”

David Schout

JOURNALIST

DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



## Another step forward at Digital Harbour

BUILDING

Poly Australia's new Docklands building is officially the tallest tower in Digital Harbour, a precinct that will soon be a new focus of the suburb's development.

The building, which will reach 23 storeys upon completion, finalised its level 10 concrete pour in early October.

The Woods Bagot-designed office tower will become a way-finding structure for Digital Harbour. It's located directly opposite Marvel Stadium at 1000 La Trobe St.

Poly Global associate director of project management Andrew Petricola said the company was pleased to have achieved the milestone in line with the project timeline despite reducing operations in accordance with industry restrictions throughout previous months.

"Reaching level 10 is an exciting moment for us, officiating the development as the tallest tower in Digital Harbour. Since commencement, we've worked diligently with Probuild to efficiently progress with construction, enabling us to remain on schedule for delivery at the end of 2021," he said.

The project continues to operate in adherence with government official advice, including a reduced onsite workforce of 25 percent and continued application of a COVID-safe plan, including; mandatory social distancing, face masks, regular temperature testing, no blending of shifts and an increase in on-site hygiene measures.

The 40,000 sqm development will consist of 23 levels reaching approximately 91m high once complete.

The strong progress at the 1000 Latrobe St site comes amid ongoing work behind the scenes at Digital Harbour by the precinct's developer to renew its master plan under the new name "City Harbour".

The developer continues to work with Development Victoria on its new vision for the precinct and more details will be shared in future editions of *Docklands News* ●



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▲ A render of the new walkway looking towards Spencer St and (below) heading towards Docklands.

## Work starts to transform pedestrian link

WORDS BY Jake Pike

PLANNING

The temporary walkway on Flinders St near the new Melbourne Quarter precinct closed early last month while construction of an upgraded pedestrian link between Docklands and the CBD takes place.

The new-look walkway will run underneath the train overpass along Flinders St between Lendlease's Melbourne Quarter development and Spencer St and transform what has been a largely dormant part of Docklands for many years.

The walkway will be fitted with bluestone paving to match the traditional aesthetic of the city and will also feature two open area grassed embankments and native landscaping.

Development Victoria's group head of precincts Geoff Ward said that the walkway would make Docklands safer and more accessible to pedestrians.

"This pedestrian walkway will further open up access between Docklands and the CBD. It



will be easier, safer, and more accessible and it will transform this part of the city," he said.

During construction, pedestrians will be required to cross to the southern side of Flinders St and use the path to and from the Spencer Street intersection until the new walkway is completed in early 2021. ●

## Docklands gets a taste of its council candidates

ELECTIONS

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC), supported by *Docklands News*, hosted a meet the Lord Mayoral candidates event via Zoom on Wednesday, October 7 ahead of the local council elections on October 24.

Moderated by DCC president Johanna Maxwell, the event was attended by candidates Sally Capp, Arron Wood, Jennifer Yang, Gary Morgan, Nick Russian, Phil Reed (Labor), Apsara Sabaratnam (The Greens) and Wayne Tseng. The Victorian Socialists candidate Kath Larkin, was a late apology due to illness.

While the Zoom format meant a short and sharp webinar, candidates were each given a chance to introduce themselves and their teams' platforms, before Docklands-focused questions were put to each of them to answer.

Questions surrounding reactivation of Docklands, managing current and future development and leveraging Victoria Harbour and the water were posed by the DCC, with questions from locals covering issues such as Harbour Esplanade, Central Pier and Airbnb.

The election's two main contenders incumbent Lord Mayor Sally Capp and incumbent Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood went toe-to-toe on a number of issues, with Ms Capp saying it was time for Docklands to "have its time in the sun".

The Docklands resident said that, if re-elected, she would ensure a "bold approach" to reactivating the suburb as the city looked to rebuild from the second wave of COVID-19.

But Mr Wood, said Docklands should "build on its existing strengths" and that "vanity projects" like Ms Capp's "Greenline" – a project looping the city with green space and pedestrian linkages – were drawing attention away from more important issues.

All candidates recognised Central Pier as a



▲ Arron Wood addresses the online forum.

major area of need in the reactivation of the area, with Ms Capp saying the state government and the City of Melbourne needed to position it as one of the best piers in the world.

Gary Morgan made the case for a maritime museum to be established on the pier, while Labor's Phil Reed floated ideas around wayfinding in Docklands, as well as a swimming pool in the harbour similar to Helsinki's "sea pool".

The Greens Lord Mayoral candidate Apsara Sabaratnam highlighted issues surrounding transparent planning in Docklands and Development Victoria's ongoing role in the precinct, arguing that too many decisions were made behind closed doors.

With COVID-19 seeing office workers vanish from Docklands in 2020, much was also discussed around how to draw them, and visitation, back to the area following the pandemic.

Many locals who tuned into the forum's live chat feed complained about a lack of culinary options for locals along the waterfront, green space, family events and on-water activations in Victoria Harbour.

For more on the City of Melbourne elections read page 1 ●

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## UPDATE ON THE WEST GATE TUNNEL PROJECT

Work is progressing on the West Gate Tunnel Project with crews adding more lanes to the West Gate Freeway to reduce congestion, and upgrading pedestrian bridges first installed in the 1970s.

### New lanes one step closer

Work to widen the West Gate Freeway from 8 to 12 through lanes is well advanced, after a massive amount of work over the past few months.

New lanes have been created and traffic moved to the outer edge of the West Gate Freeway to create a new work site in the middle where crews can carry out further works.

### New bridges create new connections

Vital community-linking pedestrian bridges have been installed over the West Gate Freeway, connecting communities on either side of the freeway.

These integral crossings link the suburbs of Altona North with Brooklyn at Rosala Avenue, and Spotswood with Yarraville at Muir Street.

The new pedestrian bridges are wider to allow pedestrians and cyclists to comfortably share the space, include improved safety features such as CCTV, lighting and higher barriers, and are accessible for people of all abilities with both ramps and stairs.

The bridges will be soon be open for community use.

### Transforming industrial land into green space

The West Gate Tunnel Project is turning vacant industrial land into a new park for the community at New Street on the border of South Kingsville and Altona North. This is one of four new parks the project will create.

Translation service – For languages other than English, please call 13 14 50.  
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Artist impression of a new park at New Street on the border of South Kingsville and Altona North.

We will create a greener and better-connected west by delivering a shared use path under the West Gate Freeway, a gravel path network that connects new open spaces, and a natural playground for children to play on and explore.

A selection of native grasses, trees, ground covers, and shrubs will green and colour the landscape, including Drooping Sheoak, Kangaroo Thorn, Cranberry Heath and Australian Bluebell.

Find out more about the Project's open spaces at:  
[westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au](http://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au)

# Humanity and the sea - maritime art goes virtual

WORDS BY Meg Hill

ARTS &amp; CULTURE

A portrait of Behrouz Boochani – the outspoken refugee activist who was held in detention by the Australian government for six years – has won a category award in the Mission to Seafarers Victoria's (MtSV's) Maritime Art Prize.

The portrait, titled *All Men will be Sailors*, won artist Benedict Sibley the 2020 emerging artist award in the highly regarded competition in October.

"A main aspect with this work is that it's inherently political," Mr Sibley told *Docklands News*.

"The theme of the exhibition was 'the relationship of humanity to the sea' and the way most people have historically come to Australia was from boat."

Mr Sibley's parents were both "boat people" – his mother a refugee from Lithuania, and his father was what Mr Sibley called "cheap migrant labour from England".

"I'm a first-generation Australian and am very grateful that my family was welcomed in when they had nothing," he said.

"Boochani spent six years incarcerated and he never made it here. He was taken in by New Zealand, and I feel that's a massive injustice and a loss for us."

"So, this story is a bit of a jab in terms of humanity and the sea, but it's also about Boochani as a person – he's a very beautiful individual, a great writer, a romantic and at the same time a great journalist."

The title *All Men will be Sailors* was taken from the Leonard Cohen song *Suzanne* by Mr Sibley to make a statement about universality. Leonard Cohen, who was Jewish, was referencing Jesus in the lyric: "The title is a Christian commentary from a Jewish guy talking about a Kurdish refugee coming to Australia," Mr Sibley said.

After 18 years at the MtSV in Docklands, the 2020 Maritime Art Prize was held online due to COVID-19 restrictions. The award and exhibition are used as a fundraising initiative for the Mission.

More than 200 entries were received and 107 were shortlisted this year.

"This year the Art Awards and Exhibition have thrown up some interesting challenges due to COVID-19," Mission to Seafarers Victoria CEO Sue Dight said.

"Taking the exhibition online provides us with a global audience for the artists that have supported the Mission for so many years. Our role in supporting the seafarers is highlighted by providing the public with an understanding of the harsh and dangerous conditions that sea-



▲ Winner Emerging Artist - All Men will be Sailors by Benedict Sibley.



▲ Winner Best Traditional Work - Tooronga and Change by John Woodland.



▲ Winner overall 2020 - A Submariner Dreams of Home by Rodney Forbes.

farers live in daily."

"Our immediate concern is for the 400,000 crew members globally who are stuck on board without shore leave and, for some, a way home. Isolation harms us all and seafarers are suffering more than ever. Art inspires us to remember those who are working solidly to deliver our everyday items."

The major prize was awarded to Rodney Forbes for *A Submariner Dreams of Home* – a piece that took up the themes of isolation and distance.

"It's a sailor in his bunk dreaming and his home village is sort of appearing on his body, so the idea that a big part of being at sea is the isolation of being away from home and being out of contact," Mr Forbes told *Docklands News*.

"I grew up in Williamstown and you would often see the sailors wandering around at a loose end, off the ships, so I've always admired the work of the Mission to Seafarers and what they do with sailors away from home."

Mr Forbes said the sea had been one of many

*"Taking the exhibition online provides us with a global audience for the artists that have supported the Mission for so many years. Our role in supporting the seafarers is highlighted by providing the public with an understanding of the harsh and dangerous conditions that seafarers live in daily."*



running themes in his art since early age. He had entered the Maritime Art Awards twice before.

"I think things in the air can creep into your paintings, and this year that idea of being isolated and stuck inside is something that's been happening to many of us," he said ●

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# Lockdown shades of grey

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

BUSINESS

The first day back for Docklands hairdressers after being closed for three months was an emotional affair with long queues and some customers coming out of hibernation with unruly grey hair.

Instead of getting their locks swiftly trimmed and dyed many customers were beginning to question their ideals of beauty and style.

"A lot of people are going grey," hairdresser Dita Elmazi of Papillon Hairdressing at Yarra's Edge, said.

But she said that many of her female customers were now "accepting they're grey and are just going to grow the colour out."

Papillon, like Docklands' three other hairdressing salons, was booked out by the time they opened their doors for business on Monday, October 19.

Some phoned but others clinched appointments when they saw Dita doing her exercise out the front.

"I'm a local. I live in Tower 5," she said. "They saw me walking outside. The hairdressing is fully booked until next Saturday."

One customer waiting eagerly on the doorstep was 86-year-old Diana who was on just her second outing from her apartment since the latest lockdown began.

"I have short hair. Now it's long," she said. "It's grown three inches."

Diana tried tackling her own nails but they split so she got her daughter to finish the job.

James, an Uber driver, used to live nearby and drove all the way to the riverside establishment on the chance they could slot him in.

"There were queues in South Yarra and South Melbourne," he said.

The three-month closure has made it difficult for some hairdressing salons to deal with the rush.

Suz Salons in Collins St said they had lost all



▲ Dita welcomes back Diana after a three-month absence.

their staff and customers were answering the phones for them.

Maria from TA Salon in Bourke St said there was a queue outside all day Monday.

"I didn't finish working until eight o'clock last night," she said.

Dita said that men had been worse affected by the hairdressing shut-down than women.

"If women don't cut their hair they can tie it up. With men long hair looks out of shape."

She said the girls in the salon were all wearing masks and that there were only four people in at a time ●



## Docklander recognised for global leadership

COMMUNITY

Local resident and former *Docklands News* sustainability columnist Kaushik Sridhar was recently acknowledged in the top 100 of a global ranking on corporate social responsibility (CSR) leadership.

Canadian-based supply chain data company Assent Compliance runs the annual CSR Top 100 Awards – a "who's who" of those around the globe driving significant impacts across various organisations in sustainability, human rights and/or corporate governance.

Mr Sridhar, who's lived in Docklands since 2015, was impressively ranked number eight on the overall list for 2020 for his work over more than 14 years in a range of academic and commercial roles.

While he is no stranger to achieving great things, he described the moment as one of the proudest of his career, having been listed alongside CSR influencers from some of the world's largest companies.

Mr Sridhar will soon relocate to Sydney having taken on a new role as group manager of social responsibility and environmental, social corporate governance (ESG) at the ASX-listed Evolution Mining.

Congratulations from the team at *Docklands News* Kaushik, and thank you for your contributions to our local community! ●



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**LivMate** automatically date and time stamps when attendees check into a business/venue/site and when they check out. COVID-19 contact details are stored for the required time after which they will be automatically removed.

**LivMate** collects information that assists emergency management. In an emergency you know who was onsite and in which area. Reports required for contact tracing and site management can be generated with no additional cost.

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For further details call: Jason **0412 513 229**, Domenic **0428 526 783** or Zane **0409 702 773**



▲ Festival Hall in 1957. Source: SLV; Photographer Lyle Fowler.

## Retail reopens ahead of Christmas trading

WORDS BY *David Schout*

BUSINESS

Docklands retailers finally got their wish in late October as Premier Daniel Andrews gave the green light to reopen two months out from Christmas.

After an anxiety-filled year, outlets forced to shutter on July 8 reopened on October 28 after a gruelling second wave of lockdowns in Melbourne.

For 112 days, most Docklands retailers were open for click-and-collect only and struggled in an environment few could remain profitable in.

Pedestrian counters during the second wave revealed foot traffic was down up to 90 per cent compared to the same time in 2019.

However, there were early signs of a bounce-back in the days following reopening.

Awaiting election results as the Premier's announcement was made, incumbent Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the news was a rich reward.

"All Melburnians will welcome today's announcement by the Premier that our city will take a major reopening step on Wednesday. Hospitality and retail can reopen safely and that means cash registers ringing and more Melburnians back to work," she said.

"Our community has done an amazing job to slow the spread of the virus. Melbourne did what we needed to do and so did the Premier. Now it's time to restart our economy safely to support businesses and save jobs."

Retailers are confident that, as movement picks up, recovery can begin.

Most office workers, however, will remain at home: employers are being told if their employees can work away from the office, they must.

The District Docklands CEO George Karabatatos said reopening was a huge relief after what had been a tough 2020.

"It's been a challenging year for all, particularly for our Melbourne retailers," he said.

"With restrictions gradually easing, The District Docklands team will continue to focus on supporting our local community through our fresh food market and daily convenience offerings which have continued trading throughout all the restrictions. But we are also delighted to welcome back all of Melbourne, to our open-air precinct with COVID-safe events, experiences, entertainment and outdoor dining. We're planning for a spectacular summer at The District to help Melburnians reconnect with their friends and family and also support local businesses."

Australian Retailers Association (ARA) CEO Paul Zahra said small and midsize retailers had been hit hard by "significant delays and setbacks, along with mounting financial concerns".

"But this long-awaited opening means that



▲ Cotton On (left) and City Chic (right) are just some of the retailers back open at The District Docklands.



▲ The hero image from the council's "Shop The City" campaign website.

a COVID-safe normalcy can finally begin to emerge in Victoria," he said.

"We are pleased at this stage that there are no further retail restrictions than those which have already been communicated, most which have proven to keep shopping a safe experience. This is a point we advocated strongly for, given the exemplary safety performance of retailers throughout the pandemic."

The City of Melbourne is set to launch its "Shop The City" campaign from November 27 to 30, which will work with the city's major retailers and shopping precincts to promote special offers and provide marketing assistance.

The council's CEO Justin Hanney said businesses could register to take part in the campaign until close of business on Wednesday, November 4.

"We are looking forward to safely welcoming shoppers back into the city for our annual Shop the City event, which will run in alignment

with our Christmas Festival and Melbourne Fashion Week and correspond with major sales shopping days known as Black Friday and Cyber Monday," he said.

"It's an opportunity for shoppers to take advantage of great deals while enjoying activations such as pop-up street runways, food and drink offerings, freebies and music. It's been a tough year for retail and we are encouraging people to get behind city businesses and give them a much-needed boost over the summer and Christmas holiday period."

"All activations will be run in a COVID-safe manner, adhering to the necessary restrictions at the time." ●

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

# 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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/docklandscommunityhub/)

**DOCKLANDS**  
Community Hub



▲ Connor Lim with his first fish in eight months, a 38-centimetre bream.



▲ Brian Thanh and Vincent Nguyen find a sweet spot at NewQuay.

## Fishermen return to Docklands

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
SPORT & RECREATION

Footy fans might have stayed at home to watch the game but fishermen were ready and willing to travel the distance to Docklands during Grand Final weekend.

They came from St Albans, Box Hill, Footscray, Preston and Ivanhoe after almost eight months of lockdown.

Some set up near the Sunday Market, others moved around the harbour, while one cycled 30 kilometres along the Merri Creek to get here.

But the most successful was Connor Lim from St Albans who caught his first fish within

half an hour of arrival, a 38-centimetre bream near NAB on Harbour Promenade.

He arrived early at 7am. "This is the best time," he said. That's when fish swim up the river from the bay on the rising tide.

Connor had landed eight of the distinctive species by the time he left at 3pm for the 20-kilometre drive home. "I've been here the whole day," he told *Docklands News*.

During the lockdown, restrictions have made fishing difficult, leading to some frustration amongst those in landlocked suburbs.

Boating has been banned and fishing confined to within five kilometres of home.

Grand Final weekend was the first weekend the limit was increased to 25 kilometres and

locals estimated there were 15 fishermen out on the harbour first thing on Sunday morning.

Not everyone was taking the job seriously, though. Some fishermen just like being by the water killing a bit of time with their mates.

For factory workers Brian Thanh and Vincent Nguyen, Victoria Harbour is a great place to relax.

"If I'm at home I talk too much. It makes more stress," Brian said.

The fishermen tried their luck under the Westgate Bridge then found a sweet spot near NewQuay West where they could lounge by the water pretending.

Brian thought he had a bite and there was a bit of build-up but it soon subsided when noth-

ing appeared on the hook.

"We're trying with chicken. We try everything, even KFC," he said.

The friends haven't exercised during the lockdown. "It's been work and home," Vincent said. "Very dull." ●

Rhonda Dredge

JOURNALIST

RHONDA@CBDNEWS.COM.AU



# 2021 bookings open!

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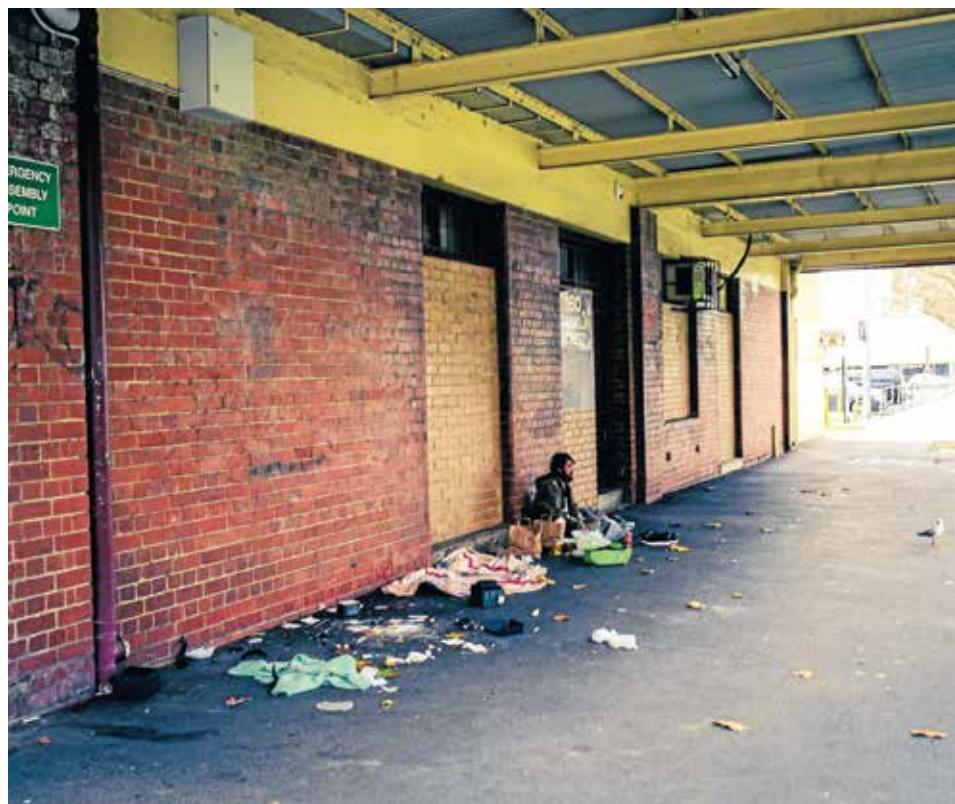
What to do

Where to stay

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Beauty, Health & Fitness

Where to Shop



## Rough sleeping has not been abolished

WORDS BY Meg Hill  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY John Tadigiri  
HOMELESSNESS

There are still people sleeping on the streets of Melbourne despite the measures taken by the state government at the beginning of the pandemic to accommodate rough sleepers in hotel rooms.

At the beginning of the pandemic, state governments across the country housed rough sleepers in hotel rooms. In Victoria there were more than 2000 rough sleepers placed in hotel rooms.

According to sources working in the charity sector there are at least 30 people still sleeping rough in the Hoddle Grid and close surrounds. *Docklands News* understands those people have been offered accommodation in hotels, but sources said many remained on the streets due to serious and complex mental health issues.

Dr James Petty, an expert on homelessness in Melbourne from the University of Melbourne, told *Docklands News* it was unsurprising the hotel accommodation had not eradicated the problem.

"It's definitely welcome that the government recognised the specific and acute vulnerability of people who are experiencing homelessness, but it shouldn't have taken a global pandemic to precipitate those kinds of supports," Dr Petty said.

"What I would say generally is that the initiative is really too little too late. If you think you can take this group that are highly vulnerable, that have been systemically neglected in terms of intervention, funding and policy responses, and snap your fingers and fix the problem then that's sort of silly thinking."

"If you wanted to have an effective pandemic response, and pandemic plans do have this sort of stuff, for vulnerable people on the streets you need to start 10 years before the pandemic."

Mr Petty said there were a number of reasons why the hotel accommodation program would not work for every rough sleeper.

"I would challenge the idea that all of those people have refused accommodation in hotels. Some may have refused it on the basis that it's not suitable for their needs, but some of them have probably just been unable to maintain being accommodated."

"We know that homelessness and that kind of really acute on-the-street homelessness correlates with poor mental health outcomes and episodes as well as other kinds of challenges."

Mr Petty backed up reports from the charity sector that an offer of a roof over one's head was not a fit-all solution.

"I'd have questions about if they're also offered a way to manage their alcohol and drug use issues if they have that, are they being of-

“

*I would challenge the idea that all of those people have refused accommodation in hotels.*

”

ferred alcohol if they have a dependence issue? Because if they're not they could go into withdrawal and die, and the same goes with many other addictions."

"Basically, I would ask if the needs of these people are being met in conjunction with accommodation. They might need acute mental health counselling, medications to manage withdrawals or a supply of the substance they might have a physiological dependence on."

"You need a response that responds to those things on an individual. In terms of something effective you would need to be able to get that accommodation there, check its ok with them, and if it's not you need a different option."

"And then after all that you need to be able to accept that not all people will be able to stay in a hotel room for 24 hours a day."

A report released in October by Launch Housing found that in other states where the pandemic has been at a lull, particularly South Australia and New South Wales, rough sleeping is again on the rise and many people who were put up in hotels had returned to the streets.

The report, the *Australian Homelessness Monitor*, warned that only a minority of those in hotels would emerge from the crisis with permanent homes even in Victoria, where the state government extended the program and promised it would be followed by the temporary leasing of 1100 private rental homes to participants.

"Decades of belt-tightening have seen Australia's social housing supply effectively halved since the 1990s," lead researcher Professor Hal Pawson said.

"This reflects a long-term policy failure by both levels of government and calls for a revived national social housing program as part of a wider Commonwealth-led reform package."

Social housing makes up roughly 3.2 per cent of housing in Victorian, making it the worst performing state in the area. The national average is 4.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, the amount of people on the state's public housing waiting list rose from an estimated 80,000 to an estimated 100,000 over the course of the year so far ●

## Questions over delays to council housing initiative

WORDS BY Sean Carr  
HOUSING

A scheme announced by the City of Melbourne more than a year ago to convert a building it owns in the city into accommodation for rough sleepers in collaboration with the corporate and philanthropic sectors has become beset with delays.

The initiative, which was announced on World Homeless Day on October 10 last year, has seen the council partner with a number of groups to find, assess and redevelop suitable buildings in the municipality for homelessness shelters and support services.

In a press release announcing the program, the council stated, "the vision is to provide a greater supply of supported accommodation to help people off the streets and provide the wrap-around services required to build pathways into secure housing for people sleeping rough in Melbourne."

Major corporate supporters include developer Lendlease, philanthropic groups such as Housing All Australians (HAA), service providers The Salvation Army, VincentCare, Melbourne City Mission and Launch Housing, as well as the professional services such as those of PwC Australia.

The first site earmarked to kickstart the program, a six-storey council-owned building believed to be valued at around \$20 million, was to be converted into housing for rough sleepers in coordination with HAA.

While HAA secured the professional services of a range of private sector organisations free of charge to redevelop the building fit-for-purpose, the City of Melbourne is still yet to finalise service arrangements for the building more than a year later.

It's understood the council has selected a preferred operator to manage the building, but delays have set in surrounding a service provider, which is being run under a separate tender by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

*Docklands News* has contacted the City of Melbourne for comment on several occasions but has received no response to date. But sources within the council have said it has unnecessarily tied itself up in procedural delays and intricate details in delivering the program.

HAA founding director Rob Pradolini said his organisation and the companies involved were still firmly committed to the project.

"The time for talking is over. We to take action and to take action now," he said.

"HAA is still committed to assist the City of Melbourne in creating long term accommodation for vulnerable Victorians. We have offered, over 12 months ago now, the assistance of an amazing group of value-aligned corporates, that have committed using their skills to assist in constructing this accommodation, on a pro bono basis."

"The companies that have made this com-

mitment includes Kane Construction, Cox Architecture, Rider Levett Bucknell, Gallagher Jeffs, Umow Lia, Hollerich Town Planning, Bonaci Group, de Chateau Chun, Irwin Consult, Marshall Day and Norton Rose Fulbright. The total value of this philanthropic gesture by these entities is in the order of \$3.5 million."

Under the program, the council will partner with Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and a giving account within the foundation's tax-deductible fund will be established to take pledges and accept donations for this homelessness initiative.

This partnership will allow corporate supporters and individuals to contribute to the initiative for the urgent need to repurpose buildings to provide appropriate accommodation and house essential support services.

According to a 2014 report, the City of Melbourne owns 74 properties across inner Melbourne worth more than \$2.5 billion. The idea behind pop-up shelters is that an under-utilised building is converted for a period of 20 to 30 years until it is sold or the site is developed.

The importance of the program has been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, with recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) showing that social housing stock in Australia has continued to decline amid soaring demand.

Homeless Australia chair Jenny Smith said October's federal budget failed to include stimulus investment in social housing urgently needed to respond to growing homelessness and included a \$41.3 million cut to homelessness services from July 2021.

Speaking on budget night on October 6, Ms Smith described the budget as "senseless and cruel".

"Tonight's budget is devastating," she said. "In a year with huge increases in unemployment creating a surge in rental stress and homelessness, the federal government has chosen to slash homelessness funding."

"The Treasurer had a choice to make, and he has chosen homelessness for tens of thousands of Australian families. Without increases in social housing and with even less resources for homelessness services, many families will become stuck in homelessness for a long time."

"The government has ignored advice from all corners: from top economists, property industry and community sector leaders, as well as popular support from the community; all calling for the government to invest in social housing to both create thousands of new jobs each year and to deliver enormous social good."

*Docklands News* understands that the Victorian state government is due to announce \$5 billion for housing as part of its state budget, which has been deferred until November 24 due to COVID-19.

Premier Daniel Andrews has recently indicated that the budget will be "unprecedented in the scale and the nature of the investments" the government plans to make ●

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▲ Narelle Withers with her two sons, Zeno (left) and Junior after a shopping spree.



▲ Happy shoppers hit Costco.

## Costco “touched” by loyal customers

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

BUSINESS

Hundreds of happy shoppers converged on the bulk food store Costco after their travel limits were increased to 25 kilometres last month.

Members lined up outside the store to replenish their stocks on the first day they could travel.

There were traffic jams in the car park and waits of half an hour to get inside on October 19.

But the mood was joyful as shoppers emerged laden with the goods they hadn't been able to purchase since the five-kilometre travel limit was introduced in June.

For the Swenson family of Richmond, a white Hilfiger polo top for \$24.99 caught their eye.

And their dog Tassie was once again re-united with his favourite dog food.

For the Withers family of Hoppers Crossing it was the \$2 hot dogs and the dozen muffins for \$10 that won them over.

The lines to get into the store were as long as they were when the city first went into lockdown back in March.

Then, consumers were going for bulk supplies of toilet rolls. This time around large stuffed toys called Squishamals were prominent in trolleys at \$15 a pop.

One Squishimal fan was Lucy Camas from Point Cook. "We came before the queue at around 11. It's a special place to come," she said.

Narelle Withers with her two sons, Zeno and Junior, said this was the first place they wanted

to visit when lockdown was lifted.

"You see things here you can't get anywhere else," she said. "This is the one thing I wanted to do. I waited half an hour to get inside."

Renee and Chris Swenson avoided the queues by putting off their visit until the Tuesday.

"Because we couldn't get there during COVID we got a credit," Renee said. "There were a lot of toys and Christmas presents."

She said the store was just outside their five-kilometre limit and "they don't do delivery."

Her daughter Caitlin asked them to bring back a pizza. "I said if you clean out your room." Caitlin sent her a picture while they were in the store.

"We didn't actually need anything there. We just wanted to be somewhere different. It was

good. We stayed 40 minutes," she said.

The company said it was touched by the spirit of Melbourne shoppers as they came out of lockdown.

"Costco has received countless messages from our Victorian members over the past few months, wishing they were able to visit our warehouses. We are sincerely grateful for how loyal our membership base has been throughout these unprecedented times," Costco Australia's managing director Patrick Noone told *Docklands News*.

"While we were prepared for an increase in foot traffic this week, and continue to implement a COVID-safe plan accordingly, having so many members visiting this early within the first week is touching." ●



## Docklands Community Christmas Twilight Sunday Market

In conjunction with the Docklands Chamber of Commerce  
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# Docklander nominated for inclusivity award

WORDS BY Maeve Bannister

Docklands resident Nicole Maloney is a finalist in the Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation (VSDR) Awards.

The awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of sportspeople with a disability, their coaches, organisations and volunteers who support them as well as the inclusive sport and recreation sector across Victoria.

As community engagement coordinator at St Kilda Football Club, Nicole leads the club's community team which created the Saints Play program.

This program has been nominated for the "Inclusive Sport, Recreation or Open Space Infrastructure" category and Nicole said the team was very excited to be selected as a finalist.

"We are really proud of what we have been able to achieve, how it has helped fans at our game days, and we are very honoured to be nominated for a great award," Nicole said.

"We first included a sensory room as part of our Saints Play all-abilities program where guests of our sensory room are welcome to spend as long as they need in the space to calm down and then re-join the program."

"We started thinking, 'well if we can do it at a program then why can't we do it at an AFL game?' So, in partnership with Marvel Stadium, AFL and Amaze, we secured an AFL membership function space to convert each week into the Chill Out Zone."

St Kilda is the first AFL club to offer a dedicated space for fans having trouble with sensory processing.

“

*Inclusivity and belonging are two key beliefs at our club, and the Saints Play program and Chill Out Zone really exemplify both*

”

The Chill Out Zone provides ample seating, bean bags, colouring books and other quiet activities for participants to play with.

For parents wanting to keep up with the game happening outside, it's played silently on a big screen in the Chill Out Zone.

"Inclusivity and belonging are two key beliefs at our club, and the Saints Play program and Chill Out Zone really exemplify both," Nicole said.

"The value of having a space for people who have a sensory concern has been made abundantly clear through the success of these initiatives."

The space is not just for Saints fans, but all fans of all ages who need to have a break from the crowd during the game.

Nicole hoped this award would spotlight the value of this important infrastructure and make sports games more accessible.



▲ Nicole Maloney, community engagement coordinator at St Kilda Football Club.

"Marvel Stadium has now introduced a permanent room, while Geelong Football Club has a similar program running at GMHBA Stadium," Nicole said.

"It's absolutely something that all stadiums across Australia and the world can look at implementing to help sports fans with sensory concerns." ●

## HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS

# Government needs to invest in housing now

“

*Welcome to the fourth 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.*

*This month we have asked Mark Feenane, executive officer, Victorian Public Tenants Association to share his thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians should be considered an economic imperative for Australia ...*

What is the economic cost compared to the financial or stimulus benefit of building more much-needed public housing?

Clearly there is a societal cost of not housing people as evidenced by the burgeoning number of homeless people in this country but is this less important than finding the money to house those most in need?

The KPMG evaluation of the post GFC housing stimulus was every \$1 spent generated \$1.30 return in the community. This is the financial win. If by housing more people, we can also save money on welfare referrals, prisons, or mental health costs etc. there is likely an additional financial benefit. However, its more than just the economic argument.

The real value proposition is that we need more public housing for what it delivers in human terms to the individuals it houses and for the community benefit generally.

Perhaps the most important infrastructure spend the government can engage in now and post the COVID-19 pandemic, is to invest in public housing and facilitate growth in social and affordable housing more generally. There is now a broad coalition calling for significant investment in social housing and this must be high on the list of government priorities as we navigate through these very difficult times.

It is imperative that any infrastructure expenditure adds true value to people's lives – we need to get the best bang for the money being invested. So, it must be about investing to generate outcomes now and for generations to come. Government investment in housing is not just about economic stimulus but for all that housing provides, and what it leads to as a platform for life.

This is an opportunity to set people up for success. This challenge to government requires true leadership and vision. Making life better for Australians must be the aim; party politics should not be the barrier. Balancing the competing priorities of government may be challenging but that is what we elect politicians to do. It is time for them to step up.

Government must be a conduit to helping people achieve their potential. Unfortunately, many people are missing out on the basics and lack the opportunity and resources to change

their situation. Housing is the main driver to the better more fulfilling life that everyone aspires to and provides a solid foundation for life and opens pathways to the future.

We all share some common needs - food, clothing, and shelter, without which you cannot really operate, engage, or participate at a higher level.

In Australia, most of us have access to adequate food and clothing, although situations and choices can sometimes impact on this. There are numerous agencies established to help bridge the gap by providing emergency relief and essentials for people experiencing tough times and financial hardship in the short term. Meeting the very significant cost to obtain or provide a safe and secure long-term home is a far more challenging ask.

The capital cost of housing, particularly in a market which wants and sees property prices increasing year on year, is seemingly prohibitive to government/s from a budgetary perspective. That is despite the accompanying bonus of increases in sales tax and stamp duties and the ability of government to borrow at record low interest rates.

Ensuring its citizens are adequately housed should be a not-negotiable and expected priority and measure of government.

Housing (shelter) is highly valued by Victorians based on a recent survey conducted by Essential Poll which showed that, regardless of whatever the demographic or political leaning, there was significant support across the board for increases in all forms of social and affordable housing. More than three-quarters of Victorians want the state government to "build significantly more public and community housing" as part of its response to COVID-19.

Everyone needs a place to call home - having safe, secure, and affordable housing is the prize of highest value and the greatest cost benefit by

any analysis. Housing is the major enabler of a valuable life.

The housing value proposition when framed in terms of human values, sits alongside notions of what is important to having a satisfying and rewarding life including health and wellbeing, safety and security, community participation and belonging, education and skills attainment, jobs and job security, personal validation and sense of identity, self-fulfilment, achieving potential etc, all leading to positive valuable life well spent. The list goes on.

What is the cost in human terms of not having safe, secure, and affordable housing for everyone? We need to get the balance and investment right. The prize awaits.

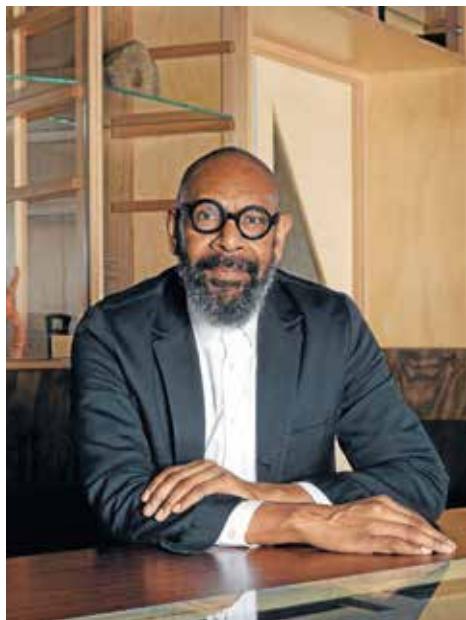
*I hope you found the above perspective by Mark interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our own view of the world, we all need to listen and digest what is said by others in order to find common ground. This is why we are focusing on the fact that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need (not human right) and without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that will span generations. As I said in my first article, doing nothing 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. ●*



Rob Pradolin

FORMER GENERAL MANAGER AT  
FRAERS PROPERTY AUSTRALIA  
AND FOUNDER OF HOUSING ALL  
AUSTRALIANS (HAA)

INFO@HOUSINGALLAUSTRALIANS.  
COM.AU



## The Koorie Heritage Trust: An interview with Tom Mosby

*The Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) was established in 1985. Over four decades, it has been through some major transformations.*

WORDS BY Meg Hill

Tom Mosby, who became CEO of the KHT in 2012, spoke to *Docklands News* about its history and future.

"When I started in the role, we were located in King St, but it wasn't an ideal location simply because we were right at the top of the street and didn't get passing traffic," Mr Mosby told *Docklands News*.

He said by the time he started it was clear KHT needed a more central location.

"The board made the decision to sell the building in King St and find new premises and at that time the Yarra building at Federation Square came up as a possibility."

"There were other options – we discussed Fitzroy and maybe Docklands – but we very much wanted to be at the centre of the city."

"It was a reflection that Aboriginal people and communities shouldn't be on the fringe. We needed to be right in the centre – to show the importance of Aboriginal people to a metropolitan city like Melbourne."

The new home launched in September 2015,

in time for the KHT's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mr Mosby said he came to the role of CEO from a somewhat eclectic career background – in art and in law.

"I'm originally from the Torres Strait, I moved to Melbourne in 1989," he said.

"My first job was actually as an arts conservator with the Art Gallery of Western Australia and I was offered a job after that in Melbourne."

"I worked as an arts restorer and then went back to university and studied law. I practiced as a lawyer for about 10 years in Melbourne, moved to Brisbane for five years, and moved back to Melbourne when I took up the CEO role in 2012."

It was one in a number of location changes for the Trust – which started in the Museum of Victoria when it was housed in the State Library building. The KHT another home-to-be burnt down in an arson attack.

Mr Mosby is now seeing the organisation through another major period of learning and changing.

When the KHT moved into the Yarra Building at Federation Square it took over two

floors of the building, which had its third floor occupied by the Melbourne Festival.

After a few years, Apple came looking for a home for a flagship Melbourne store.

"They had their eyes on the building that we're in, so at one stage we were looking at moving across into the building where ACMI and SBS is, there was a floor we were looking at taking over," Mr Mosby said.

"Obviously Apple's move fell through, and the Melbourne Festival vacated their floor. This presented to us an opportunity to take over the entire building."

"It was our big ambition – the Koorie Heritage Trust as its own stand-alone building, being the third cultural pillar at Federation Square, along with ACMI and the National Gallery of Victoria."

And despite a year interrupted by a global pandemic, with the Trust closing its doors physically – Mr Mosby said that ambition was well on its way to fruition.

While working toward that goal the Trust also pivoted to online programming to remain engaged and relevant.

"The close-down happened while we had a major exhibition that we had scheduled, so we went ahead with it as a virtual exhibition," Mr Mosby said.

"We also created Koorie Heritage Trust Online and a whole online program. An important part of it is Koorie Heritage Trust Voices."

"Basically, when we closed down it became apparent to us very quickly that we were hearing the stories of the general community, the non-Indigenous community, and what was happening to them."

"We said we needed to capture the Indigenous experience. It's a very unique time in our global history, and if we don't capture Indigenous stories during this time in 50 years' time there won't be any record of how they coped." ●

**You can visit the Trust online here: [koorieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/kht-online/](http://koorieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/kht-online/)**

### PRECINCT PERSPECTIVE - YARRA'S EDGE

## Stay vigilant, support local

*As we come out of almost four months in lockdown, which has tested all of us, we must reflect on how far we have come from 750 cases daily to zero.*

But we must realise that there will be the occasional new case of COVID-19, so we must remain vigilant going forward.

Yes, stage 4 restrictions have been tough. In fact, some of the harshest in the world! But, as a collective, Victorians should feel rightfully proud of what we have achieved while setting the gold standard in getting on top of this pandemic.

It hasn't been easy for individuals, businesses and people's mental health but spare a thought for Premier Daniel Andrews who has fronted up to around 120 consecutive daily briefings. He and Chief Medical Officer Brett Sutton have had to make many difficult decisions in trying to keep people safe.

There have been mistakes made along the way as there has been no handbook to deal with this. The Premier has taken responsibility for them and it wouldn't have been easy holding

firm against incredible opposition from the media and politicians trying to point-score at this unprecedented time.

It has been unfortunate that a vocal minority see their civil liberties been taken away in having to wear masks and have not been able to watch or play sport including golf, etc. but this has been a health crisis firstly and a horrible economic one for all. I believe mask-wearing is a small price to pay when you consider what's happening in places right now; in the USA, England, Europe, India, Spain and South America.

Thanks to everyone who has supported their local Docklands and Yarra's Edge businesses that have remained open in a limited capacity with take away only.

It's incumbent on us all to support local where we can as we have been told that "we are all in this together".

Both the state and federal governments, along with City of Melbourne grants, will support the hospitality industry and allow it to open with new requirements. The outdoor dining will be an exciting new time in the warmer months ahead.

Hopefully in the near future employees come back to the Docklands precinct which will help small businesses so affected by the pandemic.

Now that the City of Melbourne elections for Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, along with councillors, have closed, we hope that there will be a greater emphasis on this area and it gets the attention it deserves as a vibrant location.

Some time ago I met with Cr Kevin Louey and suggested that the council look at beautifying the piazza area outside Towers 1 & 2 with permanent tables, chairs and umbrellas to make it more resident-friendly and pointed out that our side of the river seemed underfunded. Also required on the promenade are better bike and walking lanes delineated so as to avoid dangerous situations.

The Yarra Residents' Action Group has supported the Fishermans Bend Business Forum's (FBBF's) suggestion of bringing forward Metro 2 train to Fishermans Bend, as proposed in the urban renewal project's original strategy plan.

We also support its proposal to add a spur line off the existing tram route 109 to branch off to Boundary and Inglis streets. This would eliminate the need for a destructive and expensive tram bridge over the Yarra River, as well as a tram crossing over the busy Lorimer St. The Andrews government is fast tracking billions of dollars on infrastructure projects, so why not bring forward this which will create much needed new jobs?

Our group has backed off at the moment as the government has had enough to contend with this year in dealing with coronavirus, but know that we will pursue things when the time is right. In the meantime please stay safe, wear your mask and observe social distancing measures and support local businesses.

We are lucky to live in one of Melbourne's "Jewels in the Crown" which has so much to offer and it will be great seeing tourists back and boats on the river again soon. ●



**Keith Sutherland**  
YARRA'S EDGE RESIDENT  
[KEITH@SUTHERLANDPROPERTY.COM.AU](mailto:KEITH@SUTHERLANDPROPERTY.COM.AU)

## THE DISTRICT DOCKLANDS

# I will meet you at The District under the Melbourne Star

*Just as we thought nothing would change, Premier Dan Andrews showed up in his North Face jacket and gave us permission to “go a bit higher up the shelf”.*

And just like many households, as I fought back tears I quickly burst into laughter, all out of pure joy. We are out of lockdown Melbourne, we did it! Yes, there's still a long road ahead and perhaps a few more tunnels, but we can finally see the light. Christmas spent with family and friends is all we've wished for, and we're one step closer.

Now, let's get down to business. I love working for The District, so naturally I am drawn to the area, and I'm excited to spend a day there – as a customer, not working. The District is open and some of my favourite stores are back. I will be meeting my bestie Sarah under the Melbourne Star before we grab a coffee at the new Peter & Co café by Peter Rowland – they make a great almond flat white.

While H&M has just launched online in Australia, I still love to try things on in store, so this will be our first stop, followed by Hype DC because you can never have too many trainers. Sarah is keen to check out City Chic and Novo Shoes for an event she's attending later in the year. And for all the staples, we'll be popping into UNIQLO, the back-to-work wardrobe

needs a serious update! That is unless tracksuit pants and oversized jumpers become the new office uniform, but I doubt it. While we're there, we'll check out Toyworld for Christmas gifts for the little people in our lives. Sarah has just moved into a new home, so I will take her into Dream In Style for some new linen and homewares.

Time for lunch. Yassas The Greek Way is perfect, delicious Greek street food with a Melbourne touch. Sarah is coeliac so this is the perfect lunch spot catering for all dietary requirements. We may even have a cheeky cocktail because our next stop is a serious pamper session at Lux Beauty Bar. The mani and pedi days are well overdue and the luxurious beauty salon is just what we'll need after all that shopping and food. And the newly-opened LUXM hairdressing salon has all the Aveda essentials my hair is missing.

Before we part ways, we'll indulge at Gelateria On The Docks, they have an abundance of ice cream and gelato flavours with vegan and dairy free options too. I will say goodbye to Sarah, but I'm not leaving yet. I need to stock



up the pantry and the fridge and my new go-to is Market Lane, The District's very own fresh food precinct, and it's grocery gold! Fish Pier has just opened, so I will spoil myself with a light dinner of oysters. I love every store there, with Gourmet Deli House, MarketPlace Fresh, The Butcher Club Epicurean, Woolworths and Dan Murphy's – I'm sorted.

I'm looking forward to this day, catching up with my bestie for a walk through the open-air malls of The District, shopping, dining, pampering and stocking up with groceries, plus all of that for only \$5 parking. The District car park is open 24 hours a day and only \$5 all-day parking until the end of November. I look

forward to the reopening of Melbourne Star, HOYTS and Archie Brothers too, I'll struggle to stay away.

Where will you go? Who will you meet? Pop Docklands on the list, The District is the perfect place to catch up with friends and indulge in retail therapy, food and so much more ●



Ivana Molnar

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS  
MANAGER THE DISTRICT DOCKLANDS  
IVANA@THEDISTRICTDOCKLANDS.COM.AU

## CRITIC

## The best read in lockdown

Ryll has a visionary mind that Kehlmann uses to avoid clunky endings to the hero's dilemmas and Her Highness is a wonderful negotiator who, even though she has nothing to give, works on the expectations of diplomats by threatening to retract her demand if it is not met.

There's nothing like following a good story through its twists and turns, and City of Melbourne librarians have been busy over the lockdown period checking out the range of fiction released in 2020.

The *Bildungsroman*, a classic German form of story that has never gone out of fashion, is on the library list.

Traditionally, a young hero leaves home to learn a few of life's difficult lessons away from prying eyes.

On the way he meets a range of characters who both help and hinder him, with adversity being a measure of the story's strength and emotional appeal.

*Tyll*, by Daniel Kehlmann, is the latest version of this eternal story and, surprisingly, an English princess by the name of Liz is the hero's most loyal supporter rather than his German countrymen.

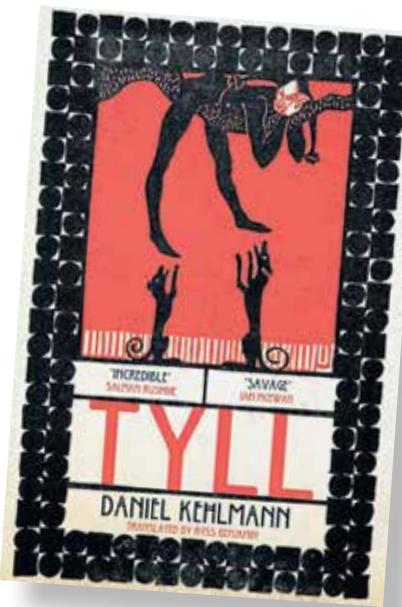
The action takes place in middle-Europe in the 1600s, predominantly in scary, magic infested woods and the hungry villages that surround them. When a villager is hanged, his last meal is the best food he's ever eaten.

Tyll is forced out of his village as a boy to become a performer who makes his living by learning how to turn a trick on market day.

By the end of this clever novel, Tyll can juggle swords, break out of a caved-in mine, withstand torture, survive a night in the forest and raise a troupe of musicians.

"All these people," his teacher tells him, "are in the travelling trades. Anyone who robs or kills them is not prosecuted. That is the price of freedom."

The novel makes a strong argument in favour of the truth of theatre. Liz, who was raised as a princess in England on the finest of perfor-



▲ *Tyll*, Daniel Kehlmann, RiverRun, 2020.

mances, is in mourning for the standards across the Channel when she marries into German royalty.

"On the stage people were themselves, completely free, fully transparent," she reminds herself. "In real life no-one spoke in soliloquies. Everyone kept his thoughts to himself, faces could not be read, everyone dragged the dead weight of their secrets."

She, however, puts on a fine performance by parodying court protocol that wins her a new territory after her husband Friedrich loses his kingdom of Bohemia.

Both Ryll and the queen have been exiled from their rightful inheritances by warring Christian factions and they are forced to give up all thought of revenge.

The Thirty Years' War was not a time in history to be taking uncalculated risks.

The book illustrates through story some of the roles still prevalent in our culture – comedians, politicians and clergy, in descending order of merit.

Knowledge is far more important than information and there are some sublime scenes in this novel that show just that at work.

Ryll has a visionary mind that Kehlmann uses to avoid clunky endings to the hero's dilemmas and Her Highness is a wonderful negotiator who, even though she has nothing to give, works on the expectations of diplomats by threatening to retract her demand if it is not met.

The novel is regarded by one City of Melbourne librarian as the best read by far during his 2020 lockdown ●



Rhonda Dredge

JOURNALIST  
RHONDA@CBDNEWS.COM.AU

# How to keep your brain healthy

*Recently in the clinic, there has been a significant increase in number of people reporting brain-related symptoms, such as forgetfulness, fatigue and brain fog.*



Our brains are designed to be stimulated, and as we hopefully head towards an easing in COVID restrictions, here are a few tips on how you can keep your brain stimulated and healthy long-term.

As we age, our brains may struggle to fire on all cylinders and keep up with us. Some of the most familiar examples of this are frequent forgetfulness, delayed cognitive reactions, and increased confusion.

Often, we might chalk up simple memory slips to "getting older" – accepting a decline in brain function as an inevitable and unavoidable consequence of time, rather than a matter of health. But luckily for us, there are a few key tips to dodging the decline and keeping a healthy and active brain, and they're pretty easy!

## Exercising your brain regularly

It's very tempting to slump in front of your television or computer with some favourite snacks after a long day. But, switching on can lead to your brain switching off due to a lack of proper stimulation.

Our brain is a muscle and it needs exercise! Solving puzzles, reading books, cooking something from a recipe – these are all super-simple ways to stimulate your brain and keep it active to keep it healthy. Exercising your brain helps it to grow new cells and improve and develop new neural connections that may have been lost to physical trauma, inactivity, substance abuse, or a stroke.

## Exercising your body

You guessed it! Regular exercise is great for many things, and keeping a healthy brain is one of the top benefits. Regular daily exercise helps improve cardiovascular circulation and stimulate the brain to grow new neurons. It also helps to decrease the risk of stroke and Alzheimer's disease – both of which can have devastating and permanent effects on the brain.

Try to work in 20 to 30 minutes of daily exercise to keep your body and mind moving!



## Get proper rest

While we're sleeping, our brains are working away at sorting, processing, and retaining the day's events. This hugely-important process impacts key functions such as memory retention, cognitive function, and regulating our emotions.

Make sure you get adequate sleep every night by sticking to a routine, or addressing the issues affecting your ability to get quality rest.

## Get social

Humans are naturally social creatures, and many studies have indicated a link between keeping good quality social connections and keeping strong brain cells. Social interactions help enrich our life experience, learn from others, and maintain good mental health hygiene.

## Maintain a healthy diet

It's no surprise that keeping a healthy diet will help to keep a healthy brain. When it comes to brain health and your eating habits, balance is key. Your body and brain need a balanced combination of proteins, vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and other vital nutrients that all come from your food.

By ensuring you're maintaining a well-balanced and considered diet, you're safeguarding your brain's health and helping it to thrive over time instead of decline ●



**Dr Mike Edgley**  
CHIROPRACTOR  
[DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU](http://DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU)

## CHAMBER UPDATE

# Docklands in COVID-safe trading

*We've seen the first semblances of what society is going to look like post-lockdown. It's still pretty grim if you ask me but it's our new reality.*

Docklands is waking up and leading the way with the first events to be held in Melbourne. We've already seen the return of the Sunday Markets and this will lead up to the ever-popular Christmas markets on Sunday, December 6.

Before then however, The District Docklands is kicking us off with "Imaginaire" – a visual immersion hosted under the Melbourne Star. We can't wait to get a look at it when it opens mid-November. The District will also be reinstating its own markets with the famous doggy version first to go. Keep an eye out for our socials as we'll share the details – [fb.me/melbdock](https://fb.me/melbdock)

## Speaking of socials

Our social media has continued to do well even in lockdown times. If you're a business in Docklands, then you really need to take advantage of our Facebook (above) and our Instagram – [instagram.com/docklandsmelb](https://instagram.com/docklandsmelb) and our hashtags #docklandsiloveyou and #docklandsmelb.

We've got a special to support our local businesses right now. We made the executive decision not to charge any of our members until the end of January 2021 but we're extending that to new members as well. So, if you'd like to take advantage of our socials and our website to ramp up your business exposure – [docklandscch.com.au](http://docklandscch.com.au) – then the already minimal annual fee is being waived for the next three months.

## Breaking the rules

We've seen a few of our local businesses hit with some fines in recent weeks, most particularly for renovations during the complete lockdown. So, while we can ask all of our businesses to respect the restrictions, if you do see someone doing something wrong, then don't take it upon yourself to point it. Use the appropriate mechanism which is the dedicated restriction breach police hotline - 131 444.

## The Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC) annual general meeting (AGM)

Official notice of the DCC AGM. Details as follows:

Date – November 12  
Time – 6pm to 6.30pm  
Attendance – Zoom

All registered members are eligible to attend.

We call for nominations for the executive committee. Please email Shane - [admin@docklandscch.com.au](mailto:admin@docklandscch.com.au) if you wish to nominate for the executive committee. Our executive committee is limited to 11. Beyond this we will accept a secret ballot on the night.

Positions on the executive committee such as president, vice president will be voted on by the incoming executive committee on that night.

Please note that both the existing president and vice president will be re-standing ●



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



# Coffee Break

## Harbour Promenade

# Short-stays exploit family violence loophole

In a new low for a controversial industry, short-stay guests have claimed to be victims of family violence to get around the Stage 3 and 4 bans on Airbnb and similar services.

In banning short-term letting platforms from providing holiday accommodation, the DHHS included a "List of Permitted Operations" that perhaps, unwittingly, provided a loophole for diehard short-stay operators, viz:

- There were no guidelines as to how these services could be accessed in private residential buildings, or
- no information on where the people requiring accommodation could go for assistance.

Only one of the nine permitted operations – people returning to their own home – was directly applicable to residential strata buildings.

The other permitted operations including essential services, family violence, homelessness, etc. would have required an agency or some other body to facilitate it.

The short-stay industry in Victoria has been almost eliminated by the COVID-19 pandemic, firstly by the absence of tourists and now the legal ban.

However, a few intractable operators are trying to keep operating for guests armed with fake stories. One such fake story relating to family violence was reported to "We Live Here".

Making a false claim to be a victim of family violence is much more than an affront to other residents; it shows egregious disrespect to genuine victims of family violence.

This new short-stay scam is truly disgraceful.

## Isolated party apartments despite legal ban

The one issue that the police have been responding to during the Stage 3 and 4 restrictions have been parties and conducting drug raids.

Guests have been evicted, charged and fined. We have not heard of any owners of the relevant apartments being charged – they should have been.

Other reports of strangers in buildings, avoiding reception, gaining access via carparks, etc. have been all too common.

There is no official record of the person or reason for being there – and what would happen in an emergency?

Calls and emails to the COVID-19 hotline for advice have mostly gone nowhere.

Paying attention to parties and drug busts is not enough. There is a ban on short stays and the authorities are not responding to calls to enforce the law.

## Stage 4 lockdown

Additional restrictions and guidelines issued for multi-dwelling properties with shared facilities include the following directive:

"Holiday visitors are currently not permitted in Victoria. This includes short-stay accommodation. Victoria Police are conducting routine enforcement of restrictions and can issue on the spot fines of up to \$1652 for individuals."

Also included in the guidelines is a mandate for COVIDSafe plans to be implemented:

1. Development of COVIDSafe plans
2. Restricting access to communal areas

3. Safety and hygiene measures for open and communal areas and facilities.

4. Use of face coverings

5. Four sqm rule

6. Notification of positive cases

If implemented accordingly it now creates another reason why apartments in residential buildings should not be used for any other purpose than to accommodate permanent residents:

**It is simply that the modus operandi of short-term letting is totally at odds with maintaining a COVIDSafe building. It actually creates a potential health hazard.**

Frustrated residents have reported illegal short-stay activity to the COVID-19 Hotline, also to Victoria Police via their hotline and in person. The stock reply, if there has been any response at all, was, "we have no authority to act".

How many times have we heard that over the past few weeks! Have DHHS and Victoria Police trained its operators to read off the same script?

It's clear that short-stays in apartment buildings operate quite differently compared with those in free standing holiday-let properties. It's an important difference the government needs to understand.

## How has your building responded to COVID?

With no help from the COVID-19 hotline or the police, residents are telling us that the task has been left to the strata manager.

How has your building fared? The Stage 4 lockdown has shown up:

- the good – managers working in harmony with the OC and residents, and taking it in their stride;
- the indecisive – managers changing their mind from supporting the OC to being unsure what to do next; and
- the bad – managers totally ignoring the concerns of residents.

Despite some glitches, our buildings are now generally cleaner, safer, more secure than most us can ever remember.

## After the restrictions?

Unfortunately, there is currently no law in Victoria that prevents short-stays in residential buildings once the restrictions are lifted.

Buildings need to prepare now for how to deal with short-stays in a post-lockdown era.

Your COVIDSafe plan must have specific rules for registering short-stay guests and the six mandatory requirements shown above.

In the coming months we will keep you posted on how you can manage the post-lockdown recovery phase with more information in this column and at our website ●

*Barbara Francis &*

*Rus Littleson*

EMAIL:  
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET

LEARN MORE AT WELIVEHERE.NET



## SKYPAD LIVING

# Skilling owners' corporations

*It was precisely six years ago in the 2014 November edition of Docklands News that an article appeared on "Owners' corporation groups sprouting". Three new groups were identified as supporting the particular needs of Victorian owners' corporations (OCs).*

First listed was Owners' Corporation Network Victoria (OCNV), which was headed by the then Docklands Community Association president Roger Gardner. This group was said to be modelled on similar interstate bodies and had a stated aim of connecting with these to develop a national network for Australian OCs.

The second group listed was the Metropolitan Owners Corporation Committee Association (MOCCA), which had Helina Marshall as group coordinator. The aim of MOCCA was to allow OCs to share information and knowledge, and to learn from each other. And at that time, they had 11 buildings involved.

The third group listed was the Chairman's Council, a network of OC chairs from buildings managed by the strata management group, The Knight Alliance. The idea for this came from a "Chairman's Supper", attended by chairs from within The Knight Alliance's property portfolio.

Coming to the present day, November 2020, none of these groups appear active.

Indeed, within the City of Melbourne, the Southbank Owners' Corporations Network (SOCN) appears a rare example of an active group supporting OCs – meeting every two months to discuss issues relevant to strata living in Southbank.



This said, it is also noted that there are active advocacy groups, such as We Live Here, which lobby on behalf of the high-rise living sector on issues affecting liveability, such as short stays.

But what is still missing from our sector are dedicated resources and services needed to assist OCs perform their legal duties. And

support is indeed needed as OCs are comprised of volunteers who are responsible for managing the common property of residential buildings. In the City of Melbourne, this means they are responsible for managing assets worth hundreds of millions of dollars and are responsible for ensuring the conduct of required maintenance, proper financial management and adherence to all associated regulations. Furthermore, the manner in which these duties are performed will directly affect the wellbeing of hundreds of residents and associated investors.

Now compare this level of OC responsibility to directors of community organisations (noting that the operating budgets of our OCs may far outstrip those of many community organisations). Despite this, directors of community organisations can access a suite of support tools and resources tailored to their needs. For instance, the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA) provides dedicated training, information, tools, events, qualifications and credentials specifically designed for the needs of this sector.

However, no comparable support is available to our OCs. This has meant that, typically, committee members "learn on the job", often taking their lead from others (who also have not received relevant training). The implications of this are that our strata buildings are the responsibility of volunteers who have no access to relevant training or support.

To redress the current situation, one possibility is to setup a Victorian OCN, similar to that which operates in NSW. This group offers knowledge sharing and access to specialised

resources such as webinars. They also advocate on behalf of their sector which might go some way to explaining why the NSW state government has a greater focus upon residential strata than does our Victorian state government. For example, the NSW Government is currently developing sector offerings like their "Strata Portal" - an online register to collect information from strata schemes across NSW. According to NSW Minister Dominello, "As a Government we want to make things easier for people who live in strata. By unlocking basic strata information, I believe we can help owners, tenants and prospective purchasers to make more informed decisions".

However, even NSW does not – yet – offer that calibre of OC training believed needed by our OCs.

With the new City of Melbourne Council soon to be known, perhaps this is an area where it can take a lead – and make residential living a council priority! ●



*Dr Janette Corcoran*

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/SKYPADLIVING/

# It's time to activate Docklands

*It's great to see universal agreement during the City of Melbourne elections that activation of Docklands is long overdue.*

Elections are always a good time to focus attention on neglected community projects and assets. It's pleasing to note, too, that the media picked up on several maritime/waterways issues advocated by the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN), e.g. a ferry hub in Victoria Harbour, the Northbank Birrarung–Bolte Bridge trail, water-based creative technologies, illumination of the bridges, and the Yarra swimming pool. Clearly the focus on Docklands and waterways is currently strong.

We await the council election results to see which councillors carry the momentum in relation to waterways activation. The impetus must be maintained, especially activation for transport and tourism. Although "special occasion" boat hire is available to us all, Melbourne water taxis (from Southgate Promenade and NewQuay) have been operating for 20 years, but water transport has to yet become – pardon the pun – "mainstream"!

Not so very long ago, water transportation provided us with all manner of essential services – trade, transport and entertainment. And, predictably, the water and weather took a heavy toll on ships. Maintenance was essential and this meant dry and wet docks which once lined the Yarra. Now they have all gone except the splendid heritage-listed Duke's and Orr's graving dry dock built in 1868 (where the *Polly Woodside* currently sits at Southbank).

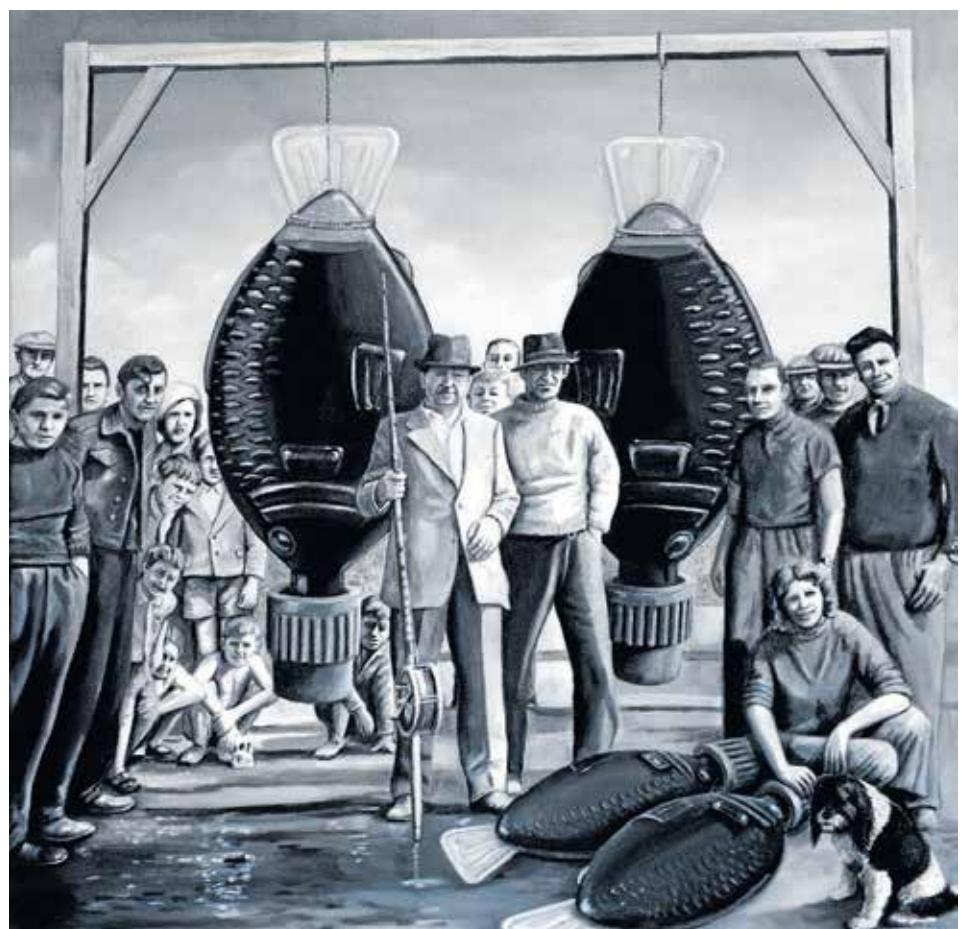
Between the dock and the Convention Centre, the fascinating dry docks pump house, with the engine room visible through tall glass walls and explanatory signage is still on site. Add to this, the University of Melbourne archives hold the collection of the Duke's and Orr's Amalgamated Dry Docks Ltd documents

– a fascinating record of the engineering, maintenance and repair side of the maritime industry in Melbourne.

Archivist Georgina Ward describes this dock as having served thousands of ships, including those affected by the battles of war time, docked, cleaned, painted and repaired, until its closure in 1975. Noting that in 1904 an immense and costly reconstruction was completed using a selection of species including red gum, blue gum, grey box and ironbark ... for replacing the old sheathing around the dock as well as the floor and massive mitre gates. It is the last timber-walled dry dock in Australia, and of its size, possibly one of the last in the world. Its longevity is said to be in part due to the walls of the dock being of Australian eucalyptus timber, renowned for its strength and durability. See [lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/](http://lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/).

Water, weather and COVID continue to take their toll, but spring is here, lockdown is loosening, and it's heartening to see local waterway operators "pivoting", re-booting their businesses and the benefits of food and "fresh" air on the water. It's great to see GoBoat offering BYO picnic boat hire and a showboat offering "burgers and beers by the Pier".

This link between food and the water was picked up in a whimsical work by Mark Seabrook titled *The Catch* which won equal second prize at the 2020 Mission to Seafarers Maritime Art Awards and Exhibition. Look closely at what is caught in *The Catch*! This international competition that has been hosted at the heritage-listed Mission building for eighteen years, it is a highlight in the life of Docklands. This year the 2020 competition, exhibition and sale went virtual. Actually, you can



▲ Equal second overall - *The Catch* (1938) by Mark Seabrook.

still "attend" until November 15 and perhaps be tempted to purchase one of the works ●

[missiontoseafarers.com.au/  
art-prize/](http://missiontoseafarers.com.au/art-prize/)



Jackie Watts

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

## ABBY'S ANGLE

# Let's think about "freedom" again

*As restrictions finally ease around Melbourne, and indeed around Australia, the hint of freedom is tantalising.*

And yet, as we move towards the freedom we have always wanted, cherished and deserved – to walk the streets safely, to travel, to make plans for holidays – there is a veil of nervousness as to how long this will last.

And who can blame us? 2020 has been one incredibly wild, unpredictable and tumultuous time. The catch cry of "these unprecedented times" is overused, yet incredibly accurate. It has simply never been known before.

And so, the path through this year has not been guaranteed but rather constantly changing. Oh, how I laugh (satirically), that in December of 2019 my heart raced, and I felt I could taste the fear in my mouth as we watched the first black plumes of the bushfires just kilometres away. If someone had told me then what actually lay ahead, it would have been beyond comprehension.

So here we are in November, having lived with increasing restrictions since March, and we are finally approaching freedom. We can see on the horizon, the possible return of "pre-2020" life when borders were open and the only barrier to visiting family and friends was our own ability to find time in our busy schedules. We ache for the return to our old ways, in a way that we can only truly appreciate now it's been taken from us. We ache for connection, we ache for safety, we ache for freedom. Yet, Australia has done incredibly well. We are able to be angry at the loss of freedom, rather than the loss

of life that many countries weep for.

So, let's think about "freedom" again. "May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right" – Peter Marshall.

We need to protect ourselves by doing what is right. Sometimes that means we can't do everything we please, until we know it's safe to do so. Yet we must confidently walk into the future carrying our learnings of this damn virus. We must trust that knowledge is power. So, our freedom is given to us to do the right thing, to do what we can to stop the spread, so that we can truly live without fear of lockdowns.

"The only real prison is fear, and the only real freedom is freedom from fear" – Aung San Suu Kyi.

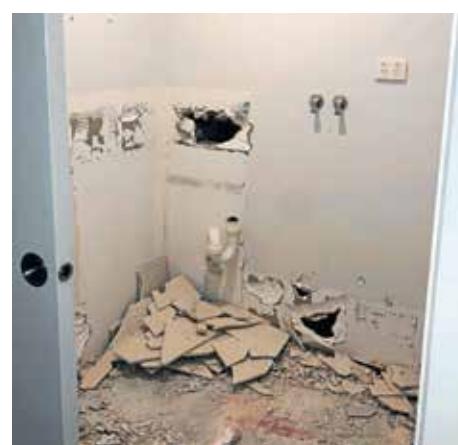
We are incredibly lucky. We have been saved from the devastations that other countries are still experiencing. It has come with huge costs and huge sacrifices – stay kind to each other, continue to protect each other, we have all been through a lot. Be proud of yourself Melbourne, for getting us out of this one as well as you have. It's time to build for the future again. Let's be free from fear, and know we have what it takes to fight the threats that will no doubt return. This bastard of a year's not over yet.

Stay strong.  
With love,  
Abby ●



Abby Crawford  
[LIFE@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:LIFE@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



A cautionary tale for apartment owners

My wife and I are long-term Docklands apartment owners and residents.

For some time, we have planned to renovate our ageing apartment to make it fit for its ageing occupants into the future. Our renovation got underway after the first lockdown, but with the second lockdown, this was halted by our owners' corporation manager (OCM) citing advice from the strata association and Business Victoria.

Four months later our apartment still has no bathroom or kitchen or laundry, and we cannot get an answer from our OCM, nor from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, the Minister for Health or their departments as to when we may be able to complete our renovation. No matter that the building and the builder have a COVID-safe plan. This has serious implications for all owners of apartments in multi-dwelling complexes. If you are not permitted to start a renovation, or you have started but not completed, you may never be allowed to complete your renovation, under current rules.

Consequently, we should all fear for the liveability and resale value of our apartments in the weeks, months and perhaps years to come.

Thomas McNair



Rainbow over Docklands

Dear team,  
As we are progressing through the storm and dark clouds of life, I deeply feel that the beautiful rainbow captured by me is an indication of a beautiful time to look forward to.

Enjoy this phase!  
Cheers,  
Rahul Sagane



Reflective harbour

Hello team,  
I clicked a few images on my walk last night. It was not windy and the reflection seems almost mirrored.

Hope it looks good to be published.  
Kind Regards,  
Reecha Kumari



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

## HISTORY

## A Coode time on the Yarra

*The Yarra means many things to many people. It has been a home for wildlife, a valuable resource for both the Wurundjeri people and European settlers, a gateway to the city for cargo ships, a leisurely ride for tourists, and a safety mattress for Birdman Rally contestants. However, no one would dare think of the Yarra as the site of a temporary railway.*

But the photo above, taken near the docks area in the mid-1880s, shows it happened when a specific portion of the river didn't yet exist.

Up until the 1880s the city end of the Yarra was narrow, and wound into a difficult bend west of the swamp, known as Humbug Reach (or Fishermans Bend) before reaching the bay. For smaller ships, this winding, shallow river would be difficult and time-consuming to navigate, and all but impossible for larger ships. For shipowners, the alternatives were to dump their cargo at Port Melbourne and Williamstown or let a lighter haul it up the Yarra. On top of this, the Yarra had major floods in 1863 and 1878 causing major damage and distress for civilians.

Despite public outcry to improve the ports, the government did little to solve the problem. A breakthrough finally happened in 1877 when the Melbourne Harbour Trust – an organisation supported by the Chamber of Commerce to control the ports – was established. The Trust used its new-found authority to invite an experienced engineer to solve the problem.

Enter British-born engineer Sir John Coode. Having supervised the Portland Harbour works in England, he arrived in Melbourne in 1878 on a fee of £5000 and, after surveying the area (during which the city was flooded in March), released his final report in February 1879. His solution was to cut a curved canal from the gas works west of Spencer St to Hobsons Bay,

bypassing the bend altogether. He also recommended widening and deepening the river, the construction of three docks (including one near the gas works) and removing The Falls, a rocky reef at Market St that had divided the Yarra's freshwater from the tidal saltwater. He wasn't the first to suggest a canal; others had suggested a direct canal that would cut through South Melbourne to Port Melbourne. However, Coode stood by his decision, feeling access to the smaller rivers would be improved and that the alternative proposed canal would not solve the flooding issues.

The government accepted the proposals and work began during the autumn of 1880. As a way of using the unemployed in the city, the government solicited the Trust to hire 100 men to start wheelbarrow work. According to an 1883 edition of *The Argus* (March 13), the Public Works Department would supply locomotive and stock to carry the dirt for reclamation projects around the Yarra's banks, and the Trust would buy a steam navvy (or steam shovel) to help with the dredging.

The Trust's activities were restricted due to legislation issues and work was suspended multiple times. The pace picked up after 1883 when the Melbourne Harbour Trust Act was amended, extending the Trust's power over the ports. By then around 400,000 (out of a predicted 1.2 million) cubic yards of dirt had been dug up,



forcing the Trust to pay back the government £8581 (or around \$1.9 million today). The Trust's tender was eventually accepted by Mark Gardiner and Co. for £65,059 (over \$14 million today), that contract guaranteed that the work would be done in 18 months. Work commenced in February 1884 as hundreds of men dug through the sand and clay. Horse-drawn trucks and locomotives would haul much of the dirt out of the canal to then build up low-lying lands. With a lot of the work being near swamp land, a centrifugal pump was used to pump out any water that remained inside and the banks were lined with bluestone. All the while, with Coode often away on other business, the work was supervised by the Trust's engineer, Irish-born Joseph Brady.

The contract deadlines were not met. When a ceremony to fill the Yarra was performed by Governor Henry Brougham Loch on August 11, 1886 there were still some banks left to demolish. It wasn't until July 1887 that the canal was officially opened to all boats by Harbour Trust chairman, Alderman O'Grady, with 80 other guests on the paddle steamer *Gannet* as it sailed down the channel. By then over 1,325,000 million cubic yards (or around 1,013,035 cubic metres) of dirt had been removed, and according to the *Leader* (July 30, 1887) the canal was 2000 yards (1829 metres) in length, 90 yards (82 metres) wide and 18 feet (5.4 metres) deep

at low water. It removed over a mile from the original route of the Yarra and saved anywhere from 11 to 17 minutes travel time. The cherry on top was that it was less expensive than initially planned. Coode's estimate for the main canal excavation was £476,200 (or around \$107 million) with extra for deepening to 27 feet; instead it cost around £96,000 (or around \$23 million).

The canal has since become a staple of Melbourne's waterways, with only some extra widening works in the 1910s being the biggest change. As for Humbug Reach, it created the border for Coode Island, later known as a quarantine site and industrial area.

Ironically, while no other wheeled vehicles have driven along the canal floor, the opposite would happen to the old river; gradual city expansion saw the old river course all but consumed by the 1960s, where the Swanson Dock now stands •



Ashley Smith

RESEARCHER  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

## Dust continues to settle on the *Owners' Corporation Act (2019)* reforms

*Hurrah! We are able to leave our apartments at last, and go out and have some fun. But seriously, Consumer Affairs Victoria, you all should perhaps stay inside and complete your work.*

It is truly astounding that the *Owners' Corporation Amendment Bill (2019)* still has not been enacted.

It sailed through the Lower House Legislative Assembly, and got as far as the Second Reading speech in the Upper House Legislative Council on February 20, 2020 via Adem Somyurek, and there it has been stuck in limbo ever since.

Remember, some of these reforms were ready to be enacted as far back as 2014, and the Bill was substantially complete at the end of 2016.

With the number of persons living in strata in Melbourne now over the one-million mark, and with the value of strata buildings in Australia worth in the trillions of dollars, there is a great need for robust, up-to-date legislation that takes account of the complexities and frustrations of living and working in a strata titled building.

However, the Consumer Affairs Victoria web page (updated on May 22, 2020) still says that "the Bill should be introduced into Parliament later in 2019."

There are many key reforms that the owners' corporation (OC) has desperately needed to be introduced within the last four years in particular. Countless harms are being transacted upon the community, while parliament and Consumer Affairs Victoria dithers.

Reforms such as: introducing stricter regulatory reporting requirements for OCs with more than 50 lots, prohibiting a developer from selling lots in a building where the budget for the annual fees is obviously wrong, permitting an

OC to bring legal proceedings against wrongdoers without needing to pass a special resolution, enshrining the "benefit" principle for extraordinary fees where only one or some lot owners will benefit from work that needs to be done to common property, prohibiting an OC manager from having a contract greater than three years, requiring a developer to disclose all relationships with any service providers that they appoint before they register an OC, a restriction on how many proxies a person may hold at a general meeting. The list goes on.

These are important reforms. They will allow Victoria to "catch up" with the strata laws in other states and territories, as well as to keep up with community expectations.

The longer the government continues to drag its feet, the more that the community will start to think that something more sinister is at play. Why delay reforms that will only benefit owners of apartments, unless there is money to be made by those that build those apartments?

My request to the newly-minted Minister of Consumer Affairs? Nip down to Parliament's next sitting with a memo to request this legislation gets passed pronto ... •



Tom Bacon

TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.  
TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.COM.AU

## 10 YEARS ON

## Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

NOVEMBER 2010 | ISSUE 59

DOCKLANDS NEWS

## VicUrban boss quits

*Docklands' top-ranking bureaucrat David Young has resigned from VicUrban.*

WORDS BY Shane Scanlan

Mr Young assumed the top job in Docklands less than 18 months ago and has presided over a period of upheaval and redirection for the State Government's development arm.

VicUrban has struggled to reinvent itself after being given a new mandate earlier this year to focus on urban consolidation. Staff morale has plummeted amid forced redundancies and multiple resignations.

There is speculation about VicUrban's future beyond the state election on November 27. VicUrban controls all new development in Docklands but is not publicly accountable.

Mr Young has been generally unpopular with staff, developers and the Docklands community.

His resignation on October 21 came only a day before his predecessor Michael Hynes' last day at VicUrban.

Mr Hynes also resigned. He was shifted sideways when Mr Young became general manager, project planning and innovation with particular responsibility for Docklands mid-last year.

VicUrban's Docklands division is down to about 10 people – a far cry from the 52 who worked for the previous Docklands Authority.

Mr Young said his future was "under wraps" but told Docklands News he was taking his



daughter to see her English grandparents. His last day will be November 5.

He said he resigned out of choice and was not pushed. He said he felt he had made a significant positive change in Docklands' direction and was leaving at a time when the precinct was well positioned to enter its second decade.

VicUrban chief executive Pru Sanderson agreed that Mr Young's leadership meant Docklands was in a strong position.

She said Docklands development director Simon Wilson would be acting general manager for Docklands until the position had been formally filled •

## BUSINESS

▼ Petra Harmer-Shrowder.



“

*I'm very open to celebrations of any kind and embrace all communities, whether it be LGBTQI+ or for cross-cultural partnerships; I think there is a lot to be brought into a ceremony, and it should be accessible for everyone.*

”

## Mission to Seafarers: Open to everyone from November 4

We have all been released from lockdown after many months of doing the right thing. Imagine if your lockdown was coming up to 17 months, and you have no idea when you might see your home or family again.

There are sailors in this situation right now, crews of men and women who deliver everything for us (including the coffee beans that make Melbourne such a special place to be).

Australian maritime laws help prevent seafarers' isolation most of the time, by detaining and banning ships, but if you're too scared to speak up, what happens then?

To help with this issue, our service provides crew with someone to speak to in confidence. It might be via WhatsApp, or Facebook, or text messaging late into the night, we have one of our team on standby to help.

Shore leave grants crew members a few hours to rest and relax away from their dangerous and constant work; think sinking ships, bad weather and pirates (who carry AK47's, not parrots on their shoulders).

There has been no shore leave in Melbourne since the start of this pandemic, and there will be none for the foreseeable future, while there are still border restrictions in place.

The Mission has been taking care of the



“

*There has been no shore leave in Melbourne since the start of this pandemic, and there will be none for the foreseeable future, while there are still border restrictions in place.*

”

start of my career as a celebrant, and I haven't looked back," she said.

Since those fateful days in 2017, Ms Harmer-Shrowder has been gaining further knowledge and recently she has become a Commonwealth registered marriage celebrant after studying at The Gordon TAFE in Geelong.

Her formal accreditation and training sought a way for Ms Harmer-Shrowder to launch her own business; PH Celebrants.

Although she admits starting a new business during the grips of a global pandemic has been incredibly challenging, Ms Harmer-Shrowder has nothing but optimism for her foray into the world of celebrancy.

"I want people to know I'm here and available, and to educate people as to what a celebrant is. I've realised a lot of people don't understand what a celebrant is and what they do," Ms Harmer-Shrowder said.

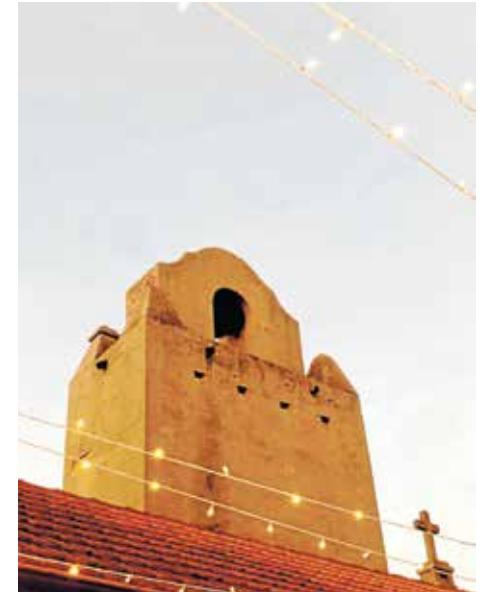
"We write a ceremony from A to Z and spend many hours with clients ascertaining what it is they want to achieve. From celebrating life, a recommitment to each other with a renewal of vows, getting married or scattering of ashes, we are there for people whatever the circumstance."

"I'm very open to celebrations of any kind and embrace all communities, whether it be LGBTQI+ or for cross-cultural partnerships; I think there is a lot to be brought into a ceremony, and it should be accessible for everyone."

With the infectious optimism she exudes, it is easy to see how Ms Harmer-Shrowder has transitioned from a former public relations expert to newly-appointed celebrant •

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

## MISSION TO SEAFARERS



seafarers by shopping for them (there is no click-and-collect in the middle of the ocean), by arranging for families to receive their pay (so they don't go hungry at home), and by making sure they have books, beanies and a few treats (thanks to donations by [Good360.org.au](https://www.good360.org.au), Rotary Prahan, and our supporters).

The annual Maritime Art Prize fundraiser went online this year, and everyone can vote in the VICT People's Choice for their favourite work - <https://gallery.missiontoseafarers.com.au/>.

A special congratulations to Rodney Forbes who took out the overall prize. Tickets are still available for the raffle, which includes prizes such as a \$2500 hospitality package at the Mission, or a trip out to see the big ships with a Port Philip Sea Pilot.

However, even though the seafarers can't visit the Mission right now, you certainly can! From Wednesday, November 4, we will reopen. You can now grab a beer, wine or coffee and

sit in the best beer garden in Melbourne, or in our Spanish-styled courtyard, to enjoy the freedoms we have once again. We are planning a summer series of music to ensure you have a good time outdoors in a COVID-safe way. Tables for catch-ups indoors or out can be booked by emailing [info@missiontoseafarers.com.au](mailto:info@missiontoseafarers.com.au), or just drop in.

As you do enjoy the newly-renovated spaces you will be supporting the crews by making sure the Mission is ready for them when they are able to again enjoy shore leave. If you have always wondered what is behind the façade, do come in, we are open to everyone •



**Sue Dight**  
CEO OF MISSION TO SEAFARERS VICTORIA  
[SUE.DIGHT@MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.COM.AU](mailto:SUE.DIGHT@MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.COM.AU)

# 关注Docklands港区的未来

Meg Hill

专业焦点小组一直在研究如何塑造Docklands港区的未来。

其中一个想改造港区的公寓居住以适合家庭生活，而另一个想在Ron Barassi Senior公园举办一个新的社区活动，称为“港区礼物”(The Docklands Gift)活动！

这些焦点小组包括“港区礼物”和“港区儿童”(Kids in Docklands)，是墨尔本委员会领导项目的一部分，该项目被称为“未来焦点小组”。委员会未来焦点小组曾经发起了一些项目，这些项目已成为城市的永久组成部分，包括环城电车。

菲利普·罗斯(Phillip Roth)是维多利亚发展局的一名城镇规划者，也是“港区儿童”小组的一员，该小组正在研究如何使港区的公寓生活更加适合家庭。

罗斯先生说：“我们看到的趋势是，年轻人常常是市中心公寓的主要住户类型，当他们到了想要组建家庭的年龄时，通常会搬

出市区。”

“这就是我们想解决的一个问题，如何使这些人有了家庭后能留在市区公寓，让市中心变得对他们更有吸引力。”

罗斯先生表示，此项目主要针对Docklands港区，审查在港区Lendlease的开发设计，确定开发商在港区未来开发中可以实施的变更。

与此同时，委员会的另一个焦点小组正在研究如何将港区作为一个社区进行联系并同时进行推广。

他们与维多利亚田径联盟、新的港区小学和港区体育俱乐部合作，推出了一项名为“港区礼物”的活动。

首届活动将于2021年3月20日在Ron Barassi Senior公园举行。联邦广场的设施经理科林·麦克沃伊(Colin McEvoy)也参与了这个项目。

他说：“维多利亚田径联盟在11月份举行一系列活动，最终在维多利亚州Stawell举行的“Stawell礼物”活动中达到高潮，这是澳大利亚规模最大的跑步比赛。”

“我们希望Docklands港区有一个与“St-



awell礼物”非常相似的“港区礼物”活动。

麦克沃伊先生说，这项活动将是一项支持跑步运动的活动，也是一项让所有人都可参与的比赛活动。

这一天将有许多不同距离的比赛，包括小学儿童的比赛，将由港区体育俱乐部管理。该焦点团体已经得到了墨尔本市政的许可来举办这次活动。



## 居民仍然担心短期出租

当墨尔本和维多利亚州在7月和8月重新进入封锁状态时，一些居民希望短期出租经营者至少在此期间停业，即使不是永久的停业。

维多利亚州卫生与公共服务部(DHHS)发布的多住宅物业指南明确指出，私人假日租赁(如Airbnb)在第三阶段或第四阶段的封锁限制下是不允许经营的，除非属于八种特例情况之一。

“我们居住这里”团体的创始人芭芭拉·弗朗西斯(Barbara Francis)说，这些特例实际上为短租经营者继续经营制造了漏洞。

弗朗西斯在“居民第一”主办的一个论坛上表示：“当陌生人开始出现在一些公寓大楼时，也就是说，在大楼经理或物业管理(OCs)不知情的情况下，这表明一些顽固的短租经营者参与其中”。“居民第一”是上个月墨尔本市政选举中的一个候选团体。

当新冠疫情爆发，而且假日旅行停止时，短租行业是受影响最严重的行业之一。弗朗西斯女士说，在疫情流行期间，这个行业构成了健康风险。

她说：“很明显短期出租的做法与维持COVID安全计划完全相矛盾，实际上会造成潜在的健康危害。”

Strata律师汤姆·培根(Tom Bacon)在论坛上表示，疫情封锁期间公寓业主无法控制短期住宿者进入公寓大楼。

他说：“对此无能为力，这当然是非常令人失望的。”

“在《建筑细分法1988》和《物业管理法2019》中，没有关于短期租房的任何明文规定。”

培根先生表示，最高法院驳回了由物业管理组织提出的阻止短期租客案例，原因是立法中对此缺乏明文条例。

他说，有关这个问题的唯一立法是后来由工党政府起草的允许短期出租。

## 港区小学建成了！

新的港区小学(Docklands Primary School)已经于10月建设完工，并将在新年的第一学期正式开学。

这座崭新的垂直学校包括一个图书馆、音乐和美术室，室外学习露台和一个比赛级的室内篮球场。新学校是一个三层楼的建筑，可容纳525名学生。

教育部长詹姆斯·梅利诺(James Merlino)宣布工程于10月19日完成。

梅利诺说：“这对港区家庭来说是令人兴奋的，当地学生将在2021年进入一所全新的学校并接受应得的世界一流教育。”

该学校同时也是Docklands小学幼儿园的所在地，该幼儿园也将在新的一年开放，可容纳66名三岁和四岁的儿童。

学校还在10月公布了新的学校徽标。新

徽标具有象征性的Docklands海滨描绘，由学校社区投票通过。

港区小学的脸书上写道：“曾经是一个繁忙的码头，大量的停船泊位。由于集装箱的引入，使这个墨尔本最初的码头搬迁到了雅拉河口，以容纳更大的船只进出，剩下的就是已有100年历史的老码头和支撑柱，如今已经成为港区的代名词，现在重新发展成了一个充满活力和令人兴奋的市内海滨社区。”

“港区小学的徽标就像透过船的舷窗所看到的新旧码头优雅结合，这是对港区辉煌历史的庆祝。具有100年历史的柱柱赋予了现代的设计，反映出今天的港区面貌，这些柱柱的定位策略传达了让每个墨尔本孩子都能理解，如何成功地达到目标。”

港区小学的校长是亚当·布赖特(Adam Bright)，助理校长是路易丝·斯帕利拉(Louise Spalliera)。

## 圣诞节前零售业重新开放

David Schout

州长丹尼尔·安德鲁斯(Daniel Andrews)10月下旬宣布了Docklands港区零售业开放，港区零售商终于能实现圣诞节前两个月重新开业的愿望。

在这充满焦虑的一年里，墨尔本经历了历经折磨的第二波疫情封锁，这些在7月8日关闭的商店于10月28日重新开业。

在112天里，大多数港区零售商只提供网上点击购买和取货服务，并且在难以维持盈利的商业环境中苦苦挣扎。

在第二波疫情封锁期间，港区的行人流量与2019年同期相比下降了90%。

然而，在重新开放后的几天里，客流量有一定的反弹迹象。

等待市政选举结果的现任市长萨利·卡普(Sally Capp)表示，州长宣布此次重新开放的消息是令人鼓舞的。

她说：“所有墨尔本人都将欢迎州长今天宣布的消息，我们的城市将在星期三采取重大的重新开放步骤。酒店和零售业可以安全地重新开放，这意味着收银机响起，更多的墨尔本人重新开始工作。”

“我们的社区在阻止病毒传播方面做得非常出色。墨尔本做了我们需要做的，州长也做了。现在是时候安全重启我们的经济来支持企业和挽救就业了。”

零售商有信心，随着市场活动的加快，恢复可以开始。

大多数办公室工作人员将依然留在家里工作，雇主们被告知，如果他们的员工可以不去办公楼工作的话，他们必须在家工作。

港区商场首席执行官乔治·卡拉巴托斯(George Karabatos)表示，经历了这次2020年的艰难封锁期间，重新开放是一种巨大的解脱。

# Business Directory

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Entry via Merchant St

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After Hours 13 74 25  
Fax 9629 4265

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 9am-12 noon

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Sat: 8:30-1pm

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T (03) 9021 9487 | mob 0488 799 487  
(opposite Victoria Harbour Medical Centre)  
www.docklandsdentalstudio.com.au

## Entertainment



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OBSEVATION WHEEL  
101 Waterfront Way, Docklands, 3008  
melbournestar.com

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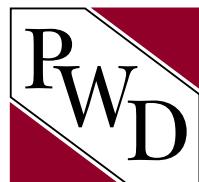
SERVICES:  
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### HOURS

Mon-Fri 8am-7pm | Sat 8am-12pm

4/860 Collins St, Docklands, 3008  
(03) 9088 3228 [www.docklandshealth.com.au](http://www.docklandshealth.com.au)

## Legal Advice



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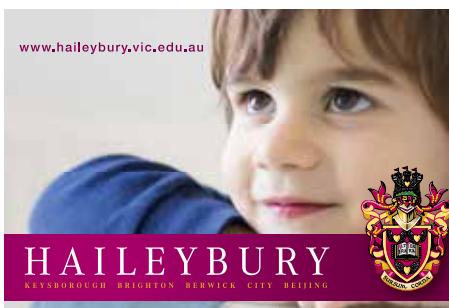
Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
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[QVM.COM.AU](http://qvm.com.au)

## Renovation



## School



## Pharmacy



Hours: Mon to Fri 8am-8pm & Sat 9am-1pm  
Pharmacy Giftware  
Magazines & Papers Tattslotto  
Same day dry cleaning  
66 Merchant St, Docklands (opposite Safeway)  
Ph: 03 9629 9922 Fax: 03 9629 9933  
Email: [vicharbourpharmacy@nunet.com.au](mailto:vicharbourpharmacy@nunet.com.au)



Hours: Monday to Friday 7am-8pm  
Saturday 10am-6pm  
Southern Cross Station  
Shop C8, 99 Spencer St, Docklands  
Ph: 03 9600 0294 Fax: 03 9600 0594  
Email: [southerncrosspharmacy@nunet.com.au](mailto:southerncrosspharmacy@nunet.com.au)

## Real Estate



T: 03 9001 1333

818 Bourke Street,  
Docklands  
VIC 3008

SALES Glenn Donnelly m: 0419 998 235

LEASING Lina D'Ambrosio m: 0430 929 851

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

SELLING | LEASING | PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

## DOCKLANDS NEWS

Talk to Docklands News owner Sean Car

T 0433 930 484

E [sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au)

about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.



THE DISTRICT  
DOCKLANDS

# The District is open

For up to date information and to see who is open,  
**check [thedistrictdocklands.com.au](http://thedistrictdocklands.com.au)**



## Dine-in is back

Our cafes and restaurants are reopening and look forward to serving you, including Fukutontei Ramen, Urban Alley Brewery, Yassas, Dohtonbori and more.

## Your favourite brands are open

With safety measures in place, your favourite stores including H&M, UNIQLO, Skechers, Hype DC, Ozmosis, Lux Beauty Bar and more are open and look forward to seeing you.



## Black Friday Friday 27 November

This year's sale will be huge and the perfect time to get your Christmas shopping done. There will be entertainment and giveaways throughout the day.



## The District Makers Market Sunday 29 November

Back by popular demand and we're kicking it off with our Dog Market! WOOF! Bring your furry friends along for a day of fun, shopping and puppuccinos.

## Easy and convenient parking at The District 90 minute FREE parking + \$5 ALL DAY parking.

Terms and conditions apply. \$5 ALL DAY parking valid until 30 November 2020.

Woolworths  
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Dan Murphy's

H&M

UNI  
QLO