

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P25



Money, money, money!
Photo by Murray Enders

Dockland Dollars 3008 is now live. Residents have access to \$100,000 in rebates thanks to a collaboration between Docklands' four major developers: Lendlease, MAB, Mirvac and The District Docklands. *More on page 6.*

“Don’t cut us off”: Alma Doepel’s plea against freight bridge

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PLANNING

Historic Docklands tall ship the *Alma Doepel* is the latest stakeholder to add its voice to the growing chorus of concerns surrounding the Port of Melbourne’s proposed freight bridge across the Yarra River.

In a recent submission to the Fishermans Bend Planning Review Panel, Peter van Duyn, on behalf of *Alma’s* owner Sail & Adventure Ltd, issued a firm warning to the state government about the implications of a low freight link to the heritage fleet in Docklands.

The Port of Melbourne (PoM) has ramped up its advocacy for a freight link between its two disparate Webb and Swanson Docks having included the proposal in its 30-year 2050 Port Development Strategy.

The initiative has long been considered a “killer” for Docklands as it threatens to cut off bigger boats and activations from accessing Victoria Harbour, which are considered crucial to leveraging the waterways.

With a mast height of 28 metres, Mr van Duyn said the historic ship would be one such vessel cut off from Docklands if the freight bridge was to go ahead.

“[The freight bridge] would prevent *Alma Doepel* from entering and leaving Victoria Harbour,” he said.

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“So many near-misses”: \$900k pledge to improve road safety around Docklands Primary, but community urges more action

Parents and residents in Docklands have grown so concerned about the “perilous” traffic conditions endangering the lives of children around Docklands Primary School, that they have created a new action group calling for urgent improvements.

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The news comes amid a joint federal and state government commitment of around \$900,000 to improve pedestrian and road safety around Docklands Primary School (DPS) as part of their Safer Roads program.

But members of the school community say that despite being well into Term One of 2022, they have “little to show” for their work advocating for improved road safety around DPS since 2017, in which time there have been multiple “near-misses” leaving parents devastated.

Government works under consideration, labelled by one parent as “the bare minimum”, include fencing along Footscray Rd to protect pedestrians from the road traffic.

Electronic, 40km/hr speed signs around the school and better line road markings to show cars on Footscray Rd they must slow down entering at 40km/hr zone, are also options on the table.

Also under consideration are markings or decals on the footpaths to increase safety for kids walking to school, and encourage cyclists and pedestrians to better share the path.

But for DPS parent Mary Masters, who said her commute from West Melbourne was “especially perilous” with only one option to commute

along Dudley St – an “awful daily experience” – the announcement is too little too late.

“Road safety surrounding Docklands school has been raised as an issue since the school site was announced in 2017. Despite this, there were no significant changes made to the area before the school opened in 2021,” she said.

“We are lucky that there have been no serious incidents involving our school community, but there have been so many near-misses that we’ve heard about.”

Ms Masters said until late last year, there was no 40km/hr school zone in place, which is a legislated requirement for all schools. And when signposts were installed, they were “totally ignored” by traffic.

She said students at DPS started the 2021 year with only two crossing guards to protect them from traffic on Footscray Rd, until a third was added in Term Four that year.

“Every family who crosses over Footscray Rd has witnessed cars running red lights and can tell you how much we rely on the guards to keep us safe,” she said.

Katy is a representative of the new Parents/Residents Docklands Road Safety Group advocating for improved road safety in Docklands comprising parents and residents which is independent from DPS.

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“Worst electoral system in the country?” Warnings sent to agents after 2020 election probe

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ELECTIONS

A City of Melbourne councillor has conceded that it “might just take the prize for the worst electoral system in the country” after 20 real estate agents were warned following an investigation into the 2020 municipal elections.

In a recurring issue for the council, the Local Government Inspectorate found that the 20 agents admitted illegally completing ballot papers on behalf of landlords whose properties they manage.

Most of the owners lived overseas, “most commonly in China”, and some had “authorised their agent verbally or in writing to vote on their behalf”.

But despite finding evidence of the breach, the agents will escape with a slap on the wrist as fraud was not detected and, instead, they were found to have misunderstood the electoral laws.

“Our investigation did not uncover any systemic or intentional ballot fraud,” chief municipal inspector Michael Stefanovic said.

“The issues mainly arose due to these real estate agents not understanding our electoral laws and communication issues with owners that were exacerbated by pandemic restrictions.”

Many agents were unaware that voters absent from Victoria during the 15 days prior to the close of voting are excused from voting.

The agencies reported that the property owners generally “had limited English”, “were not interested in the election” and “communicated with their agents in Chinese through WeChat”.

Cr Rohan Leppert said the system was in urgent need of reform.

“While no evidence of ballot tampering has ever been brought before the courts, it is clear that City of Melbourne elections are overly reliant on the honesty of a handful of real estate agents,” he told *Docklands News*.

“We might just take the prize for the worst electoral system in the country. Consistent with the clear will of the community and the past positions established by the council, the electoral system simply must be reviewed.”

The investigation looked at 216 ballot papers completed by representatives from 21 real estate agencies, and those ballot papers under investigation were excluded from the ballot count, meaning they did not affect the outcome of the election.

It follows a probe into the 2018 Melbourne Lord Mayoral by-election vote in which five people were also given formal warnings.

In that by-election, 6889 ballots were sent to voters “care of” real estate agents, with large real estate group MICM receiving 1700 ballot packs alone.

In July 2021 councillors voted for a state government review of the *City of Melbourne Act 2001* which also, controversially, grants one vote to residents in local government elections, while businesses were entitled to two votes.

That means that a business that rents a desk within the municipality was currently entitled to greater participation than local residents, as well as the chance to run in elections.

Councillors urged that the review begin in 2022, in time for the next election in 2024.

The “unique” system has not been properly reviewed for more than 20 years, while the electoral system for the other 78 Victorian councils was reviewed for the *Local Government Act 2020*.

At the March 1 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, Cr Leppert put forward a motion that urged Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane to respond to the request.

“The problems with the City of Melbourne electoral system are overwhelming, and the community has long been frustrated with Melbourne’s unique electoral provisions,” he said.

While no evidence of ballot tampering has ever been brought before the courts, it is clear that City of Melbourne elections are overly reliant on the honesty of a handful of real estate agents.



“The state government seems content to turn a blind eye to the flaws in the *City of Melbourne Act*, and my motion is the latest attempt to bring on a comprehensive review so that it can be completed ahead of the 2024 election.”

“The Minister for Local Government needs to decide if he wants a healthy democratic system for Melbourne that is trusted by the voters, or if he is content to continue letting our democratic systems fall apart.”

The motion went before councillors at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on March 1, shortly prior to the *Docklands News* March edition print deadline ●

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“Don’t cut us off”: *Alma Doepel’s* plea against freight bridge

Continued from page 1.

“The height of the Bolte Bridge was, in fact, determined so as to allow *Alma Doepel* to pass underneath. The ship is planned to be restored and operational within three years and to be based in Victoria Harbour.”

“A number of other heritage sailing ships, which are based in Victoria Harbour have similar height limitations. The intention of the City of Melbourne is to have a heritage fleet based at Docklands, which will attract visitors and facilitate increased business activity in the precinct.”

Mr van Duyn told the panel that Melbourne was already restricted in allowing entry to many of the world’s great sailing ships “that cannot pass under the Bolte Bridge” and that smaller ships with “air-draft less than 28 metres work within Victoria Harbour and visit from interstate and overseas.”

“A lower clearance bridge would further restrict access to these vessels,” he said.

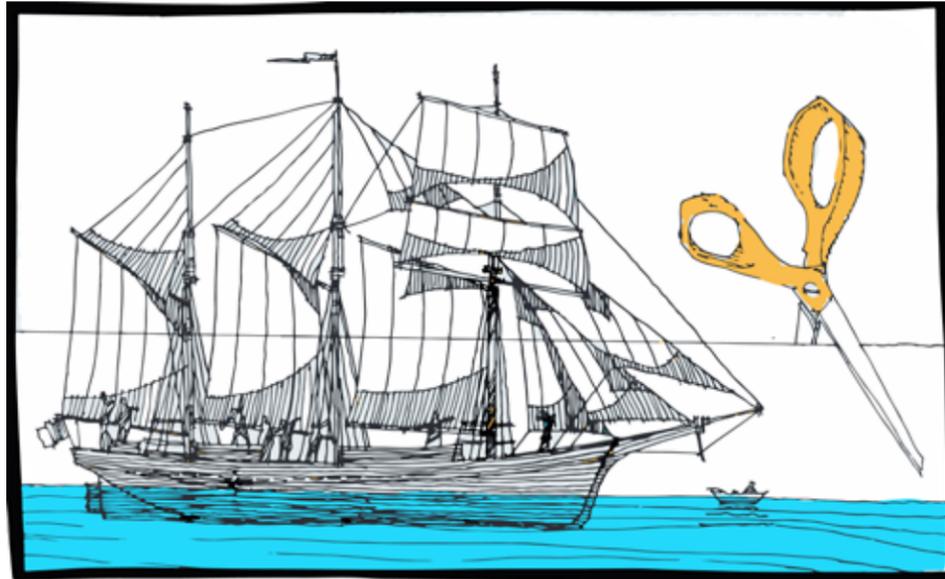
Alma Doepel restoration director Peter Harris reiterated these comments to *Docklands News*, saying a freight bridge represented a “showstopper”.

Mr Harris said despite suggestions that the bridge would be openable, long freight trains and warning times would lead to untenable congestion in the harbour, as well as an impact to residential amenity and properties values.

“Docklands is our only option for a home. Don’t alienate us,” he said.

In its 2021/22 budget, the City of Melbourne included a record \$3.3 million investment into Docklands’ waterways infrastructure, \$1.9 million of which was committed to replace the large vessels berth at Melbourne City Marina.

“This will allow ships to dock for public displays, which have in the past included Border Force and Sea Shepherd vessels, and Tall Ships Victoria,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said, following the release of the council’s budget in May last year.



“

Docklands is our only option for a home. Don’t alienate us.

”

A freight bridge, which Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne told *Docklands News* in December was currently touted at 11 metres high, would prevent the types of ships and events the Lord Mayor mentioned from entering the harbour.

“A bridge is what’s in their [Port of Melbourne’s] plans at the moment, which I think is exciting, but again, that’s a little way off,” Minister Horne said.

Despite its record investment into Docklands’ waterways, the City of Melbourne declined the opportunity to provide comment to *Docklands News* this month when asked whether it would advocate against the freight link on behalf of the Docklands community.

While the Port of Melbourne continues to push for the freight bridge as part of its long-term vision, *Docklands News* understands that senior figures within the Department of

Transport have dismissed the project’s viability.

In a statement to *Docklands News*, the Port of Melbourne said a freight connection to Webb Dock was “crucial to container trade” but that consultation with all stakeholders would form an “important part” of its process.

“A direct freight connection to Webb Dock is crucial to container trade – containers that bring goods to Australia to meet the demands of consumers and business. PoM is committed to playing its part in ensuring a strong Victorian economy by contributing to the state’s freight and trade needs well into the future.”

“PoM’s 2050 Port Development Strategy includes the proposed development of a Webb Dock freight link via a rail bridge adjacent to the Bolte Bridge. Identification of options is currently under way,” the statement read.

“We continue to plan, advocate and work with the Victorian Government to deliver

the freight link in line with the Webb Dock International Container Terminal, which on current indicative timelines could be able to be delivered and operational from 2030-32 onwards.”

The Port of Melbourne didn’t respond directly to a question from *Docklands News* as to whether an immersed tunnel, as seen in other cities around the world, was being considered as an alternative to a bridge.

The statement said that plans for the freight link were in the “concept phase” and that “there are many factors to be considered, including developing a solution to cross the Yarra River efficiently, balancing the benefits and impacts across community, consumer and business needs.”

“Consultation with all stakeholders will be an important part of PoM’s process as we progress our planning for the port’s future rail freight needs. As the concept phase progresses, PoM will seek feedback from all interested parties, which will include the community. We encourage anyone with an interest in the Webb Dock Freight link to read our Port Development Strategy.” ●

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Bursts of colour to celebrate Indian Holi Festival

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*
 COMMUNITY

A sea of colour is set to descend in Docklands as the community prepares to celebrate the Indian festival, Holi, for the first time.

Hosted by the Docklands Neighbourhood House at Ron Barassi Senior Park, the March 19 event will feature a range of family-friendly activities including dancing, traditional and modern live music, food trucks, a DJ, dhol drumming, Bollywood dancing and more.

Part of the event will also see festivalgoers dance the day away while getting covered in brightly-coloured powder.

Jason Butcher, community development officer of the Docklands Neighbourhood House, said everyone was welcome to attend the day which runs from 1pm to 6pm.

“The traditions of Holi, of love and sharing between family, loved ones, and community, make it a perfect occasion to bring Docklands together in celebration,” he said.

“Docklands Neighbourhood House invites all local residents, whether from an Indian background or not, to participate in the free lead-up activities and join the celebrations on the day.”

Holi is one of the biggest and most colourful Indian festivals, where the colours of Holi spread the message of love and peace.

The event comes after the “Docklands Comes Together” project, which will deliver a range of activities for the Docklands community in 2022, received a \$20,000 Connect Communities grant from the City of Melbourne – which will also go towards the Holi festival.

The project was formed by “The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne” – of which the Docklands Neighbourhood House is also a project.

Ariel Valent, director of The Centre, said, “Docklands Neighbourhood House appreciates the support of City of Melbourne. The council helped us set up as a pop-up from late 2019 and



continue to support our work with the community of Docklands.”

“Incredibly there has never been a Holi Festival in Docklands, despite the large Hindi population.”

Mr Valent said the Docklands Come Together aims to build bonding networks for Docklands residents of Indian background by working together to create “meaningful expressions and celebrations of their culture of origin within their own neighbourhood.”

The project also provided a “repair café” through which residents can extend the lifespan of various goods.

“It has been a difficult couple of years to get something new established, but we are looking forward to the rest of 2022 with a great sense of optimism,” Mr Valent said.

“Our purpose is to bring people together, fos-

ter a sense of belonging and celebrate the local community.”

“We do this by encouraging participation in social, educational and wellbeing programs, creating volunteering opportunities and by creating welcoming spaces to connect and learn.”

“We simply couldn’t do this without the support of our funding partners and the local community.”

Docklands Come Together will also host the Diwali festival in October – with the Holi being supported by the City of Melbourne, Victorian Multicultural Commission, Sarascare and the YMCA Hub.

Meanwhile, Mr Butcher said, “The way we work is all about community involvement, so if anyone has any thoughts how we can make the Docklands community even better, we would love to chat.” ●



Docklands man charged following drug seizures

CRIME

Major Drug Squad detectives have charged a man and seized various drugs of dependence following an investigation into drug trafficking in Docklands last month.

Police executed a search warrant at an apartment building on Pearl River Rd in Docklands early Friday morning, February 25.

They subsequently seized quantities of various drugs, including methylamphetamine, 1, 4-Butanediol and prescription medication, as well as a quantity of cash, various identifications and other drug related paraphernalia.

A 33-year-old Docklands man was charged with:

- Traffick methylamphetamine
- Traffick drug of dependence – 1, 4-Butanediol;
- Traffick drug of dependence – prescription medication (Xanax)
- Possess methylamphetamine
- Possess drug of dependence - 1,4-Butanediol;
- Possess drug of dependence – prescription medication (Xanax)
- Possess proceeds of crime
- Possess identification information to facilitate an indictable offence
- Commit indictable offence while on bail.

He was remanded to appear at Melbourne Magistrates’ Court on March 3.

Anyone with information about illicit drug activity is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or make a confidential report at crimestoppersvic.com.au ●

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“So many near misses”: \$900k pledge to improve road safety around Docklands Primary, but community urges more action

Continued from page 1.

She said they had been collecting community feedback on the recently proposed measures under the \$900,000 for DPS and the wider Docklands area.

“We are not in a position to discuss details yet but, from the feedback we are getting so far, parents are expressing concerns that the measures are not sufficient considering the location of the school and surrounding increasing traffic flows,” she said.

“I am participating in the project because my child had almost been hit by a vehicle at a pedestrian crossing in Docklands last year. It was a shocking and devastating experience. I observed lack of safety measures to protect pedestrians and I want to bring in changes before someone gets killed, particularly our children.”

State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell said when the Victorian Government built DPS, not enough thought was put into how students would get to and from school safely in such a busy, traffic-filled area.

“Kids have been put in dangerous situations, especially with the traffic on Footscray Rd and Docklands Drive,” she said. “I joined local parents and the school to push the Victorian Government to make the roads around the school much safer, and we’re so pleased they’ve listened to our concerns and will make a start.”

“These upgrades are only the first step, and the government will need to do more to fix some of these very dangerous intersections, but they’re a very welcome first step.”

DPS principal Adam Bright said with the school rapidly growing –



now at 415 students – the congestion and traffic around the school had increased as a result.

“We see the measures – especially on Footscray Rd being a busy arterial route – as crucial for our students’ safety,” Mr Bright said.

“We also see the measures that are being put in place on the bike path outside the school as crucial.”

Ms Masters said there had been multiple near-misses for community members crossing Docklands Drive and Footscray Rd at the major intersection, and using the shared footpath along Footscray Rd.

“Locals commuting to DPS had also been lucky to avoid accidents travelling on the smaller roads around the school, including St Mangos Lane and Little Docklands Drive, also crossing to and from tram

stops along Docklands Drive”, she said.

“The \$900k is going towards the bare minimum upgrades.”

Docklands News understands the school community is in discussions with the City of Melbourne and the Department of Transport about further road safety improvements.

These include their requests for safer crossing options for pedestrians and cyclists at the major Footscray Rd, Docklands Drive intersection, better traffic management for cars around the school for parents who have no choice other than to drive and park, and further “calming” measures or separation for cyclists using the shared footpath outside the school.

Members of the community have also been requesting that the West

“

I am participating in the project because my child had almost been hit by a vehicle at a pedestrian crossing in Docklands last year. It was a shocking and devastating experience.

”

“We’re doing everything we can to ensure people can move safely around our municipality, whether it’s by public transport, car, bike or foot,” the spokesperson said.

“We’ve recently appointed three new School Crossing Supervisors on Footscray Rd and Docklands Drive, near Docklands Primary School. We have also installed speed humps on Little Docklands Drive and a zebra crossing on Anchor Lane and reduced the speed limit on streets around the school.”

The new Parents/Residents Docklands Road Safety Group currently has three members plus a wider circle of members who can choose various levels of participation when making submissions, Katy said.

The group has an agreement with the Docklands Representative Group that allows it to organise events together and is also in the process of receiving a Deductible Gift Recipient status which would allow it to accept donations ●

For more information:
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Locals to cash in on more Docklands Dollars

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
BUSINESS

Dockland Dollars 3008, the new locals rebate scheme, is now live.

Residents have access to \$100,000 in rebates marking an extraordinary collaboration of funding between Docklands' four major developers; Lendlease, MAB, Mirvac and The District Docklands.

Created in partnership with the Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC), the initiative allows residents to earn a rebate of up to \$25 every fortnight with a maximum of \$100 cashback, when they spend with participating retailers within the precinct.

According to DCC president, Daniel Hibberd, the new locals only program will come as welcome relief for traders in the precinct currently experiencing visitation at 18 per cent of pre-COVID-19 levels.

"We're so thankful for the collaboration between Lendlease, MAB, Mirvac and The District Docklands," Mr Hibberd said.

"The DCC is proud to auspice this project on behalf of our member businesses and reward our local residents for shopping locally."

Docklands Dollars 3008 was officially launched on Friday, February 18 by Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Docklands local Cr Jamal Hakim, and representatives of the four developers.

All amounts spent are eligible for the initiative, and it is hoped Docklands Dollars 3008 will scratch the itch for small cafes and eateries where similar rebate schemes could not.

Mirvac general manager for residential Victoria, Elysa Anderson, said her company has a vital role to play in ensuring a thriving Docklands community.

"By collaborating to launch Docklands Dollars 3008, we are providing residents with further incentive to shop and support local traders," Ms Anderson said.

"Docklands residents are vital to the current and future prosperity of the community and



▲ From left: CEO at MAB Corporation, David Hall, CEO at The District Docklands, George Karabatsos, DCC President, Daniel Hibberd, Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Cr Jamal Hakim, Mirvac's Elysa Anderson and head of apartments at Lendlease, Daniel Dugina. Photo: Murray Enders.

this new initiative will empower them to help shape the precinct, while enjoying the reward of rebates on their purchases at the same time."

The new initiative is exclusive to 3008 residents, who will be able to claim the \$25 rebate every fortnight across retail, hospitality, attractions and services.

Eligible traders will be clearly identified on the Docklands Dollars 3008 website and will include members of the DCC who operate within the 71-hectare footprint created by the four property groups, across Lendlease's Victoria Harbour, MAB's NewQuay, Mirvac's Yarra's

Edge, and The District Docklands.

MAB Corporation chief operating officer, David Hall, said the initiative would be crucial for local traders.

"We have been looking at ways to support the revitalisation of the Docklands community and the ideation for Docklands Dollars 3008 is compelling," Mr Hall said.

"This collaborative approach from all developers will help drive visitation to small business operators and leading Australian retailers and service providers alike."

According to CEO of The District Docklands,

George Karabatsos, uniting the four stakeholders together marked an important commitment to Docklands and its community.

"Docklands Dollars 3008 is a unique program that is bringing together local businesses under the one banner to reward Docklands residents for spending local," Mr Karabatsos said.

"The District welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with property partners Lendlease, MAB and Mirvac, as we are a key contributor to the Docklands experience – providing welcoming spaces for local residents to enjoy."

Daniel Dugina, head of apartments at Lendlease, commended the coming together of industry to support the Docklands community.

"The Docklands Dollars 3008 program gives residents the opportunity to participate in the economic recovery and revitalisation of our great city," Mr Dugina said. "Through this initiative, we hope to both boost local trade and reconnect the vibrant Docklands community."

Docklands Dollars 3008 is expected to run until April 2022, with residents required to register their details, submit their receipt, and provide proof of address online to access the cash back reward once approved by the DCC.

A spokesperson from the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) applauded the initiative as recognition of residents' crucial role in supporting businesses over the past two years.

"Dockland residents have stayed the course during COVID and have been the means by which many cafes were able to survive. So, it's great that Docklands Dollars 3008 recognises the important role that residents can, do and *want* to play in revitalising Docklands." ●

For more information:
docklandsdollars.com.au/3008docklands

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Council throws support behind new tower in Fishermans Bend

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne has endorsed plans for a 50-storey office and apartment tower in what Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said is a “very exciting” proposal for the Fishermans Bend Lorimer precinct.

The \$150 million project by developers Claric Ninety-Nine Pty Ltd seeks to demolish existing buildings at 13-33 Hartley St to make way for a 164-metre-high tower.

Designed by MGS Architects, the proposal would comprise 370 apartments, 4330 sqm of office space and 280 sqm of retail area as well as a podium, pool, lobby, library, and an outdoor terrace.

The site is located next to the Westgate Fwy and Yarra River with the proposal also setting aside land for a public park and a new road as it responds to the future vision of Fishermans Bend – Australia’s largest urban renewal project which is considered a vital component of accommodating Melbourne’s growth.

Two per cent of the dwellings [or seven apartments] would be gifted by the developer to a housing provider as social housing.

Councillors gave their unanimous support to the proposal at their Future Melbourne Committee on February 15, which Cr Reece said had made some “really significant improvements” in relation to the ground floor activation and public amenity.

The application will now go before Planning Minister Richard Wynne for final approval after he initially sought a planning amendment by the council to allow development to occur.

“[I am] pleased to say our planners have worked with the proponent over a number of years, and they have ensured that the development does now comply with all the built form requirements including podium heights, tower heights, setbacks, built form, and massing,” Cr Reece said.

His comments come as the site was among 26 development applications to be called in by Planning Minister Richard Wynne between December 2017 and February 2018.

According to a council report, consideration of the applications had been deferred until the “permanent planning controls for Fishermans Bend were approved as it was considered that the cumulative impact of the applications raised major issues of policy.”

A Fishermans Bend Standing Advisory Committee was also appointed to advise Mr Wynne on outstanding issues relating to site-specific planning controls.

Cr Reece said while planning officers were “generally comfortable with the built form” of the proposed tower, the council wanted to see improvements and refinement made to the facade strategy to “help ensure that the building meets best practice urban design principles.”

Cr Reece said it was found that there was an “overuse of certain materials that reduces visual interest, the lack of clarity regarding the podium materiality, and the overly-long frontages without balconies or recesses that contribute to undesirable mass.”

“We would like to see DELWP [Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning] work with the applicant, so that we see further work done on that facade strategy, so that we do see a building that goes up which can win further awards for MGS Architects and which all Melbourne can be proud of.”

But, overall, he said “it’s very exciting to see a development proposal of this scale in Fishermans Bend.”

In supporting the application, councillors also requested an update from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on the purchase of 95 Lorimer St, Docklands, which would see sites consolidated to deliver green space.

“There is a proposal for three parcels of land to be consolidated to create some new green space and it is quite substantial in size and more than 7000 square metres so almost a hectare of new green space,” Mr Reece said.



▲ An artist's impression of a proposed office and retail tower in Fishermans Bend.

“

[I am] pleased to say our planners have worked with the proponent over a number of years, and they have ensured that the development does now comply with all the built form requirements including podium heights, tower heights, setbacks, built form, and massing.

”

Cr Reece said the council was proud that Fishermans Bend was the biggest renewal project in the country with 80,000 residents expected to live in the new precinct by 2050.

“We also want it to be the best urban renewal project in the country, and so those planning controls and overlays are an important part of us getting that right”.

Deputy lead for city planning Cr Rohan Leppert said the application had been “extra complicated” after it was called in before the completion of the Fishermen’s Bend planning framework.

“Our team has done an extraordinary job in working with the applicant to understand the framework and to come up with a proposal which started good and will be even better if the Minister adopts the changes we’re recommending,” he said ●

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MAB

Builder's collapse leaves defect claims under a cloud for new Docklands projects

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUILDING

The collapse of Probuild, one of Australia's biggest builders, may have implications for its newly completed projects in Docklands after reports emerged the company could be up for millions of dollars in defect liability claims.

It comes as Probuild's sites were shut down across the country after the construction giant was formally put into voluntary administration on February 23, casting a cloud of doubt over the future of its \$5 billion construction projects.

While there are believed to be no construction sites in Docklands associated with Probuild, the firm's crash may impact its new 46-level Victoria Police headquarters tower at 311 Spencer St after ASX-listed integrated services company Downer EDI stated it risked incurring financial losses of \$30 million after entering contracts with Probuild in 2018 for carrying out mechanical and electrical services at the building.

"There are outstanding claims which are unpaid by Probuild, of which approximately \$30 million has been recognised by Downer and recovery is now subject to risk due to the administration," Downer EDI said in a statement.

As the Probuild administration process progresses, Downer said it would assess whether there was any "potential financial impact on Downer and will keep the market updated".

Downer said it had completed works on July 9, 2020 with the defect liability period ending on July 9, 2022.

In July 2020, Downer announced its exit of non-core businesses, including the higher risk construction markets in the infrastructure and construction business, and would no longer provide mechanical and electrical construction services to the commercial sector.

Probuild's financial woes are also understood to have potential repercussions for its newly built 23-storey office skyscraper at 1000 La Trobe St, Docklands, which was completed in



▲ The new Victoria Police headquarters in Docklands.



▲ Poly Australia's 1000 La Trobe development.

2021 after the firm was appointed as the builder by Poly Australia.

While sources close to the project told *Docklands News* that the quality of the building was "a very high standard" it "might have some implications for defects" – however assurances were given that this wouldn't be "too much of an issue".

Melbourne-based lawyer Hubert Wajszel, who specialises in construction law with firm Barry Nilsson, said addressing any defects within a defects period could become an issue if problems arose with Probuild's completed projects.

"I don't know how many may well be in that space but that would be of relevance because if for example, if something was only completed recently and defects were identified, Probuild, as things currently stand, arguably won't be able to go back to rectify the defects," he said.

Mr Wajszel said the pandemic "would no doubt have played a part" in the collapse of Probuild "because lockdowns would have had an impact on the ability to continue with work".

However, he added "I think there's been for a number of years other issues that have put the whole construction industry under stress."

"One of which does apply to Docklands has been cladding – obviously with Lacrosse [apartment tower] in particular."

"But what that has meant is that building professionals including builders in particular who have been under not so much attack, but the subject of claims of non-compliant cladding."

Mr Wajszel said he expected many large contractor insurance premiums to have "gone through the roof" due to the construction industry being seen as a "significant risk" in insurance premiums because of a surge in litigation and "by extension a greater liability exposure, in particular in respect of cladding claims."

Owners of apartments at the Lacrosse tower in La Trobe St won more than \$5.7 million in damages in a lawsuit after a fire caused significant damage to the building in November 2014, which was fuelled by flammable cladding.

"... if something was only completed recently and defects were identified, Probuild, as things currently stand, arguably won't be able to go back to rectify the defects."



In the CBD, Probuild's collapse has left its West Side Place in doubt, which is a two-tower project comprising of 1376 apartments and 263 hotel rooms at 250 Spencer St.

Also under a cloud is the Elizabeth North project, a \$1 billion project that includes CSL's new Melbourne home.

Administrators at Deloitte have begun a search for a new owner of Probuild after a total of 18 businesses within the Australian arm of Wilson Bayly Holmes Ovcon Ltd (WBHO) including Probuild were placed into administration.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenging trading conditions for many businesses, and for WBHOA, which has also been impacted by certain loss-making projects," voluntary administrator, and Deloitte turnaround and restructuring leader Sal Algeri, said.

A Probuild spokesperson said it was working closely with the administrators "on a number of plans to protect our clients, subcontractors and employees." ●



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DAME

Docklands' big employers target two to three days per week office return

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

Large employers with thousands of office workers in Docklands expect most employees will return to a hybrid working model of two to three days per week in the office from the beginning of March.

ANZ, NAB and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) — each with large offices in the local area — revealed plans for a staggered return after the Victorian Government removed office mask mandates and advice to work from home.

Hundreds of Docklands traders rely heavily on the presence of Monday-to-Friday corporate staff as clientele for their hospitality, retail and service businesses.

The two banks expect most employees to ease into a “hybrid” model of two to three days in the office per week, while the ATO went a step further and told *Docklands News* they expect full-time staff to (after an initial transition period) work “a minimum of three days in the office per week”.

While the easing of restrictions couldn't happen sooner for small business owners, business groups expect the return to work to be slow, and not pick up until later in the year.

“Local traders aren't that hopeful of a strong return to the workforce from the corporates,” Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Shane Wylie said.

“We don't believe there will be a meaningful return to in office work until later in the year.”

Mr Wylie said the presence of weekday workers in Docklands was heavily linked with the local economy, and their absence throughout the pandemic had already contributed to huge losses.

“It is immensely important to the local Docklands economy as almost 100,000 people are not existing within the precinct on a daily basis. This has resulted in more than 40 per cent of local businesses shutting permanently over the past two years, and without a full return to the corporate workplace this pain will continue throughout 2022.”

The comments come after Lord Mayor Sally Capp claimed “the shackles are off” following the state government's announcement.

“People can now feel confident to come back into the city for work,” she said.

“Good coffees, long lunches, the theatre after work, pre-drinks before footy at the ‘G – the Melbourne we all love is here waiting for you.”

Premier Daniel Andrews noted the flow-on effect that lifting the mask restrictions would have on local businesses.



It is immensely important to the local Docklands economy as almost 100,000 people are not existing within the precinct on a daily basis. This has resulted in more than 40 per cent of local businesses shutting permanently over the past two years, and without a full return to the corporate workplace this pain will continue throughout 2022.



“Victorians can head back to work, without needing to wear a mask in the office. And cafes and lunch spots around Victoria can start to welcome back the regulars they've missed so much.”

This sentiment was similarly conveyed by NAB CEO Ross McEwan.

“Let's say I get the average coming through and we get 10,000 per day, and they all come into town and they spend 10 bucks on a sandwich and a cup of coffee,” he said in an interview on 3AW.

“And you and I know you go down to the sushi bar, you're going to be paying more than that. But let's just say it's \$10, there's \$100,000 of income that goes into small businesses underneath my building.”

The move, however, represented a sharp shift in government policy.

Less than three weeks prior to the announcement that restrictions would ease, Mr Andrews said masks were “not coming off any time soon” when asked about the prospect of a wide-scale return to the office.

The lifting of restrictions ended the City of Melbourne's growing frustration with the state government's reluctance to ease mask mandates and work-from-home advice.



What they said

ANZ Group executive talent and culture, Kathryn van der Merwe

“For our people who are working in a blended or hybrid way, we're not being prescriptive about what time they spend between the office and working remotely. We're asking teams to work out the rhythm that works best for individuals, their team, the business and our customers. We expect that will become a regular and frequent occurrence in the coming months.”

NAB Group chief operating officer, Les Matheson

“[We] support hybrid working because it gives us the flexibility to balance time working from home and time working together. We know from speaking with you and our Heartbeat survey that the majority of you want this mix because it gives us the best of both worlds. As a relationship bank, most roles at NAB require face-to-face connection. This means a blend of two to three days a week from the office and two to three days a week at home. This hybrid approach provides colleagues with greater flexibility to integrate work with commitments at home and the need to attend the office for connection and collaboration.”

ATO spokesperson

“Following our initial transition period, going forward our approach will be that where an ATO employee seeks to work a portion of their week from home, staff can work with their manager to agree on suitable arrangements that satisfy the business requirements of the position, and are appropriate for their manager and broader team. There are well-researched benefits to office attendance.” ●



David Schout

JOURNALIST

DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



Docklands revs up for weekend of motorsport in March

EVENTS

Docklands will roar into life next month when the chequered flag is dropped to start the Live Fast Festival Docklands, hosted by the Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC).

Development Victoria has collaborated with AGPC in bringing the Live Fast Festival to the precinct, with a range of activities to be held across the weekend of March 5 and 6.

Classic and vintage cars will fill the streets and the prestigious Fox Classic Car Collection Museum is opening up the doors to showcase its collection of rare and prestigious vehicles.

There will be plenty to see for motorsport enthusiasts with car clubs displaying their vintage and exotic classic vehicles while F1 fans will have an opportunity to get up close with the new-spec 2022 Formula 1 race car.

Development Victoria's Group Head Precincts Geoff Ward encouraged fans to come along and enjoy the sights and sounds of the event – as well as Docklands.

“Bringing the Live Fast Festival to the Fox Classic Car Collection museum is a great synergy and showcases the best of what Docklands has to offer,” Mr Ward said.

“We are proud to support this free experience where you can head to Docklands to kickstart your motorsport festival and discover everything else on offer.”

“This is a great way for everyone to be a part of the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix, one of Melbourne's flagship events that makes us the events and sporting capital of Australia.”

Melbourne will host the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix between April 7 and 10 ●

For more information:
grandprix.com.au/event/live-fast-festivals and foxcollection.org.au

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Walking group celebrates

Celebrating their birthdays at the Sebel with all their friends from the Docklands Walking Group Diane (New Zealand), Mona (India) and Sima (Iran) have chosen to make NewQuay their new home.



MAB moves on Docklands Drive

PLANNING

NewQuay developer MAB Corporation is continuing its transformation of the precinct, as it presses ahead with plans for two key sites at Docklands Drive.

The NewQuay West site at 473-505 Docklands Drive is the subject of two new planning applications, recently submitted to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

A spokesperson for DELWP said it had requested further information from MAB, which was currently preparing additional information to help with the assessment.

While the department wasn't able to provide specific details as to what each application proposed, it said the planning controls for both developments (Lot B and G) allowed for maximum building heights of 75 metres and 120 metres, respectively.

"The final design of the proposal is subject to change following input from relevant stakeholders and policy considerations," the spokesperson told *Docklands News*.

The Urban Developer reported in February that MAB had submitted a proposal for a 24-storey including 192 apartments.

MAB Corporation declined to comment. Further up the street at 396 Docklands Drive, the developer has revealed its long-awaited vision for the site wedged between The District Docklands and Docklands Primary School, which has long been used as a carpark.

MAB will host two community drop-in sessions on March 17 and March 18 at its display suite at 2 Genti Place as it seeks feedback from "local residents, business owners, retailers and stakeholders to view the proposed plans and provide feedback".

For drop-in times and to register refer to MAB's advert on page 7 of this edition.

396engage.com.au ●

Cruise operator takes outprestigious tourism award

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

A Yarra River tour operator and self-drive boat hire business in Docklands has taken out a Victoria Tourism award, recognising its resilience in the face of COVID-19.

Melbourne Boat Hire won the City of Melbourne Innovation and Resilience Award, with owner Matt Gannon saying his team was delighted by the honour.

"It's a good surprise," he said of the inaugural award which was introduced after the Victoria Tourism Industry Council [VTIC] partnered with the City of Melbourne to recognise the resilience of the tourism sector during the past year.

Mr Gannon said it had been a tough two years for his business and was still experiencing up to three or four cancellations a week due to the Omicron wave.



"It's been a challenge, we're not out of the woods just yet unfortunately," he said, but added he hoped the return of international tourists wasn't far away.

"We pivoted a few times throughout the last two years, which was a challenge. We started doing a lot of commercial work, a lot of bridge inspections with a vessel and then we set up a floating coffee cart at the Botanical Gardens."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said tourism was key

to the city's economic and cultural revival.

"These awards will be recognition for the tourism operators that have continued to show excellence and innovation throughout the toughest period the industry has faced in modern times," Cr Capp said.

"We are honoured to be able to present an inaugural award to showcase the resilience of tourism operators in Melbourne and regional Victoria, recognising their determination and tenacity."

VTIC chief executive Felicia Mariani said the tourism awards celebrated hard work and dedication in creating quality tourism experiences, but added "more than any other state, Victoria can say, this year, we have written the playbook on resilience following the impacts of six rolling lockdowns in our state".

There were 31 categories within the tourism awards in Victoria, including 28 business categories and three that recognise individual achievements ●

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COLLINS PLACE



MAB and Development Victoria donate \$10k for new library books in Docklands Primary School

WORDS BY *Zak Wheeler*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Murray Enders*
COMMUNITY

Docklands Primary School has received \$10,000 after Development Victoria (DV) and NewQuay developer MAB Corporation joined forces to provide new library books to the school.

MAB and DV donated \$5000 each for Docklands Primary School to update its library books which will revamp students' readings for 2022 and beyond.

Docklands Primary School principal Adam Bright said, "at Docklands Primary School we endeavour to instil a love of reading and this donation will allow us to put high-quality literature in the hands of our students."

"We are very grateful to MAB and Development Victoria for the contribution, and we can't wait to see the smiles on our students faces as the new books become available for loan."

DV Group Head Precincts Geoff Ward said, "We're delighted to make this donation to Docklands Primary School to support the purchase of books and materials that will benefit the education of the new students at the school."

MAB's general manager of residential, David Allt-Graham said it was "very satisfying to see a new generation of Melburnians attend school in NewQuay."

"MAB, with Development Victoria, continue to support our growing community at NewQuay and deliver new infrastructure and places so our kids will be healthy, safe and prosperous," he said ●



▲ Participants compete in the 2022 Lunar New Year Dragon Boat Festival at Victoria Harbour on February 20.

Dragon boat festival back with a bang

WORDS BY *David Schout*
SPORT

After a year off due to COVID-19, the Lunar New Year Dragon Boat Festival returned with a bang in 2022, with more than 500 paddlers enjoying a big day of fun and competition on February 20.

Hundreds of spectators also joined in the festivities on a warm afternoon at Victoria Harbour, including Lord Mayor Sally Capp who officially opened the event.

In an exciting first for the event, the day's proceedings were captured and livestreamed on Kayo and Fox Sports, and those interested can still go back and watch the replay for free on the platform.

Various affiliated clubs and states competed in the day's racing on the 200m course that ran between Central Pier and Victoria Harbour.

This included corporate teams from Melbourne, with IAG Purple Dragons claiming victory in that category, Jesse Ant Architects runner-up and the Hong Kong Students' Association in third.

Dancers from the Chinese Youth Society of Melbourne also performed the dragon and lion dancing during the day.

"Fantastic to see more than 500 paddlers today gathered in Docklands for the Lunar New Year Dragon Boat Festival!" Cr Capp Tweeted on the day.

"I was lucky enough to bless the boats before racing commenced. Congratulations to all of the dedicated paddlers who are so committed to this spectacular sport!"

Dragon boat racing, which is powered by dedicated teams of rowers, has ancient Chinese origins and has evolved into an international sport across the world, with the boats being a common sight at Victoria Harbour.

The annual Lunar New Year event has become a staple on the Docklands calendar.

CEO of Dragon Boat Victoria Craig Ryan said planning for the 2023 Lunar New Event was "already under way".

Community member keen to give the unique sport a try can sign up to a one-month "Dragon Pass" free trial to participate at any dragon boat club in Victoria ●

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New Docklands Studios CEO

ARTS & CULTURE

Experienced film industry executive Antony Tulloch has been announced as the new CEO of Docklands Studios Melbourne (DSM).

Mr Tulloch replaces Rod Allan who will retire at the end of March after 13 successful years, during which the studio has helped drive significant growth in Victoria's screen industry.

DSM board chair said, "Antony Tulloch takes the reins at an exciting time for the studio, with the imminent opening of a new super stage that will expand stage capacity by more than 60 per cent and enable the facility to host bigger productions than ever before."

Antony Tulloch started his career as a lighting technician in Melbourne in 1985 and over the years he has worked in various aspects of filmmaking, with credits on major projects including *The Pacific*, *Life of Pi*, and *The Great Gatsby*. His most recently worked as the general manager of studio operations at Iskandar Malaysia Studios, the largest purpose-built filming facility in South-East Asia.

He said he was "delighted to be returning to Melbourne at a time of great activity and opportunity for the screen industry."

"Docklands Studios Melbourne is a premier facility with an excellent and hard-earned reputation for supporting productions. I am excited to be joining and look forward to building on the strong legacy that Rod Allan leaves," he said.

A number of major productions are slated to use the studio in 2022, including Amazon's sci-fi thriller *Foe*, NBC's hit drama *La Brea* (season two) and Robbie Williams' biopic *Better Man* ●

Docklands Promenade Twilight Markets call for community support

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

As a market with a mission to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged youth, the Docklands Promenade Twilight Market is hoping the local community will get behind it.

Advertised on the Lifestyle Markets Australian INC Facebook page prior to the launch on February 19, a small crowd at NewQuay Promenade was welcomed by Lord Mayor Sally Capp who shared her "delight" in opening up the "first of many markets" at the location.

Following the first twilight market, the Docklands Promenade Twilight Market will continue to run on the first and third Saturday of March and April, between the same hours of 2pm to 8pm.

Market organiser Grace Pryor is hopeful that the crowds will increase despite an initial slow start.

"A lot of the locals said they didn't know the market was on, they just heard the music and saw the marquees and thought they would come down," she said.

Hoping music and word-of-mouth will help influence crowds to attend, the Docklands Promenade Twilight Market has bigger goals in mind than just entertaining the surrounding community, and attendees will not only have an excuse to enjoy themselves, but to also support a great cause.

The gold coin entry donations and the markets' profits are going towards fundraising for not-for-profit charity Kinds of Happiness and its purpose to assist and support rural and regional youth from challenged backgrounds.

"We're trying to raise funds to connect kids dealing with homelessness, abuse, dropping out of school or various other issues, with local farmers who will teach them how to be self-sufficient on the land and teach them basic skills," Ms Pryor said.

"Local small farmers support farmer's markets and so the youth are also taught how to



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp at the opening of the market.

have their own stall and how to run a micro business through the market."

Setting up youth of all varying ages with equipment and teaching them the operation and administration aspects of a market, Kinds of Happiness is all about seeing disadvantaged youth thrive.

The twilight market has even linked the youth up with a qualified chef from Shepparton to teach them how to use a barbecue and cook donuts.

Tapping into making the market all about wholesome handmade products, attendees can also expect to see everything from terrariums to "the best coffee" and desserts out of Sweet Sandy's retro caravan cafe, to "absolutely stunning" Aboriginal art by Kevin Williams.

There will also be stalls containing Lebanese sweets, artisanal salami, olive oil, unique candles, handmade jewellery, and baby bibs and pram liners made from boutique materials.

With "many more" stalls continuing to come

"We're trying to raise funds to connect kids dealing with homelessness, abuse, dropping out of school or various other issues, with local farmers who will teach them how to be self-sufficient on the land and teach them basic skills."



aboard, Ms Pryor said parents can be comforted in knowing face painters and children's activities will be there on the day as well.

"The market is a great, cheap night out and all we ask for is a gold coin donation that helps with the sponsoring of the children," she said.

"There is something for all ages so come down with the kids or to find a special gift, something for the home, or purchase something just because you like it. The Docklands Promenade Twilight Market is a great way to kill a couple of hours."

In addition to encouraging the community to attend, the market is also looking for buskers to get involved with the entertainment aspect of the market ●

For more information:
lifestylemarketsaustraliainc.org

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“This is huge for us”: Making use of empty Docklands shops

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

Boutique business WØRKS is set to open its first ever retail space in March thanks to a program that repurposes vacant shopfronts as a result of COVID-19.

The high-end personal care and home fragrance brand, which until now has operated out of a home office and small distribution warehouse, is one of the first Docklands spaces to be transformed in the City of Melbourne’s “shopfront activation program”.

The initiative looks to support budding entrepreneurs, artists and artisans to test their business ideas in a retail or creative space that is vacant due to the pandemic.

For their part, landlords are covered by insurance, their space is kept tidy, and perhaps most importantly, it is showcased how it could be utilised for future tenants.

“It’s going to be huge for us,” Suze Raymond, who runs WØRKS with husband Christoffer, told *Docklands News* ahead of an expected move-in date in early March.

“First and foremost, it’ll allow us to bring all our operations into one central location. At the moment things are all over the place, so we’re going to be to do all our retail sales, ecommerce, distribution and wholesale distribution from one central location. The big one for us though is being able to meet and interact with our customers, to get the feedback and just talk to people about what they like and don’t like.”

The Australian/Danish couple founded the business in 2018, with the aim of “bringing together the best of Danish design and local Australian manufacture”.

Their product range is all named after Danish cities; “Aarhus” hand care, “Ødense” body care, and home fragrance range “Køben” (after Copenhagen, or “København” in Danish).

The business has a “big sustainability cause” according to Ms Raymond.

All products are packaged, they have a single-use-plastic free policy, do refills, and all ingredients are locally sourced and made in Melbourne.

“The concept is bridging the gap between



▲ WØRKS founders (and couple) Suze and Christoffer inside their soon-to-open Docklands shop. Photo: Murray Enders.

sustainability and design,” she told *Docklands News*.

“We found that there’s a lot of great brands that are very aesthetically pleasing, and there are a lot of great brands that are organic. But there aren’t many brands that are doing both — you usually have to compromise on one or

the other. We saw a gap in the market and the response has been really good, especially for an emerging brand.”

The couple initially applied to social enterprise Renew Australia (which the council has engaged to run the Docklands shopfront activation program) to occupy a vacant shopfront in

St Kilda, but changed their minds when considering the location and demographic.

When Docklands was pitched as an alternative, they jumped at the chance.

Ms Raymond said having their first retail space (at the westernmost end of Collins St in Victoria Harbour) would also allow them to run small limited-edition runs of products to test the market directly with consumers.

“The idea is that we’ll come in there and make it extremely beautiful. Our products are quite high-end, and we have a big Danish design element in our fixtures and fit outs too, so we’re trying to meet the needs of people in those [nearby] residential towers and local workers who work at some of the big corporations.”

The state government’s easing of restrictions on office workers, then, comes at a good time.

The store will operate on a rolling 60-day lease so, depending on the landlord’s intention, could be in Docklands briefly or longer term.

“It could be a few years, it could be a few months,” Ms Raymond said.

And while the store’s looming opening was a success story for the initiative in Docklands, the shopfront activation program has encountered some obstacles in recent months.

A recent City of Melbourne report noted various challenges that made getting creatives, small scale retailers and social enterprises into local empty shops a difficult exercise.

“In parts of Docklands, many vacant shops have never been occupied and do not yet have occupancy permits, meaning significant work is required to ready them for activation,” the report noted.

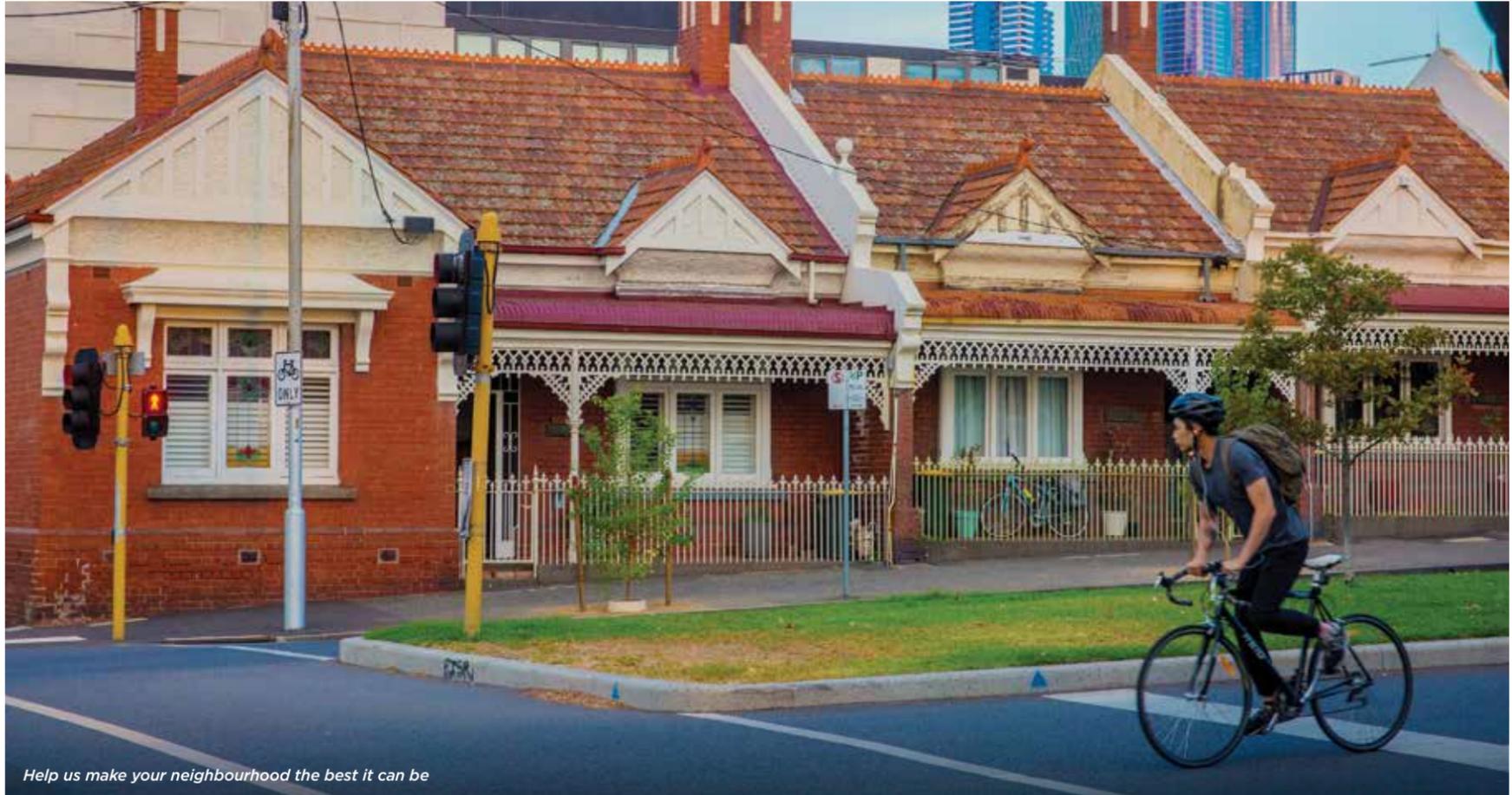
“Particularly in NewQuay, many properties are owned by landlords who live overseas, making engagement particularly challenging.”

Despite this, it was noted that there was now “a now a strong pipeline of potential new activations.” ●

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Your neighbourhood

While we’re all Melburnians at heart, the services and support needed by each neighbourhood naturally differ, based on their unique demographics, opportunities and challenges.

This is why we’re taking an approach that focuses on our neighbourhoods, to capture, connect and respond to the specific needs of the community in a highly localised way.

Our new neighbourhood approach will focus on the following areas:

- . Carlton
- . CBD
- . Docklands
- . East Melbourne
- . Kensington
- . North Melbourne
- . Parkville
- . Southbank
- . South Yarra
- . West Melbourne.

Localised community engagement

For the first time, we will develop new and localised neighbourhood plans alongside communities, recording and responding to your ideas in a digital and real-time plan.

Ideas will be considered against Council priorities and presented online alongside relevant resources and project updates to give you a clear understanding of what we are delivering.

Conversation starters

1. What makes your neighbourhood unique, and a great place to live?
2. What services, facilities or support would make life better?
3. When you picture your neighbourhood in its ideal state, what does it look like?

TO HAVE YOUR SAY, VISIT
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-neighbourhoods



Lygon Street, Carlton



Kensington



Southbank

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE COMMUNITY

This year, we’re holding the second Future Melbourne Committee meeting of each month in community locations across the municipality, to shine a light on the unique needs of each neighbourhood and make it easier for people to engage with councillors and staff.

The locations will include Carlton, West Melbourne, Parkville, Docklands, North Melbourne, South Yarra, East Melbourne, Fishermans Bend, Kensington and Southbank.

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

ADVERTISEMENT
Your City of Melbourne community update

WHY WE LOVE DOCKLANDS

We know and love Melbourne as the culture capital. The sporting capital. The foodie capital. We know its glorious gardens, its bluestone laneways, its epic events. And Docklands is a world within.

One day soon we'll be able to walk all the way from the MCG to Docklands along the north bank of the Birrarung (Yarra River). A continuous path will take us close to the water, connecting new parks and celebrating Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Get ready for the city-shaping Greenline project. This transformative project will show some love to the north bank, breathing new life into areas that have felt disconnected and under-used for too long.

Greenline will usher in a new era for our city and Docklands at a time when we need it most. It will be the largest network of green spaces in central Melbourne, with a six-metre wide promenade (roughly two traffic lanes) and new public park at Seafarers Rest.

See: Watch the sun set over Melbourne from a different angle. Take a sparkling evening tour by kayak along the river. Or be the captain of your own floating picnic with On a Boat.

Do: Find local hidden gems like the dodgems in a neon-lit arcade wonderland at Archie Brothers Cirque Electriq. Or wander rooms of illusion at ArtVo, a one-of-a-kind art gallery with more than 80 hand-painted immersive artworks that turn the viewer into the art.

Play: Introduce the kids to a quirky playground. Ron Barassi Senior Park is a surprise find in the industrial foothills of the Bolte Bridge. It's named after the Melbourne Football Club legend, and boasts water play and bluestone channels, sand play, a climbing fort and two big slides.

Free: Explore Library at the Dock, the country's first six-star Green Star rated public building with stunning views of the waterfront and marina. Check out the gallery, see a performance, lounge on the green terrace and head for Buluk Park after you borrow all the books.



Docklands and the Bolte Bridge

At a loose end: Drool over the Fox Classic Car collection in the historic Queens Warehouse, featuring dozens of rare and prestige cars collected by Lindsay Fox over 50 years, and donated to raise funds for charity.

Meet up: Did you know that you can watch your beer being brewed while you enjoy pub classics at the

sustainable brewpub Urban Alley Brewery? In a move fit for COVID times, the team now produces hand sanitiser as well.

TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-docklands



Number of people per household (average)

2.1



Age (median years)

31.8



Language other than English spoken at home

53%



Residential population

16,000



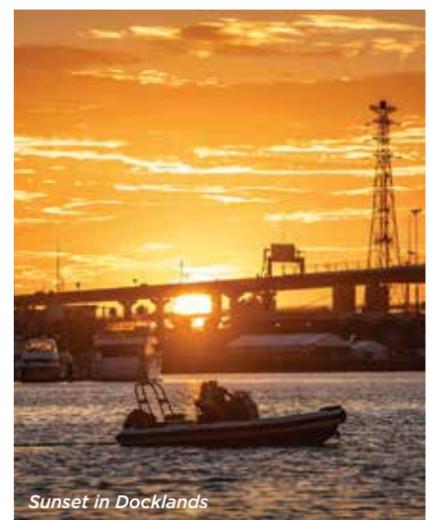
Number of businesses

1212

Sources: SGS Population and Jobs Forecast 2020, CLUE 2020, ABS Census 2016



Artist's impression of Greenline



Sunset in Docklands

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur. All photos taken in line with health and safety guidelines.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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Alma's historic model ship to be given a new lease on life

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
MARITIME

A century-old piece of priceless treasure that was used to help build the tall ship, the *Alma Doepel*, will be restored to its former glory.

The Maritime Museums of Australia Project Support Scheme (MMAPSS) announced it would provide a \$6420 grant for the *Alma Doepel* Museum to help conserve the original display plans and a model of 1903 topsail schooner *Alma Doepel*.

With 30 project applications requesting more than \$271,814 in funding and five internship applications, the *Alma Doepel* Museum made the final selection of 23 projects.

The wooden model of the ship, which is a carving of the hull and about the length of an arm, was used during the construction of the *Alma* 119 years ago.

Alma Doepel restoration director Dr Peter Harris and his team said they were excited by the news, in which he described the artefact as "the foundation document of our museum display."



"It's amazing that it survived, one of the Doepels that gave it to us said he remembers playing with the model in the sandpit at his grandparents' house," he said.

Dr Harris said the plan consisted of a large sheet of paper which had "been tossed around various families and back rooms for many years and was almost certainly hung up in a frame when they were building the ship."

The actual ship was built on the banks of the Bellinger River on the North Coast of NSW in 1903 by trader, boat builder and shipping entrepreneur Frederik Doepel using local timber.

Although the *Alma's* history is well docu-

mented, no building plans for the ship were found until 2019 when the great-great-grandson of Frederik Doepel, Paul Webb, discovered, while sorting through family papers for his grandmother, the original plans and later versions, as well as a builders half model of the ship.

Professionally conserved and presented, the plans and half model will be the centrepiece of the recently created *Alma Doepel* Museum in Docklands.

At this stage, the plans, which includes a third set from the 1980s for the preparation of the first refit of the ship after it ceased active trading, are being professionally conserved and are due back in April.

The funding comes as the *Alma* undergoes a mammoth restoration – with the vessel having returned to the water late last year.

However, the team needs another \$1.5 million to complete the whole restoration having raised \$3.5 million during the past decade.

Dr Harris said the team also checked the way it had restored the ship against the original wooden model to "make sure it fits the plan".

"The deck project is progressing well with

deck beams in place and faired to shape prior to laying the composite plywood and fibreglass sub-deck to be followed by the top layer of Queensland white beech recovered from the previous deck," he said.

"Volunteers are busy lining the master's cabin aft, and the chain locker forward."

Dr Harris said his team was grateful for the funding as maritime history was an important part of our national story.

Tanya Bush, interim director and CEO of MMAPSS, said, "Museums and historical organisations play a key role in preserving and sharing Australia's maritime heritage."

"Through these grants, we are supporting communities throughout the nation to ensure that significant objects are preserved, along with their important regional stories, which are such a valuable part of our collective maritime history." ●

For more information:
almadoepel.com.au



First sod for Seafarers tower

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
BUILDING

On February 2, Lord Mayor Sally Capp turned the first sod on the Seafarers project at Northbank – the city's newest precinct located on the north bank of the Yarra River, between the CBD and Docklands.

The 18-storey development by Riverlee will include 120 luxury hotel-branded residences atop 277 guest rooms, as part of Australia's first 1 Hotel & Homes from SH Hotels & Resorts.

Close by the heritage-listed Goods Shed No.5 and its conspicuous travelling crane are a part

of Seafarers Rest, Melbourne's newest 3500 sqm public park.

Transforming a forgotten yet historical plot of waterside land into a riverside precinct, Seafarers Rest will form part of the "Maritime Precinct", providing a new public space that highlights Melbourne's significant maritime heritage which will also include the council's Greenline project designed to connect Northbank with the CBD.

Construction has been made possible through the private-public partnership between Riverlee, the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance and is expected to be completed in mid-2024 ●

Visiting artist blown away by beauty of historic chapel

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ARTS & CULTURE

A Sydney-based artist who captured the beauty of a century-old chapel at the Mission to Seafarers in Docklands says the heritage building was a "little gem to find".

Rooi Ping Lim's stunning watercolour piece of the 1917-built St Peter's Mariner Chapel immediately impressed staff and volunteers after a photo of her work was posted to the Mission's Facebook page.

Rooi said she had been visiting family during her trip to Melbourne over the new year period when she stumbled across the historic building following a sketching session of the historic *Polly Woodside* tall ship.

"It's a perfect space – it's a beautiful building. Some places just bring calm and it's just a happy place. I knew I had to sketch there," she said.

"The chapel blew me away, it's such a lovely little gem to find. I'm surprised a lot of my Melbourne sketching friends don't know that place."

The Mission's CEO Sue Dight said she saw Rooi sketching for about two hours while she toured the building, which is based at the end of Flinders St.

"It's a beautiful piece which really does capture the essence of the chapel," Ms Dight said of the artwork which featured the chapel's stunning stained-glass windows and rough-hewn timber trusses.

Rooi, who came to Australia from Malaysia 18 years ago and is a print manager by day, said she would be coming back to Melbourne in March, with the Mission to Seafarers being at



the top of her places to revisit.

"I love architecture, I get all excited. There are too many old buildings in Sydney and Melbourne that are disappearing which is very sad."

She said her artwork of the chapel was still in her sketchbook but was looking to sell it on her website (treksketcher.com.au) if she "could part with it".

The Mission is an international mission of the Anglican Church that cares for the practical and spiritual welfare of seafarers of all nationalities and faiths.

Ms Dight said the building was open every day to the public with everyone welcome to visit.

"People can wander into sketch, to photograph, and to gather ideas for the Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition which will be held again in its 20th year in October. The theme will be 'humanity and the sea.'" ●



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Run For the Kids returns to Docklands this April

EVENTS

The *Herald Sun*/Transurban Run for the Kids is returning on Sunday, April 3 and organisers, which will see much of Docklands closed to traffic.

The event is one of the largest fundraisers for the annual Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal, with \$19.4 million having been raised since the inception of the event in 2006.

These much-needed funds are used to make a difference to the lives of Victoria's sick and most vulnerable kids.

Organisers are encouraging locals to join the 25,000 participants supporting the cause by running or walking in the event or donating time as a volunteer.

On April 3, there will be several road closures in Docklands to manage participant and spectator movements during the event. An interactive map showing road impacts is available at runforthekids.com.au/road-closures-details

"Our objective is to close roads for the shortest possible time, and we are focused on minimising disruption wherever possible. There will be a significant impact on traffic in and around the course during the event, with road closures in place to ensure the safety of participants," a statement from organisers read.

"There is no parking on the course itself during the road closure period. At all times emergency access and the movement of emergency vehicles takes priority."

New Quay Promenade/Waterfront City: 1.30am to 12pm

Access to NewQuay Promenade/ Waterfront

City is possible from Footscray Rd via Waterfront Way only and traffic controllers will be on location to assist.

Pearl River Rd will be closed between 1.30am and 12pm. Docklands Drive will be closed in both directions from Harbour Esplanade to Pearl River Rd from 1.30am until 12pm, other than to facilitate access during the below times for those south or west of Docklands Drive. There will be limited local access across Docklands Drive via Doepel Way and Waterfront Way only, but only before 7.30am, between races from 9am to 9.20am and then after 10.15am.

Docklands Precinct (Harbour Esplanade) and Victoria Harbour from 1.30am – 2.30pm

Harbour Esplanade will be closed from 1.30am until 2.30pm in both directions from Charles Grimes Bridge to Footscray Rd. From 1.30am there will be no access into Docklands and Victoria Harbour using Charles Grimes Bridge. The Charles Grimes Bridge closure will remain in place until 2.30pm. Victoria Harbour will be accessible for local traffic throughout, via Bourke St only. Traffic controllers will be on location to manage access requirements. Collins St will be closed in both directions between Navigation Drive and Spencer St.

To contact the Race Office call 9292 2901 or email admin@r4k.com.au ●

For more information:
runforthekids.com.au



BUSINESS



▲ Amanda Rothwell-Hiscock and principal, Tracey Rothwell.

Experts in law, right at your doorstep

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

With more than five years based in their NewQuay office, Rothwell Lawyers, Docklands experts in commercial, property and family law, insolvency, and wills and estates, are well and truly a part of the local fabric.

Founded in 2004 by principal, Tracey Rothwell, the boutique firm has grown to a team of seven who pride themselves on their ability to provide sound legal advice to businesses of all sizes, from sole director and shareholder companies to large national corporations.

Unlike other larger firms, the team at Rothwell Lawyers is able to provide a tailored and personalised service, developing strong one-on-one relationships with their clients.

According to paralegal, Amanda Rothwell-Hiscock, their priority to deliver responsive, bespoke service without exception had formed the foundation for almost three decades of satisfied clients.

"When you come to Rothwell, you will be dealing with the same person on a consistent basis; you won't be passed around from person to person," Ms Rothwell-Hiscock said.

"We get to know our clients, start a relationship with them and understand what they want. We will always put their best interests above all else."

"We want more and more locals to come in and use our services. We are happy to have a quick chat on the phone to see if we are suitable to you or not, or if we think you are suited better with another firm, we aren't afraid to refer you elsewhere."

Rothwell Lawyers have recently added family law to their suite of services headed by senior associate, Belinda Glare, while junior associate, Jack Blaskovic, and principal Tracey Rothwell tackle large insolvencies and commercial litigation.

The firm have recently founded sister company, Melbourne Debt Collectors, further expanding their reach and offering for current

“When you come to Rothwell, you will be dealing with the same person on a consistent basis; you won't be passed around from person to person.”

and prospective clients.

"Although Melbourne Debt Collectors may be a new company, we have more than 15 years of experience and we are here to help you get the best outcome," Ms Rothwell-Hiscock said.

"All our staff can prepare demands, issue complaints and other court documents, prepare and lodge caveats."

"No matter what your needs, there is always someone available to help."

Alongside their expert work in law, Rothwell Lawyers have long been aligned with a range of community and charity organisations including Whitelion, a national non-profit organisation working with disadvantaged young people who need safe accommodation, employment, education and contract drafting, and sponsoring Paralympian, Michael Taylor, and rural sports teams.

For a free 30-minute consultation, contact Rothwell Lawyers on 9329 3500 or admin@rothlaw.com.au ●

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DOCKLANDER

The Docklanders defying gravity

When Taggart Blackwood and Lexi Hall of Docklands had to abandon plans for their 14-month overseas holiday and return to Australia upon the rise of COVID, they came home with a new dream.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

"We had all this memorabilia from our travels lying around on shelves and so the idea to put some life back into our fond memories came from there," Mr Blackwood said.

"The product – Floatnetics – is a display unit that is revolutionising traditional bookshelves."

Seeing the potential for an "eye-catching", aesthetically pleasing product display, Mr Blackwood designed and engineered a unit with embedded electromagnetic levitation technology.

It allows for possessions, collectibles and store merchandise to seamlessly rotate and float in a way that stylishly elevates the art of display.

Alongside Mr Blackwood, Ms Hall handles the marketing and accounts management side of the business, making them a local Docklander team that actively displays the importance of



Australian technology start-ups.

"I think it's good to get more local areas involved and to have local support, and to be able to say that this product is coming out of Docklands, it's coming out of Melbourne and it's out of Australia," Mr Blackwood said.

"A lot of Australian companies tend to go overseas because they are more used to developing start-ups over there, but I would like to

see more innovation coming out of Australia."

Receiving a "good" initial response to their launch on Kickstarter on February 23, Mr Blackwood and Ms Hall are in the process of "educating and engaging with people" about their product.

"We just want to get the product out there and show people what is available, what we can do and how they could use the Floatnetics

display unit," Mr Blackwood said.

A couple with great ambitions, Mr Blackwood and Ms Hall have spent the past two years of lockdowns as an "opportunity to concentrate on the business."

And while they moved to Docklands from Sydney eight months ago for "business and networking" reasons they are keen to see what Docklands has to offer.

"Docklands is a really great place. It was pretty quiet for a while, so we didn't get to see what it was like in its heyday, but now that it's opened up we have been able to walk around by the water," Mr Blackwood said.

"It has a good vibe, nice cafes and feels like a community."

While not available for online distribution yet, Floatnetics is in the process of receiving funding through their Kickstarter campaign and have opted for shipping to be available to all around Australia, America, Canada, Europe and New Zealand when they start actively selling ●

Follow Floatnetics for updates : [instagram.com/floatnetics](https://www.instagram.com/floatnetics) and [facebook.com/floatnetics](https://www.facebook.com/floatnetics)

HISTORY

Victoria Dock

In the early 1930s Victoria Dock was one of the biggest sites for trade and export in Melbourne. A constant queue of ships sailed in, unloaded their cargo, recharged and reloaded, then left for the next port.

Around the time this photo was taken (found in a 1934 photo book), the trapezium-shaped basin had been through some changes since its construction in the 1890s. The 497-metre-long Central Pier, finished in 1919, now featured six sheds to house the ever-increasing volume of cargo. The entrance had also been widened in the 1920s to allow better access. Some of the berths featured three-ton jib electric cranes to help with loading cargo and a rail network connected to the State Railway service.

In 1934, not only did over a million tons of cargo pass through the Dock, but it was also a port for passenger liners. *The Age*, earlier that year (January 17), noted the French liner *Commissaire Ramel* arriving into Victoria Dock with a guest list which included French geologist, M. de la Rue and his wife who were travelling to New Hebrides (now Vanuatu), the Danish Consul-General, G. L. Host returning to Sydney from Europe, and the young Lithuanian Alesha Yakovlev, who, with his mother, was being reunited with his Melbourne-based father. The day prior to arriving, Alesha celebrated his seventh birthday on the liner with a lavish cake.

In the 1870s this area had been swampland, until engineer Sir John Coode intervened. While best known for the Coode Canal that re-directed and widened the Yarra, his initial 1879 scheme also recognised the need to cater for an increase in river traffic. His solution was not one, but three docks built near the eastern end of the swamp for easy access to the city and its railways. The first of these planned docks covered 10 hectares and featured about 1980 metres of wharfage. Coode wanted concrete wharves, believing their durability would outweigh the higher cost which he initially estimated to be around £646,000, but, in later estimates, it ballooned to more than £1 million.

Despite the respect and high regard in which Coode was held, the Harbour Trust's own engineer, Joseph Brady, bravely disagreed. He believed that a cheaper alternative was to build

timber wharves, and, on his suggestion, several varieties of timber piles were tested at the Ann Street Pier, Williamstown during late 1881 to find the most durable timber. He also felt Coode's design was too small and suggested that two docks should be combined into one dock covering 19 hectares, before it too expanded to 28 hectares.

Coode and Brady continued to argue over this hot topic throughout the 1880s, and, in 1887, the Harbour Trust considered several alternatives. One of these was a 609-metre pier at Port Melbourne which was rejected as didn't meet the Trust's requirement for accommodation close to the city. Another plan came from the Trust secretary, Mr Mouritz, who suggested five separate jetties as a better use of Trust-owned land. Not even Coode's scheme was safe from criticism. It was reported in *The Age* as "showing an incomplete knowledge of the character of the strata likely to be passed through in making excavations" (March 8, 1887). However, it was Coode's scheme which finally prevailed with Brady's modifications. It was approved on March 16, 1887 with the first contracts let in May of that year.

By 1889 excavations were in full swing. While the first contracts went to Hughes and Miller, it was Arthur T. Robb (paid £117,000) who would cart away the bulk of over 85,000 cubic metres of soil and clay that was dug up. Brady, in the meantime, got his wish and around £200,000 of timber from New South Wales and Western Australia was used in construction. During that time, the project faced multiple issues. During 1890, work was delayed due to a workers' strike over wage reductions needed to cover increased coal costs. Then, in July 1891, floods (see *Docklands News*, March 3, 2021) threatened to spill into the excavations. Workers grimly fought to keep the coffer dam strong to hold back the engorged Yarra. With that crisis averted, works still had to be postponed to pump out the metre of water that had leaked in.



By the time construction was completed, the dock was 39 hectares and hailed as the second-largest dock in the world (behind Cavendish Dock, Barrow-in-Furness). To further save costs, excavations were dug to a more reasonable seven metres below low water, instead of Coode's recommended 8.3 metres. Even then, the costs were still around £900,000. It was envisaged, with the extra wharfage, that around thirty 90-metre ships could berth inside. On March 22, 1892, Victoria Dock was opened by Victoria's Governor, the Earl of Hopetoun (later Australia's first Governor-General) who opened the sluice to let the Yarra in. It took six days to fill the basin with *The Leader* estimating that it would take another six months to completely fill (March 26, 1892). In the end, it took nearly a year before the first ship was allowed to enter on February 20, 1893, when the steamer *Hubbuck* sailed in to unload 1200 tonnes of cargo in 15 hours. *The Argus* (February 23, 1893) reported that the ship's captain, J. R. Brodie, called the Yarra "better than the Thames", and compared Victoria Dock favourably to the Albert Dock (Liverpool).

The economic depression of the 1890s meant that the dock's first few years were quiet, especially as it took until the 1900s to finish

the storage sheds. Business did pick up and, by 1908, about 90 per cent of Melbourne's imported cargo was handled at Victoria Dock. Cargo tonnage topped one million by the 1920s and (with some exceptions, such as the 1930s Depression) stayed there. Eventually containerisation and the opening of other docks, such as Appleton and Webb, saw business decline by the 1980s. Redevelopment in the 1990s and 2000s gave the docks a second life as a recreational hub. Central Pier was converted into a restaurant area, until its dilapidated foundations forced the pier to close in 2019, with its future uncertain.

Today, while the use of the dock has changed, it still attracts boats from every corner of the world, where they unload, reload, recharge, then leave for the next port ●



Ashley Smith

RESEARCHER
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
VICTORIA

Safety upgrades coming to Docklands Primary School

You may have heard that the roads around Docklands Primary School have recently been flagged for some important safety upgrades, thanks to the hard work of local parents and staff working together with my office.

While we're all so happy to have students back at school after a very disrupted 2021, actually getting to and from school presents some unique challenges for Docklands and West Melbourne families. When the Victorian Government first agreed to build a primary school in the Docklands, after years of advocacy and campaigning from local parents and myself, they unfortunately didn't think much about how families would actually travel to and from school. With the school site being surrounded by very busy major roads, a busy commuter bike path, and in the middle of an endless construction zone, this was a unique challenge.

The principal, parents and I have been talking to state and local governments for some time now about the problems this has caused; difficulty crossing busy Footscray Rd in the time allotted, families having to wait on a dangerous tiny island in the middle of the road, narrow dangerous footpaths coming from West Melbourne, short crossing light times on Docklands Drive, speeding traffic around the school, and kids and cyclists have to dodge one another on the bike path.

After I took these concerns directly to the Transport Minister, I was really pleased when last year, the state government and the council responded by installing 40km/hr signs around the school, and employed a second school crossing supervisor at the Footscray Rd intersection. But we knew there was more to be done.

Now, the state government has recently announced it will fund some further upgrades. Upgrades it's considering include fencing along Footscray Rd to protect students and pedestrians from road traffic, electronic 40km/hr speed signs and better road markings to encourage cars to slow down in the school zone, and markings or decals on the footpaths to increase safety for kids walking to school and encourage cyclists and pedestrians to better share the path.

Of course, bigger structural changes to



Footscray Rd, Docklands Drive and the cycle path will be necessary, not just band-aid solutions, and I will continue to push for this. But in the meantime, it's a really good sign that the state government is listening to our concerns and taking some shorter-term measures to help, while investigating what longer-term measures might be needed.

Well done to all the parents, school staff and community members who have raised this with me and with the government – it's getting results!

As your local MP, it's my job and my pleasure to advocate in Parliament for the things that matter to you. If there's a local issue I can help you with, please get in touch at office@ellen-sandell.com ●



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

ABBY'S ANGLE

The times, they are a changin'

The words of Bob Dylan's song have been bouncing around in my head as life seems to head in new directions.

So many things are occurring, it's almost – but not quite – overwhelming. There are aspects that are incredibly exciting and almost possess a childlike persona. Like an 11-year-old on the cusp of becoming a teenager, their self-belief swinging wildly from overt confidence to self-doubt, seeing a future full of hope yet feeling trepidation at the realities.

And there are other aspects that are coming to their natural conclusion, where the goodbyes are going to be liberating but also slightly sad. Like graduating from a course where you've met some great friends – you all promise to catch up, but you know the reality is you probably won't. Because it's just the way those ends go, it's life.

And there's other aspects of life that are just terrifying. The attack on the Ukraine is on the news as I write this column to you tonight. The visions are chilling, but even more terrifying is what is coming next. We thought we had been through enough with COVID ... my heart is breaking for the children, the families, the innocent people who just want to live a good life in their home country. What they are experiencing is unfathomable. And right now, we just don't know where or how this is going to end.

But this is life. Tonight, babies will be born, Powerball will be won, there will be business successes and people will fall in love. There

is terror, there is sadness but there is also the stunning beauty of new beginnings, and new loves that are blossoming to life. It's more than just looking for the positives in life. It's about change.

This column was going to be about the wonderful changes that are coming. About the business opportunities that are presenting this year, about the joy in being free to see people and spend real time with them again. And about being finally ready to let some memories fade like favourite printed photographs, to make room for new loves and a world of new experiences to come in.

But these feelings all feel overshadowed tonight. The times are a changin' for people in Ukraine. In the worst possible way. May they, by some miracle, escape and find safety. I know our thoughts are with them – words are empty, but the sentiment runs deep.

Prayers for Ukraine. Prayers for us all ●



Abby Crawford
LIFE@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU

Sunday in Victoria Harbour

Up to \$15 available in local discounts ... read on.

WORDS BY *Stella Barber*

Every day is a lovely day in Victoria Harbour and while much of Docklands seems a little quiet on a Sunday, there are many businesses and attractions that remain open on a Sunday.

One of these is the Victoria Harbour Pharmacy run by pharmacist Scott and his lovely friendly staff. The pharmacy, located across the road from Woollies at 66 Merchant St, was one of the earliest to open in Victoria Harbour and has been offering a fabulous service since 2004. Like many other local businesses, Scott's has seen a downturn of 50 per cent since the pandemic hit. As well as offering a full-service pharmacy, the business has a huge range of gifts and cards, a TattsLotto agency and a variety of makeup and skincare ranges. If you are looking for a special gift, they are sure to have something, and their massive range of cards cannot be matched anywhere else in Docklands. Mention this article and get \$5 off every purchase over \$50 on a Sunday.

Another Victoria Harbour business that suffered hugely during the lockdowns was Ellie Tiong's Min The café. This beautiful airy café at the corner of Waterside Place and Bourke St is open every Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Here you can enjoy a delicious healthy meal with a focus on fresh ingredients. You can also pop in for a coffee and cake or select from her exclusive fashion and gift range. Check out the website for more: minthecafe.com

Mention this article and get \$5 off every purchase over \$50 on a Sunday.

Some other cafes open for coffee, breakfast and lunch on Sunday in Victoria Harbour are: Billy Barista at 3/861 Bourke St, open for breakfast and coffee from 8am to 4pm; Off With the Ferries Café, which is located at the ferry terminal at 131 Harbour Esplanade, opening from 8.30am to 6pm; and Wheely Good Coffee which you will find inside the Library at The Dock.

And that brings me to the wonderful Library at the Dock, the perfect place to while away a Sunday afternoon. The library is open from 12pm to 4pm on a Sunday and has a great selection of new-release books as well as newspapers and magazines that you can relax and enjoy reading in one of the comfy chairs. There is also a gallery upstairs and a quiet study space. Often there will be live music playing just outside the library, so go and check it out. You will find the library at 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade. Within the library is the Wheely Good Coffee shop which will reopen again in March for customers needing a caffeine fix in Victoria Harbour.

On the other side of Victoria Harbour at NewQuay is the Docklands Sunday Market. The perfect place to take a stroll and select from the wide range of items offered by stallholders. The market runs on the second and fourth Sunday of every month from 9am to 2pm. While we are in the area, I want to recommend a new business

I have discovered close by and that's the Leaf Plant nursery situated at 439 Docklands Drive. Leaf is run by Tian Xia, the most knowledgeable plant expert you will find in Docklands. He propagates a range of rare and exotic plants and will give you honest advice on what is right for your level of gardening expertise. He has some breathtakingly beautiful stock, and his shop oozes green calm and karma! Mention this article and get \$5 off every purchase over \$50 on a Sunday, added to that there is a 40 per cent sale on all plants and pots on now.

Another fun local Sunday offering is to take a trip on Port Phillip Ferries which leaves from Victoria Harbour bound for Geelong and Portarlington. You can find the timetable here: portphilipferries.com.au/tickets-times/#timetable

Or just grab a coffee from the Off with the Ferries café which is open all day Sunday from 8.15am to 6.15pm serving coffee, ice cream and light refreshments.

Other free and fun things to do in Victoria Harbour on a Sunday just involve gathering some friends or family together to have picnic (you can buy all you need at Victoria Harbour's Woolworths in Merchant St which opens at 7am on Sundays and every day) in one of the lovely green spaces in Victoria Harbour; these include Buluk Park right outside the library; the Community Garden bordering on Geographe St; Docklands Park at 1-91 Harbour Esplanade and the Docklands Community Hub Reserve bordered by Waterview Walk, Collins St and Harbour Esplanade. Within the reserve are the Docklands Sports Courts which are open from 10am to 6pm on a Sunday. Here you will find multi-purpose sports courts, suitable for basketball, netball, soccer, or other games such as dodgeball, available to be booked between 6am to 10pm. Bring your laptop with a wireless modem down to The Hub and surf the web for free. On Sunday's you can enjoy wireless connection from the outdoor decking, available daily.

The AFL footy season starts again this month and our own Victoria Harbour venue, Marvel Stadium, will be hosting a number of Sunday games: in round 2 on Sunday, March 27 North Melbourne play the West Coast Eagles, and in round three on Sunday, April 3 St Kilda play Richmond. You can find all the games here:



And finally, a free Sunday option is to go for a walk along Victoria Harbour Promenade and see if you can spot the Docklands black swans and if you are lucky our own Victoria Harbour seal or chat to some of the locals walking their dogs. We are a friendly community at Victoria Harbour and Sundays are as good a day as any to get to know us and our all that's on offer in this wonderful locality ●



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FEDERAL MP



Curbing short stays

It's hard to develop a sense of community when all the apartments around you are being flipped on sites like Airbnb.

No one wants to feel like they're living in a busy hotel.

That's why as we recover from the pandemic and we kick-start tourism again, it's important that we have a few limits on the amount of apartments which can be used for short stays.

When too many apartments are put onto sites like Airbnb, it can make it really hard for people to find an affordable home of their own.

I'm not opposed to short stays per se, and for some people it's a great way to make a little bit of extra money when they want to go on holidays.

But when as many as 50 per cent of the apartments in a building are being used as short-stay holiday rentals, it can really affect the sense of community.

Some of the challenges with short stays are the need for more security or longer waits at lifts and more damage to the property.

A lot of other big cities around the world are facing the same challenges. We have been looking at the policy solutions they've adopted to try and work out how we can do things better here.

One example is putting limits on the amount of time people can put their property out for lease, to prevent investors buying up scores of apartments in order for them to be put straight on Airbnb.

As we recover from the pandemic, we need to invest in our communities, not simply let the market rip.

Right now, the housing market is cooked, and

many young people are struggling to ever afford a home of their own.

For decades, governments have rigged the market to favour big developers and rich property speculators.

The Greens want to build a million new homes. This will include more social housing, better rights for renters and a new plan where people can buy their own home, in an area they want to live, for \$300,000.

Fundamentally, we believe that everyone should have an affordable place to live; too many people are being pushed into homelessness and poverty because housing is just too expensive.

Unregulated Airbnbs are only part of a bigger problem, but one we have to tackle together, so everyone can have a better life.

Another important part of keeping our local community liveable are our local green spaces. I'm keen to hear if you have any tree-planting project ideas. If your school or community organisation would like to apply for a grant of up to \$20,000 to plant trees or other related tree-planting activities like preparing sites, installing protective guards around plantings and installing drip irrigation, please get in touch with my office ●

For more information visit:
adambandt.com/community-grants or phone 9417 0772

CHAMBER UPDATE

Docklands Dollars 3008

By now I'm hoping you will have become aware of Docklands Dollars 3008 – our new program to support locals spending locally.

We've partnered with Lendlease, MAB, Mirvac and The District Docklands to offer a 25 per cent rebate (up to \$25) when a Docklands resident spends at an eligible Docklands business. It's a simple registration and redemption process which we hope will be a stimulus for you to spend locally.

In addition, we are still supporting visitors to Docklands with our original Docklands Dollars campaign. So, if you've got friends or family wanting to come and stay then have them register on the Docklands Dollars website and they could be rebated up to \$210 for a two-night stay.

Markets, markets and markets

Docklands is now host to three separate markets. The District Docklands continues to host its Makers Market on the last Sunday of each month. The Docklands Community Markets are hosted along NewQuay promenade on the second and fourth Sunday of each month and

now we have the Docklands Twilight Markets on the first and third Saturday of each month.

Renew Australia

We've been working with a fantastic organisation called Renew Australia in recent months. It's been tasked to activate vacant shopfronts and street-facing offices in Docklands.

You may have seen some of its artwork decals adorn windows. Starting late March this will lead to actual activations, workshops, galleries and pop-up stores in these sites. Keep an eye out on our socials – Instagram [@docklandsmelb](https://www.instagram.com/docklandsmelb) to stay up to date with what's coming ●



Shane Wylie
 MEDIA DIRECTOR
DOCKLANDSCC.COM.AU
 DOCKLANDS
 Chamber of Commerce

MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK



The Docklands community is invited to help with Docklands image spotting!

You are invited to participate at the forthcoming Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) Heritage and Museum Special Advisory Group's fascinating workshop in Docklands.

Workshop participants will help to identify historic images from the 5000 astounding photographic collection of our waterways held in the Public Records Office (PROV) Harbour Masters Collection. Many of these remarkable images have not ever been seen in public before.

When: Wednesday, March 16, 10am to 12pm.

Where: Docklands.

If you are interested in participating simply email admin@mmhn.org.au

Workshop numbers are obviously limited, so we recommend you respond promptly.

More about challenges of "identification"

What a fascinating blend of politics, science, timing and the extraordinary heat surrounding the current dispute around identification of the wreck of the iconic *Endeavour* (or perhaps not?) in the collaborative Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project of which the Australian National Maritime Museum is a participant. This is a riveting tale which is still unfolding.



You may wish to check Victoria's Underwater Discovery Program:



Hull-Melbourne connection

Historic maritime connections spanning two centuries between Australia's great southern port city, Melbourne, and Hull, the significant UK port city of Yorkshire, is seldom acknowledged or celebrated.

Historic global connections are many and varied, and importantly, forged by people with great endeavour on the ocean – seafarers, engineers and commercial entrepreneurs. And this connection continues today!

MMHN strongly recommends you tap into this history through a new blog by Blaydes Maritime Centre.



Williamstown Maritime Precinct

Docklanders will be aware that across the Yarra estuary is the historic port precinct of Williamstown. Sadly, all is not going well in relation to maritime heritage there. Damage is being done.

Just as is the case with Central Pier and the wharves which encircle Victoria Harbour in Docklands, the equally significant maritime infrastructure at the historic port precinct of Williamstown is in jeopardy. As is the case in Victoria Harbour, state authorities responsible for maintaining such valuable public assets are failing to do so. Three important and much-loved Williamstown piers are now closed because Parks Victoria deemed them to be a public safety risk. Workshop Pier closed possibly two years ago and now Boyd Jetty and Commissioners Jetty were closed in late December 2021. More detailed technical investigation is underway, a Total Condition Report on the infrastructure will be presented in due course. No date is set for this report.

The public faces an indefinite wait while the Minister of Ports Infrastructure, Melissa Horne, works out who should fund costly remediation of such infrastructure which, just like Central Pier and the wharves of Victoria Harbour, is relentlessly battered by the elements. Such incremental damage in a marine environment is entirely predictable. It is very obvious that pier maintenance is not an optional expense. Where is the logic in this predicament?

Had adequate investment in maintenance of critical maritime infrastructure occurred when warranted years ago this, this messy governance and remediation could have been avoided. Sadly, there is no timeframe for reopening any of the piers. Meanwhile the public is denied use of these piers and compelled to absorb the adverse impact of this protracted inaction by ALL responsible state authorities.

Read more ...



Jackie Watts
 CHAIR OF MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK
JACKIEWATTS@NETSPACE.NET.AU

Off The Wall: New exhibition by indigenous artists blows audiences away

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*

A stunning new exhibition at the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) brings together the work of three Indigenous artists and their individual experiences of loss and reclamation, as well as stories of their families, culture, and country in Naarm.

Off The Wall showcases a diverse range of works produced by Woiwurrung and Yorta Yorta artist Simone Thomson, Yorta Yorta artist Mandi Barton, and Kanolu artist Charlie Miller.

Pierra Van Sparkes, a Kulin Country based Pibbulman Noongar artist and assistant curator at the KHT, said the materials used in the exhibition and the unique installation encouraged audiences to think about the multiplicity of First Nations' People and their stories.

"I'm so blown away with what the artists have produced," Pierra said.

"We've provided each artist with a 1.5- by 10-metre roll of Stonehenge paper and there's a mixture of works to be extended from the ceiling and on the gallery floor."

One of the pieces on display by Mandi Barton, *Burnt Words*, depicts a charred roll of paper with Indigenous words written in ink.

Pierra said the piece spoke about the history of Indigenous languages and storytelling being erased by colonisation.

"In yarning with Mandi about it the burning quality of it, it speaks to this act of quite literally destroying cultural knowledge and family ties," they said.

"It also speaks to the long history of documenting our people on paper. The Stolen



▲ *Burnt Words by Mandi Barton.*
Photo: Christian Capurro.

Generation was documented on paper and burnt to cover up the uncomfortable past."

While the piece represents loss, Pierra said the burnt paper also captured the potential for regrowth after initial destruction.

"I think each artist talks about their dual experience of loss and reclamation," Pierra said.

"Each artist in their own way reflects this idea of Aboriginality and puts their stories of families, cultures, community in one place."

Having now come full circle, Pierra's artwork was featured in the Koorie Art Show back in 2016.

But having only been in the new role as assistant curator for six months, Pierra said *Off The Wall* had been in the works longer than they had been at KHT.

"The show itself is such a celebration of black excellence and the many forms it takes," Pierra said.

"It really speaks to the multiplicity of the ways we tackle ways of life in spaces that



▲ Darrang Marrup, *Tree Spirit* by Simone Thomson.
Photo: Christian Capurro.

weren't made for us. It's always such a welcome reminder of how manifold we are and our unique voices that come from that. And sharing space with mob is always great!"

Working with photography, videography and digital media, Pierra said a big influence for them was paying homage to the creative practice they had inherited from their family.

"I projected a video recently that was my own version of a blanket," Pierra said.

"The idea of that is carrying on my nanna's practice of making patchwork blankets."

In their spare time, Pierra said they enjoyed taking a stroll down the Merri Creek, taking



▲ *Emu by Charlie Miller.* Photo: Christian Capurro.

photos, and spending time with queer and Aboriginal communities.

"I've also been trying my hand at sewing; hopefully Nan's looking down at me and saying, 'call that a cross stitch?'" Pierra said.

Off The Wall is showing from March 5 until May 15, 2022 at the KHT ●

For more information:
koorieheritagetrust.com.au

WE LIVE HERE

Fighting an unfair committee

Nerida Pohl has provided an update on the committee scandal at her inner-city building ...

"In our building, three out of the five committee members – all supportive of the manager/developer – have been controlling affairs unfairly for the past 10 years – and it needs to stop."

"It is now 10 years since our managers locked residents out of common property assets that we purchased. This makes our building look decidedly second-rate. Residents are forced to move in and out via the busy street into our elegant lobby instead of via our private, safe and undercover goods lift to the level 2 storage cages. The committee even usurped our residential lounge for their real estate business."

"All visitors are told the building has no visitor car park and must use the commercial carpark. The car park operator and our owners' corporation manager share common ownership."

"The local council has been on the case for five years telling the manager that they must give us back the 50 visitors car spaces and our residential meeting room, and to get large furniture trucks from disrupting the amenity of the street at our front door."

"Trying to legitimise misuse of our property and without consulting the 500 apartment owners, the stacked committee has spent several hundred thousand dollars of the fees we pay them by engaging lawyers and town planners in appeals to the Planning Tribunal and our local council." "The managers are interminably dragging out the process to keep us locked out of our property, so all these third parties can continue profiting from using it instead."

"Last September I thought we had a win; the Planning Tribunal addressed an application by

the manager to annexe our undercover goods lift for the retail area. The Tribunal agreed our undercover loading dock was well built for our use and that the busy commercial street outside our single glass entry door was not suitable for residents' removal trucks to use. Sadly, the Tribunal finding has not resulted in any remediation."

"I would like to ensure the owners know what is going on, but the committee is unfairly and actively preventing me from being able to communicate with the owners."

"Legally, if I ask for the contact details of all owners, the manager must forward the register immediately. In this building, the committee won't let them. That is why I have had to letter-drop all residents instead of posting 500 letters to them."

We Live Here believes it is outrageous that a committee and a manager can prevent an owner from viewing the owners' corporation members' roll. Committee members should be aware of how their behaviour will be viewed by the courts.

Under the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006*, members of committees must

- Act honestly and in good faith
- Exercise due care and diligence
- Act in the interests of the owners' corporation
- Not make improper use of their position to gain a direct or indirect advantage for themselves or anyone else.

If the committee members cannot prove that they acted in good faith, they can potentially lose their immunity under section 118 of the

Act. Then the members would face significant personal liability.

We hope the owners are galvanised by Nerida's appeal.

If you are having problems with an owners' corporation controlled by a developer or any vested interests, please let us know.

Latest version of the Owners' Corporations Act 2006

The *Owners' Corporations Amendment Act 2021* was the result of the long, drawn-out review of the *Owners' Corporations Act 2006* that began in 2015 and meandered through issues papers, options papers, exposure drafts and several revisions.

With these amendments incorporated, the *Owners' Corporations Act 2006*, Authorised Version 19 is now available.

The release of version 19 of the Act underlines a notable failure of the government. Since 2018, this Act has had embedded within it the amendments of the *Short-stay Accommodation Act 2018*. The short-stay amendments have yet to go under the public review which was promised for February 2020.

Some of the more significant features of the newly amended act include:

Five tiers of owners' corporations

There are different rules according to the number of occupiable lots, divided into tiers: Tier One, more than 100 individual lots; Tier Two, 51 to 100 lots; Tier Three, 10 to 50 lots; Tier Four, 3 to 9 lots and Tier Five, a 2-lot or services-only subdivision.

Levies and insurance

Other changes introduced under the amended Act may reduce insurance and other inequities between lot owners. While ordinary fees levied must still be based on lot entitlement, OCs may separately levy lot owners for:

- an excess amount, or increased premium, attributable to an insurance claim if the

claim was caused by the actions of a lot owner or occupier or guest;

- damage caused to the common property by a lot owner or occupier, if it is not covered by insurance, or if the cost is less than the excess amount.

VCAT has also been empowered to make an order requiring a lot owner to pay the owners' corporation's costs incurred for recovering an unpaid amount from the lot owner.

Proxies – five per cent limit

Section 89D of the Act states that a person must not vote as a proxy on a resolution at a meeting of the owners' corporation on behalf of more than five per of the lot owners, or more than one lot owner if there are 20 or less occupiable lots.

There's more to unpack

We shall look at other aspects of the amended Act, including the *Short-stay Accommodation Act* amendments embedded within it in next month's column.

You can download the *Owners' Corporations Act* and amendments from our website at welivehere.net/acts

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, please visit welivehere.net. We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

EMAIL: CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET

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Another thing to consider before buying an apartment “off the plan” – check the builder too

With news hitting the public in late February regarding the construction juggernaut Probuild going into administration, many in the construction industry are now bracing for a ripple effect of smaller contractors and sub-contractors to also pull the plug.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not just created construction delays for the industry, but it has also led to shortages of required building materials, as well as trucking and shipping logistic delays and price increases as well. All of this has created a perfect storm.

With construction contracts, it is usual for developers to engage builders for a fixed price following a tender process. There are penalties in the contract if the builder does not complete the construction project on time as well.

Prior to the pandemic starting, the precedents for these construction contracts did not contemplate a worldwide pandemic affecting a construction project, so the “force majeure” or “act of god” exclusion clauses did not include a provision to cover this situation.

This means that building companies may well be facing the prospect of not only being forced to complete a building contract in circumstances where the price of materials might have increased by 20 to 30 per cent, but also where the developer is enforcing delay damages for failing to complete it on time. No wonder building companies are feeling the pressure.

In the meantime, there is no denying that Melburnians are fascinated by high-rise strata

living, as evidenced by the large number of multi-storey high-rise developments that continue to be marketed, built and sold “off the plan” in and around the city.

However, before signing the contract, some of the most important things for prospective purchasers to consider are:

1. The profile and track record of the builder and developer. For instance, do they have a history of doing good work in Australia and around the world? Do they stand behind their developments? Do they return to their developments to fix any defects? Are they financially secure? These matters can be checked via online enquiries. If the developer or builder runs into trouble during the intervening period between the sales contract being entered into and settlement, then there is the risk of the deposit being lost, or the project being cancelled or at least substantially delayed.
2. Has the developer provided sufficient information to understand what is being purchased? For instance, are the architectural plans of the building and common areas no more than generic images? Have the internal furnishings been specified?
3. Have the running costs of the building been properly specified? Some owners' corporations (OCs) have had nasty surprises after settlement when it has been discovered that the budget and levies had been overwhelmingly under-estimated.
4. Will the building be completed in stages and which stage will the unit be completed within? There can be instances of disruption and loss of amenity for owners that settle early, as they move in while the upper levels of the towers are still being built, with workmen and construction noise continuing for several months after settlement.
5. Will the building be independently managed by reputable OC management company and caretaker or does the sales contract provide the developer with the discretion to appoint whomever they like and “lock the OC” into a lengthy long-term contract?
6. Do the proposed rules suit your needs in terms of your personal attitude towards subject matters such as pets, smoking, and the ability to carry out your own

7. Will an area of the building be occupied by a serviced apartment operator or hotel?
8. Do you know whether the apartment will have an obstructed or unobstructed view when completed?

There are always risks implicit with any investment, but with a large choice of apartments currently on the market, potential purchasers can afford to shop around and be “picky” about whom they choose to invest their money with. Reputable developers with a good track record will do well out of the Melbourne market, while those developers who do not have a good reputation or are new to the market may struggle to get their developments sold quickly, unless they market the building overseas and sell to overseas owners ●



Tom Bacon

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TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.COM.AU

HEALTH AND WELLBEING



Docklands, get more mobile this March

March is “Mobility Month”, and as your local chiropractor, I’m urging all Docklands residents to test their movement, mobility and safeguard their spinal health.

A staggering three-quarters (72.2 per cent) of people who had to work from home suffered posture-related pains – now chiropractors across the country want to ensure the damage isn’t lasting.

Spinal problems can go beyond physical pain with a third (32.6 per cent) of Aussies living with pain, admitting it impacts their mobility, and one in five (20.7 per cent) say it causes them anxiety and depression. Experts say four simple test exercises could determine the state of your spinal health and whether you need to seek professional help.

This Mobility Month, as Docklanders approach the two-year anniversary of the “new normal”, Dr Mike from Docklands Health is advising Docklands locals to assess their spinal health and mobility with a simple four stage test.

During the past two years, myself and other chiropractors across the country have seen a worrying increase in patients who are reporting back and neck pain, caused by changes in their lifestyle – like working from home and not being able to exercise. So, we want to encourage everyone to proactively check their mobility and protect their health and wellbeing.

According to research, a third of people living with pain (such as neck and back pain), admitted to having reduced movement and mobility (32.6 per cent) which has significantly impacted their quality of life. For instance, one

in 10 (11.5 per cent), admitted to no longer being able to play with their children, and 11.8 per cent of candidates, also said this “reduced mobility” impacted their ability to have intimate relationships (11.8 per cent).

However, mobility issues can go much further than just highlighting spinal pain and can often indicate an array of significantly more serious health issues. For instance, research shows that those with a sedentary lifestyle and posture-related pain, double their risk of being exposed to cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity, as well as an increase their risk of colon cancer, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, lipid disorders, depression, and anxiety.

Mobility Month is the perfect time to give yourself a movement assessment, identify if your body is not as mobile as it could be, and seek the guidance of professionals if needed.

To help Docklanders assess their mobility, and safeguard their risk of serious health implications, some simple tests have been developed to try at home ●



Dr Mike Edgley

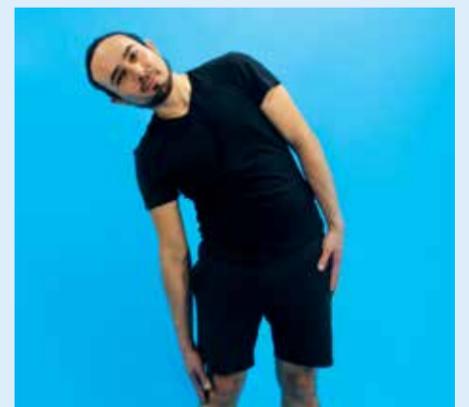
CHIROPRACTOR

DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU



Neck rotation

- Sitting down, keep your shoulders still and against the chair.
- Turn your head all the way to the left as if you were looking over your shoulder. How far around did you get?
- Repeat on the right. Was it even? Was it comfortable?



Trunk side bend

- Stand with your feet comfortably apart.
- Run a hand down the side of your leg, so you side bend without leaning backwards or forwards.
- Repeat on the other side. Was it even and was it comfortable?



Sit to stand

- Sit in the middle of your chair. Cross your arms over your chest.
- Keeping your back straight and arms across your chest.
- Stand straight up and then sit back down. Did you do this easily or was it hard?



Single leg stance

- In a safe environment free of trip hazards, stand upright with feet together and place hands on hips.
- Lift one foot off the ground. Do not allow your legs to touch. Time how long you can stand without moving.
- Repeat on opposite side. Are you able to stand on each leg for at least 40 seconds (if under 60 years)?



Faces of Docklands

Why have you come to visit Docklands?



SIMON, 33

Working on new air conditioning on the new Port Phillip Ferries.



SANDRA, 29

I came to Docklands because I'm new in the city and people told me it's amazing. It's so big and beautiful!



MARTA, 29

We've been here for one week and we were quite excited. It's nice seeing big buildings next to the water.



JUAN, 31

I came to Docklands to find a rich husband with a boat and a nice apartment with a good view with a terrace where we can do "chicki, chicki, meow, meow."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Everybody in the pool!

In response to the request in *Docklands News* for comments on this proposal, I can only say that I would be delighted if this project were to go ahead.

It ticks all the boxes in terms of providing much-needed amenities for the growing community, and an attraction to draw visitors here. There are too few swimming pools across Melbourne, and they are much sought after and appreciated by people of all ages. It provides a healthy and fun activity, and city beaches and swimming pools around the world are always a huge success.

As a long-term resident of Docklands, I have become sceptical of anything going ahead here. We have seen many fantastic ideas come and go, getting shelved as they are too expensive and won't generate a profit for anyone involved. Traders have been left in the lurch as, without drawcards to the area, visitors won't come. We do feel very neglected and forgotten by the City of Melbourne, who seem to care only about income-generating projects and not at all about improving the quality of life of residents. It's no surprise that Docklands has acquired a bad reputation for a lack of green space, and nothing to really attract visitors – it's sad, but true. Temporary activations and festivals are a waste of money, and are only done for show, to make it appear that there is some concern and an effort being made. We need permanent installations that appeal to a broad range of people.

Jocelyn Bradley

Docklands ... do they actually care?

The waffling continues about making Docklands a go-to place.

Indeed it is a beautiful area that continues to suffer because Development Victoria, Parks Victoria, Heritage Victoria, the City of Melbourne and various organisations just put out nice stories about water taxis, swimming pools, ferry terminals, pretty paintings, vibrant

bars, a maritime museum, etc., while declaring Central Pier's removal is "ploughing ahead" and should finish in a year!

It is an eyesore that has been idle for years that could be removed overnight in any other country. There are no plans for the actual concepts for the remaining pier to begin immediately.

NYE was another debacle with trams barred from Harbour Esplanade and the waterway and restaurants fenced off.

The waterfront surrounds at Marvel Stadium are a concrete wasteland.

Few people came to see the often-cancelled drone show.

The list of weaknesses goes on.

The boats, the harbour and the bridge backdrop are beautiful, but nothing ever actually gets done to make it vibrant.

D Wood

Trail permanently shut?

My husband and I, along with our two furry children, moved to Docklands over a year ago. Docklands is now home. We enjoy our walks and runs along the water. So, just like many other residents here we wonder why the shared paths along Moonee Ponds Creek has been closed for us to use it for walks or running.

Further to the article about it in February 2022 edition of *Docklands News*, we noticed recently that temporary fencing blocking the north end has been replaced by a permanent fence and gate. Looks like it's permanently closed.

We hope to get to enjoy a walk along the creek one day soon.

Lucy Foja



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Pet's Corner

Second time around for King Louis XIII

“

Helen Johnson is the owner of Louis, a nearly-eight-year-old, silver-grey Standard Poodle, and she can't imagine life without him.

”



Louis has been with her since he was 18 months old when he was returned to his breeder by a family who had problems raising a puppy.

“We renamed him King Louis 14th, Louis for short, as he is well groomed and looks regal when sitting up,” Helen said.

He is a very smart dog who quickly learned the rules of living in an apartment in Docklands.

One instance of this was when Louis stood on his hind legs and swiped ham and eggs from their plates. Louis was sent to the bathroom for a short time out. Not long after he repeated the food snitch and when growled at, took himself off to the bathroom.

“We figure he thought the food was worth a short time out,” Helen said.

Louis has many places and beds that he likes to sleep in and a favourite one is in the kitchen just when they are preparing the evening meal.

Helen said he is a very placid dog and is very friendly to young children, other dogs and even birds; except for an assertive raven with attitude who strides along the balcony railing.

Louis loves any beach where he can run freely and enjoys time at the dog beach at West St Kilda. He likes fishing for minnows, jumping up and down trying to catch them, so far with no success ●

10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

MARCH 2012 | ISSUE 73 |

DOCKLANDS NEWS

A long journey to excellence

“

The Automotive Centre of Excellence (ACE) came to Docklands via a collaboration more than 10 years ago between Kangan Batman TAFE and the Fox Trust.

”



▲ Bill Kelty (left) and John Parish at the launch of stage two of the ACE in Docklands last month.

Former Kangan Batman CEO John Parish said an almost-chance meeting between two organisations sharing a common objective planted the seeds of the idea.

He said automotive trade training in Victoria had become consolidated into a single educational facility in the late 1990s. But with two run-down campuses in Coburg and Richmond, the search was on for a single, central site for a show-case facility.

The Fox Trust, on the other hand, had been vested a large amount of land in Docklands and was seeking opportunities to establish automotive educational facilities.

So when Mr Parish met Fox Trust chair-

man Bill Kelty and they both realised their ambitions were aligned, a strong and enduring partnership was formed.

A wide-ranging board was formed, feasibility studies conducted, land sales were made and government funding secured.

“The idea was to create something special for the automotive industry to showcase Victoria and the rest of Australia,” Mr Parish said.

Mr Parish said the journey was often difficult but Mr Kelty was unwavering in his support for the centre.

“Bill would tell us that we had to hang in and pursue the dream because it was the right thing to do,” he said ●

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改善港区小学周边道路安全刻不容缓

Docklands港区小学的学生家长和社区居民越来越担心学校周围“危及儿童生命”的交通状况，他们成立了一个新的行动小组，呼吁对此进行紧急改善处理。

Spencer Fowler Steen

这一消息传出之际，联邦和州政府联合承诺投入约90万澳元，改善港区小学(DPS)周围的行人和道路安全，作为其安全道路计划的一部分。

但学校社区的成员表示，尽管已经进入2022年第一学期，但自2017年以来，这个改善DPS周围道路安全的工作“几乎没有有什么进展”，在此期间有多次“险些发生”的事故，使得学校社区家长感到极为担忧。

这个被家长称为“最低安全限度”的政府工程还正在考虑之中，包括沿Footscray路设置围栏，以保护行人免受道路交通的影响。

学校周围40公里/小时的电子速度标志以及更好的道路标线，以显示车辆在Footscray路进入40公里/小时区域时必须减速，也在这个工程选择的方案之中。

还考虑在人行道上设置标记，以提高儿童步行上学的安全性，并鼓励骑自行车的人和行人更好地共享道路。



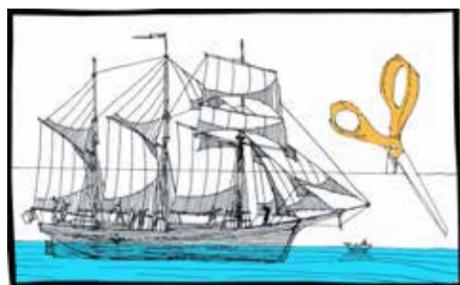
但是对于港区小学的家长 Mary Masters 来说，她从西墨尔本过来“特别危险”，只有一个选择，沿着 Dudley 街通勤，这真是一种“糟糕的日常体验”，政府的这个工程宣布得太晚了而且能做的太少了。

她说：“自从2017年宣布学校选址以来，港区小学周围的道路安全一直是一个问题。尽管如此，在学校于2021年开学之前，该地区的道路安全没有发生重大改善。”

“我们很幸运，我们学校社区没有发生严重事故，但已经听到了太多险些发生的事故了。”

Masters 女士说，直到去年年底，还没有40公里/小时的学区道路标志，这可是所有学校的法定要求。然而当安装了路标后，却被繁忙的交通“完全忽略”。

她说，港区小学的学生在2021年初只有两个在十字路口的协助人员来保护他们免受Footscray路交通的影响，直到那年的第四个学期才增加到了三个人。



反对修建货运桥

围绕墨尔本港(PoM)拟建横跨雅拉河的货运桥，引起了越来越多利益相关者的担忧，尤其是Docklands港区历史悠久的高桅杆船 Alma Doepel。

Sean Car

在最近提交给渔人湾(Fishermans Bend)规划审查小组的一份报告中，古船 Alma 的主管 Peter Harris 对州政府发出了一个强烈的警告，警告说修建低货运桥将对港区传统船队有很大的影响。

对于修建连接 Webb 码头和 Swanson 码头之间的货运桥，墨尔本港加大了宣传力度，并将该提议纳入了其30年的2050年港口发展战略。

长期以来，这个提议被认为是 Docklands 港区的“杀手”，因为它有可能切断维多利亚港与一些更大的船只和活动的联系，而这些船只和活动对利用其水道至关重要。

代表这艘桅杆高达28米古船 Alma 的所有者 Sail & Adventure Limited 的 Harris 先生表示，如果货运桥开工，这艘具有历史意义的古船将是一艘与港区隔绝的船只。

他说：“货运桥将阻止 Alma Doepel 古船进出维多利亚港。”

“事实上，Bolte 大桥的高度是为了让 Alma Doepel 从下面通过而确定的。古船计划在三年内恢复运作，并以维多利亚港为基地。”

“其他一些位于维多利亚港的传统帆船也有类似的高度限制问题。墨尔本市政的意图是在 Docklands 港区拥有一支传统船队，这将吸引游客并促进增加商业活动。”

港区周末汽车运动节

下个月 Docklands 港区将举行 Live Fast 节日，由澳大利亚汽车大奖赛公司(AGPC)主办，届时港区将变得生机勃勃。

维多利亚发展局与 AGPC 合作，把这个节日带到港区，在3月5日和6日的周末举办一系列活动。

古典的和老式名车将遍布街道，久负盛名的福克斯(Fox)古董汽车收藏博物馆也将敞开大门，展示其收藏的稀有名车。

赛车运动爱好者将有很多值得一看的东西，汽车俱乐部将展示他们老式名车和国外的经典车辆，而一级方程式赛车 F1 车迷将有机会近距离接触新规格的 2022 年一级方程式赛车。

维多利亚发展局主管 Geoff Ward 鼓

励球迷们来港区，享受该活动的景观和声音。

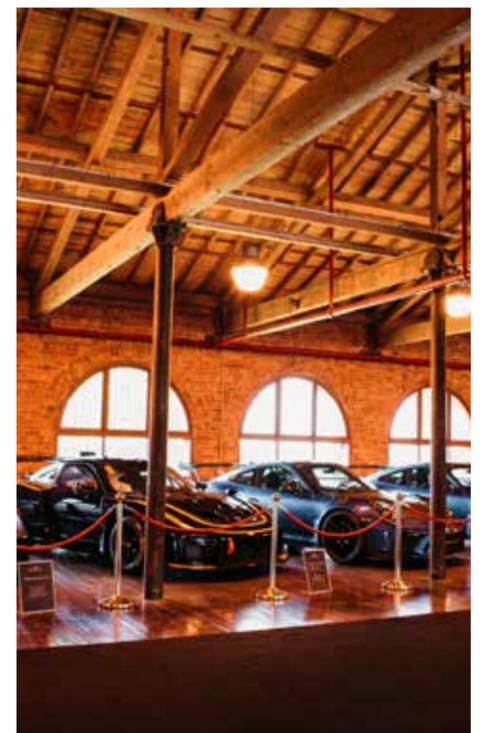
Ward 先生说：“将 Live Fast 节和福克斯古典名车收藏博物馆一起举办开放是一个有效的协作方式，以展示港区能提供的最好东西。”

“我们很自豪能够支持这种免费体验，大家可以前往 Docklands 港区欢度这个节日并发现那儿所提供的其他一切。”

“这是每个人都能参与澳大利亚一级方程式汽车大奖赛的好方式，这也是墨尔本的主要赛事之一，使我们城市成为澳大利亚的赛事和体育之都。”

墨尔本将于4月7日至10日举办一级方程式汽车大奖赛。

欲知更多信息，请访问 grandprix.com.au/event/live-fast-festivals 和 foxcollection.org.au



市政支持建造渔人湾新塔楼

墨尔本市政已经批准了在渔人湾(Fishermans Bend) Lorimer 区建造一座 50 层高的办公和公寓混合楼计划，这是副市长 Nicholas Reece 所称的一个“非常令人兴奋”计划。

Brendan Rees

该项目耗资 1.5 亿澳元，由 Claric Nine9 有限公司开发，旨在拆除 Hartley 街 13-33 号目前的建筑物，为建造一座 164 米高的塔楼让路。

该计划由 MGS 建筑事务所设计，包括 370 套公寓、4330 平方米的办公区域和 280 平方米的零售区，以及一个平台、游泳池、大堂、图书馆和一个户外露台。

该地块位于 Westgate 高速公路和雅拉河的旁边，此计划为一个公共公园和一条新道路预留了土地，以响应渔人湾未来的愿景，这是澳大利亚最大的城市重建项目，被认为是适应墨尔本发展的重要组成部分。

开发商将住宅房的 2% (或七套公寓) 作为公共住房赠送给政府房务处。

2月15日，市政议员在墨尔本未来委员会上一致支持该项目申请，Reece 议员表示，该项目在提供底层活动空间和公共设施方面，做出了一些“真正重大的改进”。

该项目申请现在将提交给州规划部长 Richard Wynne 作最终批准，此前他征求市政议会将对原计划进行修改，以便此项目得以开发。

Reece 先生说：“我很高兴，我们的规划师和申请方已经合作了多年，他们已经确保开发项目符合所有的建筑形式要求，包括平台高度、塔楼高度、建筑后置、建筑形式和建筑密度。”

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Our Rapid Response Clean Team helps make the city sparkle

The City of Melbourne is proud to launch the Clean Melbourne Graffiti Blitz on Clean Up Australia Day.

Over a fortnight from 6 March, our Rapid Response Clean Team will move through the CBD and city gateways, removing graffiti tagging.

The graffiti clean-up will then move across the municipality to our neighbourhoods, to ensure Melbourne is clean, inviting and looking its best to support the city's recovery.

Easy online reporting

City officers are always on the lookout for litterbugs and take a zero-tolerance approach. From cigarette butts to fridges, they'll investigate and issue fines from \$363 to \$9113, depending on the offence.

We remove 6500 square metres of illegal graffiti each month, in response to 2500 reports from the public. This costs ratepayers about \$1.5 million annually.

You can help us keep our beautiful city clean and inviting by using the QR code on this page to report illegal graffiti and street waste in your neighbourhood.

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

Scan to report graffiti and street waste



Rapid Response Clean Team



FOOD AND ORGANIC WASTE COLLECTION EXPANDED

Keep an eye out for new food and garden organics bins being delivered to 14,000 dwellings in buildings of up to five storeys from late March.

The first phase of our food and garden organics collection was rolled out to more than 9000 single unit dwellings from last June.

Since then, we've diverted more than 830 tonnes of organic waste from landfill, making it into compost for parks and gardens. We're now developing tailored approaches for apartment buildings.

Why organic waste matters

Organic waste in landfill generates methane, a gas which has a climate change impact 25 times greater than carbon dioxide.

That's why it's important to process this waste differently and keep it out of landfill.

By removing organics from the general rubbish collection, we can cut our residential landfill footprint in half, reduce carbon and methane emissions and promote a circular economy.

This project is part of our wider plan to reduce landfill and improve waste and recycling services across the municipality as outlined in our

Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030.

How to use the new green bin

You can dispose of things like fruit and vegetable scraps, meat, fish, weeds, and grass cuttings in your new bin. Remember, if it grows, it goes in the new green bin with the lime green lid.

We will support residents with information and events as we roll out this service across the municipality.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/food-garden-waste



We are expanding our organic waste collection to multi-unit dwellings

NEW KEYPASS TO FAMILY FUN



Get discounted entry to attractions like SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium

Explore magical underwater worlds, snap a selfie with a giant, optical-illusion mural and cruise along the Yarra River - Birrarung thanks to a City of Melbourne initiative attracting families to the CBD.

The Melbourne Attractions Keypass will unlock a 25 per cent discount for tickets to SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium, ArtVo and Melbourne River Cruises when bundled together.

The Keypass initiative is a partnership between the City of Melbourne and online travel agency Klook. Tickets are available to purchase until 31 March.

In addition to the Keypass, you can also snap up 15 per cent discounts for many more popular Melbourne experiences, including foodie tours, ice-skating and boat rental.

Find out more at whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur. All photos taken in line with health and safety guidelines.

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CITY OF MELBOURNE