

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Pirates arrr-ive!
Photo by John Tadigiri

The Mission to Seafarers will soon welcome sea shanties, fire-breathers and the cackle of pirates, with Queens of the Damned Theatre Restaurant soon opening a pop-up “Pirate Experience”. *Continued on page 11.*

Appeal court backs decision on Lacrosse building

WORDS BY David Schout
STRATA

The builder of Docklands’ Lacrosse building is not liable for a 2014 cladding-fuelled fire after the Victorian Court of Appeal upheld a landmark decision on the case.

A strata lawyer said the decision provided “clarity” for liability going forward, and was “good news” for Lacrosse apartment owners.

In 2019 a Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) decision on the fire, which was ignited by a cigarette and raced up 13 storeys, found that while builder LU Simon had installed the combustible panels, it bore little liability because it had relied on consultant advice.

Instead, fire safety engineers Thomas Nicolas, building surveyors Gardner Group and architects Elenberg Fraser were apportioned varying degrees of liability on the more than \$5.7 million in damages.

On March 26, the Court of Appeal upheld the decision that the three parties were liable for the cladding that

fuelled the dangerous fire.

They had appealed on 25 grounds, of which the court dismissed 24.

The court granted leave to appeal on one of Gardner Group’s grounds, which could change the damages apportioned to the consultants.

While that issue remained to be decided in the appeal, Strata Title Lawyers CEO Tom Bacon told Docklands News that “most of the Lacrosse case is now over”.

“It’s good news for the Lacrosse building and its owners. And, it’s good news for other strata buildings with flammable cladding and active or potential claims,” he said.

Unlike the 2017 Grenfell Tower tragedy in London, no one died in the 2014 Lacrosse building fire, although 400 people were forced to evacuate.

Mr Bacon said the decision was an important step for rectification works going forward.

“The Court of Appeal decision provides clarity and some degree of finality on the principles to be applied in determining who exactly in the design, construction and

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At last ... a residents’ group is restored in Docklands!

After several years without an established residents’ group, the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) has finally become an incorporated organisation marking the beginning of a new united voice for the Docklands community.

WORDS BY Sean Car
COMMUNITY

Following the demise of the former Docklands Community Association (DCA) in 2017, the DRG has officially filled the void after becoming an incorporated entity last month under the inaugural presidency of Ben Ball.

The DRG was born through the City of Melbourne’s Docklands Community Forum initiative and has been slowly building momentum in recent years as members of the group have sought to establish their own standalone organisation.

And with the group now formally incorporated, the DRG’s inaugural secretary Dr Janette Corcoran told *Docklands News* that “the training wheels were now off” and that it was now inviting members of the local community to join.

“It’s a huge milestone and we’re really excited about what that now will allow us to do and allow us to be,” Dr Corcoran said.

“We’re really chuffed that it’s got to this stage and a lot of the groundwork has been laid. Ben [Ball] referred to it as the training wheels coming off. I think what’s been good is that we’ve now got a track record of putting on events and deal with issues that are demonstratively important to Docklands.”

“There needs to be a way for the people and the place of Docklands

to connect with decision-makers in Docklands, which can be difficult. We’d like to be a conduit for connecting the many and varied. Our focus wants to be on the people and place in Docklands.”

“That’s the people who live, work and have a connection. Whether they play sport here or have a cultural connection.”

For many years now, Docklands has remained the only suburb within the City of Melbourne without its own official body representing the interests of local residents.

Given the number of pending cornerstone projects in Docklands, the establishment of an independent DRG comes as welcome news to the community which now has an official platform to advocate for change.

Dr Corcoran said the group was keen to bring together a diverse range of voices and skillsets in the local community to represent all residents from NewQuay to Yarra’s Edge and would be included in Lord Mayor Sally Capp’s new resident panel.

She also added that the inaugural committee of five was very keen to both collaborate with other resident groups within the City of Melbourne and also look towards establishing an owners’ corporation network for Docklands.

“We’ll be playing around with the model of it but what we’re looking at doing will be hosting forums that

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“We just want to know what happened” at Central Pier

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
BUSINESS

Former Central Pier tenants and members of the Friends of Central Pier lobby group have renewed calls for a parliamentary inquiry into its closure by Development Victoria.

It follows Reason Party leader and Member for Northern Metropolitan Fiona Patten’s question to the Minister for Workplace Safety Ingrid Stitt in the Victorian Legislative Council in February asking why the government was yet to launch an investigation.

“Despite the clear and obvious workplace safety risk, an investigation was never launched, and this put at risk 1300 workers and the thousands of visitors to the pier, so I ask the Minister to explain why no investigation was launched,” Ms Patten said.

Ingrid Stitt replied that while the matters were still before the Federal Court, she was prepared to look further into WorkSafe issues revealed in court documents by *The Age* in February, but refused to commit to a formal investigation.

General manager of Austage Events Nick Ellul, whose business once provided and managed audio-visual infrastructure for events held at Central Pier, said all businesses and staff just wanted to understand what happened.

“We’re talking in the media about 600 jobs that have been saved at a smelter in Portland and that gets the Prime Minister’s attention, but we lose more than 1300 jobs at Central Pier in Docklands and that manages to get buried,” he said.

“I feel like there is no vindication for my staff who lost their jobs. This is someone upstream who obviously done their job given the timber that we stood on every day was rotting and liable to give way at any moment.”

Having once employed around 15 full-time

staff and around 30 part-time staff to run equipment at events held at Central Pier for eight years, Mr Ellul told *Docklands News* that he’d only since managed to transition “a handful of them” since the closure.

After Federal Court documents revealed Development Victoria knew about the risk of a “catastrophic” failure of the marine structure some years before its sudden evacuation in August 2019, he compared the oversight to that of flammable cladding on high-rise towers.

“Given it’s sitting on 1300 pieces of timber, that’s not one or two pieces that they’ve missed. How is it that enough of those have been missed that are broken and rotten that we need to have an emergency evacuation,” Mr Ellul said.

“Post-traumatic stress syndrome is not an unwarranted term given that we didn’t know when we were going to get back and the future of our jobs. We were told on the night that they needed four weeks to assess it. Then they needed another three months.”

“Within several weeks all of our work just began vaporising for the next two years so we literally saw our businesses evaporating in front of our eyes. That made it doubly hard for the staff.”

“They could of given us that chance to transition our businesses on the night, even years before given what *The Age* uncovered. Instead they chose to try and bury it. They knew what was going on but they chose not to notify us about it and, in turn, put the public’s safety and our staff’s safety and risk.”

“That leaves us dismayed and devastated. We still have assets on that pier that we’ll never be able to recover.”

Development Victoria is expected to begin a public consultation into the pier’s future use by the middle of the year ●



Appeal court backs decision on Lacrosse building

Continued from page 1.

certification of a building will be responsible for the costs of rectification,” he said.

However, he said there remained unresolved cases littered around the city.

“Crucially for owners’ corporations (OCs), there are still hundreds of residential buildings around Melbourne that are awaiting rectification. It now seems there is little risk in holding off on litigation, now that this has been largely resolved by the courts.”

Mr Bacon criticised a recent state government decision to reject a Greens bid to make it easier for OCs to take legal action against corrupt developers. The amendments looked to lower the barrier for OCs seeking legal action on building defects and cladding rectification, from a “special resolution” (75 per cent OC vote) to an “ordinary resolution” (50 per cent).

“The Victorian Government’s recent refusal to remove the requirement to obtain special resolutions before legal proceedings can be commenced, means that for larger buildings it will be almost impossible to pass a special resolution and therefore seek to obtain some form of justice. This is a form of protectionism by the government to its friends in the construction and development sector. Smaller OCs will likely be able to proceed however, which is good news for them.”

It is not known whether consultants in the Lacrosse case would take their appeal to the High Court ●

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COLLINS SQUARE

At last ... a residents’ group is restored in Docklands!

Continued from page 1.

address issues of interest for owners’ corporation because unfortunately, at the moment, there aren’t a lot of resources available. We’d like to formalise that,” Dr Corcoran said.

“We have been engaged informally on the residents’ panel with the Lord Mayor and now we will be becoming part of that. It’s not finalised yet but we will be meeting on a regular basis and that not only connects us with the City of Melbourne, but other resident groups too.”

“The people who are there [committee] have been working with this entity and have been drawn from a particular group of people and we just want to make sure that anybody who is interested in it has the opportunity to engage as well. The whole idea is to have a diversity of input and perspectives.”

“I think it’s critical for residents to be able to have a channel with established connections.”



▲ Inaugural DRG committee members Aditi Rawal, Ben Ball (president) and Janette Corcoran (secretary).

“Because of the vast array of things that are happening here across different levels of government and the different departments, sometimes it’s very difficult to know who to talk to or what channels to go through. I think that’s the role that this group can play.”

The DRG will also soon announce details about its next community forum via its website ●

For more information:
docklands.org.au



Sean Car
EDITOR
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▲ L-R: John Lines AM, Sue Dight CEO, Consul General - Maria Lourdes M. Salcedo, Rev. Onofre 'Inni' Punay, Ian Fletcher, Deputy Consul General Anthony A.L. Mandap and Rev Canon John Sanderson.

Pilipino consul pays the Mission a visit

MARITIME

The Philippine Consulate General in Melbourne Ms Maria Lourdes M. Salcedo visited the Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) for the first time last month to learn more about the organisation’s efforts in supporting seafarers’ welfare.

With more than 40 per cent of seafarers supported by the Mission annually hailing from the Philippines, MtSV CEO Sue Dight said the visit was all about raising awareness and establishing stronger relations with the south-east Asian nation.

Joined by Deputy Consul General Anthony A.L. Mandap, the honorary Consulate General was given a tour of the heritage-listed Mission building and the organisation’s history, before being treated to afternoon tea ●

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missiontoseafarers.com.au

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DOCKLANDS

Cruise to help restore *Alma Doepel*

WORDS BY *Micaela Togher*
COMMUNITY

A Voyage of Discovery Cruise is being held as part of ongoing fundraising efforts to restore the historic *Alma Doepel* tall ship.

On April 18, guests will be able to board the *Lady Cutler* to learn about the history of the *Alma* and hear updates on the restoration process.

The event has been designed to allow passengers to view the progress made on the restoration and learn more about the ship's history.

Starting in Docklands, the three-hour event will travel via the ports of Melbourne along the Yarra River through to Williamstown and back again.

Retired Major General and Vietnam War veteran Michael O'Brien will be on board to deliver a presentation on Melbourne's maritime history – including the pre-settlement era, the development of ports and waterways and the impact of post-settlement times.

Due to remedial works on the North Wharf pier preventing public access to the ship, the traditional annual on-site event has been abandoned in favour of the cruise.

Alma Doepel Supporters Club vice president Bill Reid said the event aimed to celebrate the maritime heritage of Melbourne by seeing the city from the perspective of the sea.

With the hull's exterior now almost complete, the *Alma* is expected to be floated by the end of April or early May.

"We are ready to go – we are just waiting for the shipping company to give the go ahead," Mr Reid said. "We are making good use of the extra time we have to get things done that are better done onshore than afloat."

Restoration on the ship struggled last year after COVID-19 restrictions forced volunteers to stay at home. With restrictions now eased, it is hoped volunteers will return to enable paid labour to focus on the more complicated tasks.

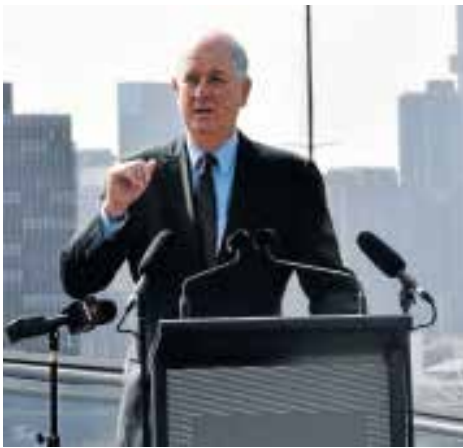
It is estimated a further \$1.3 million will need to be raised in order to complete the repairs.

Melbourne Showboat Cruises is co-presenting the event with a portion of ticket sales going towards the continued restoration effort.

Mr Reid encouraged all who are interested in Melbourne's history to attend.

"We'd love people to come – it's a COVID-safe event. The ship can carry 300 but numbers are limited to 120 to keep everyone safe. It's a celebration of our rich maritime history," he said ●

For more information:
almadoepel.com.au



▲ Minister for Planning Richard Wynne.



▲ Voyager is nearing completion.

Topping off Voyager

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
BUILDING

Dockland's newest apartment tower, Voyager, has topped out ahead of its official completion later this year.

On March 11, Minister for Planning Richard Wynne joined the project's developer Mirvac CEO Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz, and Mirvac's head of residential, Stuart Penklis to celebrate the milestone at a special ceremony.

Soaring 43 levels above Yarra's Edge, at 138 metres, Voyager is now the tallest building in Docklands eclipsing Victoria Point on Harbour Esplanade (128 metres).

The building's residents will be able to enjoy the first ever rooftop lifestyle space in the precinct, just a stone's throw away from the popular Wharf Club at Yarra's Edge.

Speaking at the ceremony on March 11,

Richard Wynne said Mirvac's latest tower was another "extraordinary achievement".

"For so long, we as a community actually turned our back on the river," he said.

"If you look just across the way there, what do you see, you see sheds. Run down, pretty ordinary structures. This is what this area was 25 to 30 years ago."

"I do remember we were down here in 2019, and let me tell you, it was freezing cold, and it was mud up to your knees, and I said 'oh my god, how's this ever going to get completed?' And yet, here it is today."

According to Mirvac, construction of Voyager was not impacted by the pandemic despite the reduced numbers of workers on site.

Residencies were snatched up throughout COVID-19, with more than three-quarters sold in mid-March ●

Bridge barrier due "mid-year"

WORDS BY *David Schout*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A permanent safety fence along La Trobe Street bridge will finally be installed in mid-2021.

Following three years of temporary barriers along both the east and westbound footpaths, a permanent fence was being manufactured and due for installation in coming months.

The interim barriers were installed in April 2018 in what was understood to be an effort to prevent attempts of self-harm and to maintain a safe environment for employees working in the rail corridor below.

"We're delivering a permanent fence along the La Trobe Street bridge to improve safety

along the train network," a Department of Transport spokesperson said.

"We have completed the planning and design phases and the fence is currently being manufactured, with installation to begin mid-year. We'll keep local residents and businesses updated of the work's scope and timing before it begins."

The works along the overpass – which opened in 2000 to connect La Trobe St through to Docklands – is part of the state government's stimulus investment in public transport and road maintenance upgrades.

It also follows recent cycling upgrades on the bridge by the City of Melbourne.

In December, kerbside bike lanes were installed along the street's western end ●

Docklands Activation Strategy looming

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PLANNING

The community is still waiting for the release of the Docklands Activation Strategy, as delays between Development Victoria and the City of Melbourne continue.

The strategy, commissioned by Development Victoria and conducted by events company Alto Cibum, was initially due in December last year.

With Docklands the worst affected postcode in the municipality from COVID-19 with the pandemic causing a near 50 per cent drop in the occupancy of street-fronting businesses, the strategy is considered the vital next step in guide the recovery.

But while the original hold-up was understood to surround a briefing to the newly-elected City of Melbourne councillors late last year, the ongoing delays continue to frustrate local stakeholders as talk of reviving Docklands limps along.

While the Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC) recently launched its Docklands Dollars initiative (read more on page 7), permanent and sustained activation remains the key issue for local businesses in the area.

While the strategy is understood to have been signed off by Development Victoria, a City of Melbourne spokesperson said the council wanted to ensure "additional measures" were included to help activate the precinct in the short-term.

"Development Victoria recently provided the Docklands Activation Strategy to the City of Melbourne for feedback," the spokesperson said.

"Although we've seen some improvement in recent weeks, Docklands remains the area of the city most impacted by COVID-19."

"Given the enormous impact of COVID-19 on the Docklands precinct, we are keen to work with Development Victoria to ensure the strategy incorporates additional measures to help activate the precinct in the short term"

"The City of Melbourne will continue to provide marketing, events and activations to help draw people to Docklands over the coming months."

"For example, we've supported the Docklands Chamber of Commerce with \$100,000 in funding that is being used for the Docklands Dollars initiative."

A number of key initiatives are understood to be included within the plan, including accelerating the redevelopment of Harbour Esplanade, as well as more permanent events and connections which focus on Docklands' key precincts, rather than the suburb as a whole.

The draft strategy is now expected to be released in May ●

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SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD

Look out for the new civic space in front of the ABC Centre – the heart of the Transforming Southbank Boulevard project. The space is now open for the community to enjoy and construction has commenced on a series of neighbourhood parks further down the boulevard. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/cityprojects

CITY CLEANING BLITZ

A six-month cleaning blitz by the City of Melbourne to remove unwanted graffiti and litter is well underway, with additional cleaning crews and footpath sweepers deployed as people return to the city. Inner-city areas are being cleaned multiple times a day to create a welcoming environment.

SHOP LOCAL

Discover local shops and services to support in our city with the help of our Business Directory, an online resource that lists more than 1800 businesses. There’s never been a more important time to support small businesses, so check out the guide at directory.melbourne.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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EAT FRESH IN AUTUMN

Find healthy and affordable food in your neighbourhood by using the City of Melbourne’s Community Food Guide.

Data from our Health and Wellbeing Profile 2020 revealed that the number of residents experiencing food insecurity increased last year and 33 per cent of respondents were experiencing some type of food stress.

The Community Food Guide lists markets that sell affordable fresh produce, like Queen Victoria Market and Flemington Farmers’ Market, as well as agencies that provide meals for people in need.

One of the many agencies featured is RISE Food Bank at Level 1/247 Flinders Lane in Melbourne, which provides free dry food, fresh fruits and vegetables for refugees and asylum seekers on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 5pm.

If you are not in need of food relief, but would like to help people who are, we encourage you to connect with your local food relief organisation to see what donations or support they need.

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



Our Community Food Guide can help you find fresh, affordable food

ENJOY SEASONAL PRODUCE

Just seven per cent of Melburnians consume the recommended two serves of fruit and three serves of vegetables each day, according to the City of Melbourne’s Health and Wellbeing Profile 2020.

However, this was an increase on the previous year, and the proportion of local residents who produce or conserve their own food is also rising.

This autumn, enjoy the health benefits of eating a ‘rainbow’ of seasonal produce like apples, beetroot and broccoli, and have a go at growing vegetables and herbs in your garden or pots.

Visit Queen Victoria Market to shop for fresh seasonal produce and groceries including fruit and vegetables, bread, eggs, meat, fish, deli goods, ready-to-eat meals, tea, coffee and pantry staples.

The market is open on Tuesday and Thursday to Sunday. Find out more at qvm.com.au

Docklands Dollars is live!

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
BUSINESS

After a 12-month incubation period, the Docklands Dollars program has been given the green light in a bid to stimulate an estimated \$3-5 million in local spending.

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC), in partnership with the Victorian Government, City of Melbourne and Development Victoria, has launched the program which is designed to encourage visitors to stay, eat, buy, play and then redeem a generous portion of the money they spend in Docklands.

The program will see a \$100 rebate for a two-night stay in Docklands. A further \$110 rebate is also available across five categories of spending: retail, services, restaurants, attractions and fast food.

According to DCC president, Johanna Maxwell, the Docklands Dollar program is the chamber's most significant initiative to date, built out of the necessity to fuel spending in postcode 3008.

"We actually conceptualised this just one week into the first lockdown but already then we knew there had to be a special program to get people back to Docklands," she said. "We're very proud of what we have come up with and our traders are buzzing and ready to receive customers."

Participants can register via a dedicated website – www.docklandsdollars.com.au – where they will have 30 days to activate their registration, complete their two-night stay and then have a further 30 days to submit receipts to receive their rebates directly into their bank accounts.

According DCC vice-president and Quest Docklands/NewQuay director, Daniel Hibberd, the program will shift the current narrative while supporting small to medium businesses in Docklands.

"There is a bit of a perception that Docklands and the CBD may not be back to normal. For



▲ Left to right: Cr Jamal Hakim, DCC executive officer Shane Wylie, vice-president Daniel Hibberd, president Johanna Maxwell, Development Victoria's Niall Cunningham and Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

us, that couldn't be further from the truth," Mr Hibberd said.

"Docklands is just as beautiful as it has ever been and our community of small businesses have done an incredible job to provide the reassurance and confidence for visitors to venture out of their homes and enjoy everything Docklands has to offer."

"At Quest Docklands and NewQuay, we have needed to look at market segments that are more varied to ensure we aren't reliant on one section of the market. Through the Docklands Dollars initiative, we will see a wide range of visitors ranging from regional tourists, festival and events goers, people going to the football, all spending and staying in Docklands. It's hard not to get excited by that."

Along with the DCC the City of Melbourne has provided the eight other recognised pre-

cinct associations with an additional \$100,000 one-off payment for activation programs as part of the joint \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund in partnership with the Victorian Government.

Lord Mayor, Sally Capp, said Docklands Dollars would deliver an important boost to local businesses.

"Docklands Dollars is designed to attract people into Docklands and get them spending in restaurants, cafes, retail stores and hotels," the Lord Mayor said.

"We want a vibrant and thriving Docklands with restaurants, cafes and retail stores filled with people."

"With vouchers, gift cards and competitions on offer, everyone should take the opportunity to get out and discover all the unique and amazing experiences that can only be found in the City of Melbourne."

According to the City of Melbourne, councillors will this week consider the Business Precinct Program 2021-25.

The proposal includes updated guidelines and a new funding model for the program, which has operating since 1999, in order to reward robust membership and enable efficient administration. The new program would be open for existing precincts as well as other relevant incorporated trader associations to apply •

For more information:
docklandsdollars.com.au



Jack Hayes
BUSINESS EDITOR
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“

There is a bit of a perception that Docklands and the CBD may not be back to normal. For us, that couldn't be further from the truth.

”

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The Last Post to ring around Docklands

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*
EVENTS

The sound of brass will ring around Docklands at dawn on ANZAC Day, with eight buglers set to play *The Last Post* in strategic locations around the area.

With buglers to be located at both NewQuay and Victoria Harbour Promenades, as well as outside the Forge Building and 90 Lorimer St, *The Last Post* will be played not only as a memorial to those lost in war, but also to help raise money for veterans.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC) CEO Johanna Maxwell said she was looking forward to the event, and hoped that the community would get behind it.

“The sound will resonate around the harbour beautifully. We’re inviting people to come downstairs with their candles, or watch from their balconies,” she said.

The event is a part of “The Last Post Project” by Skunkwork Productions, which is working in partnership with the DCC to bring the memorial to the area.

The project aims to help raise money for veterans’ charities, Women Veterans’ Network Australia and Mates4Mates, as well as raising awareness and educating youth of what ANZAC Day is all about.

Skunkworks Productions co-director Jamie Lawson, who performed *The Last Post* on ANZAC Day in Docklands last year, said he saw it as “handing the baton across to the next generation.”

“Unless you’re involved with someone or something that does those services, there’s not much chance to be involved,” he said.

Members of the community, as well as schools and other groups, are invited to participate in the project, and are provided with a sponsorship page on the website to encourage people to raise money for the two charities.

There are currently participants in “The Last Post Project” across Melbourne, in Tasmania



Our veterans are often forgotten, and they need support getting through.



and even as far away as France, and Jamie Lawson described the Docklands event as the “flagship call” for the whole thing.

Docklands also has its own donations page at the Skunkwork Productions website.

Ms Maxwell said the DCC would be donating for the buglers to play, and hoped the community would get behind the project with donations and support.

She said that for Docklands, the event was partly remembering that the area played its

own part in war and sacrifice, with the harbour being host to navy ships in the past.

“There is a link from our community back into that community. We wouldn’t have the country we have were it not for our veterans,” she said.

The 2021 event comes after the success of last year’s lockdown ANZAC Day memorials in the area, which saw Mr Lawson and fellow ex-navy personnel Stuart McCorkelle delivering *The Last Post* and *The Rouse* at Yarra’s Edge and Victoria Harbour, respectively.

Local residents lit candles and participated in the memorial from their balconies.

Ms Maxwell said the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with the only negative being that NewQuay residents wished there had been someone on their side of the harbour as well.

Mr Lawson also loved the experience, and wanted to play again in 2021, and with both DCC and Skunkworks wanting to expand the event, the current plans were put in place.

Ms Maxwell said she the chamber was glad to host an event that supported veterans.

“Our veterans are often forgotten, and they need support getting through,” she said.

The buglers will deliver the *Last Post* at 6.00am on ANZAC Day at the following locations:

- Newquay Promenade (near the Banksia Building, near Cargo and Berth, and Conder Building near the Harbour Esplanade corner).
- Victoria Harbour Promenade (near Library at the Dock, near Dock 5, and near the NAB building).
- Near 90 Lorimer St.
- Near the Forge Building ●

For more information:
skunkworksproductions.com.au

Big uptake in winter outdoor dining

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

Hundreds of restaurants and cafes will continue outdoor dining operations until June 30 after a huge uptake in offers from the City of Melbourne.

The council recently offered 332 businesses the opportunity to extend their outdoor dining permit for a further three months, and to date just 10 have declined.

A total of 275 businesses accepted the extension, while 39 were yet to respond.

The uptake is another indication of the program’s success throughout the municipality.

In a recent survey of 150 cafe, restaurant and bar owners, 81 per cent gave outdoor dining “parklets” the thumbs-up since reopening in late October.

Temporary extended outdoor dining permits have allowed hospitality venues to expand operations onto footpaths, on-street parking, laneways and street space to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

Of those surveyed, 72 per cent were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their outdoor dining arrangements.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp has said the extension of outdoor dining program, which “helped bring back the buzz” of the city, would give hospitality owners the assurance they needed.

“The extended outdoor dining program has helped to provide hospitality businesses with extra capacity to seat more customers and get more revenue,” she said.

“Businesses can have confidence that outdoor dining will continue in the City of Melbourne until winter. We’re looking into additional features to support outdoor dining during the cooler months such as weather protection.”

The council has issued nearly 1500 permits for outdoor dining across the municipality and has installed more than 200 parklets ●



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All for the love of the sea

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
WATERWAYS

A group of passengers left from Victoria Harbour last month for the last lunch at the Grand Hotel in Portarlington before it closes for an \$8 million renovation.

The journey was a memorable one for both the passengers and the Little Group which owns the ferry service.

The company bought the hotel in December 2019 as a destination then the pandemic hit and the harbour was closed.

Now Port Phillip Ferries has resumed its commuter services to Geelong and Portarlington and in February the company announced its decision to go ahead with the hotel renovation.

It's a pity about the timing now that business is picking up but the plans had to go through the council according to Grand Hotel marketing manager Connie Trathen, who formerly worked for the Vue Grand in Queenscliff.

"We've got the same architect as the Esplanade in St Kilda," she told *Docklands News* as she welcomed passengers off the ferry to the last weekend of trading.

The renovations will include a new beer garden with a pizza oven and "funky vibe" while retaining the historical element and refurbishment of about 18 to 20 rooms of accommodation upstairs. A balcony will also be reinstated.

Ms Trathen said the renovations were due to be completed in November when the company would offer packages to boost tourism. She said they wanted to attract tourists to Docklands.

"We started the ferry four years ago. It was so successful we built another for \$10 million. It was up and running in 2019. We had two ferries."

"When we saw the success of the ferry we said let's get the setting so we bought The Grand in 2019. Then COVID hit."

On board the lunch run on the ferry were a number of enthusiastic seafarers including Jenny Blundo who discovered this was her last chance to dine at The Grand and organised a group booking for some friends with birthdays.

"I'll do anything to get out on the



▲ Jenny Blundo (left) and her lunch group.



▲ Connie Trathen greets guests for lunch.



▲ Ferries start up again.



▲ Views of shipping.

sea," the former Coast Guard volunteer said, who had her own five-metre runabout and regularly fished off Portarlington.

She stood at the helm of the ferry as it left the harbour, passing a COSTCO container ship being unloaded in port and another ship at anchor while waiting for a berth.

"It's a perfect day," she said. "You can get lost out here, the bay is so big."

After leaving the glassy conditions of the port the ferry increased speed to 54 kph. The time has been cut

down from 90 to 70 minutes, a few minutes at a time over the past two years. The wind picked up and the white caps appeared but the ferry ploughed straight through the water.

Jenny said she used to line up her boat with the aerials above Portarlington and she never returned without her full quota.

"They used to call me 'Flathead Jenny,'" she said, as she and her friends walked up the small hill to lunch in the Grand's traditional dining room ●

Heritage retention works complete at Seafarers

WORDS BY Spencer Fowler Steen
HERITAGE

Heritage retention works at Docklands' Goods Shed No.5 are now complete, making way for the development of a luxury suite of residential apartments and a hotel.

Around 1944 bluestone pavers, 20 timber sliding doors, 40 steel trusses and 105 steel window frames – which will be used in the reconstruction of the Goods Shed – were salvaged by engineering firm Freyssinet Australia and Mann Group.

Riverlee development director David Lee said the heritage retention works were an exemplar in both urban renewal and reversible design, a concept that involved taking apart buildings and reusing their components for a second life.

"The heritage retention works are an excellent example of how we can create a circular economy with our older buildings – eliminating waste and keeping materials in use rather than looking for new alternatives," he said.

"This process has been far from simple and we commend our engineers, historians and design team who have made it possible to preserve elements of this iconic Melbourne building."

Around two kilometres' worth of historical timber purlins will be repurposed through the new building, including in the site's forthcoming 1 Hotel.

The timber will likely be incorporated as feature stairs, wall cladding, lighting fixtures, furniture and hotel bedheads, according to Riverlee, which owns the site and initiated the works.

Historian Emma Russell from HistoryAtWork was engaged to lead the historical studies on the site to maximise retention of the original story and components of the shed.

She said it was exciting to preserve and repurpose Seafarers' social history through repurposing the shed.

"It is exciting and inspiring to work with a property development company so genuinely keen to uncover the tangible history of their sites and materials, and the social and local history these places have played a role in," she said.



It is exciting and inspiring to work with a property development company so genuinely keen to uncover the tangible history of their sites and materials, and the social and local history these places have played a role in.



"Retaining and repurposing the century-old timbers, bluestones and trusses, combined with innovative ways to integrate Seafarers' social history, ensures the long memory of this fascinating corner of the CBD will be shared with visitors and residents alike in an authentic rather than manufactured manner."

The next steps will involve further assessment of the retained items to determine origin, species and age before they are woven into the new Seafarers mixed-use waterfront precinct.

The remaining concrete structure of the goods shed building on site will be integrated into the future mixed-use building ●

Glenn Harvey answers your legal questions

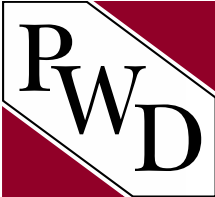
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Inaugural Docklands Gift a huge success

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*
SPORT

The first ever Docklands Gift has been run and won, to acclaim from all involved in the exciting afternoon on March 20.

On a sunny, early autumn day, competitors and spectators from across the state converged on Ron Barassi Snr Park for an action-packed afternoon of racing.

Starting with events for children from the newly-opened Docklands Primary School, events of varying length and age group were held throughout the day at the picturesque park just below the Bolte Bridge.

Dion Paull took out the inaugural Men's Gift, while Isabella Antonio went home with the Women's crown.

One of the event's organisers Robbie Spencer told *Docklands News* that things could not have gone much better.

"It was a great day. We were lucky to be sandwiched in between bad weather either side of the Saturday. It was perfect from sunrise to sunset," he said.

"Everything went to plan and how we wanted it to. The competitors loved it and the ground came up a treat. We were slightly worried that the ground might be a bit uneven but the groundskeeper from the City of Melbourne did a great job getting the ground ready for an athletics event."

The first-time athletics event — delivered in partnership with the Victorian Athletics League (VAL), Docklands Primary School and the Docklands Sports Club — is the only inner-city Gift on the calendar.

Speaking of the Primary School, Mr Spencer said, "We almost got full attendance from the kids which was amazing given it was an optional event. They all seemed to love it."

Greens state MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell was there to officially open the event, while City of Melbourne councillor and Docklands local Jamal Hakim signed off the day's proceedings.

"Gift" is an historical term from the late 1800s for running events held in regional towns where the winner would traditionally receive a gift.

Mr Spencer said the event brought country charm to an inner-city environment.

"Usually, these races are in country Victoria, so some people were really grateful they could just drive down the road. They were really happy with a central-Melbourne Gift, and they know it'll grow," he said.

He said the positive feedback from the day, where those in attendance reported a positive, carnival type atmosphere, was "great to hear".

Mr Spencer said the Docklands Gift would be back bigger and better in 2022.

Organisers hoped for higher prize money, greater local awareness of the event, races for vision-impaired athletes, and kid-friendly carnival-type activities that proved difficult to organise within COVID restrictions.

Docklands News is proud to support the Docklands Gift and thanks organisers for their contribution to the community ●



▲ Docklands Gift Men's winner Dion Paull alongside Women's winner Isabella Antonino.



▲ The Docklands Gift.

Docklands Gift (March 20): Results

(*handicap next to runners)

Docklands Junior Gift Winner

Anthea 6m
Carter 31m
Oliver 14m

Dockland Primary School Gift

Blake 17m
Devonish 28m
Reuben 14m

100m Men's Gift (Sponsors: Optus, MAB)

Dion Paull 9.00
Harrison Kerr 6.75
Dominic Mah 5.00
Time: 10.50

70m Open (Sponsor: Dual Heating)

Dion Paull 6.75
Mitchell Tucker 5.75
Taylah Perry 11.75
Time: 7.47

100m Women's Gift (Sponsors: MAB, Moonee Ponds Plumbing)

Isabella Antonio 14.25
Taylor Perry 4.50
Ellie Keratianos 5.25
Time: 12.00

100m Masters 35+ (Sponsor: Damn Fit Strength and Conditioning)

Paul Tancredi 3.25
Mohamad Zeed 4.25
Daniel Martin 9.00
Time: 11.18

100m U18 Boys (Sponsor: Victorian Athletic League)

Liam Denner 19.25
Jack O'Farrell 24.00
Jack Ramsay 13.75
Time: 10.53

100m U18 Girls (Sponsor: Fast 'N Fearless Coaching)

Jacinta McFarlane 10.75
Jazmyn Cartledge 14.75
Halle Martin 7.25
Time: 12.32

300m Masters (Sponsor: Damn Fit Strength and Conditioning)

Carl McMeel 42.00
Rob Irwin 51.00
Katie Moore 44.00
Time: 38.01

400m Women's (Sponsor: Barry Plant Docklands)

Megan McMahon 52.00
Danielle McDowell 58.00
Laura McDougall 43.00
Time: 57.55

400m Men's (Sponsor: Docklands Sports Club)

Mitchell Palmer 34.00
Nick Howard 46.00
Cam Dunbar 36.00
Time: 49.86

1600m Frontmarkers (Sponsor: Harry's Cabinets)

Paul Viney 265.00
Ingrid Woodward 340.00
Tony Moran 280.00
Time: 4:28.45

1600m Backmarkers (Sponsor: Victorian Cross Country League)

Alistair Strutt 100.00
Seamus Graham 100.00
Troy Atkins 195.00
Time: 4:26.04

800m Men's (Sponsors: Financial Life Balance, The Osteopathic Clinic)

Liam Hanrahan 70.00
Neil Brennan 72.00
Ryan Antidormi 84.00
Time: 1:57.50

800m Women's (Sponsor: ROOZE)

Emily Dalziel 120.00
Martine Beer 120.00
Alice Platten 102.00
Time: 2:13.90

1600m Restricted (Sponsor: Victorian Athletic League)

Nicholas Callanan 160.00
Hamish Dobie 140.00
Ingrid Woodward 310.00
Time: 4:37.00





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Pirates, burlesque and sideshows arrrr-ive at the Mission

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*
ARTS & CULTURE

The Mission to Seafarers will soon welcome sea shanties, fire-breathers and the cackle of pirates, with Queens of the Damned Theatre Restaurant soon opening a pop-up “Pirate Experience”.

The experience, which starts in May, will see guests treated to dinner, themed drinks, comedy and a pirate burlesque show, all while showcasing the heritage-listed building.

Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) CEO Sue Dight is excited to welcome the theatre group to the venue.

“I looked at how they operated at the Old Melbourne Gaol, and got excited by the activity that they had brought to the Gaol ... they have great experience and we’re looking forward to their activity here,” she said.

The Pirate Experience will see guests moving through four areas, beginning with a welcome in the courtyard by fire-breathing pirates, drunken sailors and sea shanties performed by Shantily Clad.

Guests will then head to a transformed, underwater-themed Norla Dome, where they will be treated to a two-course dinner, with the opportunity to have a swig of a choice of 12 themed cocktails.

Finally, guests will make their way to the Main Hall (the “Theatre Dock”) for the main event: an 18-plus only show, with saucy pirate burlesque, sideshow acts and comedy, all with a big dash of history.

VIPs (which, of course, stands for “Very Important Pirates”) will get exclusive treatment with a private room, early arrival options and a free cocktail thrown in.

Queens of the Damned Theatre Restaurant co-owner Holly Mouat (or “Holly Highboots” in the pirate world) said she wanted guests to feel as though they had been on an historic adventure together.

“With all of the pressures of day-to-day life we aim to create a space for adults to have fun,



have a laugh, let go and just enjoy spending time with one another,” she said.

Ms Mouat, and co-owner Monica Star, worked hard during lockdown last year, coming up with show ideas for future seasons, including a pirate-themed show.

When they visited the Mission to Seafarers they knew they had to go with their pirate idea, and were captivated by the aesthetic of the building and its rich maritime history.

The fact that the building was home to MtSV was a “deciding factor” for Ms Mouat.

“The venue is run by the Mission to Seafarers charity who have played such an important part in supporting the welfare of seafarers all over the world for more than 100 years,” she said.

“Our venue hire and the takings over the bar will directly contribute towards the ongoing works of the charity.”

Ms Dight is looking forward to the opportunity to help educate new audiences about the Mission to Seafarers.

“We’re looking forward to the activity and the excitement, increasing our capacity and

“

We’re looking forward to the activity and the excitement, increasing our capacity and [opening] the place to new audiences to get them to understand exactly why the building’s still here, and what our services are.

”



[opening] the place to new audiences to get them to understand exactly why the building’s still here, and what our services are,” she said.

“The team at Queens of the Damned have promised they will educate their audiences about our work.”

The Pirate Experience comes after Queens of the Damned Theatre Restaurant’s sell-out season at the Old Melbourne Gaol, which saw a cabaret takeover of three levels of the former jail, including a two-course meal in the original cell block.

Ms Mouat said the company loved showcasing historical buildings in “a way they’ve never been seen before”.

“People visiting and utilising these buildings is the number one thing that helps protect and preserve the heritage significance and future use of these spaces,” she said.

The Pirate Experience will kick off on May 15, and will be held every Saturday until the end of December ●

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queensofthedamnedcabaret.com

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New animation studio in Docklands

WORDS BY *Micaela Togher*
ARTS & CULTURE

Docklands Studios Melbourne will soon be home to a major globally focused animation studio.

Princess Bento Studio is the result of a partnership between US animation studio Bento Box Entertainment and Victorian production company Princess Pictures.

The studio will focus solely on animation projects, designed for both local and international consumption.

It will be the first international outpost for Emmy Award-winning Bento Box Entertainment, best known for producing the Fox Network's animation series *Bob's Burgers*.

Princess Pictures is no stranger to the animation sector, producing the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards (AACTA)-nominated *Koala Man* series by US streaming giant Hulu.

Bento Box co-founder Scott Greenberg said the company was proud to be embarking on this new venture with Princess Pictures.

"We are excited to start working with the many talented animators, production and support staff in the region on a slate of exciting animation projects," Mr Greenberg said.

This is the latest development in the expansion of Docklands Studios Melbourne, first announced in 2019.

Backed by a \$46 million investment from the state government, the stage six will make Docklands Studios one of the largest film precincts in the southern hemisphere.

Intended to attract international producers, stage six will boast an area of 40,000 square feet, seeing a 60 per cent expansion of the current capacity.

Opening in 2004, Docklands Studios Melbourne is one of three major studios in Australia originally designed to compete with Sydney's Fox Studios and the Gold Coast's Village Roadshow Studios.



Crippled by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is hoped the development will help revive the sector's economy by generating work for local screen industry professionals and hosting large-scale international projects.

Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said the animation studio was the next step in helping the industry recover from the impact of the global pandemic.

"We're proud to welcome Princess Bento Studio to our state and screen community, and the 150 new jobs it creates," he said.

"We look forward to seeing more Victorian-made animation projects hitting the screen."

New stage reaches milestone

The expansion of Docklands Studios Melbourne has reached a key milestone with structural work underway on a world-class super stage to cater for large screen productions.

Kane Constructions has nearly completed foundations on the 3700 sqm (40,000 sqft) stage and is now erecting steelwork for the main structure.

It will feature a 900,000 litre sub-floor tank



We look forward to seeing more Victorian-made animation projects hitting the screen.



(more than one third the capacity of an Olympic pool) for filming of underwater scenes.

Construction of the stage six expansion at Docklands Studios Melbourne is scheduled for completion by the end of 2021.

Docklands Studios Melbourne CEO Rod Allan said, "The stage will bring large international film and TV projects to the state, providing skills development and a long pipeline of work for cast and crew." ●



Electric bike stolen

CRIME

Melbourne West police are investigating the theft of a \$2500 electric bicycle in Docklands on March 18.

A man entered the basement of a Bourke St apartment building at around 9.40am and loitered for a while before leaving.

He returned at around 1.30pm, cut the bike from a locking chain and rode it away.

Police have released images and CCTV of a man they believe can assist with their enquiries.

He is perceived to be Caucasian in appearance, aged in his mid-20s, with fair-coloured hair.

He was wearing dark blue jeans, a black peaked cap, dark-coloured top and a backpack with "SUPREME" in large writing on it.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers ●

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Council has its say over state-wide infrastructure

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has had its first say on the Victorian Government’s draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy, after the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) endorsed the council’s submission at a meeting earlier this month.

The submission, which looks at the state-wide strategy through a City of Melbourne policy lens, offers several amendments and recommendations on the likes of climate change mitigation, water management, transport development and future housing affordability.

It also highlights key opportunities for fast-tracking existing projects to help mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19, and advocates for sustained funding of the development of the CBD as a significant state- and nation-wide economic driver.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece described the central city as “the engine of the Victorian economy”.

“The development of the central city is absolutely crucial to the health of the entire state, and indeed, the nation, in terms of research, education, high productivity, jobs, innovation and Australia’s most important business cluster,” he said.

In the submission, one of the key opportunities identified for immediate action was investment in “foundational and catalytic infrastructure” for the urban renewal areas of Arden, Macaulay and Fishermans Bend.

The council said that new infrastructure in those areas needed to address issues including flood mitigation, integrated water management, open space acquisition and key transport connections.

Transport plans would include a tram extension to Fishermans Bend, which would decrease the need for car parking in future development of the area.

“Early delivery of this infrastructure will affect the development outcomes in these areas – a new school encourages the market to consider family housing,” the submission stated.

Cr Reece said the submission strongly supported investment and infrastructure to ensure development in urban renewal projects could continue.

“Fishermans Bend, Arden and Macaulay [are] all areas that we must see reach their full potential in the years ahead, particularly as Melbourne resumes its population growth trajectory,” he said.

The council has also included urban renewal as one of its proposed amendments to recommendation 36 in the strategy, which seeks to deliver very low-income housing with inclusionary zoning.

The council’s amendment stated that “higher affordable housing requirements be introduced in urban renewal areas”, recognising that the value of land could increase due to improved government infrastructure, which could, in turn, make housing unaffordable.

“A portion of the increase in land value may be captured by the government to provide public benefit. Affordable housing is an example of a public benefit,” the submission stated.

Housing is just one of several issues covered in the draft 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy.

The draft strategy includes 95 recommendations across four key areas of consideration for future infrastructure:

- Confront long-term challenges (including the changing climate and embracing technological opportunities);
- Manage urban change (including integrating land use and infrastructure planning, and steering changes in travel behaviour);
- Harness infrastructure for productivity and growth (including shaping the transport network for better access); and
- Develop regional Victoria.

“Whether it’s on transport pricing, or housing, or renewable energy networks, there is a lot in there that we should be amplifying.”

The City of Melbourne submission has addressed 70 of the 95 recommendations in the draft strategy, stating that there were “strong synergies” between the draft infrastructure strategy and the council’s existing strategies.

Transport pricing forms a number of the recommendations in the draft strategy, including a trial of demand-responsive parking pricing, congestion pricing as well as an increase and extension of the Melbourne Congestion Levy on parking, in a bid to encourage public transport use and reduce traffic congestion.

But also in its submission, the council recommended that any increase in levy amounts should not happen until car numbers in the area reached pre-COVID levels, with the current temporary discount providing COVID relief.

The Free Tram Zone is also under threat in the draft strategy, but the council’s submission recommended that a cost-benefit analysis should be done before any changes to the Free Tram Zone were considered.

An emphasis on walking as a key mode of transport in the central city is also highlighted in the submission, with a recommendation to elevate future plans for walking as a separate mode of transport to cycling.

The transition to a greener future for the

state is also reflected in other parts of the draft strategy.

Climate change mitigation measures include ensuring water security by considering a broader range of water supply sources and fast-tracking water cycle management, allowing better use of both stormwater and recycled water.

The council has pushed for these recommendations further by suggesting a more holistic approach, including the consideration of combined alternative water sources for non-potable uses, which would decrease the demand for drinking water.

Suggestions for investment in “green” and “blue infrastructure”, and the protection and incorporation of green infrastructure in transport corridors to support climate change adaptation is also included in the City of Melbourne’s submission.

Speaking at the FMC meeting, Cr Rohan Leppert said that the opportunity council had been given to offer its input on the strategy was rare.

He said he hoped the council’s recommendations would translate into political will at the state level to implement some of the ideas in the 30-year strategy.

“Whether it’s on transport pricing, or housing, or renewable energy networks, there is a lot in there that we should be amplifying,” he said.

The City of Melbourne’s submission will form part of the feedback on the draft strategy during the current consultative phase.

The final strategy is due to be published in mid-2021 ●



Jess Carrascalao Heard
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UPDATE ON THE WEST GATE TUNNEL PROJECT

Update on West Gate Freeway widening works

A major step in widening the West Gate Freeway has been achieved, after six weeks of round-the-clock works and carefully planned closures during summer months.

The newly aligned and surfaced Princes Freeway exit and entry ramps from Geelong Road, and the M80 inbound exit ramp onto West Gate Freeway are now opened to motorists.

Work is also complete at Grieve Parade, where a brand-new bridge has been built over the West Gate Freeway. This work is an important part of widening the West Gate Freeway from 8 to 12 through lanes that will provide quicker and safer travel to and from the city and western suburbs.

Federation Trail upgrade

The Federation Trail is a 23-kilometre cycling and walking path between Werribee and Brooklyn that is being extended and improved by the West Gate Tunnel Project.

We have now started work that will complete the missing link with a new off-road path between Fogarty Avenue and Hyde Street, Yarraville and an upgrade to the trail from Kororoit Creek to Millers Road, Brooklyn.

This elevated pathway will link users to a brand-new dedicated cycle path above Footscray Road, completing the journey to Melbourne’s CBD for cyclists.

The 2.5km veloway from Footscray to Docklands will provide an off-road route that removes six intersections for cyclists, making trips safer and quicker.

Take a virtual ride on the Federation Trail



West Gate Neighbourhood Fund

We recently announced the first 19 projects carried out by local community groups, sporting groups, and local councils, that will make the inner west an even better place to live.

These 19 projects are funded by the \$10 million West Gate Neighbourhood Fund, which will see the inner west benefit from the West Gate Tunnel Project sooner rather than later.

Read more about the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund at: westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/community/grants



For disruptions information visit: bigbuild.vic.gov.au and for regular updates, follow: facebook.com/westgatetunnelproject

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Your City of Melbourne community update



Longrain welcomes outdoor diners to Little Bourke Street

DISCOVER WHAT'S NEW IN MELBOURNE

Melbourne businesses, creatives and event managers are rallying in the wake of COVID-19, alongside swift and strategic investment from the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

A multitude of projects are underway to reactivate Melbourne, and the city has begun to change before our eyes.

Many of the initiatives are being delivered through the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

Next time you visit the city, look out for key physical changes, including 40 km of new bike lanes and 'little streets' that have been made more pedestrian friendly.

Here are four more exciting things that have popped up around Melbourne.

1 Public art in vacant shopfronts

Creative artworks by local artists are bringing colour and vibrancy to vacant shopfronts as the city rebalances from the effects of COVID-19.

Delivered as part of the Melbourne City Recovery Fund, this program supports the creative sector and creates a welcoming environment on our streets. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/publicart

2 COVID-safe versions of beloved events

Melburnians are grinning, chuckling and guffawing through more than three weeks of COVID-safe laughs thanks to the return of the world-renowned Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Join the fun in venues and online until 18 April. Find out more at comedyfestival.com.au or discover more upcoming events at whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

3 More than 1500 new outdoor dining areas

Dine with friends in an iconic Melbourne laneway or pop-up parklet to support local businesses as they continue to adapt amid ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

The City of Melbourne has extended its outdoor dining program to help venues reopen and continue operating. Find out more about this program at melbourne.vic.gov.au/outdoordining

4 150,000 new trees, shrubs and grasses

Look out for new native vegetation around Royal Park, Parkville and the Dynon Road wildlife reserve that will help support biodiversity, cool the city and create jobs.

Funded by the Victorian Government, Greening the City is the largest revegetation project that the City of Melbourne has ever undertaken. Learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/urbanforest

Looking to the future, business support will continue to be front and centre, and an advisory committee comprised of retail, hospitality and creative industry leaders will focus on rebuilding the night-time economy.

Iconic places will also be revitalised, with plans underway for upgrades to the Lonsdale Street Greek Precinct and Princess Theatre forecourt.

Our city's brightest minds will also come together for events like the Open Innovation Competition and Emerging Technology Testbed Challenge to collaborate and innovate.

While the city might not look quite like you remember, Melbourne's restaurants, shops, bars, art institutions and events are open for business. And people are hungry to return to the city they love.

We encourage you to rediscover your city and feel the buzz of what is to come.

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



SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

Local businesses, services and organisations are the lifeblood of Melbourne, and our support for them is multi-layered and ongoing.

Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business to subscribe to the Business in Melbourne newsletter and explore the help on offer.

For one-on-one advice, call our dedicated Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business), or enquire online at the above website.

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REIMAGINE THE FUTURE AT MELBOURNE KNOWLEDGE WEEK

Join Melbourne's brightest minds to solve historical crimes in augmented reality, learn about 'doughnut economics' and much more at Melbourne Knowledge Week from 26 April to 2 May.

The festival will feature more than 100 in-person and online events devised in collaboration with local and international experts, including artists, academics, economists and biomedical scientists.

Four hubs at locations across the city will host a wide range of unique, COVID-safe events – the vast majority of which are free to attend.

Immersive installations and city tours will encourage audiences to playfully explore, share and learn, and a digital hub will expand the festival's reach across the globe.

Whether you are interested in technology, digital ethics, human-centred design, entrepreneurship, creativity, wellbeing or something completely different, there is something for you at Melbourne Knowledge Week.

Here's how you can get involved in the festival program.

1 Learn from experts

Hear from the pros about sustainable economies, the rise of cryptocurrencies and how to pandemic-proof the future. Be inspired by big thinkers from around the world, in person and online.

2 Share your ideas

Deep-dive into tough topics like climate change, ethics and the afterlife through board games, book clubs and hands-on workshops. Working together, we can help shape a bright future for our city.

3 Build your network

Discover ideas for city activation as local innovators pitch their ideas, explore a showcase of local startups, and attend networking sessions for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and international students.

4 Enjoy a mindful meal

Book a zero-waste lunch at Cumulus Inc hosted by OzHarvest and Rotary

Melbourne or delve into the story of Gelam the dugong at a dinner event by Mabu Mabu.

5 Inspire your family

Build new toys from old favourites, co-create a 'wild city', get your hands dirty to create your own biodiverse garden and play Dungeons & Dragons with a biometric mirror.

6 Blow your mind

Receive a voice message from another version of you from a parallel universe, talk to a person from history using artificial intelligence and explore future Melbourne through Prototype City.

Melbourne Knowledge Week is proudly presented by the City of Melbourne.

The festival program will launch on Monday 22 March at mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur.

EVENT SPOTLIGHTS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER KATE RAWORTH

Digital Hub (online), Wednesday 28 April, 7pm to 8pm

Learn about Kate's provocative 'doughnut economics' paradigm that shows how economies can comfortably function while looking after all people and the environment.

This live event will feature a digital keynote presentation, live Q&A and facilitated small-group conversations about how we can incorporate these ideas into our work and lives.



A CIRCULAR FUTURE

Wesley Place Hub, 130 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
Saturday 1 May, 2pm to 5pm

Join an interactive workshop to explore how can we move from resource-draining 'take, make, waste' linear systems to a progressive circular economy.

Hosted by UnSchool, this event invites you to understand the complex systems you participate in every day, and recognise your agency to affect change.

WILD CITY

Meat Market Hub, 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne
Visit any time while the hub is open

Explore a thriving green metropolis shared equally by humans and animals and co-create new, welcoming urban habitats.

Created by Kathy Holowko in collaboration with scores of local children, the Wild City exhibition invites kids to consider how we can improve the quality of living in our urban ecosystems by being more considerate to animals.



Engaging conversations



Zero-waste dining



Immersive experiences

KEEP IN TOUCH

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You can also join conversations to influence plans for your neighbourhood through Participate Melbourne at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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PRECINCT PERSPECTIVE

The post-COVID NewQuay soundscape

Before I moved to Docklands in 2017 I lived at Darling Point on Sydney Harbour, where I became accustomed to seeing the sleek white HarbourCat-class ferries.

Every couple of hours one would issue a crisp, authoritative “parp-parp-parp” reversing signal before pulling away from Double Bay jetty, 300 metres down the hill from my balcony.

The Docklands ferries seem much more discreet. Probably because their departures are less regular, I guess. But the venerable *Lady Cutler* is an altogether different kettle of fish. When she is untethered from her berth adjacent to the ferry dock, we all know about it.

Like a dowager empress redolent of rouged cheeks, powdered chins, a heaving bosom and a husky gin-tinged tone, the *Lady Cutler* seems to embark on her party-people voyages with initial reluctance. Her distinctive tripartite reversing signal slowly rises from deep within her crusty old keel with an irritated exasperation that seems to accede wearily “Oh very well then, if I absolutely MUST ...”

But this tremulous start quickly ascends to a belligerent bellow that rings out a defiant, protracted “FFFFFFWAAAAAAAAAARRRP” that reverberates throughout NewQuay and the Northern side of Victoria Harbour. It seems to

amplify as it rings across the waters and ricochets off the glass surfaces of the residential towers opposite each side of the now moribund Central Pier. *Lady Cutler* really is a noisy old girl.

One element mercifully absent from the NewQuay soundscape since August 2019, when Central Pier was closed down, is the “foomp-foomp” of party noise. That used to belt out on Friday and Saturday nights from the nocturnal venues on the pier’s northern side, a wall of sound that boomed across the water straight at NewQuay Promenade. The gratitude of residents for its cessation knows no bounds.

Sadly, another soundscape element seemingly all but absent since the ascent and descent of COVID-19 is the cheerful chatter and clatter of satisfied diners on the promenade. Many of the restaurants now sit morosely silent and empty. Only the waterfront Berth and Cargo seem to be permanently hosting, but they’re indoor eateries. Even the previously always-busy International Buffet at the top of the promenade seems to have had a stuttering post-COVID restart.

What Docklands needs most are a few quality “destination” restaurants to bring back

some animation at street level. This is the strategy that vitalised Darling Harbour, the CBD-contiguous Sydney equivalent of Docklands. C’mon Council – creative master-chefs need to be wooed and incentivised.

Since lockdown expired, sporadic music acts by buskers have attempted to buoy the promenade’s street-life vibe. Some of these amplified performances can be tolerated from as close as 50 metres. But none has yet succeeded in attracting an enthusiastic coin-pitching crowd within their immediate proximity. Yep, it’s slim pickings and tough audiences down on the Prom. Credit for trying, but we need slicker, subtler, more nuanced performers. Any volunteers?

Few human activities though are as satisfyingly smile-inducing as the sound of children happily at play. So, a welcome addition to the Docklands soundscape is the new Primary School. Just the sight of parents holding their young kids’ hands on the way to school in the mornings brings a sense of fresh optimism to NewQuay, I reckon. Much of the school is enclosed, so the sounds of the cherubs’ youthful exuberance is muted, but we’ll take what we can get. NewQuay is better for kids at play being here.

Those perennials of the NewQuay sound-

scape, the rumble and clang of trams, reverberated on through the lockdown largely empty but with a comforting familiarity. During Spring, the melodic birdsong in the mornings and evenings was music to the ears. At other times, we gladly took the dawn squawking of seagulls on the lawns in lieu.

As life gets back to normal, the regularity of helicopters clattering through the sky with their high roller passengers has returned to the soundscape. By the time they skirt NewQuay on their swooping Western arc, they have achieved an elevation that almost manages to tone down the intrusion of their engine noise.

Finally, the footy is back. The muted roar of the crowd surging and billowing from the open roof of our neighbourhood stadium is quintessentially Melbourne. Pre-game, fans in their team colours make their way down the promenade full of buoyant optimism. Later, you can always tell which team won. Some fans skip cheerfully back to their parked cars. Others trudge silently.

But for another five months, there’s always next week ●



Julian Smith
NEWQUAY RESIDENT
WELLSAID@TPG.COM.AU

MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK

You are invited!

Join us Federation Square on Sunday, April 18 between 12pm and 3pm on the Centre Stage to see a performance by the Royal Australian Navy Band and brief Melbourne Maritime History Network (MMHN) presentation about Sea Shanties.

First Contact

The recent MMHN seminar *Port Phillip: Looking in, Looking out. Aboriginal and Colonial Perspective* seems to have triggered the imagination of many. Demand far exceeded the capacity of the Docklands Library Theatre. Fortunately, thanks to the generosity of City of Melbourne’s Aboriginal Melbourne team, the presentations were captured on video and can be accessed via Dropbox by request. Since the MMHN seminar additional information on the fascinating topic of “First Contact” has come to our attention, broadening our understanding of this pivotal point in our shared maritime history. For those keen to know more on this, MMHN recommends that you watch *The Message: The*

Story from the Shore – an award-winning film by Alison Page, made in collaboration with indigenous communities along Australia’s east coast. It reimagines the message of the arrival of *Endeavour* being passed from place to place. See <https://youtu.be/hoU6syHWika>

Yarra Riverkeepers

Another viewing recommendation likely to interest Docklanders is a recent segment on the ABC’s *Gardening Australia* aired on Friday, March 12 at 7:30pm, featuring Yarra Riverkeepers. The show shined a spotlight on maritime heritage infrastructure, showing splendid images of Docklands – wharves, bridges, goods sheds etc. It also featured Herring Island, a 3.2-hectare artificial island, one of only two such islands in the Yarra River. Access to the island is via a Free Public Punt Service leaving from the Yarra bank near South Yarra and operating until Easter Monday. The actual course of the Birrarung/Yarra River has changed, many, many times – natural meanderings on its way to the mouth of the Estuary and also altered to suit the “needs” of the day. For example - Herring Island formed in 1928 by cutting a channel of the river through an old basalt quarry, the vast excavation of Victoria Harbour and the site of Docklands as it is today. All evidence that the river has been shaped, and re-shaped, over time. See abc.net.au/gardening/ and abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/my-garden-path---andrew-kelly/13243134

Cheerful news – steam tug Wattle.

Although Development Victoria pier works regrettably continue to restrict public access to Collins Wharf, there is cheerful news from a member of Melbourne’s heritage fleet berthed there – the venerable steam tug *Wattle*. Thanks to the diligent, persistent and enthusiastic work by the Bay Steamers Association, *Wattle* will very soon be steaming out of Docklands and will once again be plying the waters of Port Phillip Bay. Many Victorians will remember *Wattle* from the mid 1980s to 2003 when it carried thousands of passengers around Port Philip Bay on various cruises to Port Arlington, Williamstown and Rye and charters around the bay. The steam tug *Wattle* is a significant vessel and a very special maritime asset for Docklands having both a citation from National Trust of Victoria (1993) and registration with the Historic Register of Australia Vessels. Fewer than 20 such oil-fired compound steam engine harbour tugs are left in the world.

Marine service depot

It is no surprise that heritage vessels such as *Wattle* need constant regular maintenance. Strange as it may seem, amid all this navigable water in Docklands, there are no adequate marine service facilities based there. This is bad news for the heritage fleet, as well as the many modern vessels we all enjoy seeing at Docklands. This absence of marine services facilities in Docklands is clearly a “deficit” in the pre-

cinct which must be addressed. The City of Melbourne’s long held plans to establish a marine services depot must happen. Obviously essential marine infrastructure is required in the Docklands precinct. Development Victoria decided many years ago that the site for this was Yarra’s Edge and allocated funding for the necessary wharf restoration there. Yet, NO ACTION STILL!

MMHN advocates staunchly that Development Victoria must, as a matter of urgency, act on its own long overdue plans. Making progress on this project is possibly a great opportunity right now for Development Victoria to neutralise the bad media generated by its failure to preserve and care for Central Pier, exacerbated by its current Collins Wharf repairs. Positive action to “push the button” to progress the depot may elevate Development Victoria in everyone’s estimation. Further, the economic uplift is assured. It would create jobs, extend opportunities for maritime skills training and would obviously activate Docklands. We live in hope.



Jackie Watts
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A big problem requires even bigger solutions

“Welcome to the eighth 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 MP Fiona Patten, Leader of the Reason Party, Member for Northern Metropolitan, chair of the Legal and Social Issues Committee and chair of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Homelessness, to share her thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians, and in particular some of the key recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry, and why solving homelessness should be considered an economic imperative for Australia ...

In the first week of March, I had the great privilege of tabling the report of the Inquiry into Homelessness by the Victorian Parliaments Legal and Social Issues Committee, on which I also serve as chair.

Unsurprisingly the final document is a weighty one, given the groaning weight of the issue on our community. Homelessness is seen as the deepest expression of social exclusion in our society, a growing and seemingly intractable problem. But we cannot, and we must not, ever give up on our attempts at ending it.

We began the inquiry before the devastating 2019/2020 bushfires in Victoria and prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Homelessness was already a challenge for so many in Victoria, and these events exacerbated these difficulties for both those experiencing homelessness and those providing homelessness support. Measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the CBD of Melbourne, saw many people previously sleeping rough placed in emergency accommodation, with plans for this to transition into long-term housing.

Those who live within the city area, like me, were heartened to see that something slightly good had come from the pandemic lockdowns. It showed that with sufficient will on the part of the Victorian Government, it is possible to end homelessness for many people experiencing it. Whether that will remain the case is yet to be seen, but surely through this experience, we can see that there is a light at the end of the tunnel for so many and we can help get them there.

The Victorian Government's landmark Big Housing Build, which will see 9300 new social housing dwellings built, about a 10 per cent increase in Victoria's social housing stock, was announced towards the end of our Inquiry. Welcomed yes, but despite the unprecedented size of the program, this will actually still not

ensure that Victoria will meet the national average of social housing as a percentage of total dwellings, at 4.5 per cent. In order to increase long-term housing options, the Government needs to look at, among other measures, implementing mandatory inclusionary zoning in all new major housing developments across the state.

Another crucial part of our approach to homelessness should be to intervene early in order to prevent homelessness before it occurs. Whenever I have looked in depth at disadvantage in our society it has been evident that this can get to the very cause of disadvantage and turn people's lives around. As well as being a social issue, this is also an economic issue as the long-term cost and implications to society of not preventing homelessness will be larger than the investment to migrate that cost.

This means identifying those at risk of homelessness and stepping in to provide support before they reach a crisis point. It also means a focus on education. There are many skilled and passionate people in the homelessness sector who have the capacity to do this crucial work and who should be supported to do so. Government should prioritise implementing diverse, forward-thinking early intervention strategies.

Often there is a tragic transition from institutional settings into homelessness including health, mental health, care and custodial settings. Too often, people at risk of homelessness are discharged or released into the community without sufficient planning or support to find and keep accommodation. Without a home, these individuals may soon end up back in hospital or in the justice system. For those leaving incarceration, being released into homelessness inhibits their chances at successful re-integration into the community.

Currently in Victoria, we have a homelessness sector that is overwhelmed with the need to respond to people in crisis.

I have urged the Government to implement the recommendations made in the Homelessness Inquiry report. We can develop a more adaptable and flexible system of support so that the sector can focus more on early intervention rather than crisis responses.

I hope you found the above perspective by Fiona interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our 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: info@housingallaustralians.com.au ●



Rob Pradolin
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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

Driven by diversity

First-term City of Melbourne councillor Jason Chang said he was driven onto the council by a desperate need to give a greater voice to the city’s Asian community.

The 35-year-old, who owns the prominent Calia Emporium on Lonsdale St, said that while the pandemic had been challenging for all of Melbourne, it had too often been compounded by vitriol and racism towards the Asian community.

As a proud born and bred Melburnian, Cr Chang told *Docklands News* that the treatment he had often personally received just by walking the streets at times had been particularly difficult to endure given his love for his city.

His family’s journey in Melbourne is yet another success story for multiculturalism. Having migrated to Australia via Fiji in the 1960s, his father, who passed away when Jason was just 12 years old, made his living as a fruit and veg trader at the Queen Victoria Market, while his mother has worked at the Ear and Eye Hospital in East Melbourne for 35 years. His family also originally ran grocery stores in Chinatown, as well as a Chinese restaurant on Acland St in St Kilda where Jason was first exposed to small business in the city.

Now a new father himself and the owner of five Calia “restaurant-to-retail” businesses located at Emporium, Chadstone, Kuala Lumpur and soon Jakarta, the addition of City of Melbourne councillor is sure to set a new standard in juggling!

But as a passionate Melburnian and member of the Asian community, he said he wasn’t motivated by politics but only a desire to represent

the community and restore values of multiculturalism and equality back in the city after COVID.

“My dad and my mum taught me to give back to the community,” he said. “The pandemic has shaped us all in what we can do to give back and that’s the focus of what I want to do for four years on council.”

“I see the suffering that the Asian community is going through right now. A lot come to me and tell me that there are so many issues, some business owners tell me their staff have been pushed to the ground just for being Asian and they come to work upset and crying.”

“Unfortunately, some people are blaming us for the virus right now but it’s not right. The City of Melbourne is more than 30 per cent Asian. It’s a great thing to celebrate multiculturalism here in the city and that’s what we’re made of. People forget that sometimes.”

“The pandemic pushed me to run for election because small business owners, a lot of them are immigrants who have invested their life savings and spent all their money to open a business to give their kids a better life and for these four years. I want to do my best to represent them. I want to show the community that all immigrants, not just Asians, have contributed greatly. I want to give them some hope.”

Having been elected via former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood’s ticket at last year’s local government elections, Cr Chang is one of six new faces on the council alongside Crs Jamal Hakim, Elizabeth Doidge, Davydd Griffiths, Roshena Campbell and Olivia Ball.

He said that while he was still very much “learning the ropes”, the new council was a “young” and “refreshing” team of individuals. Echoing the words of Cr Hakim in February’s *Councillor Profile*, “soft on people, hard on issues” is the approach Cr Chang said was shared among his colleagues.



And another issue he was personally passionate about in addition to helping the city’s small businesses and night-time economy was the gaping hole left in the city by international students.

During the height of last year’s second wave of coronavirus in Victoria, his business at Emporium, which employed more than 100 staff, had supported many students through employment, as well as outreach with groceries, masks and sanitiser.

But underpinning all of it, he said it was time for equal representation of migrant communities and businesses in the city and he would be “giving a voice” to the new generation of residents, students and start-ups.

“The Asian community is known as the ‘model minority,’” he said.

“The issue that I found as an Asian business is that we don’t get the publicity of a lot of Caucasian businesses. The election sort of helped me get more profile for the community

and for Asian business owners as well and I think that was the most important thing for me was to provide that hope and confidence.”

“Speaking to a lot of small business owners last year they just didn’t know what to do and a lot were closing. A lot were depressed, even contemplating suicide. You think ‘how can I help them?’ because they couldn’t make ends meet.”

“I’ve got four years and I’m happy to do one term and represent the community to the best of my ability. I’ve got four years to do what I can.” ●



Sean Car
EDITOR
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STATE MP

Inner city schools for inner city kids

We know what makes our inner city great; vibrant arts and culture, our intricate network of laneways lined with cafes and shops, our bustling streets and lovely parks laid out more than a century ago.

But with more people moving into our inner city, it doesn’t leave much room for new schools for inner city families who live here. So where can we build new public schools to educate inner-city kids?

I’ve been proud to lobby our state government for a new public primary school in Docklands, which just opened this year! It has already been a huge success, with over 230 children already enrolled. But more needs to be done to provide public schooling for our inner-city kids.



▲ With Docklands Primary School principal Adam Bright.

A new primary school for Docklands

I recently visited the new Docklands Primary School to present the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at an all-school

assembly full of bright young minds and two newly-elected school captains.

This new vertical primary school is a great win that belongs to so many local parents who worked with my office on the “Inner City Schools 4 Inner City Kids” campaign back in 2014 and 2015.

What about the future, and high schools?

New primary schools are fantastic, but our kids grow up so fast and before we know it they’ll be heading off to their first days of high school. And where will they go? University High School in Parkville and Princes Hill in Carlton North are both overflowing with students and their catchment areas are experiencing growing pains.

The solution: build more!

Schools are central to community. Building new schools in our inner-city suburbs not only provides a world-class education for our kids

but also binds our community together.

With the Arden-Macauley precinct being developed in North Melbourne, we have an opportunity to build more public primary and high schools to help address this need. But we also need to look closely at how development is done in the CBD, and lobby the state government to provide space for primary and high schools, not just more apartment towers.

If you’re a local parent living in the CBD and have questions about local public schools or ideas about the future of public education in Melbourne, I’d love to hear from you! ●



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
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Knife fights and Airbnb

Another wild fight in an Airbnb apartment in the CBD left a number of young people with stab wounds and residents fuming about the under-regulated short-stay industry.

A brawl broke out in a Spencer St apartment in March as about 50 revellers gathered at a private party.

Police believe the fight began in the apartment and subsequently spilled into the lift and foyer. CCTV footage showed teens running from police along city streets.

The foyer and lobby of the building were declared a crime scene.

Police are reportedly investigating if there was a breach of the coronavirus restrictions given the number of people at the apartment. The current restrictions limit residential gatherings to 30 people.

Perhaps a lawyer could help us interpret the *Owners Corporations Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Act 2018* – the so-called “Airbnb Act”.

Would this latest stabbing frenzy, a near-tragedy, be deemed to be “multiple incidents” or one incident with multiple victims?

It makes a difference, because under the legislation we have the ludicrous situation where terrified residents would need to report three stabbing incidents in a 28-day period to be given a chance of insultingly paltry redress.

Owners' corporation amendments are now law

The *Owners Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act 2021* has been passed by both houses of the Victorian Parliament and will take effect from the beginning of December this year, unless an earlier date is proclaimed.

One of the biggest changes is the classification of owners' corporations (OCs) into five tiers. The top three tiers apply to buildings with 10 to 50, 51 to 100 and more than 100

lots. A couple of changes will affect operational activities:

- Legal proceedings up to \$100,000 can be initiated by ordinary resolution
- A common seal is no longer needed on documents
- Insurance excess costs can be passed onto lot owners in certain situations
- A couple of clauses might be tested out soon as a result of short-stay activity:
- The “benefit principle” can apply to levies. This has potentially huge ramifications for short-stay operators who impose significant wear and tear or security costs on buildings. The changes mean that additional costs can be levied without regard to the “lot liability”.
- Occupiers will be responsible for guests' behaviour: In the case of wild parties, the occupier could be held liable.

These will be two aspects that we will be watching carefully.

The legislation also introduces a raft of amendments that limit developers from handing lucrative and often unfair OC management contracts to their mates.

Sadly, as we reported in last month's edition, the government left the same massive loophole open for owners and residents to be shackled to a host of other contractors for vital services such as facilities management, cleaning and utilities. Some of the contracts are 25 years and we have had an example of 99 years reported to us.

This is a disastrously incompetent oversight that the government was too stubborn to recognise, despite having the facts laid in front of them.

Last hurrah for proxy-farming short-stay operators

In a bizarrely conducted committee election, an inner-city group of lot owners has engineered a most peculiar and undoubtedly short-lived victory.

At a recent annual general meeting (AGM), lot owners in a 300-apartment complex were offered the chance to vote “for” or “against” each of the candidates standing for the committee. There was also an option to abstain.

This is the first time we have ever heard of an election where electors could vote “against” a candidate. Extraordinarily, all this transpired under the auspices of the OC manager.

The result was decided entirely on the proxies held by interests associated with a short-stay company operating in the complex.

Of the 13 candidates, only eight were elected – the other five being effectively vetoed by the counting of votes “against”.

What an absurd, undemocratic way of conducting an election. The *Owners' Corporation Act* allows for 13 candidates to be elected; the Act does not allow for any candidates to be blocked. The declared result has a decidedly unsavoury fragrance and surely will be overturned soon.

Thankfully, under the new Act proxy-farming is now outlawed. That is something the government got right!

Financial and mental health costs of cladding

Two Australian scientific studies published this month have delved into the financial and well-being impact of flammable cladding.

The findings by RMIT University researchers provide real insight into the impact of combustible cladding on apartment owners who had no knowledge of what was to come when they purchased their apartment.

The participants in the study were from Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and the ACT.

The key outcomes from the first paper on financial implications were the accumulating costs beyond the rectification work:

- special levies
- higher levies long term
- rising insurance premiums
- legal fees
- cost of fixing other fire safety defects, such as sprinklers
- possible loss of property value.

This study found that the financial burden on households has influenced many life decisions, such as retirement, holidays, and buying or selling major assets.

The key messages from the second paper on well-being were about how owners and occupiers are coping, detailing:

- frustration, concern and anger
- safety fears, especially in higher-risk buildings
- long-term negative emotions harming mental health and wellbeing
- serious concerns for people's lives from the resultant financial stresses.

All participants in the study were very upset that building industry-related professions and the government could have approved flammable cladding at all.

Frustration was compounded for owners on finding that their building warranty was mostly useless in this situation.

If you would like more information on this research, please contact us via our website, we-live-here.net. We will bring you more details in the next edition of this column •



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ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE



Road trains and paintings: Indigenous artist Cameron Benson launches first exhibition

For indigenous artist Cameron Benson, driving trucks and painting are two things he does well. Instead of mindlessly scrolling through his Facebook feed on breaks between Geelong and Melbourne, Mr Benson uses his time to paint.

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*

And now, after years of roadside painting, Mr Benson has launched his first ever exhibition titled *Let The Light Shine* showcasing 17 contemporary indigenous Australian animals at the Koori Heritage Trust at Federation Square.

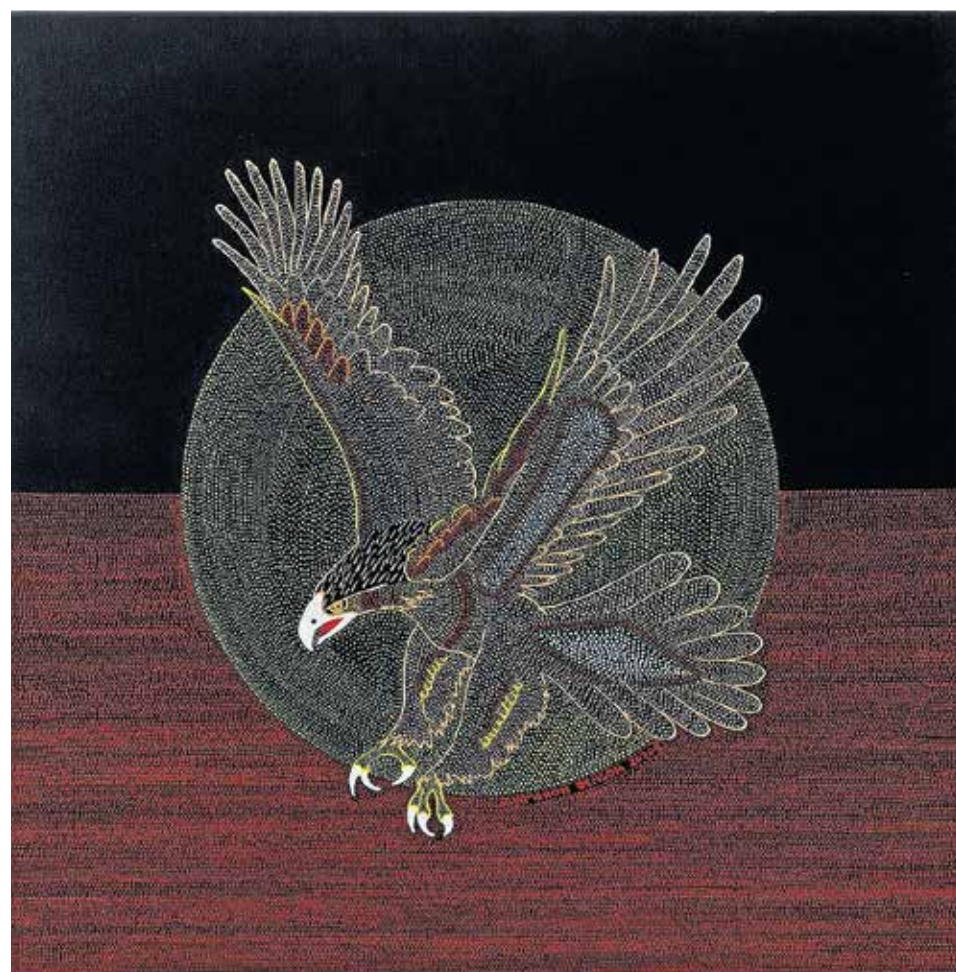
Mr Benson said he was incredibly excited.

"There's 17 paintings, all different Australian animals; a kookaburra, a wombat, fighting kangaroos, a couple of turtles and a few other ones including some yabbies," he said.

"It's a contemporary style, it probably looks Aboriginal. But mine don't have stories or cultural significance."

Mr Benson used to live in Horsham where he painted T-shirts and other nick-knacks.

But four years ago, after finding painting T-shirts was no longer viable, he packed up and left to Geelong to seek a better market for his artwork.



Mr Benson began refining his style using different tools to paint on canvas while driving trucks between Geelong and Melbourne, where he would often stop en route at service stations for a break and a scroll through his social media feed.

But something about it didn't gel with his desire for efficiency.

"I thought I better get something done," Mr Benson said.

"Now, I do most of my work in my truck when I'm on a break. I've got a tray, I've got liquid paints, and when I get a chance, I get them out."

"I have a stretched canvas in the back – it's better than sitting on Facebook all day."

When it comes to his artistic process, Mr Benson often draws inspiration for his outlines from photographs.

On a recent trip to Tasmania with his wife, Mr Benson snapped a few photos of a Tasmanian

devil, which he used to sketch out the outline for one of the paintings in his exhibition.

But Mr Benson's true inspiration comes from above.

"I believe I get inspiration from God – he gave me creative ability and I'd go give him the glory for the artwork I do," Mr Benson said.

"That's why I called it [the exhibition] *Let The Light Shine*."

Mr Benson said the title came from scripture, Matthew 5:16.

Let The Light Shine will be showing from March 13 to May 23 at the Koori Heritage Trust in the Yarra Building at Federation Square. Tickets are free •

For more information:
koorieheritagetrust.com.au



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HISTORY

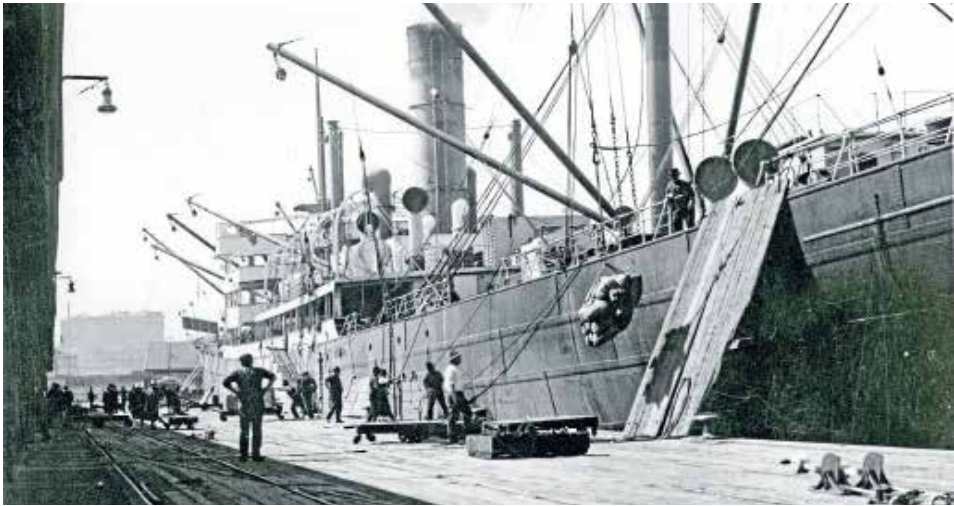
Wharf life

Dated around 1924, this photograph reflects a time in Victoria Dock when workers didn't rely on powerful electrical or motorised machines to unload cargo from overseas or interstate.

This photograph is likely to be taken at the Dudley St end (or the north end) of the dock, as evidenced by the building with the chimney in the background. This was the Sands and McDougall factory building at 355 Spencer St, built in the late 1880s and remaining the company's factory and office until the 1970s. Sands and McDougall was a stationery company best known for its annual street directory, which indexed the ever-changing streetscapes of Melbourne and its suburbs from 1857 until 1974. Today the directories are used heavily by historians as a research tool. Sands and McDougall also owned a box factory a stone's throw away at Adderley St, last recorded by the directory in 1928. Fortunately, the Spencer St factory remains standing and is now used as a training centre.

As for dock life during this period, it was anything but uneventful. In 1924 around 1.3 million tonnes of cargo were handled at Victoria Dock. For the wharves in Victoria's ports, no job was permanent and it was every man for themselves. To be picked, labourers had to go through the daily "bull pickup" system, where workers gathered at a pick-up site and the employer would determine who would work based on who appeared the strongest or most capable. If you didn't pass, you would either go home or look elsewhere for work.

Even if one survived selection, there were further perils. As the photograph shows, much of the work was manual as pullies, slings, carts and just brute strength were used to haul cargo



on or off ships and into storage. With these labour-intensive duties, accidents were bound to happen. Newspapers would highlight worker accidents, with goods falling from slings causing anything from fractured legs to paralysis and death. Sometimes fires would break out, destroying valuable goods, as reported in *The Age* in 1922 (January 30) when 70 bales of paper meant for the government printer combusted at a shed in Central Pier. Among all of these dangers, workers also had to deal with intense heat and long work hours.

Sometimes work timeframes could blow out, causing problems for the ships and dock congestion. A 1919 article from *The Age* (March 21) noted that due to limited unloading space and full sheds, the steamer *Australia* had to visit three sheds and then "tranship 400 tons of goods into a lighter" to empty out its 10,000 tonnes of cargo. A 1924 report in *The Argus* (October 21), pointed out that "As many as 23 vessels have been accommodated in the port at one time, and each one has discharged or loaded

heavy cargoes." To alleviate congestion, extra sheds were built at Berths 16 and 17 in 1920 (left hand side of photograph) followed by an extra cargo shed north-west of the dock in 1926. This was the longest structure in the dock at almost 1300 feet (or 400 metres).

During the 1920s, life for a wharfie (in Victoria and interstate) became rougher. In 1928, the judge for the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, George Stephenson Beeby, introduced an award for waterside workers. It included double pick-ups, freezing the rate of pay for wharf workers (and cut out overtime pay), lifting restrictions on shift hours to hasten the turn-around of ships, and ignoring cries for improved safety regulations. Disgusted with the new conditions and wages, the workers (especially those tied with unions) from Victoria and multiple states went on strike, with wharf employers relying on non-union and volunteer labour. Among the chaos, Prime Minister Stanley Bruce's *Transport Workers Act* went through

Parliament in September 1928. Also known as the "Dog Collar Act" it allowed the federal government to control who worked on the docks and wharves of Australia, with workers needing to pay one shilling a year for eligibility.

In the weeks of strikes that followed, there were many acts of violence. Multiple homes of volunteers and their families were bombed, and strikers crowded around Customs House to attack any willing volunteers who bought their licences (some of which included migrants from Italy, Greece and Czechoslovakia). On November 2, days after Beeby further restricted unionist rights by only allowing them 40 per cent of all wharf work, around 700 to 2000 waterside workers (the numbers varying between newspapers) stormed Princes Pier in Port Melbourne to attack the volunteers. In a heated confrontation with police, the authorities were forced to use their guns, injuring four of the rioters. Tragically, one of them was Alan Whittaker, who died two months later from complications caused by his head and neck wounds. When the strikes folded, the workers returned to draconian conditions and pittance wages, which were further compounded when the Depression struck.

Today Victoria Dock is a far cry from those tough days. The sheds of the north end have been torn down, and replaced by upmarket restaurants and high rises of NewQuay Promenade. However, the sight of boats parked along the edge of the quay, even if built for leisure rather than cargo, are still a common sight that reminds us of the past ●



Ashley Smith
RESEARCHER
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Bowen therapy – new to Docklands

Docklands now has a new health modality available. Bowen Therapy is a form of bodywork known for its gentleness and speed of its effects.

Bowen Therapy was developed in Geelong by Tom Bowen following decades of working with athletes and injured labourers. Today practitioners around the world use this gentle technique to treat every type of person from newborns to the elderly and with a wide range of ailments from injury to physical illness such as digestive or respiratory problems.

Daily tasks and movement such as sitting for too long, poor posture or injury from exercise can cause misalignment in your body. Long term this causes compensation, restricting blood flow and movement. Bowen Therapy uses gentle, rolling type moves on specific points of your muscles and soft tissue which release the tension held in your muscles to reset your body's natural healing ability and allow balance to be restored.

Docklands Health is excited to introduce the

newest member of its healthcare team. With years of experience in her own practice, Leila Field adds more knowledge and tools that allow a broader range of treatment options for our community. Leila is passionate about working alongside other professionals to assist her clients to achieve their health goals and live pain free lives.

Bowen Therapy has shown huge improvements when used for pain in backs, necks or shoulders. It may also help with digestive and respiratory illnesses such as asthma, sinus problems, anxiety, chronic fatigue, migraines, fibromyalgia and sciatica.

Bowen Therapy is available at Docklands health for you to book now ●



Dr Mike Edgley
CHIROPRACTOR
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ELLEN SANDELL

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen. I'm passionate about a fair and liveable Melbourne. Tell me what's important to you.

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Faces of Docklands

Question: What local business in Docklands do you wish to promote?



KATHERINE ANDERSON
Nelson Alexander Real Estate, because David Anderson (father-in-law), the owner has a long-time interest in the Docklands community and works tirelessly to bring people together.



ANKITHA
Katsu House on Bourke St has been personally kind and generous during the COVID lockdown times, and I have always looked for an opportunity to return the favour.



JEFF GORDON
I'm the owner of the boat named *Lady Cutler* – business has been tough, and I'm worried about JobKeeper ending heading into winter which implies no income and no support.



FABIAN & EMMA
I go to the Barber Club on Merchant St almost weekly for touch-ups and haircut. Thank you, Michael (favourite barber). We also wish to vouch for Fiona from Collins Street Alterations and Dry Cleaning, she provides great customer service and products.

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Nature Therapy

“I didn’t know there was salt water here.”

South Wharf

New research provides insight on the effects of flammable cladding on owners' wellbeing

Researchers at the School of Property, Construction and Project Management at RMIT University have published a new study on the links between combustible cladding and the effects on homeowners' wellbeing.

David Oswald, Trivess Moore and Simon Lockrey conducted an insightful series of interviews with owners living with cladding issues in Australia.

Some homeowners displayed long-term negative emotions and others spent significant time dealing with the cladding issues without accomplishment. Their liveability suffered with changes including making cost-saving decisions on entertainment and holidays, delaying retirement and emerging social tensions with other residents. These lived experience insights highlight the need for improved government support and housing quality policy which considers occupant health and wellbeing both in dealing with the current flammable cladding crisis but also in preparation for future housing quality issues which may emerge in the future.

In the case of flammable cladding, it is often unclear who caused the defect and who should bear the cost of cladding rectification. For example, the Lacrosse high-rise cladding fire in Docklands demonstrated this complexity involved in attributing accountability for building quality issues. A five-year legal battle, found a combination of the architect, fire engineer, building surveyor and builder liable, and they were ordered to pay \$5 million in compensation. However, this has not set a precedent for other similarly impacted buildings in Melbourne and elsewhere around Australia. In the Lacrosse case, there was debate around whether the cladding was a "defect" or not because the product used was not a banned product at the time. For other buildings, it is unclear in many cases where in the construction supply chain and regulatory systems, the accountability for non-compliance should lie. For instances, in some projects the builder or the developer or the architect, or the surveyor, or an engineer might specify the product to use for cladding on the façade.

Without clarity on who is accountable for the flammable cladding, there is refusal from those in the building industry to return and fix the problem without payment, and therefore the costs for rectification are being largely pushed onto unit owners, or the matters are being litigated through the courts.

Many of the homeowners first experienced shock when finding out about the flammable cladding on their buildings. They assumed that given the apartments were built recently they would not have serious quality issues or defects.

Regarding financial security, investors expressed financial concerns that was causing mental stress surrounding the uncertainty of their investment. Owner-occupiers also expressed these concerns, and further revealed impacts from the ongoing day-to-day living in a building affected with flammable cladding. Some of those in higher risk buildings felt unsafe in their own properties but others were mostly concerned about the financial implications.

In other cases, the stress of the situation had exacerbated underlying mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression. It was clear that both owner-occupier and investors expressed feelings of stress, anger, anxiety, frustration, and disappointment in the industry and government, following the emergence of the flammable cladding issue. The potential future rectification costs were influencing participant's lives and changing both their short and longer-term financial capacities. The estimated building rectification costs ranged from \$30,000 to \$12 million. Typically, this cost has to be shared across all units within a multi-occupancy building as a special levy.

Longer term plans such as being able to retire from the workforce were also being put on hold. Across both the investors and owner-occupiers there was also concern about the impact on the value of their properties.

The university researchers concluded that policy makers must consider these broader wellbeing impacts as packages of support are put together for homeowners, and ensure all impacted homeowners are included in any policy development or support approaches. There have been a range of breakdowns across policy, governance and practice which has led to this flammable cladding crisis.

The current warranties and policies are restricted through an economic lens on the cost of the defect and attributing that cost to those responsible for defect. The results from this study demonstrate that a more comprehensive policy approach is required that can respond to such large-scale defects with significantly higher levels of customer service throughout the entire process ●



Tom Bacon

TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.

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ABBY'S ANGLE

Women's voices

I have hot angry tears burning to be freed from my eyes as I watch women bravely come together to be heard. I feel so guilty I haven't joined them when they have such an important message to carry.

As some sort of flimsy defence, I have found I am deprived of my own strength as I am already battling to find my balance, my why and how to heal my own pain, my own stories that contribute to this collective voice.

For me, it started at 17 when a "model agent" sent his hand straight up my skirt to assess my legs for bikini shoots. Hmph. But it didn't stop there.

There was the partner that thought violence solved everything. The policeman who arrested him and wanted to show me all men weren't like that – until his pregnant wife showed up. The recruitment agent who pinned me against the office wall to celebrate my appointment to a senior role, and a plethora of other men who completely abused their position of trust.

But there are also incredible men. I have a wonderful, supportive, strong father. I have a son of whom I am enormously proud. I am friends with, work beside, am inspired by, and continue to meet men who are honest, intelligent, kind, witty, and downright good souls.

But it doesn't take away what's happened. And so, long ago I set my mind to what needed to be achieved and how I would do this. "A man is not a plan", I would proudly say. But now, I feel confused by my priorities, and betrayed by the emptiness achieving them has brought. And even as I reassure myself that I have won, that I have made it, echoing through the loneliness there is a voice that is getting louder.

It is the voice that screamed out for help many years ago. Thankfully, my "masculine" and pragmatic side, showed up. It told her to "man up" and sort out this mess that we find ourselves in. It taught her to wipe away the tears, pack away the pain, face the other way and start building all over again. My masculine side saved me, and showed me how to firstly build a bridge, then a wall, before finally building a fortress.

My priorities were the practicalities. Moving, finding work, finding a home, affording household bills and childcare. They progressed as the skills of never revealing personal details were honed, how never mentioning you were a single mum secured the job. The more senior the role, the less you had a life outside of it – or one that

you could discuss. The masculine side strengthened me to show up every day, to every meeting, to every function, and hold my own. To hold my own, on my own.

And I've been doing that for 17 years or more. Pushing the voice down that questioned, that wanted to cry, that wanted so much more. But there were storms to survive, and threats to keep at bay. Now the voice gets louder, she is demanding to be heard. She is screaming. She is screaming for the injustices; she is screaming for the sacrifices that had to be made. She is angry, and she is hurting, and she is hoarse from calling out, unheard, for all these years.

She cries in pain at the monstrous things some men have done. She wails at the trust that has been broken, she screams at the shattering of her heart and yet she aches to be held, to be understood, to be freed. She cries for her lost children, she cries for her soulmate, she cries for the crushing of her dreams. Sometimes she softens, hopeful ... and then she realises she must stretch her arms to be handcuffed, for she cannot be trusted not to reach too far, not to hope too much, not to gamble what she can't afford to lose. For it took so very long to learn to stand on your own. And so, she is silenced, for fear of more pain. In a world where she saw violence, betrayal and disappointment, how can I tell her it's safe to come out.

But maybe, if we all can support these voices to be heard, we can heal them. No, it's certainly not all men who have done the damage. But there are enough men who have, that it's left a lot of woman living their lives in ways that aren't fair. Let's be united in healing, in raising strong men, in thanking good men and in helping other men learn better. Let's make homes safe, workplaces respectful and communities supportive. Let's help women trust again, to believe that they too can find the happiness and protection so many women already celebrate.

Please, let's be one voice creating a solid path forward.

With love, and with hope, Abby x ●



Abby Crawford

LIFE@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU

CHAMBER UPDATE



Docklands Dollars

By the time you're reading this we are one week into Docklands Dollars – our plan to get people spending and staying in Docklands.

Eat, Stay, Play, Redeem. As I write this, we've just launched it to the Docklands business community, and we're stoked with the response. We estimate it's going to generate a spend of \$3-5 million into Docklands' businesses which is ever so needed right now. Follow our socials [instagram.com/docklandsmelb](https://www.instagram.com/docklandsmelb) and [fb.me/melbdock](https://www.facebook.com/melbdock) for updates and to see all of our 400 members featured during the duration of the program.

School holidays in Docklands

The Melbourne Star is once again launching Kids Fly Free in the lead up to the school holidays so head on over to its website to see them terms and details. The District Docklands is also ramping up its features with regular shows, music and entertainers through the Easter period. Docklands Sunday Markets will again feature the Easter Bunny and it's likely to be the last we see of decent weather for the year so make your way out on Sunday April 4 from 9am.

ANZAC commemorations in Docklands

Last year we sponsored two buglers to play the last post at dawn during the first COVID lockdown. We're continuing the theme for 2021 but elevating it to the next level by partnering with The Last Post project.

The Last Post project encourages young musicians to become involved in supporting our veteran community and to play *The Last Post* on Anzac Day 2021. Participants will be taught to play *The Last Post*, follow a practice schedule and routine and raise money for a veterans charity by recruiting sponsors to their project. Many young musicians from across Victoria will be participating in The Last Post project this year and it will be highlighted by eight buglers playing across Docklands at dawn on ANZAC day. If you'd like to contribute, then head to our website – docklandsc.com.au and look for The Last Post Project ●



Shane Wylie

MEDIA DIRECTOR

DOCKLANDSCC.COM.AU

DOCKLANDS
Chamber of Commerce

Big love for Docklands, in person and online

It's not often the first time you speak to someone, they mention that they are Melbourne's first "Youtuber-DJ".

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*

But for Anikesh Sasmal, who is an enthusiastic Docklander and an IT professional by day, it's a proud proclamation.

When he's not busy working with banking apps at NAB 700 Bourke St, Mr Sasmal is mixing tunes and dropping beats as a DJ, as well as shooting and posting vlogs on his YouTube channel DJAntidope.

He uses his vlog to showcase two things: his original DJ music mixes, and images and footage of his life, travels, and two of his big loves, Docklands and Melbourne.

When lockdown hit last year, Mr Sasmal had already been posting his music remixes for some time.

But it was during the bleak days of the five-kilometre radius restrictions that he thought people might enjoy seeing footage of his local area.

"I thought, why not also show around how the place looks ... how the city looks and how Docklands looks and put my own remix music as the backdrop of the vlog," he said.

Since restrictions have lifted, he has turned his vlogging sights to travel videos both here and overseas.

But even with overseas adventures, he is keen to promote travel amenities in the area, including the Geelong to Docklands Port Phillip Ferries trip.

He hopes that his videos might help optimise visitors' enjoyment of Docklands.

"The whole point of this is to promote small businesses, and also to make sure that everybody who is visiting Docklands or coming on holidays, they know where to have their coffee, they know where to have their breakfast. They know where to stay," he said.

Mr Sasmal first moved to Docklands in 2016 to be near work and friends.

First living in Waterfront Apartments, he later moved to the NewQuay side of the suburb, where he still lives.

He said that even through last year's hard lockdown restrictions, which saw outdoor activity curtailed to just one hour for several weeks, he still felt like he wanted to stay.

"There were so many things to do in Docklands in an hour, because you can go around, you can walk, you can watch the beautiful sunset over the Bolte Bridge," he said.

He describes Docklands as "mesmerising", and for him, the changing nature of the waterfront vista from early morning to evening is both fascinating and beautiful.

He said that when he woke up at 6.15am to go to the gym at Marvel Stadium, the colour hues with sunrise, and the clouds around the top towers, offered a distinctive silhouette of the area.

But in the evening, the cityscape takes on a different character.

"When I come back from the office or work, just right behind the Bolte Bridge, the sunset looks pretty different, and every day there is a different colour altogether. Sometimes it's orange, sometimes it's red," he said.

"As much as I take videos or photos, it still feels like every day is a different day."

In his spare time, he also plays in the local futsal club as a goal keeper when he's not involved in summer cricket.



▲ IT professional by day, DJ by night: Anikesh Sasmal has a big love for Docklands.

It was through a friend that he first got into playing futsal, and he thinks that playing on the team has helped him settle into the area and get to know more people.

"I got to know so many people from ANZ working there, and then there's so many people working at Myer, and people who are walking by as well, and they just stand by, and watch. It's

lovely," he said.

When asked to describe Docklands, he uses the word "serendipity", because as he saw it, he could have chosen to live anywhere initially.

"I could have stayed somewhere else, but I chose Docklands," he said.

"It's a fortunate accident." ●

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10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

APRIL 2011 | ISSUE 63 | DOCKLANDS NEWS

Harbour Esplanade gets its new trees

The first of up to 210 Norfolk Island Pines have been planted along Harbour Esplanade, with all of the installation expected to take no more than three weeks.

In early March the final layer of asphalt was laid at the Bourke St and LaTrobe St intersections, followed by the installation of traffic sensors and final line marking at both intersections. The traffic sensors have been operating since March 7 and are designed to provide more sophisticated and responsive traffic light sequencing for pedestrians, cyclists, trams and cars.

The full benefit of the traffic sensors on vehicle movements will be realised in early April with the second lane of Harbour Esplanade between LaTrobe and Dudley streets having re-opened in late March.

The final layer of asphalt along the full length of road between Bourke and LaTrobe streets, and subsequent line marking of parking and loading bays, is scheduled to be laid in early April.

Lane closures will be required to finalise the asphaltting works, with the majority to be conducted at night to minimise disruption to peak traffic.

VicUrban is currently working with the contractors and businesses within the area to finalise the asphaltting schedule. Once these dates are confirmed VicUrban will provide further information via its Harbour Esplanade Redevelopment e-newsletter and at www.docklands.com under the Harbour Esplanade Redevelopment page.

If you would like to receive regular updates via email from VicUrban regarding the first stage of works along Harbour Esplanade, please email harbour.esplanade@vicurban.vic.gov.au.



▲ The first trees are unloaded on Harbour Esplanade

Works are progressing well to create a new pedestrian path on the eastern and western footpaths between Bourke and LaTrobe streets, with the final layer of asphalt being progressively installed. The footpath asphaltting works are expected to be complete by the end of April. Traffic management personnel are in place to direct pedestrians and cyclists where required.

The Harbour Esplanade redevelopment is on schedule for completion by mid-2011, with most of the major infrastructure works expected to be complete by April ●

Pandemic no barrier for family-run deli

WORDS BY *Micaela Togher*

Few people can say they opened a deli at the height of a global pandemic. But for Gourmet Deli House owner Mathew Christofe, it was a challenge he was willing to accept.

“It was hard, but it was exciting as well – it was the unknown that was difficult and exciting at the same time,” he said.

Opening in The District Docklands’ Market Lane nine months ago, Gourmet Deli House is owned and operated by Mathew, his sister Andrea and their parents Charlie and Toulla, who was born in Cyprus.

Mr Christofe told *Docklands News* he believed it was a strong family influence that set the Deli apart and emphasised the rich history behind the products they provided.

“We do a lot of the marinades ourselves – there are a lot of European-inspired dishes as well,” he said.

“We use a lot of olive oil, garlic, fresh herbs and everything is done in store. We do our own

dips, ready-made meals like pastas and cabbage rolls – that’s sort of our point of difference because that’s all done here daily.”

Despite opening during the COVID-19 pandemic, the opening of the Docklands store had been in the works for some time. Gourmet Deli House began almost seven years ago with its first location in Highpoint Shopping Centre in Maribyrnong.

Mr Christofe credited it as being one of the reasons the family never considered abandoning plans for the second location.

“We never considered giving up on it, we were always happy to go ahead and give it a go. It was like a rollercoaster ride,” he said.

While things haven’t always been easy over the past nine months, Mr Christofe takes it all in his stride.

“It did get quiet at one stage, but it’s starting to pick back up now. We’re hoping with the offices people will be returning to work things will keep getting busier,” he said.

He said there was one simple reason that

Gourmet Deli House had continued to grow despite the many obstacles faced.

“We are different to a regular deli – we do things in smaller batches and more regularly, it keeps everything fresher,” he said.

“It’s a small family business and we take pride in what we do, we value our customers. It’s a passion of ours – all the owners are very involved in it.”

Boasting a wide array of international and local cheeses, smallgoods and continental groceries, the deli also has its own butcher to naturally smoke the meats sold.

Gourmet Deli House is open seven days a week in Market Lane at The District Docklands from 9am to 5.30pm ●



You can find them on
Instagram @gourmetdelihouse



Giraffe Early Learning

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

For Jacqui Scheinberg, her journey to owner and operator of Giraffe Early Learning Centre at The District Docklands wasn’t a traditional one.

A teacher of 22 years, Mrs Scheinberg, opened her first childcare centre in Sydney in 2009. Six years later she and her husband saw the opportunity of a blank canvas and ability build a new centre of their own design and grabbed it with both hands.

Initially run by an external agency whose ambitious educator-to-child ratios left staff exhausted and stretched, Mrs Scheinberg shortly assumed control to ensure the best for children and staff alike.

Fast forward a further five years and Mrs Scheinberg’s attitude towards providing outstanding early childhood learning and welfare is resolute.

“My training was not in early learning, but I am a mum with four of my own kids. I know what I wanted and my mantra has always been: ‘I want the centre to be somewhere I would be proud to send my children to.’ We are the advocates of the children,” she said.

“My staff work four days a week, with extended hours on those days to ensure the children are with the same educators from the time they are dropped off in the morning, to when they

are picked up in the afternoon.”

“When my staff come to me and ask what we should do, I always say, ‘what is best for the children?’”

According to Mrs Scheinberg, Giraffe Early Learning Centre boasts a footprint of roughly 2000sqm, working out to be a ratio of 10sqm per child.

“A feature of Giraffe Early Learning Centre is a three-week transition for children. Before they start, they come to our centre for two or three days a week to spend time in our rooms with family members so that they are already familiar with the centre and feel safe,” Mrs Scheinberg said.

“It also allows our educators to consult with parents to find out their children’s needs or requirements.”

“We base all of our teaching on the national Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) curriculum. It is child-led, child-centred learning. It has helped us develop a calm and quiet learning environment where children feel safe and supported.”

After firmly entrenching the Giraffe Early Learning name in Docklands over the preceding years, Mrs Scheinberg saw a near-full centre with a 90 per cent occupancy rate in late 2019.

That occupancy took the most dramatic of falls following the emergence of a global pandemic and subsequent government lockdowns.

Although Mrs Scheinberg said her occupancy rate, which is now running at 35 per cent, is nowhere near where she would like it, she was uplifted by the crucial role her centre played in supporting children, staff and families through an unprecedented period.

“One of the issues with COVID is that parents lost confidence and that resonated through to the children. Because of that, we have worked incredibly hard to support our families who, during stage-four lockdown, would not speak to anyone face-to-face outside their own household besides us.”

“When we came out of lockdown late last year, we had a birthday party in each of our rooms because all the children missed out on their normal birthday parties. Our philosophy was always to keep things as normal as possible for the sake of our children.”

Now, with life as COVID-normal is becoming clearer, Mrs Scheinberg is ready to welcome back children with open arms.

“We’ve been around for five years, we have consistency in staff, we have passion and we always want to welcome new children and families into the centre.”

Giraffe Early Learning Centre is located at level 1, 25 Star Cres at The District Docklands (above Uni Qlo) ●

For more information, visit
giraffedocklands.com.au

From lockdowns to records

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

For many businesses, particularly those in central Melbourne, it has been a slow awakening from a post-COVID slumber, but not for Lucas Real Estate.

Posting an all-time sales record for the month of February, Lucas Real Estate sold 59 properties between January 1 and March 31, ranging in price from \$300,000 to just under \$4 million.

In a move away from trend, more than 90 per cent of those properties were sold to owner-occupiers, according to Lucas Real Estate sales manager, Mark Sutherland.

“We have also seen buyers doing a ‘flipped weekender’ where they live and work from home in the country or beach during the week and then come into the city for the weekend,” he said.

“We have met buyers selling their homes in the suburbs and moving the majority of their life to country and seaside, but they still want that access and accommodation in Melbourne and there aren’t many better places than Docklands.”

Mr Sutherland said much of the buying influx was due to stamp duty exemptions for first home buyers purchasing property valued

up to \$600,000 and stamp duty concessions for first home buyers purchasing property between \$600,001 and \$750,000.

Coupled with record low interest rates, which, according to Mr Sutherland, won’t change anytime soon, Melbourne, and Docklands, was seeing pleasing signs of confidence across all price points.

“There has been a number of things that have driven these results. Although we have all seen widespread job losses in certain sectors, we have also seen a number of individuals who have managed to remain in secure work, save money throughout lockdown and are now keen to buy property,” Mr Sutherland said.

“Especially with a lot of our time in 2020 spent at home, people have had time to assess their own living conditions and made decisions to scale-up or down-size based on what they need to live comfortably or work from home.”

Along with record-breaking sales, Lucas Real Estate has also been honoured with a swath of accolades in the highly anticipated 2021 RateMyAgent awards.

The Docklands-based agency won Agency of the Year for Docklands Property Management, Docklands Sales and Port Melbourne Property Management. The business also placed third for Top 5 Agency in Melbourne, scored an-



other third for Top 10 Agency in Victoria and was eighth in the Top 100 Agency in Australia category.

“It’s been one of the most unique and challenging years many of us have ever faced and not only is it a privilege to be recognised by our industry but, more importantly, by our clients who have continued to support us to provide our market-leading services,” Lucas Real Estate director, Dylan Emmett said.

The awards come as vindication for an agency and industry that was brought to its knees at the start of 2020.

However, throughout all the lockdowns, pivots, zoom calls and online inspections, the

feather in Lucas Real Estate’s cap was not one littered with shining awards, but rather its ability to keep every member of staff on its books throughout an employment busting pandemic.

“We were incredibly conscience about making sure our team and community were looked after. Whether it be by checking in on a friend, colleague or customers, the sense of community around Docklands was never stronger than through lockdown,” Mr Sutherland said ●

For information, visit
lucasrealestate.com.au

港区居民团体终于正式成立

在没有正式居民团体的几年之后，Docklands代表团体（DRG）终于成为了一个法人组织，标志着Docklands社区新的统一声音的开始。

Sean Car

随着前港区社区协会(DCA)在2017年的消失，上个月DRG成为一个法人实体，由 Ben Ball就任第一届主席，正式填补了几年来这一空白。

DRG是通过墨尔本市政Docklands社区论坛的倡议而诞生，近年来，该团体成员一直在缓慢寻求建立自己的独立组织。

随着新团体的正式成立，DRG的首任秘书Janette Corcoran博士告诉本报，“预备期已经结束”，现在正在邀请当地社区的成员加入。

她说：“这是一个巨大的里程碑，我们非常兴奋。”

“我们真的很高兴到了这一阶段，并且已经奠定了许多基础。预备阶段结束了！”

“港区的居民需要有一种与港区决策

者建立联系的方式，这可能很困难。我们DRG想成为一种渠道。我们的重点是关注港区的人和这个地方。”

多年来，Docklands在墨尔本市内一直没有一个代表当地居民利益的正式机构。

鉴于港区有许多悬而未决的基础项目问题，建立一个独立的DRG对社区来说是一个受人欢迎的消息，现在社区有了一个倡导变革的正式平台。

Corcoran博士说，代表从NewQuay到Yarra’s Edge 的所有居民，我们正积极地收集当地社区的各种意见和技能。

她说：“希望我们的团队成为一种矩阵或一个网络，如果人们想参与或有专业领域的，我们都鼓励你们加入会员。”

DRG也将很快宣布下一届社区论坛的细节。欲了解更多信息或询问成为会员事宜，请访问：docklands.org.au



首届港区运动会大获成功

在3月20日这个激动人心的下午，有史以来第一次港区运动会 (Docklands Gift) 正式举行并赢得了所有参与者的欢呼。

David Schout

这是一个阳光明媚、初秋的日子，来自全州的参赛者和观众聚集在Ron Barassi Snr Park公园，度过了一个充满活力精彩无比的比赛。

从新建成的港区小学儿童的活动开始，不同长度和不同年龄组的

比赛活动就在Bolte桥下风景如画的公园里举行了一整天。

首届男子奖品由Dion Paull 获得，而首届女子王冠由Isabella Antonio摘得。

活动组织者之一Robbie Spencer告诉本报说，此次活动大获成功。

他说：“这是一个圆满的一天。我们很幸运，前一天和后一天的天气都不好，就是这一天（星期六），从日出到日落，天气一直很完美。”

“一切都按计划进行，我们也希望如此。参赛者都很喜悦，赛场地面非常好，我们本来有点担心场地可能有点不平，但墨尔本市政的

场地管理员为这次赛事做了很好的准备。”

这是第一次与维多利亚田径联盟(VAL)、港区小学和港区体育俱乐部合作举办的运动会，也是日历上唯一的一次市中心运动会。

说到港区小学，Spencer先生说：“这次几乎所有的孩子都出席了这次运动会，这是令人惊讶的，因为这不是非得参加的活动。孩子们似乎都喜欢这个活动。”

墨尔本的绿党州议员Ellen Sandell在那里正式宣布运动会开幕，而墨尔本市政议员和港区当地居民Jamal Hakim签署了当天的赛事活动。

安全护栏将于年中安装

La Trobe街大桥沿线的永久性安全护栏将于2021年年中安装。

David Schout

沿着人行道东西向的临时栅栏设置了三年，如今预计将在未来几个月内安装一个永久性的护栏。

临时护栏于2018年4月安装的，据了解是为了防止自我伤害，并为在下方铁路轨道上工作的人员提供一个安全的环境。

州交通部发言人说：“我们正在La Trobe街大桥沿线修建永久性护栏，以提高铁路网络的安全性。”

“我们已经完成了规划和设计阶段，护栏目前正在制造之中，安装工作将于年中开始。我们将在护栏安装开始之前向当地居民和企业通报安装工作的范围和时间。”

La Trobe街的立交桥于2000

年建成，将La Trobe街连接到Docklands港区，这是州政府对公共交通和道路维护升级进行投资刺激的一部分。

墨尔本市政最近对大桥进行了自行车车道的升级。

去年12月，沿街西侧安装了路边自行车道。

在此之前，Harbour Esplanade和Spencer街之间的自行车道只有对骑车者没有保护性的标志线。

目前的项目是为骑自行车的人提供一定程度的路边高护栏保护，是全市快速跟踪受保护车道项目的一部分。

这个工程项目还将大桥的车道从四条减少到两条。



探索之旅帮助修复历史古船

一个探索之旅的游船活动正在举办之中，作为修复历史古船Alma Doepel

Micaela Togher

筹款的一部分。

4月18日，客人将能够登上Lady Cutler 游船，以了解Alma的历史，并听取其修复过程的最新情况。

这项活动旨在让乘客看到修复工作的进展，并了解更多关于这艘船的历史。

从Docklands港区出发，为时三个小时的活动将在墨尔本的港口沿着Yarra河驶向Williamstown，然后再返回。

退役将军也是越战老兵Michael O’Brien将在船上发表关于墨尔本海事历史的演讲，包括欧洲人定居前历史、港口和水道的发展以及定居后时代的影响。

由于North Wharf码头的古船修复工程，公众无法进入，因而取消了传统的年度现场活动。

Alma Doepel支持者俱乐部副总裁Bill Reid表示，此次活动旨在通过从大海的角度观看墨尔本城市来庆祝墨尔本的海洋遗产。

随着船体的外部整修工作现已接近完成，Alma预计将在4月底或5月初再次下水。

Reid先生表示：“我们已经准备就绪——我们只是在等待航运公司的批准。”

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Saltwater Barramundi

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10% OFF Breakfast Deal

Egg, bacon & cheese roll,
medium coffee and choice of
2 potato cakes or 2 dim sims

Now only \$12.50

Waterfront Way, Docklands

Offers end Sunday 2 May 2021



Dan Murphy's