

# DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P25



▲ (L-R): Fishermans Bend Business Forum committee members Guy Naselli, Linda Norman, Bernadene Voss and Murray Nicol with Josh Burns, Catherine King, Meredith Sussex (Fishermans Bend Development Board), Trisha Avery and Peter Martin (City of Port Phillip).

## What's the future vision for Docklands?

*A summit, involving key stakeholders from government, business and the local community, will soon pose this very question; an increasingly important one as Docklands continues its slow recovery from the pandemic.*

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
EDITORIAL

It's a question too seldom considered by the custodians of Docklands with any meaningful sincerity. Engaging in consultation and devising plans only takes you so far. What does Docklands see for itself? What does the vision look like?

While this proposition is often discussed in silos under the guise of vested interests, it's never been collectively contemplated "around the table". Too often, we see bursts of vision and ideas, but nothing knitting any of it together.

This will be the almighty challenge the City of Melbourne and other key stakeholders look to address when it stages a Docklands Summit, and while a date for the high-level talks is yet to be determined, it's an initiative that is well overdue.

The council first announced it was planning for the initiative back in February when it heard an update on its shopfront activation program from director of economic development Andrew Wear.

"Significant investment has been directed to short-term activations within Docklands, such as shopfront activations, the Drone Show and other innovative activations. However, these activities alone will not resolve the long-standing structural issues impacting Docklands," the report tabled at the February 15 Future

Melbourne Committee meeting said.

"A fundamental review of the precinct is needed to establish a new vision and direction for Docklands post COVID-19. A Docklands Summit hosted by the Lord Mayor and relevant Minister would elevate the urgent need for action and generate enthusiasm for the regeneration of Docklands."

"Such a summit would discuss ideas to address the state of Docklands physically, socially and economically and identify immediate and longer-term interventions that would support regeneration and determine a way forward."

In acknowledging that "during COVID-19, Docklands has been one of the hardest hit precincts in the country", the council under the leadership of its CEO Justin Hanney and Docklands resident Cr Jamal Hakim are busy fine-tuning the timing and scope of the talks.

But the question surrounding vision is a complicated one. Geographically, Docklands is a suburb made up of "precincts" which don't interact well with each other.

The council is also still stuck in a power-share with Development Victoria (DV), and with an upcoming state election to be held in November, the prospect of getting politicians to the table would appear a major hurdle this year.

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## Labor commits to exploring transport options in Fishermans Bend, including "trackless trams"

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
TRANSPORT

An elected Albanese Labor Government would be the first federal government to work with the Victorian Government on delivering public transport to Fishermans Bend, with Macnamara candidate Josh Burns announcing \$3 million for a feasibility study last month.

It's welcome news for Australia's largest-ever urban renewal zone, which is forecast to house 80,000 residents and 80,000 workers by 2050, with major tram and train routes still yet to be determined or funded by the state government.

But with the Victorian economy plunged into significant debt, both state and local governments (City of Port Phillip and City of Melbourne) have long advocated to the federal government to support the delivery of public transport to the precinct.

And on April 30, Labor's Josh Burns, who is recontesting Macnamara again having held the seat for

the previous term, announced that an elected Albanese Labor government would step up to the plate with a \$3 million pledge for a feasibility study.

While the northern side of Docklands falls under the federal seat of Melbourne, Yarra's Edge residents vote in the Macnamara electorate south of the Yarra River. Many local residents in the precinct continue to campaign against the state government's "destructive" tram bridge proposal linking Collins and Hartley streets through Point Park, estimated to cost \$1-1.5 billion.

But Mr Burns's announcement on April 29 also included examining "the option of trackless trams", which opponents of the tram bridge consider to be a less costly and obstructive alternative.

"While the Morrison-Joyce Government sits on its hands, an Albanese Labor Government will partner with the Victorian Government and the cities of Melbourne and Port Phillip to do the hard work of planning this region's infrastructure future," Mr Burns said.

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## Labor commits to exploring transport options in Fishermans Bend, including “trackless trams”

Continued from page 1.

“As a first step, Labor will invest \$3 million to fund the Fishermans Bend Transport Link Feasibility Study. This study will determine the best way to deliver public transport links into the heart of Fisherman’s Bend, including examining the option of trackless trams.”

In making the announcement alongside Labor’s Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Catherine King, Mr Burns said the study would also “consider the most appropriate phasing of delivery.”

The 2019-20 Victorian Budget invested \$4.5 million to plan for a potential tram service between Fishermans Bend and the CBD. But while planning work has been underway for some time, the state government has yet to release a preliminary business case.

The University of Melbourne will open its new engineering and design campus in the centre of the precinct’s national employment and innovation cluster (NEIC) at the former General Motors Holden (GMH) site on Salmon St in 2025.

While the government has made announcements about increasing bus services to Fishermans Bend, tram and train services are essential for the growing precinct.

As already seen used in China, trackless trams – battery-powered vehicles with rubber wheels that use sensors rather than steel tracks to run – don’t require overhead powerlines to operate and could be rolled out a lot quicker.

Yarra Residents’ Action Group chairman Keith Sutherland welcomed the announcement from Mr Burns, saying it was time to look to the future.

“This billion-dollar project [tram bridge] makes no economic sense considering the current state of the Victorian budget,” Mr



Sutherland said. “It is not only a tram bridge, it also requires a tram crossing over the busy Lorimer St and then a most expensive, either bridge over, or tunnel under, the West Gate Freeway.”

“Their proposal is old infrastructure, and we need to be looking at trackless trams or an immersed tube under the Yarra to take containers off extremely busy Lorimer St using robotics to transfer between the ports and using the latest technology.” “Or alternatively, bring forward Metro 2 trains to Fishermans Bend as already proposed in the current study. At least trains carry up to 1020 passengers, as opposed to trams carrying around 200 people.”

Mr Burns told *Docklands News* that while trackless trams were being considered as part of the study, all options were on the table for how to best service the precinct with public transport.

“The federal government hasn’t been willing to work with the state government. It’s not a road upgrade, it’s about what’s going to be the preferred option to potentially build a billion-dollar piece of infrastructure,” he said.

“All options’ is to say is we’re going to look at everything. It’s about what is the best option and what can do at the same table.” “I think that there’s only so long you can plan for. We need to have those conversations. We need to do that together.” ●



▲ Docklands resident Cr Jamal Hakim (left) with a local resident at the March FMC meeting in West Melbourne.

## Docklands to host next council meeting

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne will host the next of its “neighbourhood series” of Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meetings in Docklands on May 17 at 6pm.

As part of an effort to bring a slice of local democracy to its constituents, the council this year announced that it would be bringing one of its two monthly FMC meetings to a different neighbourhood in 2022.

It marks the first time the council has staged meetings outside of Melbourne Town Hall, with Carlton, West Melbourne and Parkville having already hosted FMC meetings in February, March and April, respectively.

On May 17, Docklands will host the fourth in the series at The Hub @ Docklands at 80 Harbour Esplanade, with the meeting’s locally tailored agenda to be released on Thursday, May 11 at 2pm.

The community meetings also allocate time beforehand for locals to socialise with council and staff ●

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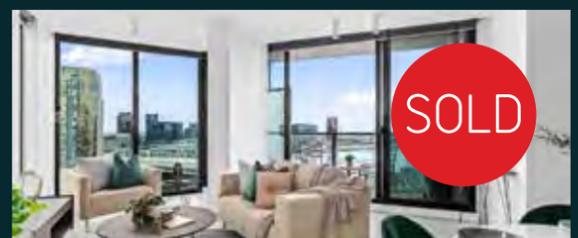
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# What's the future vision for Docklands?

*Continued from page 1.*

As previously canvassed in an editorial from the October 2021 edition of *Docklands News* – “Docklands: it’s time for a plan” – this power-sharing arrangement between DV and the City of Melbourne continues to see Docklands operate within a state of paralysis.

The council’s current “Participate Docklands” project seeks to provide the local community with some shred of certainty as to its future as it embarks on new neighbourhood plans under the leadership of its newly appointed neighbourhood partner Fadi Qunqar.

But despite its best intentions, the feedback from locals as to how the process has fared for them so far has been mixed to say the least. “Butting our head against a wall” was the sentiment shared by one resident.

The council is to be generally applauded for its efforts with Participate Docklands. While the ways in which it engages with locals will forever be a moving space, the intentions are good. However, when it comes to planning, the elephant remains in the room.

It’s the same challenge any Docklands Summit is going to have to try and overcome. Unless the council and DV can come to an arrangement which provides the local community with some degree of confidence that they can coexist for the good of Docklands, then it’s time to ask some hard questions.

With Docklands now very much built out, DV’s role as managers of urban renewal seems increasingly obsolete. While its exit from Docklands would undoubtedly aid in easing decision-making paralysis, its group head of precincts Geoff Ward told *Docklands News* that “there is still more to do.”

“We’re delivering the urban renewal of Docklands by facilitating infrastructure, stimulating development, navigating planning and working with key stakeholders,” Mr Ward said.

“We know there is still more to do in Docklands – which is why we’re continuing to look at opportunities and events which will



entice people to the area and support local businesses.”

“We continue to collaborate with the City of Melbourne to create one of Australia’s premier waterfront destinations – and ensure Docklands is rejuvenated in a manner that reflects its heritage well into the future.”

The long-term vision for Docklands must embrace its waterfront. It’s a vision yet to be anywhere near realised.

While this ambition isn’t lost on DV, Mr Ward said the long-term view for Docklands was to deliver sustaining benefits to the economy, the Victorian community and the overall precinct.

So, what’s the plan for achieving this? And where does DV continue to see its role in “filling in the gaps” that the council and ordinary planning process couldn’t otherwise fulfill?

Looking around Docklands, NewQuay’s two remaining sites are well advanced in terms of their development plans, AsheMorgan’s plans for Waterfront Way are now approved, and so too are City Harbour’s.

Moving across the precinct, Lendlease still has a little way to go at Collins Wharf, while Mirvac only has a few projects left at Yarra’s

Edge.

So, what’s left for DV to do here as far as the Docklands community is concerned?

The two obvious projects, which sit right at the centre of conversations around “embracing our waterfront” and providing vital civic spaces, are Central Pier and Harbour Esplanade.

DV says it continues to work with Heritage Victoria, the council, local business and the community on long-term plans for Central Pier. But, just how “long-term” remains the biggest question, with the rotting eyesore continuing to sit idle in Victoria Harbour and halting Docklands’ recovery efforts.

That leaves Harbour Esplanade – the most important piece of community infrastructure the Docklands community has left.

While the community went through a consultation process nearly 10 years ago, it’s been left completely unaddressed since.

So, what does DV plan to do with it?

It’s a question that went unanswered when put to DV by *Docklands News* last month. But one would assume that given its importance in “knitting Docklands together”, it, like the Bolte West site at Yarra’s Edge, should ideally be

handed over to the council to realise its potential as a waterfront civic space.

The Docklands Representative Group reiterated its desire for this vision, which it said was at risk of descending into “commercial blandness” without better stewardship.

“Impressions of a city are very much influenced by the quality of our public spaces,” a DRG spokesperson said.

“But more than this, these spaces provide opportunities for a community to interact and build connections – both with people and, if we are lucky, nature.”

“Harbour Esplanade and Victoria Harbour are such – rare – public spaces in Docklands. And the benefits they offer are so needed by those of us who do not have spacious homes and gardens to retreat.”

“But without better stewardship, Harbour Esplanade and Victoria Harbour will likely just descend into commercial blandness.”

“Better stewardship” continues to be the prevailing desire among Docklanders. How that’s achieved while both chefs cook in the same kitchen will be a big question for the Docklands Summit, whenever it’s held.

But that can only start with a real plan, underpinned by real vision. Whether those in the positions of control have the courage to compromise for the sake of whatever that vision turns out to be will be the key in determining a successful future for Docklands.

So, what does success look like to you? What’s your vision for a thriving Docklands?

Email your thoughts to [sean@hyperlocal-news.com.au](mailto:sean@hyperlocal-news.com.au) ●



Sean Car

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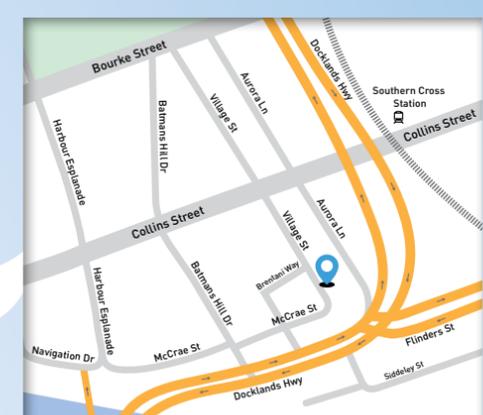










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# Central Pier set to receive heritage installation as work continues to remove the western tip

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HERITAGE

Docklands' century-old pier is set to get a heritage installation recognising the "original footprint of the pier", as part of a Heritage Victoria condition on the western tip's removal.

The western tip, which is no longer connected to the main structure of Central Pier, closed permanently in 2017 after it became structurally unsound and inaccessible for years, while the century-old pier, which comprised function spaces, restaurants, and offices, shut down in August 2019 after engineers found it unsafe and "could collapse at any time".

Specialist marine contractor, Fitzgerald Constructions Australia Pty Ltd, has been using a barge system to dismantle and remove the western tip from the water piece by piece – with Development Victoria announcing last month that works were progressing on schedule.

Heritage Victoria said in issuing a demolition permit for the western tip, which was granted in June 2021, a condition included that "a physical representation of the original footprint of the pier" is to be installed as part of the implementation of an approved Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

"The physical installation must represent the full length of the pier, as built in 1916-17, within the body of water," it said.

It comes as Development Victoria confirmed it had engaged the services of a heritage consultant "regarding all of Central Pier – including the western tip."

*Docklands News* understands the consultant specialises in heritage interpretation, which is known to inform ways of enhancing visitor experience.

Development Victoria did not provide the name of the heritage consultant or what interpretative concepts would be sought or if they were undertaking research for the proposed installation, instead stating, "Development Victoria continues to work with Heritage Victoria and a heritage consultant regarding all of Central Pier – including the western tip."

A Heritage Victoria spokesperson said, "Heritage Victoria is working with Development Victoria to ensure the works required by the permit achieve a strong and engaging heritage outcome for Victoria Dock."

In assessing the western tip's future, Heritage Victoria "considered options for rehabilitation of the western tip of the pier, demolition and reconstruction of the western tip and demolition without the requirement to rebuild the pier."

"It was considered that demolition of the western tip was an acceptable option as the substantial costs associated with rehabilitation or rebuilding would not necessarily result in a good heritage outcome. In either case, no original fabric would be retained," it said.

Development Victoria's group head of precincts, Geoff Ward, said, "We're pleased with the progress" of the western tip's removal with almost a quarter of the structure having been removed from the water so far – which does not include Central Pier.

"The works remain on schedule to be completed by early next year," Mr Ward said.

Development Victoria said it had worked closely with Heritage Victoria on the permit process for the removal of the western tip, which began in late January, "and will continue to keep community informed throughout the removal process." ●

# Boat building gets modernised

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
MARITIME

Boat building has always been an intricately detailed process but for passionate business owner of The Wooden Boat Centre Nicholas Atkins, now is the time for a modernised change in production.

Essentially growing up on Victoria Harbour, due to the centre being his grandfather's, Nicholas saw the centre move from the middle of the harbour on Central Pier to its current location in Shed 2 at North Wharf in 2005.

A recognisable location due to their red roller doors at the end of the wharf, The Wooden Boat Centre has a long history in Docklands as a welcoming and supportive space for boat builders and like-minded builders of innovative projects.

But despite loving the time spent in the workspace, Nicholas never saw his future there until suddenly the passion reignited unexpectedly.

"No-one else in the family was working with my grandfather and so because I spent all my time growing up there I decided to at least go back for a time," he said.

"I just focused on doing the work and then without me realising, in the span of three weeks, it transitioned from being the business we were building together to now me running it when my grandfather said, 'Right, it's your problem now'."

Advancing on the problem-solving steps he was taught by his grandfather, Nicholas said he would be "forever indebted" to his grandfather for his mentorship, and it is a reason behind why he wants to continue to grow the space and find better ways of doing things.

A self-defined "nerd on the computers", Nicholas used the most of the downtime in COVID lockdowns to re-evaluate exactly how business was done and how they were shaping the surrounding area.

"COVID was an interesting period because although it destroyed the business run time



it meant I was spending a lot of time on the computer and improving skills and designs, building the algorithms that design the boats and making things much better," he said.

"We have the computer design and cutting facilities here, full sheet routers, laser cutters and 3D printers."

The added additions of using parametric design have not only seen Nicholas share his innovations as a guest lecturer for RMIT's Landscape Architecture course, but also allow the space to become a safer environment for first-time boat builders.

Hopeful this is only the beginning of what they can do for the local Docklands community, The Wooden Boat Centre continues to provide a glimpse into what makes the area so special with classes for amateur boat builders and quick build classes in the school holidays.

For a change of pace, the centre has also opened up its doors to a short-term activation project by international artist Leeroy New in preparation for RISING's The Wilds festival which will be taking place at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl in early June (read more in the June edition of *Docklands News*).

It's left Nicholas hopeful that the centre can continue to provide their modernised technology and facilities to various new projects in the near future ●

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# Embattled traders welcome council's support but declare "war not over"

*Small businesses in Docklands have welcomed a City of Melbourne decision to waive outdoor dining fees, but for many hospitality traders trying to get back on their feet after lockdowns "the war is not over".*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS



Councillors have endorsed an extension of the outdoor dining program until October 31, after city activation portfolio lead councillor Roshena Campbell led a motion saying, "Many businesses are still struggling as we move into the winter months" and it wasn't "the right time to impose that fee burden on them."

Cr Campbell said outdoor dining "has been critical" for small businesses that had been "hard hit" by the pandemic.

"They're concerned about ongoing consumer confidence and early this year 74 per cent of them told us they were struggling to survive," she said at the council's March 29 meeting.

Permit fees for outdoor dining have been frozen since the extended outdoor dining program began in October 2020 and were due to be reinstated on April 1.

However, while Docklands traders said the council's waiver was "all helpful", the need to fill staff shortages and see a return of office workers five days a week was crucial to their survival.

"It doesn't really get people back at their desks, it just eases their cash flow," Peter Mastro, who co-owns Saluministi café in Bourke St, said, as he spoke on behalf of small businesses regarding the council's waiver.

"Things are definitely better but they're not where they need to be," he said.

"Sadly, I think a lot of that is down to the fact that a lot of places have closed and haven't reopened."

"The war is not over ... I feel like it's survival of the fittest; we did everything we could to get through every lockdown and never close etc., etc., and get through all the dramas."

"I don't think there's a magical answer. I think it's time and patience."

Tess Polidano, co-owner of Cafe Esc, which is located within the ANZ building in Docklands, said large firms supporting a hybrid working model for their staff were impacting their small business.

"Workers usually come in Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, on which you see a bit more flow but on Mondays and Fridays, it's dead," she told *Docklands News*.

"The council can push [for workers to return] but it's really the companies that have really got to be tough on their workers instead of all this leniency."

"People still go to the football, out for dinners, and they can't go to work."

It comes as the ANZ, NAB and the Australian Taxation Office – which have offices in the Docklands precinct— revealed plans for a staggered return after the state government lifted office mask mandates and advice to work from home.

“

*There's no short-term solution to this – it requires long-term thinking to change the face of Docklands ...*

”

Shane Wylie, executive officer of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, said over April there had been a "noticeable but still small increase in pedestrian foot traffic."

"Docklands as a whole, has been sitting at less than 40 per cent of pre-COVID levels. April has been much higher due to the Formula One and school holidays but that's still the truth of foot traffic," he said.

"The Playground [a family-friendly free event at the New Quay precinct] was a perfect example. It drew in beautiful crowds of families and great numbers but didn't translate relationally

to an equal increase in patronage of restaurants and retailers."

"There's certainly been spikes well above this but the irony at present is that the increased traffic due to activations, the F1 accommodation crowds etc., didn't transfer to a relational increased spend in Docklands and those retailers who did take advantage of it were often short-staffed."

Mr Wylie said the council's initiative to hold off fees for outdoor dining was "very welcome" and allowed hospitality to trade "as best they can right now without having to worry about another bill."

But he added, "What I have personally noticed is that there is now an increased gap between those businesses doing well and those not."

"There's no short-term solution to this – it requires long-term thinking to change the face of Docklands from corporates during the week and then visitors on the weekend, to a week-long destination for everyone from everywhere."

Last month, the City of Melbourne launched a campaign calling on all job seekers to consider applying in the CBD after Lord Mayor Sally Capp acknowledged the city was desperately in need of staff in the hospitality, tourism, and retail sectors.

According to SEEK's data, there were 5410 hospitality and tourism jobs advertised within the CBD – a 180 per cent increase on 2019's figures.

"We want to entice more people to our city and help traders serve as many customers as possible, and outdoor dining is one way we can do that," Cr Capp said ●



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## Twenty years of “excellence in maritime and seafaring subjects in art”

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
ARTS & CULTURE

The Mission to Seafarers Victoria's (MtSV) *Maritime Art Prize & Exhibition* is back for its 20th iteration in what promises to be yet another celebration of brilliance in maritime art.

With the previous two shows held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the exhibition will this year return to its rightful home within the Mission's famous Norla Dome.

Artists are invited to respond this year's theme, "The Relationship of Humanity to the Sea", for their share of \$30,000 in prize money, up from \$20,000.

Last year, 80 artworks were shortlisted from a highly competitive field, including a growing number of interstate artists.

Entrants will be competing across five categories: 2022 Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) Maritime Art Award (\$15,000), Best Traditional Maritime Art Award (\$6000), Runner-Up (\$4000), Emerging Artist (\$3000), and People's Choice Award (\$2000).

According to Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) CEO, Sue Dight, the annual event is a major fundraising initiative, which in turn helps provide welfare services to support the tireless work and hardships faced by seafarers.

Entries for the competition are now open and will close Wednesday, August 31. Exhibition opening night and awards ceremony will be held Thursday, September 29, with the exhibition then open to the public September 30 to October 16 ●

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

## Funding gives Docklands Neighbourhood House the capacity to do “a lot more”

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
COMMUNITY

In an exciting turn of events, Development Victoria has provided the Docklands Neighbourhood House with \$162,000 in funding to allow the community space to remain in its place until at least the end of 2022.

Under the operation of not-for-profit group The Centre, the Docklands Neighbourhood House has continued to provide a dedicated space for the community, although a lack of funding has limited their contribution.

“This funding means we can now embark on a lot of the planning that we have had in place for a while,” Neighbourhood House community development officer Jason Butcher said.

“It means we can actually do a lot more now rather than just talk.”

Currently in discussions with others involved in the Neighbourhood House, Mr Butcher said they were in the process of putting together a framework to work out what their objectives were for the area.

Special attention will also be given to the voices of the community with a “co-designing” method being the plan of attack.

“We want to talk to people in the community and get them involved in co-designing and co-owning a lot of what we are doing and that's pretty much the only way we can go about it,” Mr Butcher said.

The concept of working directly with the community is of major importance to Mr Butcher, and following the success of the Holi Festival they hosted in March it seems to be the most beneficial way to go.

“We had a lot of community involvement in the Holi Festival and it came off perfectly. A lot of that was because the community knew it was by them and for them and they were the focus of it, we were celebrating them,” he said.



▲ *Jason Butcher.* Photos: *Murray Enders.*



“We're delighted to financially support The Centre and see it continue a range of educational, learning and social activities in the community for another 12 months,” he said.

In addition to providing funding, Development Victoria has also extended its licence with Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, the peak body for neighbourhood houses which is housed in Victoria Point (adjacent to Marvel Stadium), allowing the organisation to operate with certainty until 2026.

This decision has given Neighbourhood Houses Victoria CEO Nicole Battle some reassurance going forward that they can continue to make a positive impact on the community.

“Neighbourhood Houses connect people to their local community, provide access to a range of supports, and give people the opportunity to get involved and participate in community life,” she said.

“It's wonderful that Development Victoria sees the importance of the work we deliver, and their support is invaluable.” ●



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# The City of Melbourne seeks joint effort to rid the city of graffiti as deterrence reaches critical point

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has sought the “urgent assistance” of the state government as it battles to fight a 60 per cent increase in graffiti and tagging since the pandemic began.

It comes as the council carried out a graffiti blitz in March which saw clean-up crews target Docklands, South Wharf, the Hoddle Grid, and Southbank areas.

About 14,000 square metres of graffiti was removed – the equivalent of 50 tennis courts – after reports of graffiti almost tripled in volume since the launch of the blitz program.

The average time between graffiti being reported and cleaned was five days, which resulted in more than a 70 per cent reduction in days for completion, compared to January.

According to a council report, “The blitz has had a noticeable impact on graffiti management and the cleanliness of the city.”

However, Lord Mayor Sally Capp conceded, “we don’t have the unlimited resources to just keep cleaning” and successfully moved a motion at council’s April 29 meeting in which she requested the City of Melbourne work with the state government, Victoria Police, and M9 councils (an inner city-advocacy group) in a “coordinated approach to graffiti deterrents.”

“We’re seeing that heightened increase of tagging ... we absolutely have to look more broadly and use the data more deeply and efforts to deter and prevent,” she said.

Cr Capp said the joint approach would mean “our city has an opportunity not just to recover, but to literally be a city that can welcome people with its beautiful buildings, beautiful, physical environment that is not impacted in such a negative way by tagging and graffiti.”

The council’s city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell said ways to prevent and



▲ Andrew Ward paints over graffiti on Collins St.

deter graffiti were critical and “looks at how we can best use the resources we have for cleaning the city.”

“Although we’ve invested heavily in a blitz, it’s not on its own enough,” she said.

“The reality is that this is a scourge on our city ... I’m gutted every time someone comes back into the city for the first time after the pandemic and they say, ‘it’s dirty, it’s not the Melbourne I knew; I’m not coming back.’”

“I’m gutted for the business owners who are working so hard to bring people back in for the workers who want to come back in. They deserve to see a sparkling city, and I know that we’ve invested significant resources to make that happen. But it hasn’t been enough.”

Cr Jamal Hakim, echoed Cr Campbell’s concerns, saying a “review for opportunities for prevention and deterrence is really, really critical.”

“Some of these problems are to do with social problems that we need to work through, whether that’s through youth activity programs, other



programs that mean that people have a sense of belonging to their community and a pride in their community,” he said.

A Docklands Representative Group spokesperson said locals were “pretty annoyed” by the ongoing battle with graffiti.

“Not only does it directly cost them in terms of increased insurance premiums and their rates being used to repair damage to public property, these tags are a visible indicator that people who don’t care about Docklands are hanging around,” the spokesperson said.

Long-time business owner Andrew Ward, who operates PUSH! Fitness in Docklands said there appeared to be “more graffiti in the city than when the blitz started.”

“When I drive through the city twice a day, there is the same if not more graffiti. In my opinion, that two-week blitz has been a failure,” he told *Docklands News*.

Mr Ward, who has spent hours out of his own time painting over graffiti on walls at the corner of Collins St and Harbour Esplanade “multiple times”, said he had not “seen one graffiti crew at all” in Docklands.

“I’m walking past the community garden right now and there’s graffiti,” he said last month, adding Wurundjeri Way was “full of graffiti.”

“If you go and pound the pavement in the city, there’s graffiti everywhere, I don’t know what they’re talking about.”

“

*I’m gutted for the business owners who are working so hard to bring people back in for the workers who want to come back in. They deserve to see a sparkling city...*

”

“It’s a disgrace, there’s been no improvement at all. All they [council] do is deflect some spin.”

Melbourne street art expert Adrian Doyle said the volume of graffiti the council was contending with was “unwinnable”, and that “they need to go to the source and do youth programs.”

“In the end graffiti will always be there, there’s nothing they can do. All they can do is work with and curb these guys [offenders] and give them an understanding of respect,” he said.

“The battle the council is doing is unwinnable – it’s a waste of money and that money should be better spent.”

“When I worked for Signal [a creative studio for young people in the City of Melbourne] I used to go around and meet with the kids doing graffiti or the people doing it and do workshops with them ... and these kids are great artists, they’re doing murals.”

“The stance the government is currently taking is not really well thought-out and is not going to help the people doing graffiti.” ●

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# Last day in port for Mission CEO

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
MARITIME

Good female managers have an active home life as well a career in the office and sometimes you just need a bit of R&R.

Sue Dight, CEO at the Mission to Seafarers, lives in a converted handkerchief factory in Oakleigh.

One section is a café, another houses vintage cars and she and her husband live in the rest.

The enterprising CEO is leaving her job at the Mission for a month's holiday at home then she'll consider what her next move will be.

"I might be a barista," she told *Docklands News*.

After guiding the Mission for seven years, building it up as a venue and a community centre, plus providing an intelligent commentary on the global issues affecting crew on ships, she is due for a change of course.

On her last day, April 29, there was a noisy corporate event on downstairs and there were still things on her to-do list for successor Philip Cornish but her heart was out there with the seafarers.

She was getting ready for an historic occasion, to meet the first lot of seamen allowed shore leave in more than two years, since the first lockdown was declared in March 2020.

"We've been campaigning hard for shore leave," she said. "It's been really difficult for them. I'm wholeheartedly in favour of them leaving ships so they can rest away from work – a bit of R&R."

The port opened three weeks ago but shipping companies have been reluctant to risk COVID among crew.

"The captains have the final say. When you have a workforce of 22 only, there are no understudies. Because you have a hierarchical workforce it's difficult to step up and down if someone gets sick."

She has a map on her laptop that shows the



thousands of cargo ships, tankers, fishing fleets and pleasure craft on the world's oceans at any one time.

During COVID they all kept operating except for the cruise ships, with some crew spending up to 15 months on board.

"Crew changeover was very difficult. When a contract finishes crew members disembark then fly home. During COVID there weren't any flights in and out and they had to spend two weeks in quarantine here."

The Mission has been helping them out by doing shopping and delivering it to ships.

Sue got a call on her last day that one of the Stolt tankers would travel to Geelong before arriving in Melbourne. Their shopping was already waiting for them in a room behind the bar.

She is proud of her record, raising money so the Mission can support seafarers. Probus, Rotary, a local book club, offshore shipping specialists, the Melbourne Bushwalkers Club and the Naval Association are some of the organisations that now meet in the historic hall.

She has only one regret, that the weathervane on top of the building was stolen on her watch. That was two months ago and there have been no new leads.

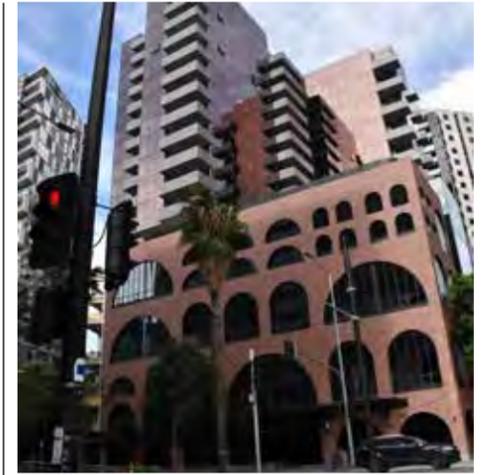
"It was sold for its copper," she said, shaking her head. "The thieves left part of it behind."

Her last job was to take a picture of the first men to brave the port, happily stepping onto *terra firma* from the Mission bus and then she was off on her own new voyage.

*Docklands News* thanks Sue for her valuable contribution to the Mission to Seafarers and to the Docklands community ●



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## A good urban citizen

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
BUILDING

A very pretty building with arched windows and leadlight strips has just been finished at 379 Docklands Drive.

It's called Escala and the design by Six Degrees taps into the current post-modern revival.

The arches and variable scale shift belong to a style called Italian Rationalism.

Architects say the podium is well-mannered, made of brick veneer and hits the ground on the street frontage which makes it "a good urban citizen."

Daniel Miller, structural foreman for LU Simon, said the company was proud to be associated with the build.

He said the pre-cast panels were manufactured to look like bricks and that construction took 18 months during lockdown.

The development includes a 20-storey residential tower with 170 apartments that are 80 to 90 per cent sold and a six-storey office podium.

Escala is the 13<sup>th</sup> apartment block developed by MAB Corporation in Docklands ●

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COLLINS PLACE

# New Riverkeeper to fight for Melbourne’s iconic waterway

*In a wide-ranging interview with Docklands News, newly-appointed Yarra Riverkeeper Charlotte Sterrett shares her vision for the river, her thoughts on the proposed Greenline project, and the importance of pushing towards a “swimmable Birrarung”.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
ENVIRONMENT

When a unique vacancy emerged in 2021, Charlotte Sterrett knew she had to put her hat in the ring.

The rare role called for stewardship and advocacy of something close to her heart, and it immediately clicked that her experience could make her a standout candidate.

“All the things in my life that I’d been doing, had kind of led to this point,” Ms Sterrett told *Docklands News*.

The opening was for a new “Riverkeeper” of Melbourne’s iconic Yarra River (or Birrarung).

“I saw it and thought ‘this could be something really great for me’. I wasn’t 100 per cent sure if I fit the role; I thought maybe they’d want an ecologist or someone who really knew about the river from a scientific perspective. But really, they wanted someone who could communicate and advocate and have a really strong relationship with the river, which is definitely me.”

“They” is the Yarra Riverkeeper Association (YRKA) — the organisation which ensures the river is “healthy, protected and loved” — and the important Riverkeeper role is (among other things) tasked with being the chief spokesperson to tell the story of the river in a way that gets people behind that vision.

And, in appointing Ms Sterrett in late 2021, the association now has its first woman as Riverkeeper since it was incorporated in 2005.

Growing up in the UK before moving to Australia in the 1990s, Ms Sterrett has always had an affinity with the natural environment, and in particularly waterways.

That inclination for the outdoors progressed, naturally, to a career in outdoor education before eventually moving into international development.

For much of the past two decades, Ms Sterrett has worked with local communities — mostly in the Asia Pacific and Southern Africa — which have been most affected by climate change.

These positions gave her a unique appreciation for life’s most basic need.

“Water is so important,” she said.

“I think we’ve taken it for granted that water is always going to be there and we’ll have access to clean water, but that’s not the reality for so many billions of people around the world. In Melbourne, people don’t realise that we get 70 per cent of our drinking water from the Yarra Birrarung. They see the river as dirty and polluted, and while that can be the case the further down it goes, the upper catchment is protected



▲ Charlotte Sterrett was recently named “Riverkeeper” of the Yarra River, the first woman appointed to the role.

and that’s why we have the best drinking water in the world. I’ve travelled to 50 countries, and I can say that Melbourne’s drinking water is the best.”

The YRKA is one of more than 350 similar “waterkeeper” groups worldwide (and 11 within Australia), who belong to the Waterkeeper Alliance.

The Riverkeeper position is also one of advocacy; of local, state and federal governments, plus statutory authorities like Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria.

Asked what she saw as the biggest issues facing the lower reaches of Birrarung (the river’s traditional name, meaning “river of mists” in the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung languages), Ms Sterrett said that urban development, litter and chemical pollution were constant issues.

An important mindset shift had occurred, but there was still some way to go.

“We’ve kind of taken the river for granted; everyone wants to live by the river. Before the 1980s, a lot of the city was facing away from the river, and there was almost a complete ignorance of the river even existing. [It was] seen as a drain rather than something people wanted.

But now that’s completely flipped, and you see the development in Docklands is all about the amenity and the beauty of being able to face the water. But unfortunately, it hasn’t really considered the needs of the water itself. It’s more been seen as something that’s nice to have, something that adds value, something that people can look at and enjoy rather than what the river needs.”

A year ago, in May 2021, the City of Melbourne released draft plans for a \$300 million “Greenline” project, which proposed a four-kilometre green trail along the river’s Northbank, from Birrarung Marr all the way to the Bolte Bridge.

While the project has a long way to go, with state and federal funding yet to be secured, Lord Mayor Sally Capp has said it would represent Melbourne’s “biggest transformation” since the opening of Federation Square in 2002.

“The intent of Greenline and its four themes of environment, culture, place and connection align really well with our vision,” Ms Sterrett said.

“If it’s implemented well, it could simultaneously create environmental, social, cultural and recreational benefits. But that’s ‘if’ implemented well.”

She said the project’s potential benefits around mental health were significant.

“Melburnians, and people who live in apartments in Docklands or Southbank, would know if they didn’t have the access to nature or the river, they could be mentally worse off ... if you can help people connect to nature, that’s going to be beneficial to people and the planet.”

“The more that people can develop a relationship with the natural environment, they appreciate it more, they value it more and are more likely to protect it. And I think Greenline is one part of that giant jigsaw puzzle.”

As someone who lives right next to the river in North Warrandyte, Ms Sterrett knows the joys of swimming regularly in Melbourne’s iconic waterway.

The YRKA, alongside groups like Yarra Pools, is part of a wider push coordinated by Regen Melbourne for a “Swimmable Birrarung by 2030.”

She said the concept was something people engaged with.

“It sounds like a crazy idea, but it’s not that crazy when you look at it. It’s totally possible if everything goes in the right direction, and it would bring us much closer to this idea of what it means to live sustainability in the environment.”

It was, however, more about the journey than the destination.

“I would love for everyone to be able to have that opportunity [to swim in the river]. But it’s not just about the end goal, it’s about what needs to be done between now and then in order for that to happen. We’d be able to achieve our goals at the Yarra Riverkeeper Association if, at the end of this, we can have people swimming in the river down at Docklands. All of our dreams, all of our goals and all of our vision would be achieved by that, because in order to get to that point you’ve got to fix all the other stuff.” ●

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



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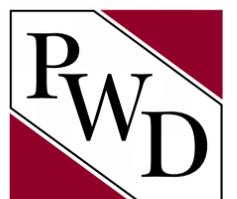
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# The “game changing” move to Docklands for ethical label as part of shopfront program

As part of a program to activate Docklands’ empty shopfronts, sustainable outerwear brand laGuapa describe their recent move into Victoria Harbour as a “game changer”.

WORDS BY David Schout  
BUSINESS

While some small businesses can function perfectly well in the confines of a home office, others can struggle.

A chair, desk, and laptop is enough for many — an art that has been well honed during the past two years — but for other burgeoning businesses, like boutique fashion labels, working from home can be a confining experience, both physically and creatively.

So, when the opportunity comes to work in your own space, things can completely open up.

“It’s been a game changer,” fashion designer Zaida Rodríguez told *Docklands News* of her recent move into a previously unoccupied shopfront in Victoria Harbour.

Ms Rodríguez is the founder of sustainable outerwear brand laGuapa — one of the first small businesses to move into the Docklands area as part of a City of Melbourne program to activate empty retail spaces.

“Compared to working from home, working in a studio and having customers able to pick up their jackets from here and have the design consultations in a beautiful space, it just gives you such a different vibe. Like you’re a more established business.”

laGuapa has access to adjoining shops at the westernmost end of Collins St, with one used as a retail space and the other as a studio.

For someone with significant retail experience (having worked as a visual merchandiser in her native Spain) moving into her own space was hugely gratifying for Ms Rodríguez.

“For me it’s kind of going back to the past; talking to people, making the shop look pretty. I’ve always loved retail — I mean, it’s great to shop online, but I think there’s nothing better than going to a store, trying something on and being in that environment. I’m enjoying that aspect a lot.”

laGuapa (“the beautiful” in Spanish) uses sustainable and up-cycled materials for their jackets, ensuring manufacturing is done locally.

Working as a made-to-order concept, customers are able to book a consultation and choose materials and colours before their piece is put to production.

Sustainable, ethical practices are “at the core” of what they do.

“We make sure the people who sew our garments are paid fairly and are treated fairly,” Ms Rodríguez said.

“I have a manufacturer in Collingwood, where I live. I just go down the road and see the people who are sewing my garment, I talk to the manufacturer. We have a close-knit relationship.”

So far, the store has welcomed a mix of clients that follow the label and travel into Docklands, and curious types walking past.



▲ laGuapa founder Zaida Rodríguez (centre) with photographer Jordi Garcia and graphic designer Roser Pie (Picture: Fabrizio Evans).

“

*We make sure the people who sew our garments are paid fairly and are treated fairly.*

”

Practicing what they preach, laGuapa is now in the process of setting up workshops on sustainable fashion, including how to up-cycle garments.

“Something that happens very often is that people are confused about what sustainable fashion is and how they can become more sustainable. So, I think education is the best way to inform customers on why it’s so important to switch from ‘fast fashion’ to a more cyclical model rather than a linear model, and why it’s so important to know your materials and know where you’re shopping.”

## Push to fill empty shops

Moved to action after a large number of retail spaces were vacated during the height of COVID-19, the City of Melbourne engaged social enterprise Renew Australia to run a shopfront activation program in Docklands.

As part of the initiative, landlords donate vacant shops to up-and-coming traders, with a rolling 30-day rent-free licences negotiated by Renew Australia.

This gives the temporary traders time to test new ideas for a commercial market without committing to a lengthy commercial lease.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who visited the newly activated spaces in Docklands, said laGuapa was a “great addition” to the area.

“Our Shopfront Activation Program is breathing new life into the city by giving artists, makers, independent retailers and budding entrepreneurs the opportunity to test their business ideas in vacant spaces,” she said.

“We’re filling shopfronts across Melbourne with one-of-a-kind offerings to reinvigorate parts of the city that need it most, while supporting our creative and start-up communities.”

“These vibrant pop-up stores reflect the diversity of Melbourne, offering everything from fashion and food to music and art, giving people yet another reason to rediscover our great city.” ●



## Pooch lovers hit the pavement to raise money for pet charity

WORDS BY Brendan Rees  
COMMUNITY

Hundreds of residents and their furry friends have turned out in Docklands to raise money for charity Save-A-Dog.

Organiser and long-term Docklands resident Ayda Hornak from Pet Squad Pty Ltd said the inaugural “Walk for PetWellness” event on May 1 was a resounding success with about 225 pooch lovers showing their support.

“We had great weather, lots of locals supported the event along with people outside of Docklands, with some Save-A-Dog rescues also doing the walk,” she said.

“The community was very supportive, volunteering to help on the day. We will definitely make this an annual event with PetWell and RES by Mirvac committing to long term sponsorships to make this possible.”

The event saw dog walkers gather at 9am at Point Park before making their way to Ron Barassi Senior Park and back again.

Local restaurant The Espressonist cooked a barbecue lunch for the participants, with 20 per cent of their sales going towards the charity, with \$7,032.70 raised in total.

“It was pretty successful, everyone came in after their walk and had a good time, and raised some money for the charity,” the restaurant’s manager Jill Manguiat said, adding owners “came fully stocked with their own treats” for their well-deserved furry companions.

“We’re part of the community. It added more of that buzzing atmosphere, everything is getting back to pre-COVID times which is really nice.”

Save-A-Dog is a not-for-profit organisation committed to saving and rehoming hundreds of dogs and cats every year.

“The work Save-A-Dog do is important, and they need our help to continue saving animal lives. Your contribution today will go a long way in helping them do that, so a massive thank you to everyone who walked and donated,” Ms Hornak told participants ●

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# Monash opens in Docklands

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
EDUCATION

Docklands' pandemic recovery received another welcome boost last month as leading global tertiary provider Monash University opened the doors to its new Docklands campus in the Batman's Hill precinct.

Located at 750 Collins St opposite Collins Square, builder Multiplex recently completed Monash University's new Monash College vertical campus, which is now open to international students welcomed back onshore after an extended period of remote learning due to COVID-19.

Monash College is a pathway to Monash University, Australia's largest university and its new campus merges operations from 222 Bourke St, 321 Exhibition St, 271 Collins St, Clayton, and Caulfield campuses.

Designed by Lyons Architecture in collaboration with five additional architects, Monash College spans 10 levels and provides 40,700 square metres of state-of-the-art educational facilities.

Monash College features modern collaborative workspaces for students, internal winter gardens, a 400-seat



auditorium, 11 specialist science rooms, seven art and design rooms and a student hub/wellness centre set to optimise both the teaching and learning experience.

The building also includes student kitchens and break-out spaces throughout, as well as retail tenancies for food outlets on the lower floors. A range of special finishes have been used throughout the campus including timber atrium framing, bamboo light fittings, epoxy floor finishes, bluestone paving and various carpet textures.

Monash College CEO Jo Mithen said, "With restrictions easing, our students have begun returning to Melbourne and we couldn't be more excited for them to experience the brand-new city campus in Docklands."

"From the Village Social and Urban deck areas, where students can hang out, through to the many breakout and information spaces for quiet study and group assignments, there is a space to suit everyone."

Construction began in 2020 with some 400 workers on site throughout the build.

The redevelopment included structural modifications to the atrium, making way for 10 new escalators in a "criss-cross" format connecting all floors. Each escalator weighed 8.6 tons when fully assembled ●



**For more information:**  
[monashcollege.edu.au](http://monashcollege.edu.au)



▲ Jennifer Jaeger and Bill Reid.



▲ Karin Otto and Tim Horton.

## Alma opens to community

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY

Families have enjoyed a "fantastic day out" after the much-loved *Alma Doepel* historic tall ship played host to a community open day.

Volunteers behind the restoration of the 1903 three-masted, topsail schooner threw open their shed doors to the public on April 24, enthralling visitors.

About 80 people gathered at Shed 2 on North Wharf Rd for the rare occasion to "get up close" to the ship's masts, spars, galley, blocks, ships wheel and Melbourne name plate while also taking time to learn about some of its amazing history.

The day, which also celebrated the Australian Heritage Festival from April 18 to May 2, included a barbecue and a chat with the *Alma's* passionate restoration volunteers over tea and coffee.

"The day was glorious," said volunteer Bill Reid, who also conducted tours for people to view the *Alma's* restoration progress.

"From the very start we experienced a steady flow of interested people eager to set eyes on the restoration behind the scenes. They came in couples and small groups and some

with young ones."

"From what we learned from talking to them they comprised ex-voyagers, former crew members, Docklands residents and people who had visited another maritime open day the day before and saw our posters or spoke to *Alma* volunteers."

"We raised some very welcome cash on the day and signed up a number of new *Alma* memberships. But we need more money to complete the fit out, so please donate what you can."

Mr Reid said visitors also viewed a *Soldiers at Sea* exhibition, which brought to life the role *Alma* played as an Aussie troop transport vessel during WWII.

Eight volunteers assisted to make the day a success which included Tim Horton, Karin Otto, Colin Lill, Rod Alsop, the ship's restoration director Dr Peter Harris, Norm Boreham, Jennifer Jaeger and Bill Reid.

The team is currently working on the deck's preparation among other projects – but there's still a long way to go with another \$1.5 million needed to complete the whole restoration.

To register your interest in volunteering email: [almadoepelchronicles@gmail.com](mailto:almadoepelchronicles@gmail.com). To donate visit: [almadoepel.com.au/donate-now](http://almadoepel.com.au/donate-now) ●

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# Labor look to address decade slide as Greens favoured to win again

*Ahead of the federal election on May 21, Docklands News looks at the seat of Melbourne and whether Labor candidate Keir Paterson can halt the party's huge slide in first-preference votes since 2010.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
ELECTIONS

Greens leader Adam Bandt goes into the 2022 Federal Election as red-hot favourite to win the seat of Melbourne for a fifth straight time.

The division of Melbourne, which covers the CBD and suburbs immediately north of the Yarra River to both the east and west, has been dominated by the Greens since 2010 and remains the party's only lower house seat in Canberra.

Held by Labor from 1904 to 2010, the party has since suffered a huge loss in first-preference votes since Bandt's breakthrough victory 12 years ago.

That year, the percentage of first-preference votes dropped from 49.5 (in 2007) to 38.1.

It has continued to slide since, to a record low 19.7 per cent in the last election in 2019.

The candidate tasked with halting this slide and deliver what would be a huge underdog victory for Labor is Kensington resident Keir Paterson.

After winning preselection in August 2021, Mr Paterson has been campaigning since September and said voters had one thing on their mind.

"There's a real mood for change," he told *Docklands News*. "The number of people that we speak to that say 'we just need to get rid of this government' — that is the number one, two and three priority for most of the people I speak



▲ Labor candidate Keir Paterson (centre) with a local family.

to in the electorate."

Born in Carlton and having owned his first home in North Melbourne, Mr Paterson said he had "lived on and off in the electorate my whole life." And despite having also lived in three different continents, he counts Melbourne as "by far the best city in the world to live in."

He has worked in the mental health space and, most recently, was president of the 50,000-member Bicycle Network, which advocates for more sustainable transport and safer riding.

Mr Paterson said looking at Labor's recent election results "doesn't give you the full picture", referencing the fact Labor's previous candidate for the seat of Melbourne, Luke Creasey, withdrew before the 2019 count due to offensive social media posts that came to light.

However, Labor's primary vote had already dipped well before 2019, something he was determined to turn around.

"I don't have a theory as to why," he said.

"I can say that this campaign that we're run-

ning at the moment is probably the most active and, certainly in my view and the view of other observers, the most organised and proactive campaign [in recent elections]. We've got a really good volunteer base and a lot of supporters out there, and we're running a really positive campaign and we're getting a really positive response. I suppose I'm not really focused on the previous elections."

Labor and Mr Paterson are under no illusion as to the magnitude of their upcoming task but remained positive about their prospects.

"We're very confident about this election. There's no question it's a pretty steep hill to climb," he said.

"I feel positive about it, the vibe is good. There's no question that Adam is a strong incumbent, and this seat is a big focus for the Greens, they've got a huge budget and he's spending a lot of money in the electorate ... I'm really motivated to change this government, and we need a Labor majority to change the government. But also, I've become increasingly

frustrated by the lack of action of issues like climate change, inequality, job security, aged care, childcare et cetera. And unfortunately, having a member of parliament from a minor party doesn't get us traction on those issues."

While noting a number of nationwide issues, Mr Paterson said the biggest issue facing the seat of Melbourne — Victoria's smallest electorate at 40 square kilometres — was "definitely the emergence from the pandemic."

"Our CBD has been decimated," he said.

"We need to restore the CBD as our capital. But the reality is that people aren't going to be working five days a week in the CBD, so we need to reimagine the purpose of our CBD, what it's there for and how it acts as the glue that holds Melbourne together."

Mr Paterson said the biggest surprise during the campaign to date, having spoken with many people on the ground in Melbourne, was the appetite for a national independent commission against corruption (ICAC).

He said the issue was "spontaneously identified" by about one in three people as their number one issue heading into the May 21 poll.

"The thing that's surprised me the most this election — you expect a lot of the prominent issues, you can anticipate those — but the Federal ICAC, and in general restoring integrity and trust to federal politics just comes through as a really high priority for people. They actually nominate that as one of their most important issues, which surprised us," he said.

"I think people are really sick of our federal politics, they're sick of the perception of the lack of accountability and the perception of favouritism and corruption and they want to do something about."

Other candidates contesting the seat of Melbourne in this election include Justin Borg (United Australia Party), James Damches (Liberal), Richard Peppard (Liberal Democrat Party), Scott Robson (Independent), Walter Stragan (One Nation), Bruce Poon (Animal Justice Party) and Colleen Bolger (Victorian Socialists) ●

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# Bandt's bid to keep Melbourne liveable

*Speaking to Docklands News ahead of the May 21 election, Adam Bandt said one of the best things about being Greens leader was taking "Melbourne's values to the national stage."*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
ELECTIONS

This is a city, and indeed a seat, he has a close affinity with, as he bids for a fifth term as local MP.

"One of the things that Melbourne holds very dearly is not only protecting what's really good about our local area, but also ensuring that those values of sustainability, compassion and equality are spread out over the national stage as well," he told *Docklands News*.

But since his first election win in 2010, when he broke up Labor's century-long hold on the electorate, locals have faced growing pressures.

He lists the housing crisis as the "single biggest change" he had seen in the city during the past 12 years.

And in an election where, as leader, he will push for national action on things like climate change and affordable dental and mental health services, he also knows that within his patch there are distinct issues that need to be addressed.

"The things that are good about Melbourne are still there, but they're under threat," Mr Bandt said.

"A big priority for me is keeping Melbourne liveable, and that means ensuring that everyone can afford to live [here] ... although there might be a pause in rent [rises] in some areas at the moment, on the whole rent and housing prices have skyrocketed, and it's putting a lot of pressure on people who live in Melbourne. It's



▲ Greens leader Adam Bandt is the strong favourite to win the seat of Melbourne for a fifth time.

making it more difficult for people who want to live near where they work or study and we need some new thinking to tackle the housing affordability crisis, because at the moment it's getting out of control."

The four-term Melbourne MP said there needed to be a policy shift within areas like the CBD and Docklands which were particularly hard hit by COVID-19.

And while support had rightly focused on the small businesses, there needed to be an acknowledgement of the real impact on locals.

"I don't think that the state or federal government have really grappled with what the pandemic and the change in work practices will mean for our community. Speaking to inner-city residents, one clear message that comes through is that a lot of the small businesses and services that they've relied on have gone, and they may not come back."

Mr Bandt said the Greens had a plan to bring creative enterprises back to Melbourne and

would push for rent reductions to innovative and creative businesses that came into the area and signed long-term leases.

"We've got to work out how to rebuild in a way that isn't just about supporting one big event here and another big event there — we need a more sustainable way that works at a human-scale that supports residents and businesses in the area."

Mr Bandt's first election win in 2010 came as Australia witnessed its first hung parliament for 70 years.

Without an outright majority for the major parties, Mr Bandt (alongside other independent MPs) were given greater negotiating power for their electorates.

Early indications suggest there is a significant chance of another hung parliament this election, such is the close nature of polling.

The Greens leader said that would put locals in a good position, and outlined plans should he again be thrust into the balance of power.

"We're heading towards a really tight election and the people of Melbourne again have the chance to have a really powerful seat at the table, in a very finely balanced parliament. My priorities in that position will be to kick the Liberals out, and then push the next government to act on the climate crisis, but also to get dental and mental health [services] into Medicare, build affordable housing and wipe the student debt. They're things that will make a big difference to people's lives."

Both Labor and the Greens were united in the push for a national independent commission against corruption (ICAC).

Mr Bandt, who introduced the first-ever bill for a federal ICAC in the House of Representatives, said "it can't come soon enough."

However, the Greens leader said neither of the major parties could be trusted to properly address the climate crisis.

"People want action on the climate crisis and are dismayed that Liberal and Labor are both vowing to open up new coal and gas projects at this election. We're in a climate crisis — you can't put the fire out while you're pouring more petrol on it."

Since Mr Bandt's breakthrough win in 2010, when he won the first lower house seat for the Greens at a general election, the party is yet to claim success in any other electorate.

Despite the Greens stranglehold in Melbourne, where their primary vote almost reached 50 per cent in 2019 (up from 22.8 per cent in 2007, for example), they are yet to improve on their solitary seat in the House of Representatives.

Speaking to *Docklands News* in early May, he said the Green were "in with a really good shot" in five seats.

These included nearby Macnamara, where Steph Hodgins-May will challenge for a third time, plus three seats in Queensland (Ryan, Griffith and Brisbane) and one in NSW (Richmond) ●

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# SEVEN REASONS WHY NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY IN MELBOURNE



Melbourne skyline and the Yarra River Birrarung at twilight

## Love inner-city living? Find out how stamp duty savings can help you make even more of iconic city experiences, eateries and glorious green spaces.

While other property markets have increased, the City of Melbourne has become comparatively more affordable, according to economist Anne Flaherty from realestate.com.au.

'Australia's property market has performed strongly and seen incredible growth over the past two years,' Anne said.

'In the City of Melbourne, we haven't seen significant price rises, so properties are comparatively more affordable for a lot of buyers.

'This can be an opportunity for buyers. Of the properties that have been on the market, many have fallen in value over the past year.'

But it won't last forever.

In our hearts, we know that Melbourne is still one of the world's most liveable cities, and surely it's only a matter of time before it returns to the top of the official rankings.

### 1. Make the most of massive stamp duty savings

For those who love Melbourne or want to live in the city, the biggest incentives for acting now are perhaps the stamp duty concessions available on new properties.

There's a small window of opportunity for buyers, according to Anne. The concessions have an end date, and it's fast approaching.

'If you purchase a new property up to \$1 million, you get a 50 per cent concession on your stamp duty fees for contracts signed from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022,' Anne said.

Better still, the offer can be used in conjunction with other benefits, such as the first home buyer concession, off-the-plan deals and more.

### 2. Save if the new property has been on the market for a while

Maybe you've had your eye on a new property that's come up in your search over the past year or so. Maybe you've wondered why nobody has snapped

it up. Maybe it could be you who does the snapping...

'If the new property has been on the market for more than 12 months, you can get a full exemption on your stamp duty. That's available for contracts signed before 30 June 2022,' Anne said.

You could save up to \$55,000 on properties up to \$1 million.

### 3. A concession for investors and owner occupiers alike

Imagine being the first person to move into a new city pad, or reaping the rewards while renting out a sparkling new space so your tenants can make the most of city living.

There are no constraints on this temporary stamp duty concession: it's available to owner occupiers and investors.

That means you, first homeowners, downsizers and investors.

### 4. Newer properties are usually better earners

Newer properties can command higher rents, especially if they are modern and offer good amenities.

'The rents achievable on new properties tend to be higher than rents achievable on a property that's older,' Anne said.

'Any new apartment is more attractive, even than ones that are a couple of years older. Designs look newer, fresher, cleaner.'

No wonder tenants are often prepared to pay a bit more.

'If you can get something new and never lived in, that's more appealing than something that's had more wear and tear.'



San Telmo, Meyers Place

### 5. Start as you mean to go on

Are you renting in the City of Melbourne and daring to dream that there's a way to embrace inner-city life and own your own place?

You're not alone. Research commissioned by the City of Melbourne found that more than half of first home buyers surveyed are likely to consider buying in Melbourne.

Forty-eight per cent of those already living in Melbourne said they were also considering buying property in the area.

Nearly half (43 per cent) of those looking to buy in the city were in the market for an apartment or unit, with features such as natural light, views and communal areas.

Imagine being the first person to open those blinds to a unique city vista.

### 6. Look to the future

Melbourne offers a lifestyle all its own. This is the cultural capital, the sporting capital, a magnet for foodies. So many aspects add up to make Melbourne a supremely liveable city.

'People migrating to Melbourne are more likely to live close to the city. They're more likely to live in inner city suburbs compared to people who've grown up in Australia,' Anne said.

Maybe they'll be your new tenants.

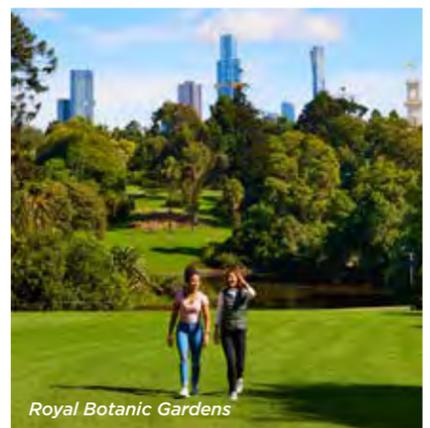
'When migration regains momentum, it's going to be really great for the city, and this will support the recovery in rents and property prices,' Anne said.

'The rental market might be subdued for a while, but it will pick up as migration resumes. And that'll be good news for the city.'

**'If the new property has been on the market for more than 12 months, you can get a full exemption on your stamp duty. That's available for contracts signed before 30 June 2022.'**



Johnny's Green Room is close by in Carlton



Royal Botanic Gardens

### 7. This is your local

You already know that an extraordinary life awaits amid the laneways of this great city.

There's always another rooftop bar to discover, and a whole grid stacked with the best eateries.

If you're not already living in the city, you can soon roll out of bed and into the orbit of the best baristas in Melbourne. At lunchtime, the Birrarung beckons for a riverside moment.

After work, catch up for drinks and a share plate at an underground hot spot, or explore the length of the glorious gardens that wrap around the city.

Study with the best and brightest and plug into our knowledge economy. Or be part of the conversation as creative thinkers discuss big topics.

Catch a gig, indulge in a feast, go see a show. Best of all? You can wander home afterwards with no need for a long commute.

Find out how you could pay \$0 stamp duty on your next home purchase in the city at [realestate.com.au/thisisyourlocal](https://realestate.com.au/thisisyourlocal)

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# BOOK IN TIME TO WRITE A PRIZE-WINNER

Now may be the perfect time to dust off that unpublished short story you wrote during lockdown and enter the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards.

Win up to \$12,000 if your original work is judged to be the outstanding entry across five categories.

Our biannual Creative Writing Awards celebrate the achievements of emerging writers and storytellers, and help ensure that Melbourne's famous literary tradition continues into the future.

Melbourne is a UNESCO City of Literature and has a proud history of great Australian writing, whether readers' tastes run to Helen Garner or Christos Tsiolkas, George Johnston, Alice Pung or our most recent Creative Writing Awards winner, Yamiko Marama.

Melbourne City of Literature research tells us that Melburnians consume more books, magazines and newspapers per capita than any other Australian city.

We know how important writers are to our community and the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards are firmly

grounded in this deep wellspring of literature. In recognising emerging writers, we aim to promote our city as a place of ideas and creativity.

The awards offer plenty of scope across all genres.

This year sees the introduction of a new category. The inaugural Self-told Stories by Writers Living with a Disability will provide an opportunity for underrepresented voices in media and literature.

The Life Writing Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers will be awarded to an outstanding work that discusses or highlights a uniquely Victorian story of Australia's First People. This prize supports City of Melbourne's ongoing commitment to promoting Indigenous culture and reconciliation.

Winners in each category receive \$2000. The overall winner of the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Award will win an additional \$10,000. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply for all categories.

The awards close Thursday 30 June.

For more information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/writingawards](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/writingawards)

The Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards include the following categories:

- The Dorothy Porter Award for Poetry (up to 100 lines)
- Narrative Non-fiction (no more than 5000 words)
- Short Story Set in Melbourne (no more than 5000 words)
- Life Writing Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers (no more than 5000 words)
- Self-told Stories by Writers Living with a Disability (no more than 5000 words).



Submit your short story to the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards

# MELBOURNE'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS AND INNOVATION IN MAY

Ideas, opportunities and innovation will take over Melbourne's CBD from 9 to 15 May for narm ngarrgu | Melbourne Knowledge Week 2022.

Over seven days, more than 100 events will bring great thinkers and inquisitive learners together for what is the City of Melbourne's annual festival of ideas for a smart and innovative city.

More than 25 venues will be activated with interactive events, panels, workshops and performances, while Little Lonsdale Street will become a knowledge precinct attracting tens of thousands of innovators, gamers, thinkers and leaders.

Highlights of the narm ngarrgu | Melbourne Knowledge Week 2022 program include:

- A keynote presentation on the role of song in maintaining cultural knowledge and traditions, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musician, producer and creative entrepreneur Jessie Lloyd.
- Lord Mayor Sally Capp joins leaders from Melbourne's key tertiary institutions to discuss: Is knowledge more important for Melbourne's future than sport, retail or hospitality?
- Taking the Numb out of Numbers, featuring data journalist, writer and

illustrator Mona Chalabi, Data Editor of the Guardian US and host of the popular TED podcast "Am I normal?". Her mission is to enable people to find and question the data they need to make informed decisions about their lives.

- At Library at the Dock, create your own DIY game controller, experience emerging gaming technologies such as eye trackers and new virtual reality devices, and discover locally created indie video games.
- Play rock, paper, scissors with a robot arm, marvel at next generation solar panels and check out the latest inventions to improve city greening and enhance accessibility at Prototype Street.

• An expanded program for kids and families, including a games day and activities, workshops and interactive exhibitions across the city.

• Several Aboriginal-led events, including a focus on urban Aboriginal history and data sovereignty.

• Stories Around the Levantine Table: a series of events that connect cultures and knowledge through the language of food.

More than 80 per cent of the program is free.

Melbourne Knowledge Week solidifies Melbourne's status as a university city.

For program details, visit [mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au)



Inspire your kids at family-friendly events

# COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE COMMUNITY

We're holding the second Future Melbourne Committee meeting of each month in community locations across the municipality.

We want to make it easier for people to engage with councillors and staff and shine a light on the unique needs of each neighbourhood.

This month, join us in Docklands on Tuesday 17 May at 6pm at The Hub @ Docklands, 80 Harbour Esplanade.

For more information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil)



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# Docklands re-envisioned through the practice of parkour

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
EVENTS

Local parkour and movement coaching organisation Melbourne in Motion is set to take over Docklands on May 14 with a series of hour-long workshops as part of this year's Melbourne Knowledge Week.

The "Parkour Vision" sessions will take place in and around Docklands upon starting at the Library at the Dock and encourage attendees to engage in the concept of "urban play".

"We are doing a physical and interactive workshop like we did last year, but this year we are also introducing some simple parkour skills and inviting people to think about how they view the city and construct their vision of the city through an embodied practice," Melbourne in Motion director and parkour coach Kel Glaister said.

As someone who found her way into parkour after a dislocated shoulder led her to "being afraid of doing anything", Ms Glaister said parkour helped her feel stronger mentally and physically.

She said the practice also fitted in with the themes of the City of Melbourne festival, which is aimed at showing innovations and inventions shaping our future, due to how it encourages people to use new ways to relate to their surroundings.

"Parkour is really a practice for re-envisioning the city around you and re-envisioning your urban environment for what makes you happy," she said.



"Parkour vision is essentially an entirely new way to see where you are and understand both the way the city is designed to control your behaviour and how you can play through those designs."

"We are trying to introduce parkour and other urban related practices as a way to get an embodied understanding that the city is for citizens and for play, joy and movement as well as for all the things it is designed for."

While Ms Glaister and the team at Melbourne in Motion have a clear vision of how they see their practice, there is a constant box they are put into when people hear the term parkour.

Not wanting parkour to be "pigeonholed" due to videos seen on social media, she said the practice was not something done by only young-abled bodies or thrill-seeking men.

"It's a misinterpretation of parkour as a practice. One of the core philosophies of parkour is to train for longevity and we want to be training and moving well our whole lives," Ms Glaister said.

"This means slowly building up strength and conditioning to protect the body and developing risk intelligence and the ability to assess challenges."

Escaping any association with people dan-

gerously scaling buildings and rooftops, Ms Glaister said a lot of the training they did was "almost all at ground level" with modifications being made to suit all levels of fitness, abilities and confidence.

For the Melbourne Knowledge Week sessions, there will be two family sessions at 10.30am and 12.30pm, with a general audience session being held at 11.30am.

A range of more than 100 interactive events, workshops and performances will also take place during the festival running from May 9 to 15, with something for all ages.

"Melbourne Knowledge Week will explore exciting opportunities, tackle challenges and build the skills we need to shape our future – solidifying Melbourne's status as a university city," the council's education and innovation portfolio lead Cr Davydd Griffiths said.

"We want to support inquisitive minds and encourage learning at all ages, and this event is the ideal forum for our great thinkers and learners to come together to exchange ideas."

For the first time in the Melbourne Knowledge Week's history, the festival will also carry the name *narrm ngarrgu*, and both *Woi Wurrung* and English names will be used across the festival regarding the various themes of the event ●

**For more information:**  
[mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## Council to review sister city relationships

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has pledged to review its arrangements with international cities, less than two months after suspending ties with St Petersburg following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

A review would be the council's first evaluation of its "sister city" ties in over a decade, with the last coming in 2010.

The council did not mention the St Petersburg link as a reason for the review, other than to say the assessment was "timely and critical".

"In light of the vast changes in the global landscape and the new priorities within the current council strategic frameworks, it is timely and critical to commence the review," a council document presented at an April 26 meeting read.

"This will ensure [the] City of Melbourne engages with the right cities and networks, in order to serve

clear council business objectives and continue to deliver the best possible outcomes for Melbourne."

On March 1 the council suspended its connections with the Russian port city, and the review will almost certainly spell the end of a sister city relationship that dates back to 1989.

"Our federal government has clearly stated that Australia does not accept the illegal acts of violence and war by the Russian government," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said at that meeting.

"I support this national stance and I think it's appropriate that the city makes a clear statement of support for the people of Ukraine and St Petersburg by using the lever that we do have within our control, which is to consider the status of our sister city relationship with St Petersburg."

Greens councillors Rohan Leppert, who initiated the process at Town Hall to suspend the relationship, has said that the City of Melbourne almost cut ties with the Russian city in 2014-15 over what he said was a

"spate of homophobic attacks that were occurring at that time."

He said that, at the time, the council was convinced by Russians living in Melbourne to maintain the ties.

"It was a difficult decision, and we were strongly, strongly influenced by the Russian diaspora here in Melbourne saying there are two sorts of relationships; one is with the government, one is with the people. This really has been a sister city relationship that works with the people of St Petersburg."

Sister city partnerships generally strengthen economic and cultural ties between cities, and many are long-standing agreements.

The city's partnership with St Petersburg, for example, was for more than 30 years while Melbourne's official connection with the Japanese city of Osaka has now reached a 44th year.

The council's closest ties, which it describes having a "robust relationship", are with five Asian cities:

Osaka, Tianjin, Nanjing, Suzhou, and Bandung.

It also has relationships with Milan, Boston, Thessaloniki and Chengdu.

The council is said to be exploring emerging opportunities across India.

Cr Phillip Le Liu rejected any suggestion that sister city relationships did not deliver tangible benefits.

"A sister city provides a formal connection for governments and al-

*"I support this national stance and I think it's appropriate that the city makes a clear statement of support for the people of Ukraine and St Petersburg by using the lever that we do have within our control..."*



lows industry and community groups to use that as an opportunity to establish or create dialogue," he said.

"When people talk about it as a soft or fluffy thing, it's not, because when you actually have an established sister city relationship it's something you can use for government means to actually get the ball moving."

Recommendations from the review are expected to come before councillors in October ●

# ELLEN SANDELL

## GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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## Inflation rate fires up Socialists

*The cost of living was on everyone's lips down at The District Docklands on Saturday April 30 in the lead-up to the Federal election.*

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
ELECTIONS

Victorian Socialists candidate Colleen Bolger was there handing out how-to-vote cards.

"Inflation is rising more quickly than it has done," Ms Bolger said. "It's nudged up to five per cent."

The shock increase in inflation, the biggest for 20 years, will affect many students and workers living nearby in high-rise towers.

But the CBD lawyer, who is standing for the Melbourne electorate, says that it has been difficult to talk directly with voters in Docklands.

Ms Bolger is the first candidate retail workers have seen campaigning at the shopping centre.

Retail workers told *Docklands News* that the major parties don't campaign here as many of the local residents don't have Australian citizenship and aren't eligible to vote.

Ms Bolger said that the Socialists have worked with residents' groups in the CBD, but she wasn't aware of any residents' associations in Docklands.

Some candidates have run strong social media campaigns in Docklands in the past but the Socialists "put a premium on our connections with people," she said.

"The Socialist Party has less recognition so it's important for us to speak with people. We do a lot of door knocking in Carlton, Richmond, Fitzroy, North Fitzroy and Collingwood."

"We're seeing more and more apartments up between elections. We have less ability to knock on people's doors."

"[I spoke to] only one person who I approached out of 20 or 30 lived here. That means it's very difficult to reach local people."

"I think that if the major parties weren't so disconnected from the cost of living issues, people would engage more."

Ms Bolger said the party's most popular policy was to reduce the salaries of parliamentarians to that of an average skilled worker such

as a teacher.

The party is also campaigning for the minimum hourly rate for retail and hospitality workers to be raised to \$30 an hour and for rent caps.

"A lot of people rent," she said. "Rents should be capped with people's income."

"For those that own apartments they will be subject to higher interest rates that are coming so the issues that face people are essentially about housing affordability and wages not keeping up with inflation."

Ms Bolger works as a lawyer for a firm in La Trobe St and as a workplace rep for the Australian Services Union Private.

During the lockdown she campaigned for pandemic leave for infected employees and extra time off for mothers when childcare shut.

Her day job involves litigation on behalf of those suffering from asbestos related diseases such as mesothelioma.

Colleen is not related to Irene Bolger, the feisty campaigner for the Nurses' Federation, but she approves of her methods.

"It's been nearly one hundred years since there was a socialist member in parliament," she said.

"I'm standing in Melbourne because it's a go-ahead electorate. People are young and the two biggest issues are the cost of living and climate change."

She has some choice words to say about past ALP governments and their role in whittling away at workers' rights to strike and takes a swipe at the Greens for now being part of the establishment.

She says it's a pity that the only controversial members of Parliament are those on the right such as Clive Palmer or Pauline Hanson.

"What about the left wing? We need to bring back the idea of people making a fuss. We don't need to play by the rules."

The Victorian Socialists are standing 11 candidates for the Federal election which will be held on May 21 ●

## Cranes named by local grade ones

WORDS BY Sophie Berrill  
COMMUNITY

If you've recently passed through the new Melbourne Quarter precinct between Flinders and Collins streets opposite Southern Cross Station, you might have noticed some interesting names emblazoned on four cranes.

"Linda", "Super Lifter", "Mr Cart" and "School" were the names chosen by four creative Grade One students from Docklands Primary School.

Developer Lendlease held the name-a-crane competition to creatively engage the school, which opened last year.

Julia called her crane Linda. Why? "It's my sister's name," she said.

Maithili named his crane Mr Cart "because it's similar to a crane and has a 'C' as its first letter," he explained.

Devansh gave his crane the heroic moniker "Super Lifter" as "it's a cool name and cranes can lift anything, so they're super!"

And finally, Spyro's crane, which will join the others later this year, is simply named "School".

"I love school!" Spyro clarified.

Besides their task to help build the new Melbourne Quarter Tower, the cranes will also light up with symbolic colours on important community dates, from Naidoc Week to World Aids Day.



The 34-level building will become Medibank's new national headquarters, with the entire tower set to be home to around 15,000 employees.

With construction expected to finish in 2024, Melbourne Quarter Tower will complete the precinct's public square and the final phase of the elevated Sky Park, the first of its kind in Melbourne ●



▲ Minister Pearson, Caroline Pitcher, Professor Marie Sierra, Matt Vitins.

Photo: Daniel Mahon.

## Docklands Studios investment secures new domestic and international film production

WORDS BY Rebecca Broadhead  
ARTS & CULTURE

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments will deliver cutting-edge new virtual production infrastructure and economic support at Docklands Studios Melbourne for the new TV series *Metropolis* by NBCUniversal's Universal Studio Group.

*Metropolis* is an eight-part television series inspired by the Fritz Lang science fiction work set in a dystopic city in the future where a utopic culture of people exist above a struggling working class underworld. The project is expected to contribute \$188 million to the Australian economy alone.

It is estimated that the pipeline of projects supported by the Location Incentive and the Victorian Screen Incentive could contribute up to \$621 million in direct spend across a five-year production period to 2027.

More than 700 cast and crew and 2500 employees will be employed to work on *Metropolis*, with an estimated 700 local businesses and service providers set to benefit from the local production.

The investment is part of the Commonwealth Government's long-term economic plan to create more jobs.

Federal Minister for Employment, Workforce, and Skills, Stuart Robert, said, "By supporting projects like this, the Morrison Government is ensuring we are building on our track record of delivering a record number of trade apprentices and more traineeships for Australians."

The evocative sci-fi series will benefit by new infrastructure including one of the largest permanent "LED volumes" – high-tech digital screens that can display realistic background environments and visual effects.

This technology, which was used to fashion worlds in the *Star Wars* series, *The Mandalorian*, will be configured for high-bud-

get international films and television series.

A second LED volume, adapted for more contained scenes, will attract domestic, as well as international, productions.

Victorian Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said, "With this industry-leading infrastructure capability, we're putting Victoria at the forefront of the global screen industry. Together with the recent addition of our new super sound stage, this will make Victoria the go-to place for ambitious screen productions."

The Victorian Government is providing \$12.5 million to deliver the infrastructure and the Federal Government is also backing the series, providing \$5 million to support students with training to work with this state-of-the-art technology as part of a national upskilling program.

Commonwealth Minister for the Arts Paul Fletcher MP said, "The funding provided for *Metropolis* responds to this outstanding opportunity for the Australian screen sector, firstly to achieve a permanent installation of this world-leading technology which can be used by other productions as well; and secondly, to train Australian screen professionals in the use of this technology, helping them keep their skills at world-leading levels."

The virtual production workforce training program on *Metropolis* will place a number of paid trainees with visual effects houses, games developers and other companies engaged in virtual production. Universal Studio Group and Matchbox Pictures will also establish a partnership with the Victorian College of the Arts that will enable students to develop technical skills in virtual production.

The recent completion of Sound Stage 6 at Docklands Studios Melbourne, addition of LED volumes and financial support for the series will substantially advance both Victoria's and Australia's strategic position as a leading screen production destination ●

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## DOCKLANDER



## Docklander couple believes they have “everything at their fingertips”

*For Shane and Sue Mason, the saying “the world is your oyster” has never rung more true since they made the call to move to Docklands nearly four years ago.*

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Moving from the Mornington Peninsula to the city wasn't an idea Shane was completely sold on at the time, but with Sue constantly having to travel to South Melbourne for work, it became an option worth considering.

“I didn't want to leave Mornington, but I said to Sue that if she found a nice apartment we would do it, and then she found a nice apartment,” Shane said.

“Everything is at your fingertips here, and I now say to people all the time that if they haven't thought about apartment living, they should.”

Now strong advocates of the area, Shane and Sue said they “love the proximity” of Docklands as there was easy access to football grounds where they could support Hawthorn, a team they are “mad” supporters of.

They are also regular visitors to art shows and the Kino Cinemas where they are members. But what has made the move all the more successful, is their willingness to do their part for the community.

Encouraged by Sue to get more involved in the community as a way of settling into their new city-living life, Shane joined the community garden on Geographe St before also embarking on putting his own stamp on the over-60s community.

“I joined the garden and started meeting people there, and now my job is to water every Tuesday. I also help out the main head gardener as well,” he said.

“I also thought a good way to meet people would be to see if there was a Melbourne group of an Australian-wide organisation I had seen on Facebook called ‘Starts at 60’. But there wasn't one, so I thought I would create a ‘Starts at 60’ Docklands group and now we have been running for three years.”

With the Facebook page now having close to 50 members, the self-appointed “60s Dockers” members organise to catch up at least once a month for a coffee, a meal and a chat.

The dedicated page also remains active as a support space to encourage one another to connect.

As very involved Docklands community members, Sue and Shane are both making the most of the time they now get to escape their apartment following two years of staring at the same four walls.

Although grateful for the change of scenery, the time inside wasn't all lost on Sue as it gave her the opportunity to embark on a whole new adventure of reaching her goal of becoming a published author.

Dabbling in poetry and other forms of writing in the past, it wasn't until lockdown that Sue began exploring her abilities as a children's book author.

“I have always been a bit of a writer and wanted to do something like a kids' book, then over COVID through lockdown there wasn't much to do so I started contemplating how it would go,” she said.

“I wrote the first one and then it just went from there. I just couldn't stop. It's about a little bear called Mango and how he is trying to find a friend. There are five books in the series, and they are all broken up into different seasons with the final one being about his third birthday.”

The first book of the series, which Sue has successfully self-published, is called *Mango's Winter Wonderland* and contains both rhyming and illustrations on each page.

Drawn to the main character of the brown bear due to the concerns spread in the media about their treatment in certain circuses across the world, Sue hopes her book can create positive steps forward.

In addition to a donation from every book going towards the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), an organisation conducting works to conserve and protect endangered species, Sue has had a couple of books go on to be donated to local libraries and schools.

This included one being donated to Lismore Library following the devastating floods that took place in the NSW town.

“It's been nice to see people sharing it around the community, and I personally would also like to donate one of the books to the local Docklands Primary School. I think it's something I could do for the community,” Sue said.

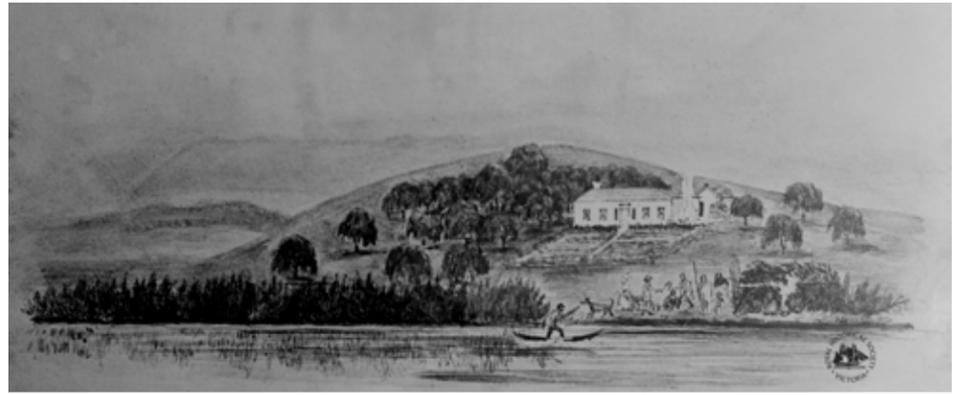
After self-publishing the first edition and noticing the positive feedback she has received, Sue is currently hoping to go through a publisher with the next four books of *Mango's* adventures.

But until then, both Sue and Shane continue to embark on their own adventures in Docklands of making the most of the place they now call home.

“We have just embraced [Docklands] and it will be hard to leave if and when we need to,” Sue said ●

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

## HISTORY



## The duels of Batman's Hill

This sketch, drawn sometime after 1863 (according to the annotation), displays the western boundary of Melbourne during the 1830s. Perched on the hill, is a house that once was the home of John Batman, the city's founder.

While it no longer exists, Batman's Hill has played many roles in Melbourne's history. After Batman died, the building was used as a government office and a hospital. The hill was also the site for a gunpowder magazine, the city's first ever racecourse, and a temporary home for the Melbourne Cricket Club (this story deserves its own article some day).

The hill was eventually levelled in the 1860s to make way for extensions to the Spencer Street Railway Station.

However, it was also the site of some of the most daring of all colonial customs, where gentlemen put their honour (and lives) on the line: a pistol duel at 20 paces.

Up until the 19th century, if there was a tiff between two hot-blooded gentlemen over a woman, debts, or even a simple insult, they would protect their honour (or the woman's) by using their swords or pistols. The confrontations would be mediated by their assistants, also known as seconds, and books published about the arcane and complicated duelling etiquette and rules. By the 1830s the practice was becoming archaic, and had become illegal in England, but that didn't stop the newly arrived settlers of Port Phillip from having their fun.

One of the first recorded duels in Melbourne (if not the first) was at Batman's Hill on May 30, 1839. The two duellists were people influential in Melbourne's formation. The challenger was Dr Barry Cotter, Melbourne's first surgeon, as well as a pastoralist and racehorse owner. *The Tasmanian* (March 10, 1837) claims that Cotter owned one of the two horses that partook in Victoria's first horse race on February 8, 1837 (which he lost). Some sources, including a Mr P. Barber (*The Argus*, November 3, 1945), claim the race took place at Batman's Hill, over a year before the first Melbourne Racing Club meetings were held there.

Cotter's duelling opponent was the young (being thought to be just 18 or 19) George Arden, the editor and co-proprietor of the *Port Phillip Gazette*, one of the city's first newspapers. While the *raison d'être* for their duel is lost to history, we do know that when the two raised their pistols at 16 paces, Cotter fired first with a shaky hand. While his bullet pierced the beaver hat of his assistant (a Mr Meek), it otherwise harmed no one, and Arden in return purposefully but honourably eloped, fired his bullet away from his foe.

That duel would be overshadowed by the extraordinary circumstances that happened a few months later on the night of January 1, 1840. The recently formed social club, the Melbourne Club, was throwing a party for the new year, when tensions flared between two of its members. One was Peter Snodgrass, a squatter and son of a lieutenant-colonel; the other was William Ryrie, a fellow squatter, would-be-magistrate, and owner of a small vineyard in Yering (cited as the first commercial vineyard in Victoria). Snodgrass took offence at Ryrie for reasons also lost to history and challenged him to a duel the next morning at Batman's Hill.

However, it didn't take long for the club to realise they had overlooked an important detail: they had no pistols!

Their solution was to borrow some from Joseph Hawdon, best known as an overlander, cattle grazer and mail carrier. However, as

Hawdon home was at Heidelberg, eight miles away, Ryrie's second, T. F. Hilton, volunteered to collect them. After a hectic race through the dead of night through bushland, Hilton was able to wake Hawdon, collect the weapons, and return to the clubrooms by 1am. However, a second issue soon arose: they had no gunpowder! The shop that usually sold gunpowder had blown up in a freak explosion (likely J. Blanch's Emporium, as mentioned in *Docklands News*, August 2020). Buying gunpowder from anywhere else in the middle of the night was likely going to attract the attention of the authorities. They had little option but to visit military commandant Captain Smith at Bourke St West.

When Snodgrass's second, Lt Vignolles, refused to see his superior out of fear of his status being endangered, Hilton again volunteered. While the journey wasn't as long, it was just as dramatic. As Hilton convinced Smith to give up the goods, Smith's wife caught them in the act and badgered the poor second. Hilton's coat was so roughed up in the confrontation that when he escaped, he was left (in Garryowen's words) “with a divided skirt but rent up to the shoulder blades” (*The Age*, January 17, 1885). After that trip, the group then fetched a surgeon, D. J. Thomas, to assist them in case someone was wounded.

When morning broke, Snodgrass and Ryrie faced each other for the duel, their nerves likely jittery at the thought of facing their possible demise. Snodgrass's trigger finger got impatient, and as he lifted his pistol, fired prematurely - into his own foot!

Ryrie had no choice but to elope and divert his shot away from his fallen foe as the surgeon checked up on Snodgrass. While Snodgrass's toe would be fine, the group were now drunk and deflated from the duel's anti-climactic end. Out of boredom one suggested using the surgeon for a target practice, but Thomas shrewdly bargained to use his bell-topper hat instead and pinned it to a tree, where the men let out their frustrations for the rest of the morning.

Both duellists would live for several more years after the duel, with Snodgrass going on to claim a seat in Victoria's first Legislative Assembly and its first Legislative Council. However, his inclination to duel didn't die as in 1841 he faced a young lawyer in another encounter near Sandridge (Port Melbourne). Peter again fired prematurely (though without the indignity of hurting himself), leading to another honourable draw.

And as for Peter's opponent? He was none other than Redmond Barry, the first Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, and later a judge on the Supreme Court of Victoria who oversaw the Eureka Stockade trials. While he was lucky to avoid a fatal bullet, the chilling circumstances of his eventual demise still echo in folklore. One day he sentenced a particular outlaw to hang, and as he proclaimed, “May God have mercy upon your soul”, the condemned rebutted with, “I will go a little further than that, and say I will see you there when I go.”

The outlaw, Ned Kelly, was hanged on November 11, 1880. Twelve days later, Barry indeed joined him into the next life, dying from complications of lung failure ●



*Ashley Smith*

RESEARCHER  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
VICTORIA

ABBY'S ANGLE

# Balance

*It's a word that's thrown around a lot and really, by definition, it probably shouldn't be. It's a word that has become so overused, that it's easy to forget the simplicity of its meaning.*

We are always offered sage advice when things are getting hectic to "get some balance". And when life, share prices, the real estate market etc., is a roller coaster of ups and downs, we tend to review by considering everything "on the balance" of things.

Then of course, there are the situations that are "in the balance" where it will soon be decided one way or the other where things will fall ...

Balance has been my word for the month, and I'm gaining some terrific understanding of just how important it is to have it.

Like so many of you, my personal life has been driven to meet the demands (and delights) of running my own business and being a single mum. Hectic! "Get some balance" they'd warn.

My perception of this so-called balance was a lofty concept that required some free time, of which I had none.

However, after steadfastly committing myself to a lifetime of deadlines, I decided it was time to MAKE some time for myself and added a gym session and a yoga session to my schedule. As much as I hate to say it, "they" were right.

The balance has come not just from literally balancing my working hours to include time for me, BUT in the stunning realisation that I feel so much better from this time away from the phone, emails and demands of life that I'm all the stronger coming back to it.

The few hours spent in these activities brings a difference that stays well past the session times. Aha, first light bulb moment that balance really is about yourself not just your schedule.

The second light bulb moment came at the first yoga class. This was where I realised, I had not only been apparently lacking life balance, but most certainly continued to lack, well, basic balance.

It's a lot harder to stand on one leg and raise the other behind you than you would think. After a fair amount of hilarity at my near face plants, it's something that I am now immensely enjoying, striving for better physical balance! And to round out the month, as I feel more and more like "me", truly awakening and wanting to enjoy life and all she has to offer, I realise that I also need to assess my own commitments within my life. Because I've found that I really want there to be room for these newfound freedoms - I guess you could say that situation is "in the balance" and I'm not sure what's going to give to make way for my new health kick, but I can tell you something is!

Wherever you are on your path, whether you have everything held together, or you have everything in disarray, whether you feel you're standing steady or wobbling around on one foot - take a moment out for yourself. Then take some time out for yourself.

Seek what you enjoy, are challenged by, and love - and see if that break helps you find a path that will not only keep you steady but will equal out some of the things that are going on.

Maybe this "finding balance" they speak of, is the goal after all.

Till next month, Abby xx ●



Abby Crawford  
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STATE MP

# Arts venues at risk: we must save the Nicholas Building and The Curtin Hotel

*“Arts and culture is central to Melbourne’s identity. Personally, it’s one of the main reasons I love to live here. Hopping on a tram to the Comedy Festival, seeing a show at La Mama, or being able to enjoy a live music gig almost any time of the week or year are some of the great pleasures of being a Melburnian.”*



It's wonderful to finally see the shows, fun and creativity slowly returning to our city, yet during the past few years, Melbourne has unfortunately lost many of our iconic cultural venues and heritage buildings. The Palace/Metro Theatre is just one example that springs to mind. Worryingly, now two more arts and creative species are at imminent risk: the Nicholas Building and The Curtin Hotel.

The Nicholas Building, a gorgeous art deco landmark on Swanston St, is unique. This heritage building houses a community of more than 200 artists, creatives and other independent enterprises (think artists, writers, shoemakers and more). But now the building is for sale - at

risk of being turned into more apartments.

The Curtin Hotel - a heritage live music venue and pub in Carlton that needs little introduction - is facing a similar fate. Its owners have also put it up for sale.

Heritage arts venues like the Nicholas Building and the Curtin are special and increasingly rare in our city. Once lost, they'll be gone forever. Heritage buildings don't get rebuilt. With the loss of every venue and creative space, Melbourne loses a little more of its cultural heart.

But there is a small window, right now, to save them. The only problem is - the state government is not coming to the party.

For the Nicholas Building, the City of Melbourne and philanthropists are willing to contribute significant funds and support to buy this building and ensure it stays as a hub for creative industry workers. But they need a small amount of support from the state government - something the Labor Government is refusing to do.

For The Curtin - the government could also step in and buy it, but have not committed to do so, despite community groups and unions pitching in with fundraisers and campaigns.

These are unique buildings. There are very few left in our city, and modest funds and support from the state government is all it would take to save them.

If these buildings are sold, it will be a huge loss to our city, to creative worker jobs, and to Melbourne's culture.

During the past few months I've been working hard in the community and in Parliament to try and reverse the state government's position. I'll continue to campaign to ensure they are not lost. If you'd like to get involved, please contact my office by emailing us [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com) and we can let you know how you can help!

You can also read more about my plans to support the arts and rebuild a thriving Melbourne CBD at [greens.org.au/vic/cbd](https://greens.org.au/vic/cbd)

As always, if there is anything I can help you with, please get in touch ●



Ellen Sandell  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE  
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SKYPAD LIVING

# Micromobility infrastructure in vertical villages

*Many vertical villages are investigating electric vehicle recharging options, but e-cars are not the only vehicles that need these facilities.*

While the demand for electric vehicles (EV) has not grown as fast as initially predicted, it is believed that vehicle charging facilities will increasingly be valued by residents of vertical villages.

In recognition of this, our vertical villages are being encouraged to become "EV Ready".

According to advice from agencies such as Energy Saver (NSW), this starts with a resident survey to gauge demand. Next comes an energy assessment, followed by a consideration of infrastructure and associated payment options.

To date, however, such assessments typically focus on the needs of one type of electric vehicle - e-cars.

But as residents of Melbourne well know, there are other types of e-vehicles - such as eScooters, eBikes and e-cargo bikes. Referred to as micromobility vehicles or personal mobility devices (PMDs), supporters claim several benefits for the rider. These include affordability (e.g., rental/purchase price and running costs, especially parking!), convenience (including satisfying the first- and last-mile transportation gaps), time saving (avoiding traffic snarls) and sustainability (i.e. producing low levels of pollution and/or as a car substitute). Note: mobility scooters and powerchairs are also micromobility vehicles but have a different value proposition.

As regards the benefits for our city, policy

makers cite decreased stress on transportation networks, reduced traffic congestion, reduced carbon footprint and improved transport equity.

This now puts Melbourne's current eScooter trial in a different light - for while some view eScooters as a recreational novelty (annoyance) for tourists, the real point of this trial is to test if these devices can be formally incorporated into Victoria's transport mix. The questions to be answered are: Do they bring the promised benefits? If so, at what cost? And what needs to be changed to effectively integrate micromobility into our existing transport ecosystem?

Victoria is not alone in seeking to so incorporate micromobility vehicles.

In the UK, Baroness Vere stated that in 2023 the UK Department of Transport would legislate for micromobility, establishing a new class of vehicle - a "Personal Transporter".

Meanwhile Paris (France) has begun a pilot project to install 150 dock, lock and charge points for micromobility vehicles across the "Paris Rive Gauche". This project aims to demonstrate how universal charging infrastructure can accelerate micromobility use.

As regards Melbourne, our current schemes promote rental eScooters, meaning that riders do not have to store, recharge or maintain these vehicles.

However, the situation will change if/when significant numbers of commuters choose to purchase their own micromobility vehicle - and want to store, recharge and maintain it at their home.

This will be a particular issue for vertical villages, especially in terms of managing common property.

Indeed, if privately owned eScooters and eBikes become a formal part of Melbourne's

transport strategy, vertical villages may be required to offer supporting facilities.

For example, we may be asked (by residents and/or government) to provide:

- Secure storage: questions here involve availability of space and whether the owners' corporation will allow eScooters to be stored in apartments (consider the wear and tear on lifts and hallway carpets);
- Recharging: issues here include existing access to power and how costs can be paid/recovered;
- Support facilities: might your owners' corporation provide facilities for minor repairs?

In addition to this, thought will need to be given to the authorisation process, as approvals for changes to common property are no easy matter.

Returning to the notion of being "EV Ready", if micromobility vehicles do become officially integrated into our transport system (as is happening in other cities), then vertical villages will need to ensure we incorporate these new micromobility demands into both our EV infrastructure refits and our maintenance plans.

And we need to ensure that government EV support schemes include vertical villages as a priority for funding! ●



Dr Janette Corcoran  
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT  
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# Heritage *really* matters to Docklands and Australia

*Docklands residents and businesses know only too well that heritage asset protection is non-existent in Docklands. For example: Central Pier.*

Despite state and national heritage protection, this heritage asset has been neglected to the point of demolition.

Be vigilant. A similar fate awaits the heritage-listed Shipping Control Tower on the tip of North Wharf. This pattern of neglect in the Docklands Precinct is obvious and shameful.

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) is supporting the Australian Heritage Advocacy Alliance (AHAA) campaign during the lead-up to the federal election – because Heritage matters – really matters.

For the first time in an Australian election, a campaign is being waged by AHAA to make sure all candidates around Australia understand what is at stake if nothing is done to reform heritage protection policy in this nation.

Once abundant Docklands precinct heritage assets have largely been destroyed. Others remain in jeopardy, threatened in the now familiar pattern of demolition by neglect.

Just imagine the wealth in industrial heritage assets which once existed in Docklands. Melbourne boasted that its Docklands (i.e., your neighbourhood) was the “most mechanised” in the Commonwealth. Victoria Harbour docks handled more than two million tonnes of cargo annually and it remained Melbourne’s most used dock until well into the 1960s.

So much of the maritime heritage infrastructure underpinning Victoria’s prosperity has been simply dumped as scrap metal and timber.

Reflect on the significance of the Shipping Control Tower you see today. It says so much about Docklands’ once splendid heritage.

In 1962, public/private consultations led to the construction of the Port of Melbourne central control “station” to co-ordinate shipping, towage pilots and emergency services in the extraordinarily busy port.

A two-deck reinforced concrete tower was built with a lift and stairs – one deck for observation and the other for radar and communications, manned 24 hours a day.

Such was the importance of the port operations in Docklands to the public of Melbourne that the Shipping Tower’s immensely popular automated telephone service provided shipping information on 116,995 calls in the first year of operation.



▲ Photos: Courtesy of Donna Nutter.

The tower you see now replaced a timber octagonal watch tower built in 1934.

Elsewhere in the world such public heritage assets such as the Shipping Tower are recognised and protected as having significant social, cultural and economic value.

Industrial heritage sites and assets are rightly celebrated, protected and have been recognised as underpinning the cultural tourism boom in the UK prior to COVID.

The question arises – while we still have some maritime heritage assets remaining in Docklands, surely, we must learn from this UK experience?

AHAA thinks so, and so does the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN). The forthcoming federal election is an opportunity to make politicians focus on the value of heritage assets and halt further irreplaceable heritage loss.

MMHN joins with the AHAA in trying to break through decades of political apathy and failure to recognise the significant “value” of Australia’s unique national heritage assets, like those already lost in Docklands.

AHAA wrote to 3000-plus heritage enthu-

siasts calling for examples of heritage assets lost and heritage assets under threat. Many responded. You will find reference to Docklands there. Visit the AHAA website: [ahaa.net.au/heritage-lost-threatened](http://ahaa.net.au/heritage-lost-threatened)

AHAA also wrote to 1000-plus candidates in 151 electorates around Australia. Many candidates are not yet aware that all over Australia, this pattern we see in Docklands of “squander by neglect” is happening Australia-wide. And it may yet happen to the Shipping Tower in your neighbourhood.

## What does the federal election mean for maritime heritage in Docklands?

Much is at stake. AHAA and MMHN invites you to get engaged.

Now is the time to make sure all candidates are aware that heritage assets really matter and that those elected take action to reform heritage policy. It is a “no-brainer”.

In October 2020, an independent review of the federal heritage protection legislation (*EPBC Act 1999*) found that Australia’s heritage protection system was broken. Fundamental policy reform is required.

MMHN and AHAA encourage you to take every opportunity during this pre-election political “gab-fest” to:

- Ask candidates about heritage policy reform and a national approach.
- Ask candidates about their plans for heritage funding. Better heritage protection requires better funding, e.g., the successful UK Heritage Lottery – which is why AHAA is advocating “solutions” during this election.
- Ask candidates to support a dedicated Ministry of Heritage. Responsibility for heritage is languishing in the largely ignored portfolio of Agriculture Water and the Environment. Australia can do better than this.

Squandering irreplaceable heritage assets must cease. Much is at stake. This is the time to put heritage on the political agenda ●

**For more information visit:**  
[ahaa.net.au](http://ahaa.net.au)



Jackie Watts

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# Connect with your local community

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

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

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

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

**f DOCKLANDS**  
CommunityHub



# Sex parties on short-stay platforms

*The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is about to be exposed to sordid details of drug- and alcohol-fuelled sex parties and strippers enriching a short-stay operator in a Melbourne apartment complex.*

SHORT-STAY LAWS	SA	NSW	QLD	TAS	VIC	WA
STRATA RULES	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
DAY CAP	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
REGISTRATION OR APPROVAL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
CODE	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
PARTY PENALTIES	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓

Outraged families, couples and singles in the suburban building are fed up with the drugged and drunken behaviour of short-stay guests and the insidious threat to residents' safety and security.

While residents have managed to get the short-stay operator banned from Airbnb and Stayz, the hens' nights and bucks' parties continue unabated.

One of the residents contacted us to describe the impact of the battle with the absentee sex party operator:

"This long-term behaviour has caused many problems. Most of the owners' corporation's (OC) time and money has been spent on dealing with the appalling situation: the maintenance and the security issues of having hordes of drunk and drugged people roaming the common areas between our apartments, lift areas, carpark and everything that comes with that!"

So far, there have been zero VCAT cases where orders have been made with damages awarded in favour of a complainant in this type of scenario under the so-called "short-stay party bill". Let's hope we see a precedent set in this case.

One option for which the OC may consider seeking advice is the new legislation regarding the benefit principle. The recent amendments to the *Owners' Corporation Act* cover scenarios where an OC may be allowed to charge additional maintenance and security costs to a lot owner benefitting from the service.

## Short-stay action around the nation

**NSW:** The short-stay operators register is scheduled to become publicly available this month. The legislation introduced in 2021 allowed for operators to be banned for repeated or gross breaches of the regulations. Open access to the register is essential for communities to be able to check on the status of operators. The most important aspect of the NSW legislation is the empowerment of OCs to vote on adopting by-laws (called rules in Victoria) that regulate short-term rental accommodation in their building. For example, an OC in NSW can legally limit short-stays to lots that are the host's principal residence, such as during a temporary absence. This reform is desperately needed in Victoria.

**Tasmania:** A mandatory registration system requires operators to have planning approval. Platforms like Airbnb can only market and sell permitted, registered and approved short-stay accommodation. The government has suggested that taking further measures should be up to local councils.

**Hobart:** Hobart City Council has implemented the first stage of a ban on new whole-home, short-stay accommodation in the inner-city area. Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds said: "This is really just trying to provide some balance in our housing market in Hobart so it's more affordable and more accessible to people who need to rent a home."

**Western Australia:** The WA state government has released a draft planning policy outlining proposed regulations for short-term rental accommodation. The government is proposing a registration system and a cap on the number of nights before planning approval is required. The recommendations also include giving powers to OCs to limit short stays. The draft planning policy is part of the WA government's response to the recommendations of the 2019 Parliamentary inquiry and report, *Levelling the Playing Field - Managing the impact of the rapid increase of Short-Term Rentals in Western Australia*.

**Queensland:** Short-stay operators must have council approval in Brisbane and Gold Coast. A recent QCAT precedent has upheld an OC rule to limit short stays, based on a community amenity argument.

**Brisbane:** The short-term rental of an entire apartment by the property owner requires development approval from the council. The council defines "short-term" as a stay of less than three consecutive months. The development application is assessed by the council against the short-term accommodation code in the City Plan. The council says that its City Plan is designed primarily to ensure that "adjoining (sic) residents or businesses are not significantly impacted by the use."

**Gold Coast:** In addition to enforcing its approval process, the council has amended its planning laws to ban or regulate so-called "party houses" with changes that have been criticised as inadequate.

**Noosa:** Not content with waiting for the state government to act, Noosa Council has introduced a registration and approval process, a mandatory code of conduct and a 24/7 council complaints hotline. The council will act as the intermediary between the complainant and short-stay operators. The council also gave itself the power to deploy security services to observe and record activity at properties. The council says it will recoup administration costs through fees and property rates with a special

rating category for short-stay properties.

The new laws were enacted after a stakeholder consultation process where the council says it was exposed to the depth of community frustration and anger.

**South Australia:** The SA government has drafted the *Short Term Holiday Rental Accommodation Bill* with a state-wide mandatory registration system of all listed short-term holiday rentals and a mandatory industry code of conduct. Proposed penalties for breaches range from \$1250 for loss of amenity to \$5000 for failure to register. Platforms like Airbnb could be fined for failure to show a registration number in a listing. Operators could be compelled to pay disaffected neighbours \$2000 in damages – and multiple residents could apply for compensation from an operator. While there is no upper limit on the aggregate payment awarded, it must be "proportionate" to the loss of amenity.

**Last and least, Victoria:** There is no effective state-wide regulation for short stays. The current, very limited short-stay "party" legislation has resulted in no orders against operators since it was introduced three years ago. On our assessment, Victoria is the least regulated of all states: Operator registration is not required, OCs have no powers to regulate short-stays, and the very low "party" penalties are virtually impossible to enforce.

Come on Victoria, let's catch up with the rest of the country! We are lagging far behind the timest of reforms. "We Live Here" will continue to advocate for the Victorian state government to learn from the progress made in other states and implement urgent reforms ●



## MISSION TO SEAFARERS

# A changing of the guard at the Mission

*After five years at the helm steering the Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) through the pandemic, and other choppy waters, outgoing CEO Sue Dight is sailing off into the sunset to take some leave, and get a new dog, before embarking on new projects.*

A figure well known to many in the shipping industry has taken up the role of chair at the Mission, with John Lines AM having been appointed for the next three years to continue the great work being done under Sue's leadership to support the welfare of seafarers.

Mr Lines was awarded the Order of Australia (AM) for services to the Australian shipping industry, and the honour of Chevalier de l'Ordre du

Merite Maritime from the French Government for services to the shipping industry.

Philip Cornish will take over as interim CEO, with three decades of experience in leadership positions across health, community and family services.

Philip has worked in both large and small organisations in both the public and not-for-profit sectors ●

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## DOCKLANDS NEWS



# Sore neck? Consider a chiro

“*Is your neck aching from endless browsing, swiping and texting? Do you wake up with a stiff neck from poor sleep? Maybe you've been practising some bad habits lately?*”



This Spinal Health Week (May 23 to 29) we are asking the Docklands community to consider a chiro for neck pain.

Research shows that neck pain is a leading cause of disability in adults (reported up to 20 per cent of adults), with many presenting for assessment. In the Global Burden of Disease study in 2010, neck pain ranked fourth highest in terms of disability and 21<sup>st</sup> in overall burden. Not surprisingly, neck pain (cervicalgia) constituted in the top five back problem hospitalisations in 2017-18.

With the average Australian spending more than five-and-a-half hours on their phone each day and a third of us checking our phone within five minutes of waking up each morning – means we are glued to our phones from the moment we wake up, to the moment we go to sleep!

Neck aches and pains are now a common occurrence placing a huge burden on mental health, relationships, ability to work and quality of life, and it doesn't stop at neck pain. Neck problems are a common trigger for headaches. They can also cause jaw problems, shoulder pain, or weakness and tingling into the arms and hands.

However, living with neck pain doesn't have to be part of everyday life. Implementing positive spinal health habits in the first place, including good posture, sleep hygiene and partaking in regular stretching and exercise regimes are important factors in preventing neck pain.

Dr Carla Cerra from Docklands Health said, “From standing, to sitting, to lifting, to sleeping – every position your body takes can have an impact on your spinal health. It's very common to go about your day and not pay attention to

some of your activities that may be having a detrimental effect on your neck, and it doesn't stop at neck pain. Neck problems are a common trigger for headaches. They can also cause jaw problems, shoulder pain, or weakness and tingling into the arms and hands.”

“Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in people seeking help for musculoskeletal pain, including the neck area, and we are conscious there may be many more people suffering in silence.”

Chiropractors want Australians to safeguard their quality of life and overall wellbeing by taking the time to assess their spinal health and address any neck aches or pains they may be feeling and seek the appropriate care.

Implementing positive spinal health habits in the first place, including good posture, sleep hygiene, and partaking in regular stretching and exercise regimes are important factors in preventing neck pain. Dr Carla suggests: “There are many things that can be incorporated into a day-to-day routine that can improve your neck health or help to assess if you need professional assistance.”

For example, these are three easy steps you can add into your daily life to help safeguard and improve your neck health:

- Take a 20-second “posture break” every 20 minutes.
- Regularly move your neck by performing slow and gentle shoulder rolls, neck rotations and neck side bends.
- Correct your neck posture – lightly draw your shoulders back to open your chest. Imagine gravity works in the reverse, gently lengthening your neck and allowing your chin to tuck in slightly.

If you are concerned about your neck health following two years of lockdown and disrupted routine, consider visiting your local chiropractor at Docklands Health to help you live your healthiest, most fulfilling life ●



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



# High-speed internet thrills are just a special resolution away ...

*Technology is advancing so quickly these days. That television set and that iPhone that we bought just three years ago (which still works just fine by the way) is all too quickly consigned to the obsolete pile, as consumer electronic brands compete to bring out the next biggest thing.*

In fact, we don't just need an iPhone to keep in touch, nowadays we also need an iWatch for when we walk out the front door and forget our iPhones.

In order to keep us connected to the world around us, the networks and cabling and telecommunication towers that line our cities and streets are becoming more numerous, as our desire and demand grows for faster and faster download speeds to power our handsets.

The problem for telecommunications network and service providers is where to place all of this cabling and infrastructure without it becoming an obtrusive eyesore for the public, and there is only so much cabling that can be buried under the footpaths and streets of this city. The answer is to utilise the MDF rooms and the rooftops of many of our high-rise apartment buildings.

In addition, fitting out the common property corridors and hallways with receivers and access points can boost residents' access to high-speed cable and wireless internet and if it's one thing that every apartment resident loves, it's lightning-quick internet speeds. In some buildings, this can become a selling-point to increase the weekly rental value of units.

The challenge for committees is to let the right service provider in. There are dozens of telecommunication companies that offer services in this area, and the owners' corporation (OC) could decide to enter into an access agreement that is mutually beneficial for both parties and at no cost to the OC.

As always, there are things to look out for, such as:

- Will the service provider promote open access to competing service providers in

the building, so that residents are free to choose their own provider?

- Is the service provider installing the latest technology into the building, or are they simply installing left-over stock of old technology that will become obsolete in 12 months' time?
- Is the service provider requiring rooftop access to install equipment and if so, do you know what is being installed and for what purpose? Rooftop installations can be quite lucrative for network providers, as the bandwidth and frequency can then be utilised to add to the existing network and therefore generate income from third party service providers that need to connect and host from these networks. OCs should always look to maximise the opportunities to defray levy cost and earning income from leasing rooftop space that is seldom used to network providers in a handy way to keep levies low. But roof space access should never be given away for nothing.

Some of the lower-end service providers are now aggressively seeking to expand their business share by serving buildings with Installation Notices under the *Telecommunications Act* and are then forcing their way into buildings around Melbourne.

These Installation Notices should in most cases be objected to strongly by the OC, and within seven days, otherwise the OC risks the prospect of accepting these service providers to enter the building.

However, any installations or additions to common property by these service providers shall require the OC to first pass a special resolution, and especially if rooftop antennas are proposed to be installed.

In summary, these types of service upgrades and the adoption of this technology ought to be welcomed by committees, but the devil is always in the fine print and care should be taken to ensure that the building is not getting fleeced ●



*Tom Bacon*  
TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.  
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# An amazing April

*It's been an amazing month for the Docklands Chamber of Commerce in several ways.*

Firstly, let me say “Lest we Forget”. We proudly supported the RSL and Skunkworks Music to again provide four buglers to play *The Last Post* as a simplified version of the ANZAC Day commemoration service.

We started this as a COVID initiative, but it was so popular and well received by our residents that we have continued it.

The resident version of our Docklands Dollars program now has more than 1500 registrations who are redeeming on their local purchases.

If you live in 3008 and you haven't yet registered, then head over to the website – [docklandsdollars.com.au](http://docklandsdollars.com.au) – it's as simple as providing proof you live here then uploading receipts to your dashboard. I check the receipts are eligible and then pay you back to your bank account.

On an equally positive note, Docklands accommodation providers were at capacity during April. There was a real hunger to visit, eat, stay and play with our original version of Docklands Dollars having its busiest two

weeks since its inception. Hopefully the traffic continues.

Lastly, there will be an opportunity for everybody in Docklands to have a say as to what they think the future focus of the precinct should be. We will be putting out an expression of interest for people to participate. Very importantly we want a variety of opinions from multiple cultures, genders, ages and backgrounds.

Sorry, that wasn't lastly ...

I would like to pay my thanks to Markella Votzourakis who has been helping me incredibly during the past few years with our socials and newsletters. She's moving on and we wish her all the very best ●



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



**LYNNE, 73**  
 "I'm voting independent. In Monash, 70 per cent of people voted for gay marriage but our representative voted against it in parliament. It's not good when members don't even live in the electorates they represent – the member for Monash lives in Pakenham!"



**BJORN, 72**  
 "I'm reluctant to vote Labor and basically don't like party politics. I think I'll vote independent because if the independents have the balance of power in parliament, then they'll have the ability to pass the good and deny the bad."

# Faces of Docklands

*Have you decided you will vote for at the Federal Election?*



**MIKE, 57**  
 "I'm fed up with the Liberals, particularly around corruption. Labor is never going to get in in my constituency of Warringa, so I'm voting independent."



**AMELIA, 49**  
 "I'm not really interested in any of the major parties, I'm thinking of voting independent."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Who's in charge?

Dear Docklands,  
 I regularly cycle from Southern Cross Station to Docklands Library via Bourke St and the little lift down near Marvel Stadium.

Who is responsible for the cleaning, lighting and maintenance of this lift? It's terrible, no wonder people don't feel safe with dull lighting, graffiti and dirty glass.

*Robert Irvine*



### Dirty dogs

Recently I took photos as I walked in front of the high-rise apartment buildings from number 50 Lorimer St to number 90 Lorimer St at South Wharf.

I [and others] object to the amount of dog owners that let their pets urinate around buildings, light poles, streets, in gardens.

They also let their dogs defecate in stone gardens outside restaurants (often not picking it up) in full view of diners. Children then unknowingly play with those stones!

I attach some of the photos I took. If your newspaper photographer came down and had a look, I am sure he/she would be shocked, it's a disgrace.

Last week a dog owner really took the cake ... he was sitting at one of the outdoor tables with his dog on the seat beside him, then to my horror, he let the dog climb up onto the table among the food.

Thank you,  
*Anonymous*

### Concerns for NewQuay

I read your article ["Locals have their say on NewQuay site"] in the latest edition of *Docklands News* and I would like to point out some spin from the developers.

I refer to all the advertising material and their website which give a completely misleading perspective to the reality.

The developer's new website depicting the above address shows a photo with a nice park and low setback buildings.

At last, I thought, 'great', only to be let down.

This depiction is extremely misleading, further reading reveals this photo is actually the rear of the site, not the frontage the website home page depicts.

In reality, it is at the rear of the site near the school where there is no foot traffic and opposite the multi-storey car park.

The frontage to Docklands Drive is actually 70-metre-high walls vertical from the footpath. Are the known mistakes that the Docklands is famous for about to be revisited?

This is a huge parcel of land which cost developers peanuts. They have the chance really do something really special here. The concept should be rotated 180 degrees with the low setback building and the park on Docklands Drive.

From what I can gather the few residents who aware of this proposal are aghast at the sheer walls proposed for Docklands Drive.

Please point out to Docklands residents the reality of just what MAB have in store for this important site.

Regards,  
*Graeme Davies*



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# Pet's Corner

## Winston the worldly dog



*Like his namesake Winston Smith from 1984, Winston the dog is a switched-on individual.*



WORDS BY *Rebecca Broadhead*

During his 13 years he has seen a lot, and he doesn't take orders without question (well at least not from the cat he lives with).

He's lived in the country where he spent his leisure time hunting rats, but since moving to the city in November, he has mostly switched from chasing rats to toys, although not completely.

"He has all different types of toys like his crois-

sant, dumpling and bubble tea, which he all knows by name," Winston's owner Jess said.

Winston loves to interact with all the dogs on the promenade and catch up on the latest news in the local area. Jess said, "He's a very cosmopolitan dog."

"He's great with kids and really good at being patted."

Jess, who works in film, likes to play on the idea that one day soon Winston might make it into a movie being filmed at Docklands Studio ●

10 YEARS ON

## Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

MAY 2012 | ISSUE 75 |

DOCKLANDS NEWS

### Docklands dodges a bullet

*Docklands shook a monkey off its back last month when the spectre of a choking bridge across the entrance to Victoria Harbour was finally ruled out by the State Government.*



▲ *Dr Napthine (centre) talks docks to Port of Melbourne CEO Stephen Bradford and Premier Ted Baillieu.*

For the past decade, the Port of Melbourne Corporation has been threatening to build a low rail bridge just downstream of the Bolte Bridge with neither Labor nor Coalition state governments ruling it out.

The bridge was designed to be only eight metres above the water and Docklanders were united in opposing the plan because of its potential disruption to marine traffic.

A year ago, the Coalition Government's announcement that Hastings would become Victoria's second container port relieved tensions in Docklands about the bridge.

But the plan was never officially shelved until April 24 when the Ports Minister Denis Napthine announced a major redevelopment of Webb Dock in Port Melbourne.

The Government announced a \$1.2 billion expansion of Webb Dock and the creation of 2600 jobs.

The announcement created renewed fears that the rail bridge would be commissioned to move freight across the river to the port's major freight handling facilities at its Dynon

operation.

Questioned by Docklands News at a press conference, Dr Napthine said none of the extra one million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of containers expected at Webb Dock would be moved by rail.

He said all the freight would be loaded onto trucks, which would access the Westgate Freeway via specially-built port access roads.

The Premier Ted Baillieu explained that the expansion at Webb Dock was an interim measure while the Port of Hastings was brought on stream.

Port officials said the rail bridge option was considered but, ultimately, the decision was influenced by the state's major importers who generally had freight terminals only a short distance away and preferred road delivery ●

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## 蒙纳士大学港区新校园

上个月，全球领先的高等教育提供者蒙纳士大学(Monash University)在位于Batman's Hill辖区新建了Docklands港区校园，再次振兴港区的疫情复苏。

### Sean Car

在Collins广场对面的Collins街 750号，由建筑商 Multiplex 承建的蒙纳士大学属下的新蒙纳士学院垂直校区正式竣工。因COVID-19 疫情，国际学生经过了漫长的远程学习，现在能重返本土的新校区学习了。

蒙纳士大学是全澳最大的一所大学，其蒙纳士学院的课程是进入蒙纳士大学课程的途径，这个新校区合并了Bourke街222号、Exhibition街321号、Collins街271号、Clayton和Caulfield各校区的pathway课程。

由 Lyons 建筑设计事务所与另外五位建筑师合作设计，蒙纳士学院共有 10 个楼层，提供 40700 平方米的先进教育设施。

蒙纳士学院为学生提供现代化的合作学习空间、校内花园、400个座位的礼堂、11个专门科学教室、7个艺术和设计教室以及一个学生中心/健康中心，旨在优化教学和学习体验。

该建筑还包括学生厨房和开放式的休息空间，底下几层有租赁的食品零售店。整个校园使用了一系列特殊饰面，包括木质中庭框架、竹制灯具、环氧树脂地板饰面、青石铺路和不同纹理的地毯。

蒙纳士学院首席执行官 Jo Mithen 说：“随着疫情限制的放松，我们的学生已经开始返回墨尔本，对他们能够在Docklands港区体验全新的城市校园感到无比兴奋。”



“在Village Social和Urban区域，学生进行社交，还有很多让学生能够安静学习和小组作业讨论的信息空间，这里有适合每个人的空间。”

新校园于 2020 年开始施工，约有 400 名工人参与建造工作。

这个工程包括对大楼门厅的结构改造，修建了 10 部新的自动扶梯，这些自动扶梯以“纵横交替”的形式连接所有楼层。完成组装后的每个自动扶梯重达 8.6 吨。

欲了解更多信息，请查阅：[monash-college.edu.au](http://monash-college.edu.au)



## 港区邻里之家获资能做更多

维多利亚发展局为港区邻里之家 (Docklands Neighborhood House) 提供了162000澳元资金，让社区空间至少在2022年底之前保持原状，此消息令人兴奋。

### Kaylah-Joelle Baker

在非营利组织 The Centre 运作下，港区邻里之家一直在为社区提供专用空间，尽管资金缺乏限制了他们的工作。

邻里之家社区发展负责人 Jason Butcher 说：“这笔资金意味着我们现在可

以着手实施我们已经制定了一段时间的许多计划。”

“这也意味着我们现在可以做更多事情，而不仅仅是空谈。”

他表示，目前正在与参与邻里之家的其他人进行讨论，制定一个框架，以确定他们在该区域的目标。

还将特别关注社区的声音，采用“共同设计”的方法来实施计划。

他说：“我们希望与社区的人们进行交谈，让他们参与共同设计和共同拥有我们正在做的许多东西，这几乎是能够实现这一目标的唯一途径。”

对Butcher先生来说，与社区直接合作非常重要，尤其是3月份成功举办的Holi

节，更显这种合作是最有益的方式。

他说：“这次Holi节的成功举办，是很多社区的参与，效果非常好。很大程度上是因为社区知道这是他们的事，为他们而做，他们是关注的焦点，而我们在庆祝他们。”

“我们所能做的就是不断证明我们是港区社区基础设施中的一部分。所以，希望我们能从社区对话中获得良好的结果。”

The Centre主任 Ariel Valent 表示，所获的资金将为社区带来益处。

他说：“这对 Docklands 社区来说是个好消息。感谢维州发展局的支持，我们期待与当地居民开展更多合作，实现他们的愿望。”

## 商家改变规则进驻港区

作为激活Docklands港区空置店面计划的一部分，具有可持续性外衣品牌的laGuapa商家作为“商业规则的改变者”最近进驻维多利亚港。

### David Schout

虽然一些小商家企业可以很好地在家办公，但有一些小企业可能会举步维艰。

对于许多人来说，一把椅子、一张桌子和一台笔记本电脑就足够了，这个工作技能在过去两年中得到了很好的磨练，但对于其他新兴企业来说，比如精品时装品牌商家，在家工作可能极受限制，无论是具体操作还是创造力方面。

因此，当有机会在你自己的商店空间工作时，事情完全不一样了。

时装设计师Zaida Rodríguez 告诉本报，她最近搬进了维多利亚港一个空置店面，“改变了游戏规则”。

Rodríguez 女士是可持续外套品牌laGuapa的创始人，该品牌是首批进入Docklands港区的小企业之一，是墨尔本市激活空置零售空间计划的一部分。

“相比在家工作，在这儿的的工作室工作，让客户能在这儿取样，并在漂亮的空间里进行设计咨询，会给你带来如此不同的氛围。就像一个更成熟的企业一样。”

laGuapa 这次开在Collins街最西端的相邻店面，其中一间用作零售空间，另一间用作工作室。

对于一个有着丰富零售经验的Rodríguez女士来说，她对搬进自己的工作空间



感到非常满足。她曾在家乡西班牙做过视觉销售员。

“对我来说，有点像回到了以前，与人交谈，把商店装饰得很漂亮。我一直喜欢做零售，我的意思是，网上购物是很棒，但我认为没有什么比去商店试穿衣服，并置身于那种环境中更好。我非常喜欢门店零售。”

laGuapa (西班牙语意为“美丽”)使用可持续的和升级循环的材料制作夹克，并确保在当地制作。

作为奉行“量身定制”的概念，顾客可以在他们的衣物作品投入生产前预约咨询并选择材料和颜色。

可持续性伦理道德操作是他们工作的“核心”。

## 工党力争墨尔本席位

在即将到来的5月21日联邦选举之际，本报积极关注墨尔本的席位，对工党候选人Keir Paterson能否力挽自2010年以来该党在偏好投票中的巨大下滑。

### David Schout

绿党领袖Adam Bandt是这次2022年联邦大选的热门人选，期待连续第五次赢得墨尔本席位。

墨尔本的选区覆盖中央商务区和雅拉河北部的东西两侧，自2010年以来一直由绿党主导，并且仍然是该党在堪培拉联邦议会中唯一的下议院席位。

自1904年至2010年该席位一直由工党把持，但自12年前Bandt取得了突破性胜利，绿党夺得该席位，工党在偏好投票中遭受了巨大损失。

那一年，偏好投票的比例从2007年的49.5%下降到38.1%。

自那以后继续下滑，在上次2019年的选举中跌至创纪录的19.7%。

这次能否阻止下滑并为工党带来胜利就看这位工党候选人，Kensington居民Keir Paterson先生了。

他在2021年8月赢得预选后，自9月以来一直在竞选，并表示选民心中只有一件事，那就是“他们很想改变。”



他告诉本报：“与我们交谈过的大多数选民都说‘我们就是需要改换这政府’，这也是这个选区中与我交谈的大多数选民的第一、第二和第三优先事项。”

Paterson先生出生在卡尔顿，在北墨尔本拥有自己的第一套房子，他说：“我一生都在这个选区中不断续地生活。”

尽管在三个不同的地方都生活过，他认为墨尔本是“迄今为止世界上最适合居住的城市”。

他曾在心理健康领域工作，最近担任了拥有五万名成员的自行车网络组织的主席，该组织倡导更可持续的交通和更安全的骑行。

Paterson先生说，只看工党最近的选举结果“并不能让你了解全面情况”，他指的是工党以前竞选墨尔本席位的候选人Luke Creasey在2019年计票之前因社交媒体上的攻击性帖子而退出选举。

然而，工党的初选投票在2019年之前就已经下滑，但这次Paterson先生决心扭转这种局面。

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**PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION LOCATED AT DOCKLANDS**

**Telstra plans to upgrade an existing telecommunications facility located at 720-750 Collins Street, Docklands VIC 3008**  
www.rfnsa.com.au/3008010

- Telstra are currently upgrading existing mobile network facilities to allow for the introduction of 5G to Telstra's network. As part of this network upgrade, Telstra proposes the installation of NR850 (5G) & NR/LTE2600 (5G/4G) technologies at DOCKLANDS locality and surrounds.
- The proposed works at the above site include the removal of three (3) off panel antennas, the installation of three (3) off panel antennas, the reconfiguration of six (6) off panel antennas, and installation of associated ancillary equipment. All internal equipment will be housed within the existing equipment shelter.
- Telstra regards the proposed installation as a Low-Impact Facility under the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018* based on the above description.
- In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or written submissions should be directed to Jasmine Bautista, Aurecon Australasia via email to: Jasmine.Bautista@aurecongroup.com or via post to: Jasmine Bautista, Aurecon Australasia PO Box 23061, Docklands VIC 8012 by 5pm on 14/04/2022

# DOCKLANDS NEWS

Talk to Docklands News owner Sean Car  
T 0433 930 484  
E sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au  
about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.



## COVID-19 VACCINE

Getting vaccinated won't just protect you, it will help protect your entire family. Getting your booster doses when they are due will boost your protection even further, especially as we approach winter and flu season.

Boost your protection and book your COVID-19 booster at [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au) or call the COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398 and press 0 for an interpreter.

ان تلقيك اللقاح لن يحميك فحسب ، فهو يساعد على حماية عائلتك بأكملها . فالحصول على جرعاتك المعززة عندما يحين وقتها سيعزز حمايتك بشكل أكبر، خاصة اننا تقترب من فصل الشتاء وموسم الانفلونزا .  
عزز حمايتك واحجز موعد الحصول على الجرعة المعززة من كوفيد 19 COVID-19 على الموقع [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au) او اتصل على الخط الساخن لكوفيد 19 COVID-19 hotline رقم 1800 675 398 واضغط 0 لطلب مترجم فوري .

接种疫苗不仅能保护您，还能保护您的全家。在应该注射加强针时前去注射，能进一步增强对您的保护，尤其是在冬季和流感季节即将来临之际。

为加强您的保护，请访问[coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au)，或拨打新冠热线1800 675 398，按0找翻译，安排预约注射新冠加强针。

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Inaad istalaashaa ma xafidayso adiga keliya, waxay xafidaysaa qoyskaaga oo dhan. Inaad qaadato qadaradaada xoojiyaha ah marka waqtigeeda la joogo waxay sii xoojinaysaa difaacaaga, khaasatan markaan ku soo dhowaanayno xilliga qaboobaha iyo hargabka.

Xooji difaacaaga kana ballanso xoojiyaha COVID-19 ka [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au) ama wac KHADKA COVID-19 oo ah 1800 675 398 oo riix 0 si aad u hesho turjubaan.

Tiêm ngừa không chỉ bảo vệ quý vị, mà còn sẽ giúp bảo vệ cho toàn thể gia đình quý vị. Tiêm mũi tăng cường (booster) khi đến hạn sẽ giúp gia tăng sự bảo vệ cho quý vị thêm nữa, đặc biệt là khi chúng ta sắp bước vào mùa Đông và mùa cúm.

Hãy gia tăng sự bảo vệ cho quý vị và đặt hẹn để tiêm mũi tăng cường COVID-19 tại [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au) hay gọi cho đường dây nóng COVID-19 qua số 1800 675 398 và bấm số 0 để có thông dịch viên giúp đỡ.

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