

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P25



Afghan women’s team makes Docklands its home
Photo by Murray Enders

From fleeing the Taliban in Kabul in August to kicking goals at Ron Barassi Snr Park in May, the Afghan Women’s National Team playing under the banner of Melbourne Victory has found a new home here in Docklands, providing plenty of inspiration on and off the pitch. *Full story - back page.*

Short-stay rental debate reignites after a Docklands resident calls for better regulations

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
STRATA

A years-long debate about how to regulate bad behaviour at short-stay rentals has resurfaced after a Docklands resident publicly called on the City of Melbourne to create a register.

In a written submission that was read out at the council’s first meeting in Docklands on May 17, resident Anthony DeLuca expressed his concern the precinct had been “negatively impacted” by short-stay apartments, including issues of noise, parties, and drug activity.

He said many councils in Australia had introduced regulations aimed at ensuring visitors could share accommodation without disruptive behaviour, noting the NSW government had implemented a new state-wide regulatory framework for short-term rental accommodation.

Mr DeLuca therefore asked the question, which was read out by Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, saying, “will the City of Melbourne commit to establishing a short-stay register to regulate the use of short stay accommodation and ensure an appropriate standard of management and behaviour?”

Cr Reece told a gallery of about 50 attendees at the council’s Future Melbourne Committee meeting held at The Hub at Docklands that it was a “good question”.

A council officer-prepared response, also read out at the meeting, said, “In 2019 the Victorian Government introduced changes to the *Owners’ Corporations Act 2006* that allow an owners’ corporation (OC) and residents to take VCAT action against property owners where unreasonable impacts are caused by way of damage, hazards, noise, and behaviours.”

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Calls grow for action on crime as precinct revival becomes “overshadowed by anti-social behaviours and violence”

Docklands residents and traders are demanding answers from the City of Melbourne and Victoria Police on crime as fears grow not enough is being done to keep the community safe.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The issue came to a head when a resident named Phil Kan stated his concerns in a submission during a City of Melbourne Future Melbourne Committee on May 17, which was held for the first time at The Hub at Docklands.

In his submission, read out by Cr Dr Olivia Ball in front of a public gallery, Mr Kan said he no longer felt safe at night in Docklands as he regularly encountered people “screaming and fighting”, which was causing “unnecessary stress” and a “disturbance” to residents.

Mr Kan said while he had welcomed an increase in visitors to the precinct that had been hit hard by the pandemic, he believed “all the efforts in reviving the Docklands area has been overshadowed by anti-social behaviour and violence.”

“Therefore, my question is: what is the plan the council has in addressing the deterioration of safety in Docklands, and the timeline to do something about it?” he said.

“As a loyal resident of Docklands, I do believe the foundation of prosperity is maintaining a safe neigh-

bourhood instead of making it into a no-go zone,” his submission read, adding he had been “traumatised” after having witnessed the aftermath of a stabbing that had occurred within his apartment building (over the Moomba long weekend). The incident resulted in the death of a 26-year-old man visiting from interstate.

In response, Cr Dr Ball read out a prepared council statement, which said the council’s city safety and amenity team along with Victoria Police were working “closely together in relation to safety within the City of Melbourne, and we have shared your question with the local area commander for Melbourne West.”

“Victoria Police are actively patrolling the Docklands area and are engaged with local residents via the Docklands Security Committee (DSC). The incident on the Moomba long weekend was terrible and I am sorry you witnessed this.”

The DSC, of which the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) is a member, is convened by Victoria Police, and is a forum that shares information on initiatives and opportunities to improve security resilience across Docklands.

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Calls grow for action on crime as the precinct's revival becomes "overshadowed by anti-social behaviour and violence"

Continued from page 1.

Mr Kan's concerns come as recent crime events have seen the Pok Pok Thai restaurant in Docklands trashed after masked intruders broke their way in to steal cash from the Bourke St venue on May 27.

The devastated owner told *Docklands News* that safety needed to be prioritised, starting with CCTV cameras in streets.

"Just to think of these things is terrible. Running a small business has been hard enough over the past two years," the shop's owner Weina said.

In a separate incident, police charged six males after a 26-year-old man was grabbed at Southern Cross railway station before being taken to Batman Park where he was allegedly assaulted and robbed about 9.40pm on May 24.

The DRG, which told *Docklands News* earlier this year that the precinct was "fast becoming a no-go zone", said residents were "increasingly removing themselves" from public spaces after dark, especially around the harbour.

"It's often said, Docklands has different faces. During the day and at large public events, Docklands feels safe, but at night, especially from Thursday to Sunday, it's a different story," a DRG spokesperson said.

"While the DRG is aware of the importance of the night-time economy, everyone has the right to enjoy Docklands after dark. We are hopeful that the work being done under Project Night Justice (PRJ) will include a specific focus on Docklands to help improve night safety. Because if this stigma becomes embedded, it will take a long time for Docklands to recover its reputation."

The PRJ is a partnership between the City of Melbourne, Victoria Police, Crime Stoppers Victoria, Rape and Domestic Violence Services



▲ The scene at Pok Pok Thai. Photo: Murray Enders.

Australia and the University of Melbourne, and has been made possible through funding received from the Victorian Government's Building Safer Communities Program.

Long-time local business owner and community safety advocate Andrew Ward, who operates PUSH! Fitness on Collins St, said he felt the council's response to Mr Kan's question was "unacceptable".

"Hearing that 'police are actively patrolling in the area and working with the Docklands community' falls horribly short of what our community needs," he said.

“

Running a small business has been hard enough over the past two years.

”

"The safety again of our community and residents has been brushed off as unimportant. It's completely unacceptable, and as a community we deserve so much more."

Mr Ward said as an "urgent request" he would like to see a 24-hour police kiosk set-up in Docklands as well as a "drastic increase in foot and vehicle patrols" – a sentiment also shared by other residents who would also like to see protective services officers deployed along the harbour on weekends.

"How many more people need to be threatened, assaulted and worse until something changes?" Mr Ward said.

Victoria Police runs Operation My City every Friday and Saturday night to prevent anti-social behaviour. ●



Brendan Rees

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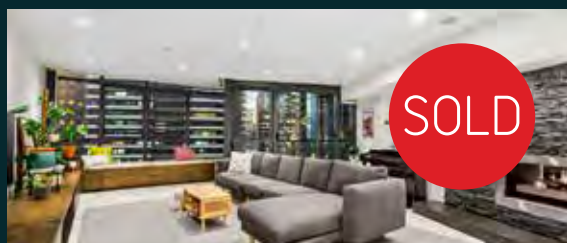
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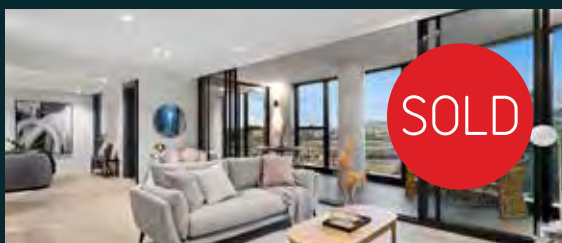
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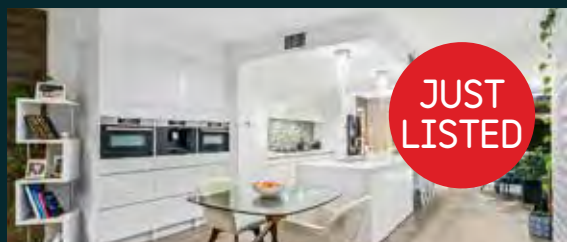
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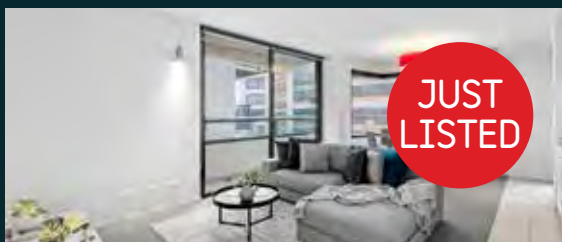
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Council hears “loud and clear” from Docklands residents at its inaugural community Future Melbourne meeting

Docklands residents have wasted no time putting the hard-hitting questions to the City of Melbourne during its first-ever council meeting in the community.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Community members gathered at The Hub at Docklands on May 17 when the council threw open the doors of its Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting to the public.

The council has been moving its Town Hall meetings to the suburbs to keep residents informed about what is happening in their area and to raise questions. There was a total of 13 public questions, seven of which were written and read out in front of a public gallery estimated to be of about 50 people.

Topics ranged from dog-friendly parks to community safety as well as wayfinding opportunities to help people find their way around the precinct, and electric vehicle charging facilities.

There were also questions around short-stay register concerns, the vision for Docklands, and the latest on the proposed tram bridge from the city to Fishermans Bend.

While the news of the draft budget 2022-23 was the biggest item on the agenda, a total of 40 minutes was dedicated to public question time, with Lord Mayor Sally Capp saying, “we really appreciate very thoughtful questions, very relevant, and thank you very much for raising them with us this evening.”

Discussion about new dog-friendly spaces drew great interest, with the council saying two stages of community consultation had been



undertaken and a proposal for new dog off-leash areas, including in Docklands, would be presented to the council in June, “with implementation of approved areas” to follow within about three months.

The meeting also heard councillors had been receiving “many ideas” about ways to enhance Docklands and make it a destination, since Central Pier has been closed, which would be discussed at a Docklands Summit planned for late July/early August.

The council said designs and construction dates for a proposed tram bridge across the Yarra River from Collins St were still to be confirmed by the state government.

Key neighbourhood issues and City of Melbourne projects for Docklands were also discussed at the meeting as was the Docklands Firelight Festival to be held from July 1 to 3.

“The City of Melbourne is actively engaged in this work and investing in Docklands,” a council statement said. “Council is particularly

focused on getting the state government committed to long-term solutions.”

And in an idea to get pooch lovers excited, a resident pitched a proposal to councillors to have a dog-friendly tram service stop at dog-friendly places around the CBD, which the council will consider.

A Docklands Representative Group spokesperson said it was “fantastic to see a large turnout” by Docklands residents at the meeting.

“The City of Melbourne heard loud and clear from multiple residents about the issues of safety and security, open space, and the need for residents to be a key part of the planning of events held in Docklands and the planning of public projects in Docklands,” the spokesperson said.

“The DRG believe Victoria Police PSOs should be involved in ensuring the safety of key public spaces including the promenades around Victoria Harbour.”

Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive

officer Shane Wylie said he was “immensely pleased” the City of Melbourne had hosted its meeting in Docklands, adding it had “brought to light many differing opinions and agendas”.

“We’re very aware that the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor have made Docklands a personal focus,” he said. “We also thank Cr Jamal Hakim, a Docklands resident, for his tireless efforts in highlighting just how much we’ve hurt.”

Mr Wylie added the open public meeting “stands as a brilliant lead” into the upcoming Docklands future forum with “a consensus that Docklands needs aligned thinking and a firm direction.”

Mr Wylie added there were three key items the Chamber hoped to see addressed including “immediate action” on Central Pier, clarity around the future direction for Docklands, and Victoria Harbour becoming a “focal point for Melbourne and Australia”.

Cr Hakim said the meeting attracted the highest level of participation from the community yet, which “shows the strength of the Docklands community”.

“Thanks to everyone who attended, to the Chamber, and all residents who came down to share with the council what matters most in our neighbourhood,” he said.

“I look forward to even more as part of the Docklands summit and council’s commitment to delivering for the future for Docklands.”

While the meeting heard the council’s CEO Justin Hanney say the Docklands Summit was planned for “late-July/early-August”, Development Victoria’s group head precincts Geoff Ward told *Docklands News*, “We have not been approached in any official capacity regarding a summit.”

“We work closely with the City of Melbourne on a range of matters related to Docklands to ensure this iconic part of Melbourne continues to thrive.” ●



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Short-stay rental debate

Continued from page 1.

It continued, “This legislation applies directly to properties where an OC exists, which makes up a high proportion of residential development within the city, unlike the needs of other councils where the same circumstances may not apply.”

However, the Docklands Representative Group (DRG), believed the council’s response “missed the point of the question”, saying “VCAT is a channel for complaints – meaning that it is used after damage or disturbance has occurred.”

“The question from Mr DeLuca asked about the City of Melbourne taking a more proactive role in ensuring short-stay operators are identifiable, contactable and meet some minimum standards,” a DRG spokesperson said.

The DRG said there were no official records of where short stays were operating, “nor any mechanism to ensure they, as a business, meet accommodation standards.”

“Everything is left to the OC to manage. But at least having a register would help OCs in better managing short stays operating in their buildings.”

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce has several short-stay accommodation members, and believed “reputable and quality providers exhibit a professional service and bring much needed visitors to Docklands.”

“In today’s society we believe short-stay accommodation has a valid place in any destination,” Shane Wylie, executive officer of the Chamber, said.

“These businesses operate within the current legislation and are often the most proactive enforcers of

neighbourhood peace and harmony. We welcome their business in Docklands and will continue to work with them.”

Joel Chamberlain, the OC manager at Horizon Strata, a property management firm in Docklands, said he understood all points of view in terms of creating a council register to regulate short-stay accommodation, but struggled to see how it would be effective.

“I’m sure everyone wants to know how it can be done better,” he said, but conceded, “I don’t really know how that [register] would assist the situation.”

He said giving broader powers to OCs would “probably be better than a register that tells you something you already know if you live there.”

“It might help people who are looking to purchase or rent, but not existing residents. I don’t think it would help them control or deal with issues on the ground.”

Mr Chamberlain said while his firm didn’t currently manage buildings in Docklands, building managers typically oversaw daily operations and “try to keep abreast of the short-stay operators and their tenants. If it gets out of control, they obviously call the police.”

Docklands News has reported extensively on the short-stay debate in recent years, and while the topic has drawn mixed opinions, many say “we need rules, and we need balance.”

It comes as a Docklands couple left the area in 2020 after their lives “changed dramatically for the worse” after one-third of their building became occupied by short-stays with noise and damage becoming unbearable. ●

Sale of Melbourne Star still progressing as hopes stay alive the landmark will one day draw back tourists

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

The much-anticipated sale of the Melbourne Star is still progressing as administrators continue to work with a “number of parties” in the hope of soon clinching a deal.

Administrator Grant Thornton said “there are all sorts of options on the table” as the parties “factor in a whole raft” of considerations – but he could not confirm when or if a sale may be finalised.

“If I knew and if it was able to be disclosed I would, but honestly, I don’t know. We’ve got a mix of local and internationals who are considering it; they’ve been here, they’ve seen it,” he told *Docklands News*.

“We are making some progress but it’s slow progress.”

The iconic 120-metre-tall observation wheel on the waterfront was permanently shut down last September during the pandemic when the wheel’s operating company MB Star Properties Pty Ltd went into liquidation.

The wheel looked destined for the scrap heap until multiple parties expressed interest in buying the landmark structure just weeks after its closure, giving the Docklands community some hope that a rescue buyer would swoop in to keep the tourist attraction running.

In January, Mr Thornton said, “a number of” Australian-based parties had entered into non-disclosure agreements after the Christmas period had “slowed things down a bit”.

He also said at the time that the sale of the giant observation wheel was “progressing”, however, an outcome of discussions with interested parties would unlikely be known until March.

But in his latest remarks to *Docklands News*, Mr Thornton, said “there’s a fair amount of work to get it moving again so they’re trying to factor in a whole raft of things”.

Asked if the enquiries from potential buyers was a promising sign that the wheel could turn again, he said, “I can’t provide a comment on that. All I can say is we have a number of parties, not one or two, who are still looking at it.”



Last year, Mr Hewitt confirmed there were about 10 to 12 parties who had registered their interest in the purchase of the Melbourne Star with a mix of local and international groups.

However, he said some “are only interested in specific assets” while “others are interested in the whole lot.”

The sale enquiries come as leading architect firm Bates Smart pitched a bold plan earlier this year proposing the observation wheel be moved to the Yarra River’s edge in what it described as a “golden opportunity”.

Under its vision, Bates Smart – which was behind the major architectural designs of Federation Square, the Royal Children’s Hospital and Crown Metropal – the train lines between Flinders Street Station and Southern Cross Station would be buried to accommodate a green space for events, such as night markets and cultural activations.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Shane Wylie said the chamber “would love to see this iconic tourist landmark stay in Docklands, and we do hope that this is the outcome following this process.” ●

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QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

The Wooden Boat Centre puts its hand up to support RISING Festival artist

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Known as a specialised centre for boat building, The Wooden Boat Centre in Docklands has changed things up recently through supporting a project beyond the dock.

Throughout the past couple of weeks, a cleared space in the Centre has been occupied by Filipino contemporary fine artist Leeroy New and his team, which has been a welcomed change to the regular happenings in the warehouse.

“It’s interesting and they are super-independent. They bring their own passion in, and it keeps me interested,” The Wooden Boat Centre owner Nicholas Atkins said.

The occupancy of the space came about after RISING Festival reached out to Nicholas enquiring if there was space for Leeroy New to prepare his installation throughout May.

It was a request Nicholas was more than happy to accommodate.

The RISING Festival has been three years in the making and will consume the city from June 1 to 19 with all things art, music and performance. There are 801 local and international artists to be featured across 225 events.

Leeroy New’s work in particular will be a much-anticipated part of RISING’s *The Wilds* event held at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, with multiple sites being occupied by his work.

“We have two sites [at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl] for the festival. They are close to each other and there will be a total of four separate structures,” he said.

Specialising in large-scale immersive installations and landscape-inspired work, Leeroy New’s latest installation is made out of woven bamboo, various collected discards and surplus materials from the local recycling centre.

“The landscape is a big inspiration and a lot



of it has to do with us responding to the specific terrain, the environment and how the work can physically interact with what’s available and what’s already existing in the space,” he said.

“We tend to intuitively respond, and the work adapts and evolves according to the site.”

No longer at the Boat Centre after leaving on May 17, Leeroy New and his team are busy assembling the “sci-fi looking forms” on-site to transport the people experiencing the festival to an “alien-like landscape.”

But it was the unexpected “perfect space” provided at the warehouse that Leeroy New said was “very helpful” in helping him prepare.

“[Nicholas and I] learnt a lot from each other because making things is what interests us both. We are different people with different skill sets

and specialties and I have built installations inspired by boats, so we had a lot to discuss and share,” Mr New said.

Following the success of opening their doors to Leeroy New’s short-term activation project, Nicholas said he was hopeful the Centre could continue to provide facilities to the local community for various projects in the future. ●



Kaylah-Joelle Baker
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Control tower’s condition scrutinised

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
MARITIME

Development Victoria is undertaking an assessment of the condition of Docklands’ Shipping Control Tower at the tip of Collins Wharf amid calls for the maritime heritage asset to be preserved and restored for public activation.

The original tower, a timber octagonal structure, was first built in Victoria Harbour in 1934. This was replaced in 1966 by the tower standing today to coordinate shipping, towage pilots and emergency services in the busy port.

According to the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN), “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.”

However, since its closure, the tower, which has both state and national heritage protections as part of the Victoria Dock precinct, has remained redundant and has reportedly fallen into a significant state of disrepair.

Development Victoria’s group head precincts Geoff Ward said it was undertaking a “condition audit” of the heritage asset.

“We are carrying out a condition audit on the building and will implement the necessary measures to preserve this important heritage asset at Victoria Harbour,” Mr Ward said.

MMHN chair and former City of Melbourne councillor Dr Jackie Watts said, “this heritage asset has been neglected to the point of demolition.”

“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,” she said.

Dr Watts said she feared a “similar fate” for the control tower to that of Central Pier and has called for Development Victoria to restore the heritage structure for public use. ●

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Former Docklander returns to her rightful home

ARTS & CULTURE

Once found at NewQuay in Docklands, the Dame Nellie Melba sculpture has now been immortalised in bronze at the home she built in the Yarra Valley in 1912.

One of Australia’s most famous opera singers, the statue of Dame Nellie Melba created by artist Peter Corlett has been permanently moved to the Coombe Yarra Valley Estate in Coldstream.

The Victorian Government’s development agency Development Victoria, in consultation with Mr Corlett, facilitated the move with the public now able to visit Dame Nellie Melba as she looks over her former home and welcomes visitors from the front gate.

“I am delighted that my statue of Dame Nellie Melba has found a new permanent home where people can appreciate and pay tribute to an Australian entertainment icon,” Peter Corlett said.

Dame Nellie Melba built Coombe Cottage on the site of the current estate in 1912, and it has remained in the family since her death in 1931.

Coombe Yarra Valley retains close ties with the Melba Opera Trust with scholars visiting Dame Nellie’s home as part of their program.

Dame Nellie Melba was an internationally renowned opera singer in the late 1800s and early 1900s and became one of the first Australians to achieve global success. ●

Docklanders desert Libs in Greens rout

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ELECTIONS

Voters in Docklands mirrored their Melbourne counterparts with an overwhelming vote for the Greens in the latest federal election, but it was a drastic swing against the Liberal Party that was perhaps the most notable trend locally.

A total of 1702 voters headed to the polls at Victoria Harbour’s Library at The Dock on Saturday May 21, slightly up on last year’s total of 1667.

Almost half of voters (47.6 per cent) in Docklands put a “1” next to Greens leader Adam Bandt on their lower house paper, largely in line with the entire Melbourne electorate.

Mr Bandt was elected with a huge primary vote of 50.9 per cent across Melbourne, the first time a candidate had received more than half of all first preference votes in the seat since Labor in 2004. First elected in 2010, the victory secured Mr Bandt a fifth consecutive term.

This primary vote distribution in Docklands was a strong result for The Greens, who have never received more than 40 per cent in the local area. Since the 2010 election — the first time the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) opened a polling place in Docklands — votes in the local area have bucked the trend of the electorate and swayed more conservatives than the rest of Melbourne.

For example, in 2019 the Liberal Party received just 21.5 per cent of primary votes across Melbourne, however that figure was considerably higher in Docklands at 34.6 per cent.

In 2022, however, local voters turned their back on the Liberals — and it was a damning result for candidate James Damches.

While the swing against the Liberal Party across the electorate was at 7.1 per cent, in Docklands the swing was more than 17 per cent.

That is, the party received just 16.4 per cent of primary votes from Docklanders (from a high of 41 per cent in 2013).

“While the swing against the Liberal Party across the electorate was at 7.1 per cent, in Docklands the swing was more than 17 per cent.”

In fact, such was the Liberal Party’s lack of confidence in the seat of Melbourne, one insider told *Docklands News* that when they cast their vote there were no Liberal volunteers handing out “how-to-vote” flyers at Library at the Dock.

It was also the first time ever that more Docklanders voted for the Labor Party (23.7 per cent) than the Liberals, noting that the first time the area hosted a local polling place was in 2010.

That year, and the following two elections (in 2013 and 2016), locals cast their vote at The Hub on Harbour Esplanade, before moving to Library at the Dock for the 2019 count.

As the Greens revelled in an eighth-straight election where their primary vote went upwards in the seat of Melbourne, voters across the municipality expressed frustration at polling place wait times.

This included Library at the Dock, where one local took to social media to complain about a two-hour-plus wait at the polling station.

Similar queues were reported at nearby North Melbourne Primary School.

The issue was forecast by the AEC prior to election day, who said the issue delays were largely as a result of COVID-19.

In fact, the commission hired a record 105,000 staff for the 2022 election, including extra staff for safety, as well as padding for turnover.

The humble democracy sausage was this year provided by volunteers at the *Alma Doepel*; a five-minute stroll down North Wharf from the Library.

Docklands resident and City of Melbourne Cr Jamal Hakim cast his vote on the day and noted the privileged position we have in a functioning democracy.

“Today is about democracy in action. I voted at the Docklands library. What a fabulous sunny day. I take our obligation and responsibility to vote seriously as it is an important part of our democracy. I’ll continue to fight for bodily autonomy, equity and representation,” he said.

Docklands votes: Greens surge, Libs slide

- 2016: Greens 31.9 per cent of first-preference votes, Liberals 39.8 per cent
- 2019: Greens 38 per cent, Liberals 34.6 per cent
- 2022: Greens 47.6 per cent, Liberals 16.4 per cent

Above shows the percentage of first-preference votes received in Docklands in the last three Federal Elections.

Burns returned in Macnamara

For Yarra’s Edge residents on the south side of the Yarra River, the news of who would lead them through the next three years in Federal Parliament remained a mystery until May 31 – more than a week after the federal election.

Labor MP Josh Burns ultimately retained his seat ahead of Greens candidate Steph-Hodgins May despite a near six per cent swing to her party. The win for Labor in Macnamara provided it with its magical 76th seat and majority government.

The seat of Macnamara accounts for Southbank, Fishermans Bend, Port Phillip and the Caulfield region. Mr Burns defeated Liberal Party candidate Colleen Harkin on two-party preferred, but faced a strong challenge from Ms Hodgins-May, who finished second on first preference. ●

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Greens romp home for a fifth consecutive term in Melbourne

“*Greens leader and Melbourne MP Adam Bandt enjoyed his best Federal Election yet on May 21, winning a fifth consecutive term with an increased percentage of the primary vote, while his party expanded its presence in the House of Representatives.*”



▲ Adam Bandt makes his victory speech on May 21.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
ELECTIONS

In addition to the emergence of “Teal Independents” helping to dismantle the Coalition Government across the country, the Greens increased its number of Lower House seats from one to four, picking up Brisbane, Ryan and Griffith in Queensland.

While fellow Greens candidate Steph Hodgins-May, who was contesting the neighbouring seat of Macnamara for the third consecutive election, drew a significant swing to The Greens, Labor incumbent Josh Burns narrowly emerged the victor of the close contest which was only called on May 31, more than one week after the election.

The cross bench has more than doubled from six seats in the 2019 election to a whopping 15,

leaving the incoming Labor Government with only a slender majority in the Lower House.

Speaking with *Docklands News* following his re-election, Mr Bandt said he was “really humbled” to be elected to Melbourne again with an increased vote but said he and his team had worked “really hard” locally through its “people-powered model”.

“We were getting really strong messages of increased support; the question was how big it was going to be. We knew more people would turn to the Greens, but it was great to see so many seats turn Green for the first time,” he said.

“Melbourne is a really diverse electorate. While we’ve got some of the most expensive real estate in the country, we’ve also got a huge amount of public housing. Part of the reason why there is so much cohesion and respect among the people in Melbourne is that everyone in Melbourne knows that the more equal we are as a society the better off we’ll all be.”

“People now want politics to reconnect with the community; that’s one take away lesson from this election. Across the country people had started to switch off from politics. Our message was that politics can actually make people’s lives better. We can do it in a way that brings the community together.”

Mr Bandt told *Docklands News* that some of the feedback he found the “most moving” was from younger people, who he said were delivered “a real moment of hope” by the election result.

“The thing I found most moving was the amount of young people who came up to me, very emotionally, and said, ‘this is the first time that I feel hopeful about politics in the future,’” he said.

“For a lot of younger people, they just had a decade of terrible government, houses becoming more unaffordable and the climate crisis getting worse, and that’s been their whole experience of politics.”

While many commentators put the May 21 demolition of the Liberal Party down to a repudiation of former Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his government, the results were underpinned by a desire for stronger action on climate, integrity and gender equality.

Between The Greens and the many Teal Independents who ran in traditionally Liberal seats on a strong platform of action on climate, Mr Bandt said a “very clear message” had resonated among voters across the country.

“We’ve just lived through three years of drought, fires and floods and people know we’ve got to get out of coal and gas and take climate action, and that the window to do it is now,” he said.

“You now see that right across the political spectrum, with people now shifting the way they vote to call for more climate action and that is really encouraging.”

“This has always been something that matters to the people of Melbourne and we’re going to work hard to push on that in the next term of parliament.”

As far as the CBD and Docklands were concerned, he said its post-pandemic recovery would “be a priority for me.”

“Once we know the shape of the government and know who’s responsible for looking after cities, there are a number of issues we would like to raise with the relevant ministers including the push for assistance with recovery,” he said.

“I’ll be pushing hard for support for our creative sector in Melbourne to ensure that as we still deal with the consequences of the pandemic that we’re still able to get those creative and arts events back on their feet and functioning sustainably again.” ●



Sean Car
EDITOR
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Firelight Festival to return after two-year hiatus

WORDS BY *David Schout*
EVENTS

After successive cancellations due to COVID-19, Firelight Festival will return to Docklands in July for a three-night celebration of the winter solstice.

Last hosted in 2019 and attracting more than 75,000 people over three days, the popular event at Victoria Harbour will again focus on family, community, food, music, fire and light.

The waterfront will be transformed from Friday, July 1 to Sunday, July 3 with fire drums and flames, popup stages, large fire sculptures, and roving performers.

On all three evenings, four “liquid, light and laser” shows (featuring lasers, LED lighting and water jets) will be delivered at two sites across Victoria Harbour, each lasting six minutes.

Councillors endorsed the 2022 event, which was set to cost \$1 million, at a May 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting held at The Hub at Docklands on Harbour Esplanade.

The 2019 Firelight Festival reportedly pumped \$4 million into the local economy, and the council’s City Activation portfolio chair Cr Roshena Campbell said a similar injection was required.

“Boy, do we know they need that now,” Cr Campbell said.

“We’re delighted that we’re proceeding with the Docklands Firelight Festival again, because we know that businesses across Docklands tell us one thing loud and clear, and that’s that they want visitors back.”

Cr Campbell said it was important to provide incentives to visit the city in the colder months.

“I’m thrilled that this is a winter event. We know that our city so naturally comes alive in summer, but in winter — particularly after two years of COVID — people want to hibernate. We want to give them a reason to come back to the city ... we want to encourage people to stay in the precinct, to spend at the businesses in the precinct. And we want to give them a fantastic

“

We want to give them a reason to come back to the city ... we want to encourage people to stay in the precinct, to spend at the businesses in the precinct.

”

offering to give them every reason to do that.”

These thoughts were echoed by Cr Davydd Griffiths.

“I know from when I used to run a business around the corner [from The Hub] on Spencer St, just how important activation in this part of the world is for assisting small businesses in the area to stay afloat,” he said.

“I hope it’s something that encourages people in nearby suburbs like West Melbourne, like North Melbourne, those who live in the CBD and Port Melbourne, to come down and find new spaces nearby to them that perhaps they haven’t experienced before.”

Beyond the showcase liquid, light and laser shows, the 2022 edition of Firelight Festival will also feature:

- Musical performances from a range of genres, including audience favourites Mariachi Los Romanticos, local jazz group The Sugarfoot Ramblers, West African drummer Kofi Kunkpe, and The Brunswick Women’s Choir.
- An immersive lighting installation at Docklands Central Park.
- Warm food offerings including smoked meats, soup, woodfire pizza and hot chocolate.



Cr Jamal Hakim, a Docklands local, said the return of Firelight was an important moment after a difficult period.

“It has been really disappointing in the last couple of years that we haven’t been able to have Firelight right here in Docklands, so I’m really excited that the event is back,” he said.

“We are building a really strong calendar in the winter for events, and this is one of those. What better way to warm up than with Firelight.”

Development Victoria’s group head precincts Geoff Ward said it was pleased to support the council to host Firelight Festival again after its two-year absence.

“It’s fantastic to have the Firelight Festival back on the Docklands events calendar,” Mr Ward said.

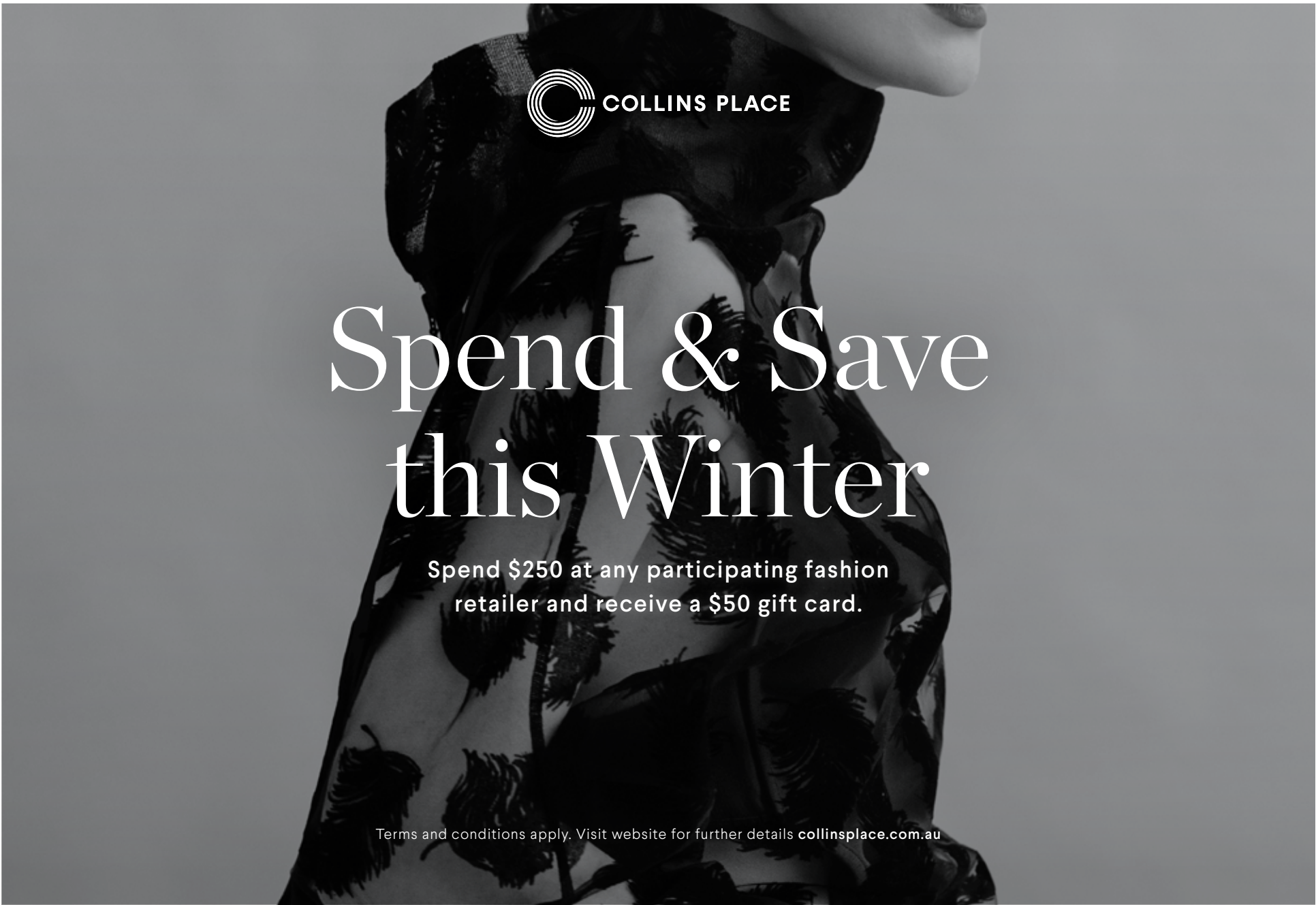
“It’s always a popular event, bringing tens of thousands of people to the precinct to celebrate the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, giving local businesses a much-needed boost.”


“Events like the Firelight Festival are help-



ing bring back the vitality of the Docklands precinct and we’re pleased to support the City of Melbourne to host the 2022 event after an absence of two years.”

Other event funding announced in the City of Melbourne’s latest budget include \$6.4 million for the Christmas Festival, \$4.9 million for Moomba, \$3.9 million for New Year’s Eve and \$2.9 million for Melbourne Fashion Week. ●





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Greenline headlines budget as rate rise returns

A record infrastructure spend in the next 12 months from will see the City of Melbourne pump \$40 million into the landmark Greenline project, in a 2022-23 budget that signalled a return to rate rises for locals.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The council's latest budget, however, released on May 17, was overall a quiet one for Docklands with just \$3.2 million invested in capital and renewal works.

The investment in Greenline, a proposed four-kilometre green trail along the north bank of the Yarra River into Docklands, is the biggest signal yet of the council's intentions for a project it says would be the city's "biggest transformation" since the opening of Federation Square in 2002.

The \$40 million investment in the next year will be spent to deliver floating wetlands and begin transforming almost 600 metres of the river's edge at Birrarung Marr.

The council has proposed funding one-third of the \$300 million project and will push the state and federal governments to similarly contribute \$100 million each.

A newly elected federal Labor government has pledged \$20 million to kickstart work on the pathway, which would run from Birrarung Marr all the way to the Bolte Bridge.

The City of Melbourne released their budget on the same night it hosted a Future Melbourne Committee meeting at The Hub in Docklands.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp outlined how the council would invest in the local area in the next year.

"About \$3.2 million will be invested in capital and renewal works here in Docklands around the city marina, waterways, as well as roadways, drains, parks, landscapes, libraries and property," she told the crowd.

"This is important for us because we are local government and it's absolutely essential we do the basics well, and we're really pleased that we have got dedicated budget to Docklands to really do the basics and do them well."

The council also included \$1.1 million for the 2023 Firelight Festival.

The latest budget responded to a growing need to keep Melbourne clean and presentable for large-scale events, with the council beefing up its rapid response graffiti removal team as part of a record \$28.2 million for city cleaning.

The council's largest ever investment, the



Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal, also benefitted with a further \$50 million pledged over the next 12 months.

Works to restore the market's heritage sheds will be completed within the year, along with the revamped Food Hall, while construction will begin on upgrades to the Queen St streetscape, Northern Shed and Trader Shed.

However, the news wasn't so good for local residents and businesses already concerned about the rising cost of living, after the City of Melbourne announced a 1.75 per cent rate rise — its first announced increase since 2019.

In 2020, within months of Melbourne's first COVID-19 lockdown, the council announced a freeze on rate increases, while in 2021 it passed on a discount to both residential and commercial ratepayers that saved the majority of ratepayers between \$10 and \$50.

However, this year it opted to increase rates — which contribute around two-thirds of council revenue — in line with the rate cap rise announced by the state government late last year.

The City of Melbourne did, however, announce a rate discount of up to \$247 for pensioners, which it said was the most generous in the state.

Across the municipality, the council's latest budget featured a record \$837.8 million council spend in the next financial year.

"This is a landmark budget that restores city confidence and continues to invest in Melbourne's momentum," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"We've designed a budget that delivers on what matters most — making our city cleaner, delivering more events and bringing people back to the city."

"We're investing to grow our economy beyond pre-pandemic levels and create more

jobs, more events and more amenities for our residents, traders and visitors."

The council had expected to return to surplus in the upcoming financial year, but this has now been pushed back to 2023-24.

The underlying deficit announced on May 17 was \$11.3 million.

According to the budget papers, this was due to the "unforeseen impacts of the Omicron variant and the sixth COVID-19 lockdown in 2021".

The council's bottom line, however, would be significantly bolstered by a projected \$25 million increase in parking fines and parking fee income compared with the 2021-22 financial year. This was due to an expected rise in CBD visitation.

Cr Capp referred to "robust internal discussions" at Town Hall surrounding the budget and acknowledged the need to "tighten our belts as an organisation."

"There's a lot of pushing and shoving that goes on to get the best results we possible can from what is still a tight financial situation at the City of Melbourne," she conceded at a May 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting held in Docklands.

However, the Lord Mayor said that despite this, the council was buoyed by the strong return of visitors during recent large-scale events such as the Comedy Festival, Formula 1 Grand Prix, AFL games and performances of *Hamilton* and *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*.

Cr Capp revealed that on the Saturday prior to the budget being released (May 14), the city had seen a 172 per cent increase on numbers on even pre-pandemic levels.

"We are getting our mojo back, and our events calendar has really driven a lot of that visitation and return to the city. It's underpinned 'COVID-caution' turning into 'COVID-confidence' and

we are seeing the results in our foot traffic."

Greens Cr Rohan Leppert, while supporting the budget, was critical of investment in cycling infrastructure, which was considerably less than what had recently been committed in neighbouring states.

The Liberal NSW government recently committed \$960 million over four years for active transport upgrades in Greater Sydney, while the recent Victorian budget included just \$7 million for cycling.

Similarly, he said the City of Sydney recently committed \$69 million over four years, which dwarfed the City of Melbourne's recent budget allocation of \$18.2 million.

"I'm going to support this budget, but I don't think that's enough," he said.

"We have considered the past two years' worth of active transport improvements in the City of Melbourne to be a peak, but we can't consider it a peak — that needs to be the new normal."

An emotional Cr Leppert, speaking on the same night a cyclist was killed at the intersection of La Trobe and King streets in the CBD, said further investment was crucial.

"If we are truly going to make the most of the finite road space in our municipality and make our streets as safe as they possibly can, we have to lift the spending on active transport to make the city safe for everyone."

Community feedback on the draft budget can be provided on the Participate Melbourne website until June 14, before the final budget will be presented to the council for adoption on June 28.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said this phase was important, and that the council was receptive to changes.

"We do really, really, really value your feedback," Cr Reece said.

"Think about the things you care about in your community. Ask us why something you really care about isn't supported, or is not supported enough, in the budget. Put ideas to us — we listen to them, we will assess them." ●

To have your say:
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au



David Schout

JOURNALIST

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Election result and the City of Melbourne

WORDS BY Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece
OPINION

It was Prime Minister Paul Keating who once said, “when you change the government, you change the country”. He was right, of course. But after this year’s federal election, you can also add “and you change the city too”.

Cities turn the cogs of our economy and are home to the vast majority of Australians. The City of Melbourne alone contributes more than 24 per cent to the Victorian economy and seven per cent to Australia’s overall economy. It is a national imperative that the federal government invests in, and cares for, our cities.

With this in mind, the City of Melbourne approached the leading parties in the federal election with a pro-active agenda of policies and initiatives to support the city.

With the election results now in, local residents have helped elect three members of parliament: Bill Shorten (Kensington) and Josh Burns (Southbank and Fishermans Bend) for the Labor Party, and Adam Bandt (CBD and surrounds) for The Greens.

The election of the Albanese Labor Government means the City of Melbourne will now partner with them to deliver a number of hugely significant election commitments for Melbourne.

First and foremost, we will partner with the Albanese Government to deliver Melbourne’s Greenline – a \$300 million city shaping project that will revitalise the north bank of the Yarra River-Birrarung through a continuous four-kilometre-long promenade. Federal Labor’s commitment of \$20 million to stage one means we can get on with a project that has the potential to contribute more than \$1 billion in economic uplift and 6400 jobs.

Federal Labor has also committed \$200 million to install 400 community batteries across Australia. In the run up to the election, it was confirmed that a number of these will be within our municipality including in Kensington and Southbank. The City of Melbourne will now partner with the new government on our Power Melbourne project, which will install an entire network of these batteries across the city.

This will contribute significantly to being a city powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and reaching zero net emissions by 2040. Steps that we can take to achieve these targets in major cities will have important impacts for Australia’s overall emissions reduction.

The City of Melbourne will also partner with the government to improve Moonee Ponds Creek with a \$5 million investment from Labor’s new Urban Rivers and Catchments Fund. These funds will help clean up the southern reaches of the river, delivering key projects from our Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan.

In Melbourne we work closely with every level of government, no matter their colour, to help advance the interests of Melbourne.

There is so much opportunity for the new Federal Labor Government to deliver in partnership with cities and we stand ready to deliver their commitments and so much more. ●

Take a walk on the wild side

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker
ARTS & CULTURE

Yarra’s Edge is now home to 20 baby animal statues in an effort to help raise awareness for vulnerable endangered species.

A three-metre-high eastern lowland gorilla will also be hard to miss, as it serves its purpose to represent itself as a mother and protector of all the babies.

The *Wild About Babies* interactive animal conservation exhibition is the result of a partnership with developer Mirvac and internationally renowned artists, Gillie and Marc.

“Over the years we’ve travelled all over the world studying animals. These babies are the products of the many photographs and sketches we’ve taken,” Gillie said.

“We’ve tried to make them as life-like as possible so that once people see these animals they will fall in love and be inspired to take action to save them.”

While encouraging visitors to Docklands the aim of the exhibition serves to educate and be a voice for the endangered animals.

Each animal’s plaque will have a QR code where more can be learnt about the specific animal while also providing people with the opportunity to make direct donations to WWF-Australia, an organisation focused on helping to protect endangered species.

A naming competition has also been launched and upon winning the chosen name for their favourite animal and having it engraved on the baby’s plaque, the winners will receive a Gillie and Marc print valued at \$849.

An additional \$100 will also be donated to WWF-Australia from Mirvac and attributed to the winners’ names.

“At Mirvac, we have been reimagining urban life for 50 years, focusing on initiatives that will have a positive impact for future generations and creating opportunities for the community to come together,” Mirvac general manager for Residential Victoria Elysa Anderson said.



Development Victoria’s group head precincts Geoff Ward said, “We’re pleased to support Mirvac and the internationally-renowned artists Gilles and Marc showcase this exhibition along Yarra’s Edge.”

“Activations such as the *Wild About Babies*

exhibit helps to showcase the best of what Docklands has to offer and encourages people to visit Yarra’s Edge – supporting local businesses and helping Victorians understand how they can help support animal conservation protect our precious wildlife.”

From the giant tortoise to the Sumatran orangutan, Indian elephant and cheetah, find out exactly how humans have unfortunately impacted their endangered status and help be part of the change.

The exhibition was unveiled at Yarra’s Edge on May 20, a date that coincided with National Endangered Species Day, and will be in place for the next six months. ●

For more information:
yarrasedge.mirvac.com

New Royal Stacks store shares some brekkie love

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker
BUSINESS

Since its beginnings in 2016, Royal Stacks has been the go-to place for everything you expect to come from a funky, classic ‘90s American diner.

After selling the city on a stack of burgers and their unique frozen custard desserts, the burger joint has opened its eighth store at Melbourne Quarter. Never doing anything by halves, the recently-opened store on Gunpowder Walk laneway is offering an exclusive breakfast menu until 11am each day, something unheard of in their other stores.

From filtered coffee to breakfast sliders with egg and cheese, sausage or avocado to potato hash browns and pikelets coated in maple syrup or chocolate fudge, Royal Stacks is proving



burgers are not just for lunch or dinner.

“We are excited to launch our very first breakfast menu at the Melbourne Quarter store, serving state-of-the-art V60 coffee and tasty brekkie items,” owner Dani Zeini said.

“We wanted to create a space where people can escape their daily rituals, eat great food and enjoy the best of the ‘90s. We love the CBD atmosphere at Melbourne Quarter and the pre-

cinct’s outdoor dining options.”

As the first Royal Stacks store to tap into the city breakfast crowd, the burger joint is ultimately expanding its reach.

It’s a move Mr Zeini said they were excited for, as they were wanting another location where they could serve “the best burgers in town”.

Continuing to stick with the elements of nostalgia that makes Royal Stacks special, the new store has set-up a mini blockbuster video store in the corner and an outside retro Telstra phone booth customers can order from.

In a time when city businesses are discussing scaling back or advancing their technology to leave the good old days behind, Royal Stacks new store is a welcomed change for the area.

Royal Stacks opened on May 20 in Melbourne Quarter located between Flinders and Collins streets and across from Southern Cross Station. ●

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Drunk, unlicenced, and speeding driver caught in school zone

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

An allegedly drink driver who ignored children's safety by speeding in a Docklands school zone has been charged with a string of offences.

The 21-year-old woman's Mercedes sedan was pulled over by police after she was caught travelling at 61km/h in a 40km/h zone on the corner of Footscray Rd and Little Docklands Drive, near Docklands Primary School, at around 9.15am on May 12.

Police allege the Werribee woman returned a positive preliminary breath test of .236 and refused an evidentiary breath test.

It is also alleged that the driver was a disqualified learner driver and had breached a court order.

Police arrested and charged the woman with multiple driving offences and she was remanded to appear at court at a later date. Her car was also impounded and towed away.

Police have been running a highly visible safety campaign in the neighbourhood in response to safety concerns from the community, with officers targeting driving offences in the school zone along Footscray Rd.

Melbourne West Police became aware of the issue as part of the newly-launched Neighbourhood Policing Initiative, which allows police to get back-to-basics by listening to the community.

The Docklands Primary School community had informed police of drivers not complying with the 40km/h zone outside of the school, putting students, parents and staff at risk.

Since early May officers have identified 24 speeding offences, which included at least three drivers travelling at speed of more than 29km/h above the posted school zone speed limit.

Melbourne West First Constable Mitch Hoare thanked the community for raising safety issue to their attention which "should provide



assurance that we are listening, will continue to listen and take the necessary action."

"Anyone selfish enough to risk the lives of not only other road users, but children on their way to school by driving in such a dangerous manner can expect to be caught swiftly by police," he said.

As part of Neighbourhood Policing model, police are engaging with the local community to strengthen relationships, share intelligence and find out what issues people care about the most. ●

Crowded booths upset voters

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ELECTIONS



Docklands residents were forced to queue for up to 90 minutes at polling booths on election day, with many forced to run the gauntlet of campaigners to cast a vote.

At the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre the queue extended for more than 500 metres as more than 7000 Melbourne voters converged on the booth.

When Jared turned up to vote and saw the queue, he changed his mind and opted for Library at the Dock instead.

"It usually takes 20 minutes at the library," he told *Docklands News*. "This time it took an hour. The queue circled the grass patch. Luckily, I didn't have any plans."

The situation was exacerbated by the fact that there were no polling booths in the CBD, sending residents on reconnaissance missions for short queues.

Electoral staff told *Docklands News* that staff shortages and the impact of COVID restrictions made queues move more slowly this year.

But Greens volunteer Apsara Sabaratnam said the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) should have made it easy for voters rather than more difficult.

"There were no pre-polling booths in Melbourne's CBD and Docklands meaning residents had to travel outside of their postcode to cast a vote on pre-poll day. This lack of polling booths disenfranchises voters."

Docklands residents can be forgiven for thinking they were the forgotten people during this election.

None of the political parties campaigned here, except for a short visit to District Docklands by the Victorian Socialists, citing the difficulty of using traditional methods such as door-knocking and posting leaflets in residential towers.

Adam Bandt from the Greens sent a letter to all Melbourne residents and this initiative might have been reflected in the 8.95 per cent

swing to the party at Docklands compared to a 2.81 per cent swing overall in the electorate.

One Greens voter told *Docklands News* that he did research online before voting and that climate change was the key driver for him.

There were also local environmental issues, he said. "There is a lot of pollution. I see dead fish. I don't know how clean the water is."

Docklands workers also complained about the lack of pre-polling facilities, forcing them to cast postal votes.

"Usually, I go to an office near the Queen Vic Market," one worker told *Docklands News*.

"I want a clear decision in my head. I do a lot of research before the election."

Campaigners at polling booths can be too aggressive for some voters and the closely packed quarters at Door 1 in the Convention Centre were a case in point.

Voters were forced to run the gauntlet of campaigners for nine candidates.

The AEC responded on Twitter to a question from *Docklands News* about the reduction of voting options for local residents.

"Potential voting locations are carefully assessed prior to each federal election," the AEC said. "Consideration is given to the geography of local area, population, past voting trends, nearby voting services, travel trends and accessibility."

Yet there were three polling booths in Carlton for 3420 voters and just two for the CBD, Southbank and Docklands with 9268 voters.

The Convention Centre attracted some Melbourne 7566 voters who also had to contend with Macnamara and interstate voters staying in the CBD. ●



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Design committee meets in Docklands

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

Community members have begun having their say in city-shaping design matters, after the City of Melbourne’s newly established Design Excellence Advisory Committee (DEAC) recently met in Docklands.

The committee, comprising industry experts, academics and members of the community, has been appointed to work through design challenges and opportunities facing Melbourne.

In one of its first in-person meetings, the group chaired by Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece had a walk-through tour in parts of Docklands and raised issues and opportunities in the area.

The meeting included an informed discussion with an expert from Shanghai about waterfront projects in the Chinese city and how they might relate locally.

A series of Docklands-focused recommendations are due in the coming weeks.

“Fantastic to hold the first meeting of the Design Excellence Advisory Committee (DEAC) in Docklands. Fair to say, a lot of ideas came up!” Cr Reece said on Twitter on May 10.

The DEAC features a range of “advisors” (such as Eureka Tower architect Karl Fender), “technical experts” (such as Infrastructure Australia CEO Romilly Madew) and, importantly, five members of the community.

One of those, Daniel Ong, said the Docklands meeting included important contributions about Harbour Esplanade and the area’s connection with the water, greening, wayfinding and ground-level retail vacancies.

Resident input in planning matters has been a topic of hot discussion in recent years.

At a May 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting held in Docklands, a public question was submitted about the planning and approval stages of Docklands development and redevelopment projects.

The question, submitted by Jason Butcher, asked what measures the council was taking to ensure that Docklands’ resident voices are adequately canvassed and acted upon during the planning and approval stages of development and redevelopment projects.

The council’s director planning and building Julian

“

Fantastic to hold the first meeting of the Design Excellence Advisory Committee (DEAC) in Docklands. Fair to say, a lot of ideas came up!

”

Edwards, through Cr Reece, said, “we engage formally on over 50 projects each year with many more in the planning stages. Residents, businesses, workers, students, visitors are included as well as people of all ages and backgrounds. More recently, we’ve completed two months’ consultation on neighbourhood planning in Docklands with a high percentage of residents represented and we’re currently analysing the feedback and will have a second round of consultation on the priorities for Docklands later in the year.”

Mr Edwards noted that the majority of private development and redevelopment projects in Docklands were led by either developers directly or in conjunction with the Victorian Government through Development Victoria (DV).

“The City of Melbourne works closely with DV to ensure that opportunities are provided for genuine community engagement on projects throughout the developing and planning phases given that a majority of planning permit applications are exempt from formal notice and review [advertising]. The City of Melbourne seeks to ensure that significant Docklands-shaping applications are presented to, and decided by, the Future Melbourne Committee in a public forum.” ●

Managing water for Fishermans Bend

PLANNING

A multi-government partnership is embedding the “world’s best water managing practices” in a new long-term strategy for Fishermans Bend.

A partnership between the Victorian Government, Cities of Port Phillip and Melbourne, South East Water, Melbourne Water, Water Sensitive Cities Australia and the Office of the Victorian Government Architect has resulted in the Fishermans Bend Water Sensitive City Strategy.

“This partnership approach, led by the Victorian Government, has resulted in an innovative strategy which will reduce the impact of flooding, improve stormwater quality before it enters the bay and provide a climate-resilient water supply,” Port Phillip Council Mayor Marcus Pearl said.

An “integral part” of planning in Fishermans Bend, managing water is crucial for the Fishermans Bend community with the area located between the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay and facing heightened flooding risks from climate change.

A secure, sustainable water supply will be provided for all parks and sports facilities within Fishermans Bend, with the potential opportunity to irrigate other open spaces in surrounding neighbourhoods with recycled water.

According to the City of Port Phillip, the strategy commits to delivering fit-for-purpose recycled water for every resident. All buildings will be connected to a recycled water network for everyday tasks such as clothes washing, toilet flushing, garden irrigation and wash down (such



as cars), reducing use of precious drinking water.

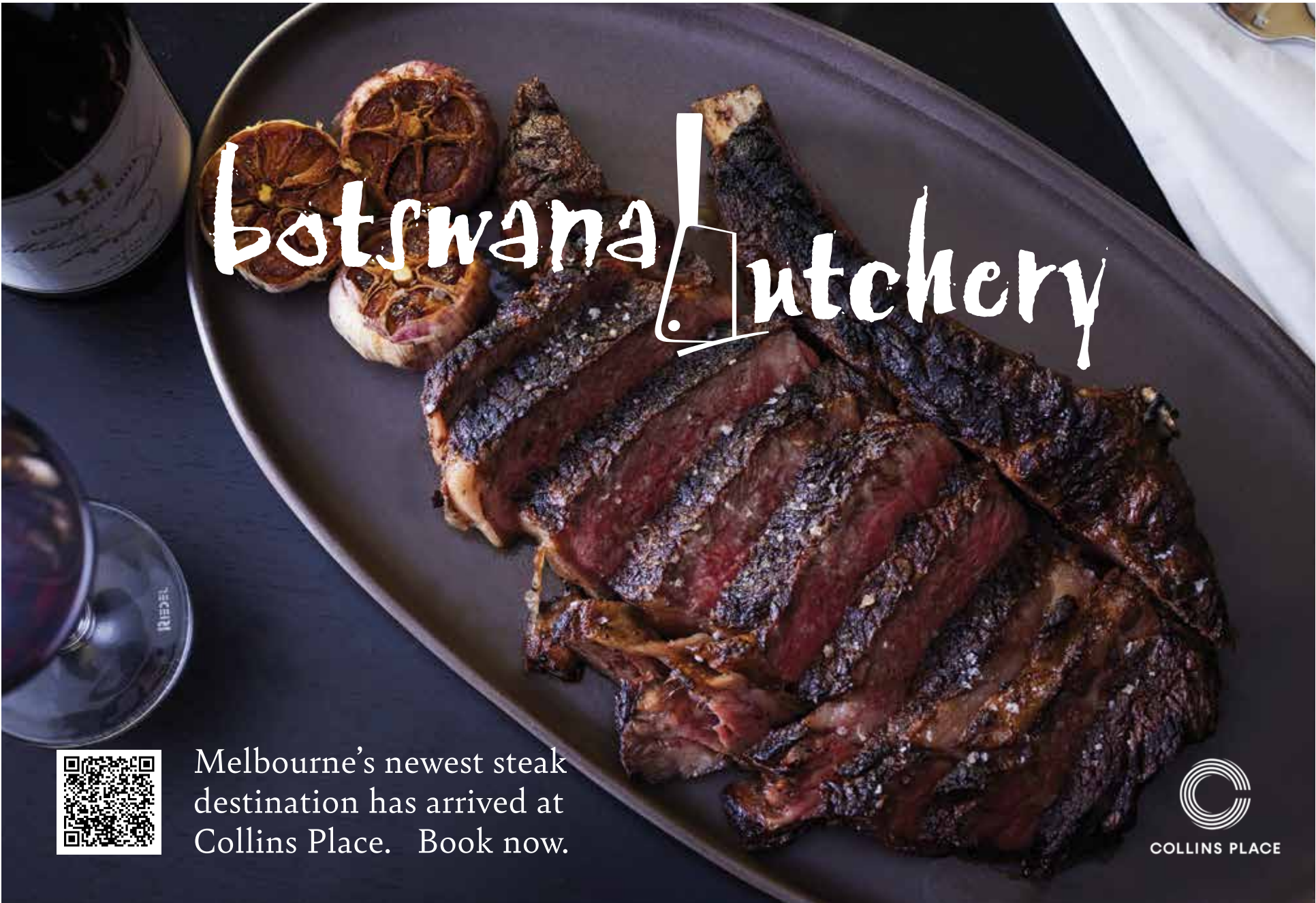
A flood levee (embankment) is planned along the banks of the Yarra River to protect Fishermans Bend from flooding, which will be part of the latter stage of the 30-year strategy and involves the levee being integrated into the urban fabric, rather than being a traditional soil barrier.

As well as applying “world’s best practice” to manage water in collaborative and innovative ways across residential, business and public spaces, the council said the strategy also supported “a sustainable future for Port Phillip as the city adapts to a changing climate and the accompanying sea level rise.”

The Fishermans Bend precinct covers around 480 hectares within the Cities of Port Phillip and Melbourne. By 2050, it is predicted this area will be home to 80,000 residents and provide jobs for up to 80,000 people.



The City of Port Phillip said it would be collaborating with partners, including the Victorian Government, to undertake infrastructure planning and begin delivery of its long-term strategy.

For more information: fishermansbend.vic.gov.au/media/fishermans-bend-water-sensitive-city-strategy ●



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COLLINS PLACE

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INVESTING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD IN 2022–23

The City of Melbourne is a dynamic municipality with 11 diverse neighbourhoods. Our draft Budget 2022-23 sets out how we plan to invest in Docklands to deliver core services, maintain and improve parks, public spaces and recreational facilities, and fund events that will build Melbourne’s momentum.

Municipality map





Residential population
16,058



Number of businesses
1182



Main occupation Professionals
41%



Residents born overseas
68%

INVESTING IN CAPITAL WORKS

The City of Melbourne will deliver a record infrastructure program, investing \$270 million in projects across the municipality in 2022-23 to plan for the future needs of the community.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said ‘our super-charged infrastructure pipeline invests in Melbourne’s momentum – building confidence and creating up to 1,000 jobs at a critical time for our city’. ‘We’re investing in our community facilities and making important upgrades to ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy our city,’ she said.

New infrastructure investments and upgrades in Docklands include:

- \$426,000 for Seafarers Rest Park
- \$150,000 for waterways renewal
- \$170,000 for wharf and marina maintenance
- \$127,000 to reduce speed limits

- \$406,000 for cycle infrastructure
- \$519,000 for other green space, infrastructure and cultural projects

Renewal and maintenance works to be carried out in Docklands in 2022-23 include:


- We will invest \$2.9 million on works on the Melbourne City Marina, the Waterways Renewal Program as well as renewal of roadways, drains, parks, landscape, library collection and property.
- We will invest \$771,000 on maintenance works including wharf and marina maintenance on community facilities and other property, safe city cameras and urban forest health.
- Through the Business Precinct Program, we will invest up to \$90,000 annual funding to Docklands Chamber of Commerce for business support and activation initiatives.



We're investing in Docklands to ensure it remains a cleaner, greener and more liveable neighbourhood.

To find out more about what we’re doing in your neighbourhood over the next 12 months, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans

Feedback on the draft Budget 2022-23 can be provided on Participate Melbourne until 11.59pm on Tuesday 14 June.



We're investing in our marinas to ensure boating remains accessible and safe.



We're supporting events to activate the promenade along New Quay.



Docklands has evolved into a sophisticated waterfront precinct

INVESTING IN LOCAL SERVICES

City of Melbourne is committed to providing the highest level of services to our community.

Childcare and family services

Gowrie @ The Harbour is a City of Melbourne facility leased to Gowrie Victoria. This centre provides a 150-place education and childcare centre with integrated kindergarten. The integrated Family Services team includes maternal and child health, immunisation, family and parenting support and counselling with services delivered to the community at Community Hub @ The Dock.

Parks and open spaces

We manage and maintain 14 key public spaces and six playgrounds in Docklands.





Sporting and recreation venues

We manage the Melbourne City Marina, Melbourne’s largest visitor berthing facility. We also manage the Yarra’s Edge Marina and look after day-to-day operations of the waterways, allocation and licensing of berths, and manage marina leases.

We manage the community boating hub and provide licenses for boating organisations to use the Hub as a base for dragon boating, sailing and outrigger canoes.

The Hub @ Docklands is a multipurpose recreation centre with rooms available for booking. It is adjacent to the Docklands Sports Courts, and features synthetic multi-use sports courts which can be booked for casual use.

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Your City of Melbourne community update

LANDMARK BUDGET INVESTS IN MELBOURNE’S MOMENTUM

City-shaping infrastructure projects, a stellar events calendar and making the city safer and cleaner are highlights of the City of Melbourne’s draft Budget 2022-23.

The record \$837.8 million investment to build city-shaping projects, promote a jam-packed calendar of events, and make the city cleaner and safer will ensure the Melbourne experience is better than ever for residents, workers and visitors.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the draft Budget is designed to make our city cleaner, greener and full of people again.

‘The City of Melbourne is the engine room of the Victorian economy so it’s imperative that we continue to invest in its momentum.

‘This draft Budget is a record \$837.8 million investment to build momentum, create confidence and deliver essential services for the city and the community.

‘We’re investing to grow our economy beyond pre-pandemic levels and create a fairer, better-connected, and even more extraordinary city.’

Our draft Budget is big on delivery, job creation and investing in the city’s sustained momentum.



INVESTING IN CITY-SHAPING INFRASTRUCTURE

Our draft Budget includes a record \$254 million on infrastructure to build better facilities, create jobs and supercharge the economy.

Our landmark Greenline project will receive an initial \$40 million to bring it to life, transforming the north bank of the Yarra River – Birrarung into a vibrant promenade.

In another significant milestone for the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal, we’re spending \$50 million on the planned next stage of the project.

Works to restore the market’s heritage sheds will be completed within the year, along with the revamped Food Hall. Construction will begin on upgrades to the Queen Street streetscape, Northern Shed and Trader Shed, making it easier for traders to do business.

The massive infrastructure pipeline will generate up to 1,000 jobs,

providing a significant economic boost for businesses across the city.

Investment in major community infrastructure projects includes \$25 million for the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre redevelopment. With construction already underway, the new facility will boast a 25-metre pool, gymnasium, multi-purpose courts, community spaces, and accessible change-rooms.

More than \$8.2 million will complete the fit-out of the Munro Library and Community Hub, with the project slated for completion in 2023.

We’ve also allocated \$13.7 million to repair and maintain footpaths, roads and other city infrastructure. This includes another footpath blitz, as well as new street furniture, wayfinding signage and street lighting.



KEEPING THE CITY CLEANER AND SAFER

We’ve listened to our residents and ratepayers, and keeping our city attractive, clean, and safe is imperative.

So, we’re doubling down on our efforts to keep the city clean, safe and free from graffiti, with a huge \$33.6 million investment. That’s almost \$5 million more than last year to do this.

We’re expanding our Rapid Response Clean Team to fast-track graffiti

removal and doubling our investment in high pressure cleaning.

To keep people safe and crack down on antisocial behaviour, \$5.4 million will be invested into critical safety infrastructure and resources, including \$2 million to improve city lighting in areas such as St Kilda Road and the Yarra River’s north bank.

RECORD YEAR OF EVENTS



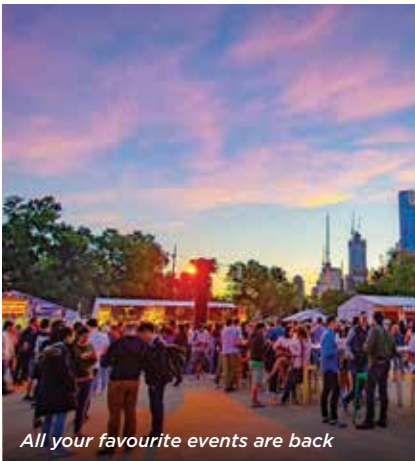
Events will enliven our city

We’re planning our biggest year of events, investing a record \$33.7 million in festivals, activations and creative initiatives to enliven our streets and laneways, entice visitors into the city, support local businesses and cement Melbourne as the events and cultural capital of the country.

All the city’s favourite events will return bigger and better than ever – Christmas Festival, Moomba, New Year’s Eve, Melbourne Fashion Week, Melbourne Knowledge Week, Melbourne Music Week.

All the fun begins in July when Firelight Festival will light up Docklands for a three-night celebration of the winter solstice – featuring a new immersive lighting display, fire installations, music, live performances and food trucks.

We’re drawing again on our constructive partnership with the State Government, to boost community festivals and initiatives, through the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund.



RATES KEEP OUR CITY SERVICES RUNNING

We continue to create city confidence with this year’s budget, and rates have their part to play.

Rates are necessary to keep our city running. Our teams work around the clock delivering essential services from waste and recycling collections to road works and street cleaning, public health and safety schemes.

After two years of rates relief for residents and businesses, we will return to the normal rates cycle by implementing the Victorian Government’s 1.75 per cent rates cap.

This will ensure we can deliver on all essential services residents and traders rely on, as well as continuing to deliver on all major projects.

We will help cost of living pressures for pensioners by providing a rates discount of up to \$247, the most generous in the state.

To provide ratepayers with a clearer picture of what they’re paying, waste costs will be listed as a separate item on rates notices. This brings the City of Melbourne in line with most other Victorian councils.

Finance portfolio lead Councillor Philip Le Liu said investments in the draft Budget will ensure Melbourne remains the engine room of the Victorian economy, while building momentum to create a fairer, better-connected city, and delivering more initiatives than ever before.

‘Years of disciplined financial management made it possible to increase investment to support our community as the pandemic steered our city off track over a difficult two years,’ Cr Le Liu said.



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Greenline will transform the north bank of the river



Floating wetlands will transform the river

Green light for Greenline
In the biggest vote of confidence yet for the landmark Greenline project, we'll invest \$140 million in the city-shaping project over the next four years. In the next year, a record \$40 million will be spent to create floating wetlands, begin transforming almost 600 meters of the river's edge at Birrarung Marr and continue early works along the north bank.



Backing business with continued support

FIRST CHOICE FOR BUSINESS

Our draft Budget invests in making Melbourne the first choice for business by cutting red tape and attracting new investment and visitors to boost spending and restore confidence. We'll spend \$730,000 to extend our Business Concierge service – providing recovery and specialised support, startup advice and mentoring at no cost to more than 15,000 businesses.

A \$1 million commitment for Invest Melbourne will ramp up work to encourage new proposals, attract global headquarters and significant projects, and simplify start-up processes.

More than 60 businesses looking to establish in Australia have already been identified, and Invest Melbourne is actively targeting these organisations to choose Melbourne over any other capital city.

A new digital system to fast-track permits is also set to be introduced, making it even easier for businesses and developers to lodge and track applications for dozens of different permit types, including on-street trading and business advertising.

More than \$500,000 will support 1,500 hospitality venues and 1,000 creatives through the extension of outdoor dining and busking permit fee waivers until 31 October. Since 2020, Council has absorbed \$2 million in permit fees to ease the burden.

A GREENER CITY

Our draft Budget includes a \$50 million investment to create new open space, protect parks, charge ahead with Power Melbourne and cut emissions.

More than \$26 million has been committed to protecting and maintaining the city's parks and gardens, along with an additional \$1.6 million to replace public toilets in Fitzroy Gardens and Carlton Gardens, and \$2 million to improve the southern sports field in Fawkner Park.

The city's green canopy will be vital in efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, with \$1.8 million for

the annual tree planting program to add 2,400 new trees across the municipality.

We will continue to build on our commitment to combat climate change and move towards net zero emissions with a \$650,000 investment in the landmark Power Melbourne project – creating a neighbourhood scale battery network to supply renewable energy to the community.

Work in the coming year will focus on engaging with the community, as well as designing and funding the first batteries in partnership with the private sector.

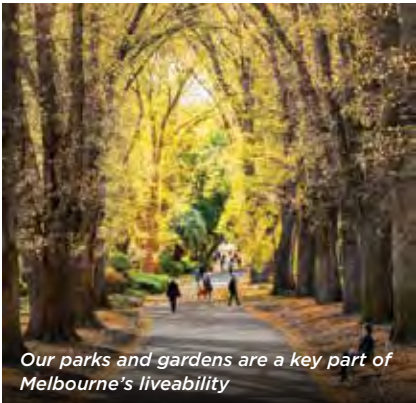


We're turning grey space into green

Feedback on the draft Budget 2022-23 can be provided on Participate Melbourne until 11.59pm on Tuesday 14 June.

After a special meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Thursday 23 June to consider community feedback, the final Budget is expected to be endorsed by councillors on Tuesday 28 June.

HAVE YOUR SAY
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans



Our parks and gardens are a key part of Melbourne's liveability

KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne* magazine online at magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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

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New arcade at Escala

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARCHITECTURE

Last month *Docklands News* reported on the completion of a new mixed-use development on Docklands Drive with a residential tower and a striking arched facade to the street.

This month it reveals the inner workings of the precinct as tenants get ready to move in and bring it to life.

At street level there are small strips of leadlight window that catch the eye.

These have been strategically placed to encourage people to use a new arcade through the complex as they cut the corner.

“A building has to work in the first five metres,” architect Michael Frazzetto said.

“We want to compress the activity down to the human scale and punctuate it with detail in the first five metres.”

Michael is director of Six Degrees and the company has made its name in the CBD with its laneway bars, beginning with Meyers Place bar in 1994, and a philosophy that transformed the city.

Now it wants to bring that narrative of discovery to Docklands where what Michael calls a “plantation” approach to development has dominated.

The firm’s first mixed-use development is Escala at 379 Docklands Drive, a 20-storey residential tower with a six-storey commercial podium, where they are trying to “accelerate evolution”.

The site has a 50-metre frontage. In Collins St in the CBD there would



▲ The new arcade at Escala attracts a visitor.

be 20 shops. “We’ve tried to break the precinct down into pieces.”

There is lead lighting on the windows, a square created by setting the building back and most significant of all, the lobbies to both the residential and commercial buildings converge.

“You have to work hard to get a sense of action, a feedback mechanism,” Michael said. “We’re looking at ways of making people more visible. It adds to the safety of urban life.”

The first thing that went in was the café. “We made sure that it was protected from the wind and sunny. It passes the newspaper test.”

He said a lot of architects don’t have time to get to the level of detail at the ground. The company had to pitch their ideas to MAB Corporation,



▲ Michael Frazzetto in the Capitol Arcade, Swanston St.

ideas that come from studying the infrastructure of the CBD which has been evolving for 150 years.

Six Degrees has used Capitol Arcade off Swanston St as a model at Escala.

Michael trained in Copenhagen under Jan Ghel and his first assignment was to go out into the street and observe.

“Look at the way that woman is walking,” Jan said. “She’s walking close to the wall because she feels protected. People like edges.”

Instead of thinking big, Six Degrees thinks small. “We’re trying to understand behaviour. What makes people feel comfortable? Humans are very little. They need to be protected like babies.” ●

Community engagement aims to “makes some inroads” in lead up to Docklands Summit

WORDS BY Brendan Rees
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Docklands residents as well as the broader municipality have expressed a desire to have a “one-stop shop” set-up in the precinct that would have access to neighbourhood-related information.

That was the feedback following a recent City of Melbourne survey with residents that aims “to understand the strengths as well as the challenges” in the community.

The results were mentioned by the council’s director of community development, Rushda Halith during the council’s Future Melbourne Committee meeting on May 17, which was held for the first time in the Docklands community.

Ms Halith spoke about neighbourhood key issues and City of Melbourne projects for Docklands, saying a recent survey included questions such as, “What does a council mean to you in your local neighbourhood? What’s missing? And what are your local priorities?”

“We have spoken over the last few months as part of implementing the neighbourhood model to about 6000 people across our municipality and about 800 people in Docklands who have made over one thousand contributions, so it’s been really fantastic to see that engagement locally and here from the community,” she said.

“The feedback at the moment is being gathered from that consultation in Docklands and we’re hoping to go

“

What does a council mean to you in your local neighbourhood? What’s missing?

”

out later this year around August for a second round of really testing what we have heard and does that resonate, [and if] there are any gaps.”

Ms Halith added the council was in the process of developing neighbourhood portals across the municipality including Docklands which would contain neighbourhood-related data and community resources.

She said all information collated would “build the foundation” and “to look how we’re going to make some inroads” in the lead up to the Docklands Summit to be held later this year.

It comes as the council’s “Participate Docklands” project – in which consultation was completed at the end of April – seeks to provide the local community with some clarity about the precinct’s future. All submissions from Participate Docklands are currently being analysed by an independent consultant with the results and demographic data expected to be revealed in July. ●

PROPOSED NAMING OF VH08 AS YANONUNG QUAY, DOCKLANDS

It is proposed to name the wharf and pontoons identified on the attached plan as Yanonung Quay.

Notice is given pursuant to the Naming Rules for places in Victoria 2016 that the City of Melbourne Council proposes to name VH08 in Docklands shown on the plan below as ‘Yanonung Quay’. The naming is required because it is an important berthing place for boats in Docklands, and will be used by several commercial operators into the future.



It is proposed to name the locality ‘Yanonung Quay’. ‘Yanonung’ is a Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung word meaning waterways.

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation has provided the appropriate permission for use of the name, in relation to the above purpose only.

More information about this notice can be found at melbourne.vic.gov.au/yanonung Please respond in writing within 30 days of this notice, 1st June 2022, if you wish to make a specific submission on the proposal. A non-response will be treated as approval to the proposed name.

Preferably your response should be via email to berthing@melbourne.vic.gov.au Alternatively it should be mailed Attn: Waterways Team – City of Melbourne, Suite 120, 439 Docklands Drive Docklands 3008.

For more information please visit our website melbourne.vic.gov.au



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What no plan means for the Docklands brand

Every Docklands resident, particularly property owners, should be concerned about the chronic lack of a statutory Docklands vision. One that's supported by a formal mandated development plan and timetable, with judicious oversight. In the absence of that, there are major implications for our uniquely convenient, city-edge lifestyle.

The October 2021 and May 2022 editions of *Docklands News* led with eloquent but exasperated front-page articles on this issue. Both lamented the lack of a formalised vision, the absence of which creates uncertainty that blights the future of Docklands. This lack is like rainwater: it runs unabated to the lowest point of the landscape, then sits in stagnant pools.

These sober reflections occur to me — a Docklands resident-owner for five years — as my return to northern climes draws near. I arrived here in mid-2017 and I'll leave with mixed feelings. But it's my intention to hold onto my apartment with its wonderful water view. So, I'll have a continuing interest in Docklands.

Our suburb has much to offer, and I've enjoyed living here, mainly for the practical convenience. But I could have enjoyed it so much more had there been a firmer hand on the planning, vision and management tiller of the good ship Docklands. I think it says a lot about our locale that Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp moved here a few years ago.



She resided in a Victoria Harbour apartment and proclaimed her love of the waterfront lifestyle. But she moved out after a year. In doing so, she was hardly atypical. Our Lord Mayor now resides in a more storied CBD-contiguous enclave: Carlton. Still only a short tram ride from the mayoral office, but much more amenable in many lifestyle-related ways. As Melbourne's epicentre of cool cosmopolitan academia, Carlton has enjoyed more than a century of proper planning and development. Its denizens reap the lifestyle rewards. Carlton has soul — and a highly desirable brand image.

I come from an advertising and marketing background, and I can't help thinking what all this says about the Docklands brand. It seems to me that Docklands was created as a practical extension of the commercial function of the CBD and funded by 25 years of residential development. Apparently, there are around 12,000 of us who live here in Docklands, with a pre-pandemic daily influx of up to 100,000 office workers. The way Docklands runs seems to be focused more on serving that transient working population than the permanent stakeholders: the residents. This gives Docklands a sort of Jekyll and Hyde quality. The placid daytime experience is subverted by the nocturnal reality.

To illustrate, let me run an informal marketing exercise past you ...

We're all familiar with the notion of brands and branding in popular culture. In approaching a branding task, one of the key disciplines involved is to develop what's known as a "brand personality". This is a short piece of prose, written as if the brand was a person. Two versions are created: the existing (the reality of how the branded product is seen at the start, before it's promoted) and the desired (how it is ideally seen in the future, after a brand development plan has been implemented). The contrast between the two defines the active effort required for the brand to grow into the desired vision.

I'm going to depart from convention here and give you my draft of the desired version first. This articulates a future Docklands brand whose potential will be fully realised:

"I am a place unique in Australia's most liveable city. A clean, green, modern, exciting but relaxed and informal near-city waterfront suburb. People of all ages are instinctively drawn to me because of my relaxed, easy-going contemporary lifestyle. My youthful, diverse vibe — juxtaposed with the energy and enterprise of the historic Melbourne CBD — is a stimulating mix. I love sharing my placid, lake-like water outlook with its boats moored around the edges. So much is at my doorstep here: a variety of good places to eat, two Woolies supermarkets, interesting things to look at, wonderfully relaxing waterfront walks, even a ferry to the near-western coast for a non-driving day out. All my neighbours love living here because the outlook is pleasant, and the amenities are great. There's even a school now, which has drawn growing families who give an exuberant village energy to these environs. And it's so convenient to be able to hop on a tram or train to get here, or to travel anywhere quickly. I'm proud that my cultural and aesthetic appeal draws visitors.

"They appreciate the mix of architectural modernity, history and events that are always on show. My visitors also respect the fact that this is a residential area, so they carry themselves with restraint and decorum. Melbourne has a precious asset in Docklands, and I know it's in good hands, with sound planning and management securing an exciting and assured future for us all."

As the old song from *My Fair Lady* says, wouldn't it be lovely? Now consider the reality: the existing brand personality of Docklands:

"I am a beguiling place, attractive to newcomers. I'm that curious addition to Melbourne CBD's western flank. I offer water views, broad uncrowded spaces, free tram travel, history next to eclectic modern architecture — what's not to like? This place is development central — there's been continuous building activity (with all its noise day in, day out) for decades.

"But I have a split personality. There's a hidden side you never see unless you live here. At night, I become a party boy. And don't the young people of wider Melbourne know it! They flock here, especially at weekends, because they can carouse, get drunk and discharge

their noisy party energy with impunity ... yep, the singing, shrieking and yelling often goes right through until dawn on Saturday nights. Has done for years. On weekends, boats full of party people drift in and slowly cruise around my waters, belting out singalong music that bounces off my towers. Sometimes even on lazy Sunday afternoons. People certainly don't come here for the food, but my half-dozen big restaurants regularly get booked out for major events attracting big noisy crowds. Loud music with louder commentary are broadcast over cranked-up speakers. You can hear it clear across the water, until late. Then there are the blow-ins who occupy the short-stay apartments throughout Docklands. These include people who host sex parties (as reported in the *Docklands News* May edition) and even drug dealers (my tower has at least one, known to management, on one of the high floors).

"I'm Melbourne's top hoon destination too! Loud motorbikes and souped-up cars all regularly redline their engines along my quiet streetscapes, from the post-peak until the late hours. Their strident engine notes bounce off my rows of tall towers, and drivers know they can rev out with impunity, because the police rarely show up. These rev-heads sometimes hang around for hours. I'll tell you who don't come here though — friends and relatives of the people who live here. They reckon it's too hard. Too much traffic and nowhere to park.

"My promenades are graveyards of failed eateries and windows full of 'To Let' signs. The air around here can get a bit stinky at times too — it drifts in on the breeze from the industrial near west. All in all, people either love me or hate me. But you can't deny my appeal to my chief cheerleaders... the party people!"

Sound familiar? Admittedly, this profile is biased to NewQuay, the commercial epicentre of our suburb. But to some extent, these problems exist right across Docklands. All are a perpetual blight on our quality of life and the Docklands brand. Because we live in vertical communities — rather than wide, horizontal suburban tracts — this barrage of nocturnal noise travels straight up and impacts thousands of us at a time. It would never be tolerated in any other residential suburb. I can feel you all nodding ruefully as you read this.

In terms of those polarised brand personalities, the situation will never skew upward from the existing version articulated above while this deeply flawed status quo exists.

We're stuck with it until the application of firm authority with dedication, focus and a continuing resolve for planning and policing a better vision allows Docklands to finally fulfil its undoubted potential. ●



Julian Smith
NEWQUAY RESIDENT
WELLSAID@TPG.COM.AU

DOCKLANDS SUNDAY COMMUNITY MARKET
FOOD & CRAFT

A Community Morning
Plus fair trade Stalls

2nd & 4th Sunday (May last Sunday)
8th & 29th May, 12th & 16th June, 10th & 24th July
14th & 28th Aug, 11th & 25th Sep, 9th & 23rd Oct, 13th & 27th Nov, 11th Dec 2022

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DOCKLANDER

The local singing praises on Docklands

As a resident of Yarra’s Egde and member of the Open Door Singers, Jenny Cleal is making the most of her central location.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Having always resided in suburban areas with plenty of garden to look after, the move to apartment living has been a big change for Jenny but one she deems as a “welcomed change”.

It is also through putting herself out there that she can now sit back and say she is living her fullest life.

“I think unless you take the opportunities of the location in which you live, you will be a lonely person,” she said.

“There are so many opportunities to meet people and to feel involved and get enjoyment out of life. There really is no excuse.”

Between spending her Thursday afternoons gardening in Yarra Point’s third and fifth floor gardens, walking, knitting beanies for Mission to Seafarers and reading at the Library at the Dock, Jenny raves about being in the Open Door Singers choir.

As a local choir involving no audition and plenty of “fun”, Jenny has found her three years with the Open Door Singers to be good for the soul.

“I love music and wouldn’t have ever called myself a singer but I love joining in and there is such a great bunch of people,” she said.

“It is so good for you emotionally, spiritually and socially and I just want people to know more about it. Some people get churlish because they think they will have to sing on their own, but you don’t, you just join in and sing along with other people.”

Conducted and run by musical director Shaun Islip, Docklands’ Open Door Singers



▲ Docklander Jenny Cleal.



meet at 100 Lorimer St, next to Yarra Point, on Wednesdays between 5.30pm and 6:30pm.

While the environment is one where everyone is welcomed and made to feel comfortable, Jenny said it was also a great place to learn from others and Mr Islip.

In addition to the practices, the choir also does performances at various events around the city, with their next gig set for July 13 at the Queen Victoria Market’s Winter Night Market, which is something Jenny said was both “really good fun” and gives you a “sense of elation”.

Alongside belting out tunes from *The Greatest Showman*, *Les Misérables* and *Phantom of the Opera*, Jenny said meeting people had been one of the other more positive things about Docklands life.

The “friendly environment” of Docklands has also seen many acquaintances become friends, and while apartment living may not suit everyone, it most certainly has become home for Jenny. ●

For more information:
opendoorsingers.org.au

BUSINESS

Reaching for the moon

Gowrie Victoria has a strong belief that children should be active citizens in the community, to help broaden their sense of belonging and self-empowerment. After two years of COVID lockdowns in Melbourne, children from The Harbour and Docklands Kinder are starting to explore the city once more.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

The sight of children from Gowrie Victoria exploring the Docklands community is a familiar one. An extensive Out & About program has always been an integral part of Gowrie’s practice, especially at The Harbour and Docklands Kinder, where there are daily trips to the park, library, primary school and even the supermarket.

Educational leader Sam Fernandez said there had been some hesitancy to venture beyond Docklands as the city slowly re-opened after extensive lockdowns, but the staff and children were taking small steps to expand their horizons once more.

“We had a lot of discussions though and the focus was to get us back out there, to rediscover the city,” Sam said.

“It was simply a matter of regaining confidence, because the educators know they can do it. And once they got their feet out the door, knowing they were not just going to the park, they were fine, because they know what to do and they have the trust of the children.”



For the first major excursion, Gowrie at The Harbour set its sights on the moon, with a trip to the Museum of the Moon exhibit at Federation Square.

“The children had been exploring space and all its wonders for a few weeks, with each child intrigued and connecting in their own individual way,” Sam said. “There had been discussions about astronauts and the children worked together as a team to create a cardboard rocket.”

The children were in awe when they saw the giant replica of the moon at the Museum of the Moon, describing it as “humongous”. The replica is made from detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface, printed at a scale of 1:500,000.

“Together the children learnt about the phases of the moon and were able to view it from underneath, at a distance and up above,” Sam said.

“The many perspectives prompted more and more questions and the

building of knowledge and collaboration opportunities with each other. The educators planned the whole thing and took a different group each day. It was phenomenal.”

The visit to Federation Square was quickly followed up with an excursion to the Carlton Gardens, where kinder children from The Harbour enjoyed their first picnic with children from Gowrie Carlton North.

The Out & About program is an integral part of the Gowrie Victoria

ethos. It strengthens community connections and helps develop a sense of belonging, identity and independence. Children learn to work as a team, follow instructions, problem solve and build leadership skills.

Sam said these community connections were also heavily intertwined with other Gowrie programs, such as Indigenous Perspectives. She said Docklands was an important cultural hub of Melbourne with many sites of First Nations significance.

“This is where Birrarung opens to the ocean so it’s only natural that we explore our local area,” Sam said. “There’s so much opportunity here for some amazing learning. Getting out and about in the community has become so natural, because we’re already so much a part of the Docklands.”

Gowrie at The Harbour is currently enrolling for places in 2022 and 2023. For more information, call **8624 1000** or visit: ●

For more information:
gowrievictoria.org.au/childrens-programs/docklands

Congratulations to 285 cladding winners!

The latest figures from Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) website show that about 35 per cent of cladding-affected apartment buildings have been selected for financial assistance for remediation works. Only “extreme risk” or “high risk” buildings qualify for state government funding.

The CSV website shows that a total of 802 buildings have been referred to them by the Victorian Building Authority’s state-wide cladding audit. CSV has assessed these buildings for eligibility and risk. From the total referred to CSV, 285 funding agreements have been signed. Cladding remediation work has been completed on 52 buildings and underway on 151 more buildings.

Around this time last year, the CSV annual report showed the figures were 723 buildings referred, 253 funding agreements, 40 buildings completed and 160 buildings underway.

Cladding remediation work appears to be progressing at the rate of one building per month.

The comparative data also show a consistent funding rate of 35 per cent. In other words, your building has just over a one-in-three chance of obtaining CSV funding to remove flammable cladding.

Owners’ corporations that have been denied CSV support are telling us that the qualification process is opaque. Many buildings have received building orders from their council stating that the cladding is “a risk to life” and yet these dangerous buildings do not qualify for financial support from CSV.

The CSV website also shows that 262 government buildings have been selected for remediation, a number not too dissimilar from the number of apartment buildings selected - 285. You may recall this column expressing disappointment after unsuccessfully seeking an explanation from CSV about how much of

the \$600 million pot of money is earmarked for private apartments versus government buildings. We are tempted to feel vindicated for the predictions that we made in this column many months ago – that half the money would be spent on government buildings.

We can also conclude – if no further buildings are approved for funding – that the average cash subsidy is just over \$1 million per building.

COVID exposes housing crisis

The COVID crisis has affected us all in so many ways – medically, socially and economically. As the world readjusts, researchers are finding that COVID has also been instrumental in exposing the economic downside of short-term rentals.

Housing researcher Professor Peter Phibbs has been analysing data since before COVID and has found disturbing links.

“COVID really showed there’s a connection between the short-term rental market and rents all across Australia, and indeed across the world,” the professor told *ABC News* this month.

Professor Phibbs has studied the housing crisis in Hobart, which predates COVID. “When housing stock went from short-term rental back to the long-term rental market, in places like Hobart we saw a sharp reduction in rents,” he said.

In the interview, Professor Phibbs estimated that during COVID, rents in Hobart dropped by about nine per cent.

In another study, researchers William Thackway and Christopher Pettit in Sydney found rent prices in the most active short-stay neighbourhoods dropped by up to seven per cent.

The ABC reported Professor Phibbs as saying, the evidence is clear: you cannot have an unregulated short-term accommodation industry and a healthy long-term rental market. “Those two things just can’t co-exist,” he said.

“We need some sort of regulation to limit the spread of short-term rentals so we can enable the long-term rental market to provide homes for so many households that are looking for them at the moment.”

Another expert who backs up this view is Leith van Onselen, chief economist at the MB Fund and MB Super. Mr van Onselen, who has

previously worked at the Australian Treasury, Victorian Treasury and Goldman Sachs, is also concerned that short-term rentals like Airbnb are having a major impact on the rental market, exacerbating Australia’s acute shortage of rental homes.

Last month we reported on the steps being taken in jurisdictions around the country to regulate short stays. Sadly, Victoria lags far behind the rest of the country and the world. We are continuing to lobby for meaningful change in Victoria, and the professor has some salient advice for us.

“Making the regulation is probably the easy part,” Professor Phibbs told the ABC. “Enforcing the regulation can be quite difficult. It’s certainly resource-intensive. It sometimes involves quite long legal processes. It’s important to have some kind of taxing regime where short-term rentals pay for the cost of that regulation through some sort of bed tax.”

We Live Here has been highlighting the favourable tax treatment handed out to the short-stay industry at the expense of all other Australians.

We have also highlighted the woeful inadequacy of the enforcement process in the light-touch legislation known colloquially as the Airbnb bill – the short-stay provisions in the amended *Owners’ Corporations Act 2021*.

Let’s hope the Victorian state government can get behind the economic science presented by respected researchers, study the precedents being set by every other state in Australia, and finally take some real action.

An unfair committee faces a formidable opponent

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

“I printed out copies for all 500 apartments of the We Live Here article and an article by a retired politician, about my poorly-run five-member committee. A supportive owner-occupier wrote a nice cover letter, calling for new committee candidates. Letters were dropped to all occupants.”

“I had an excellent response. I had tried and failed on four occasions to be elected to this developer-controlled committee. This time the new owners’ corporation laws were on my side – a five per cent cap on proxies and all emails to

be made available.”

“Before I was sent the owners roll, the OC manager emailed all owners to apologise that their emails were no longer private, and they could opt out if they wished. I applied to VCAT for urgent access to the email list. As soon as VCAT issued a case number the manager sent it to me.”

“Many residents offered to help reach other lot owners. Many agreed the property was not being well managed. Big investors responded with alacrity and with proxies. I received so many I had to return some.”

“During the faceless AGM webinar, a seven-person committee was agreed to by ordinary vote. A screen then appeared listing only the five names of the old committee which we were required to vote for first. The other candidates were on a second screen to be voted for only after the first vote was done. Some people had already voted, and I just scraped home in seventh place from 12 candidates.”

N.B. Ms Pohl could have challenged the election process in VCAT but decided to quit while she was ahead.

“At least I’m on the committee where I have the choice responsibilities of our flammable cladding politics and the issues that I took to court in the first instance,” she said.

We hope this story of dogged persistence, coupled with the new OC laws will inspire others to take on dodgy developers.

Congratulations, Nerrida!

Campaign donations

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



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ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

Barring – Nganjin: an exhibition of Stolen Generations survivors

An Aboriginal art exhibition capturing the stories of grief, loss, and resilience from Stolen Generations survivors will be held at Federation Square as part of National Reconciliation Week.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

Hosted by the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT), the exhibition will showcase more than 45 artworks from First Nations’ artists including paintings, weaving, prints, and mixed media – which the Trust’s CEO Tom Mosby said would be a powerful display of truth telling.

Titled the *Barring – Nganjin*, meaning “Our Path Our Journey”, the exhibition will be largest collection of Stolen Generations art in any single exhibition of the KHT, which will also feature work of Link-Up Victoria, a support service for Stolen Generations that helps connect families.

The Stolen Generations are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples who were forcibly removed from their families under government policy and direction from the 1910s to the 1970s.

Mr Mosby said the trauma of the Stolen

Generations survivors was still being felt by individuals, families, and communities – with each artwork being both a creative response and an act of healing.

“The powerful thing about this exhibition is that it is how the artists actually portray themselves and the trauma through the art so it’s a powerful exhibition that I really encourage all people to actually visit,” he said. “We all hear about Stolen Generations and Reconciliation Week, but the exhibition is something tangible that people can visit and visually reflect as part of their journey towards reconciliation as well.”

The exhibition will be supported by the curatorial assistance of Link-Up Victoria’s Aunty Bev Murray who will also display some of her work alongside collections from Connecting Home, which provides broad-range services for Stolen Generations.

“Art and storytelling are important healing and wellbeing elements in our communities and



this collection of works strongly portray the visual and powerful stories of each individual,” Aunty Bev Murray said.

As part of Reconciliation Week, which runs from May 27 to June 3, Mr Mosby encouraged people to book in a guided cultural walk at KHT.

“People are taken on a tour where it’s looking at the land on which Melbourne is built, pre-settlement history of Melbourne and also the settlement history of Melbourne as well and the impact on Victorian Aboriginal people and communities,” he said.

“We really encourage people to visit us, not only as part of Reconciliation Week.



Reconciliation is something we should all be thinking about all year-round.”

Visitors can also visit the KHT shop which specialises in Victorian Aboriginal products.

Barring – Nganjin: Our Path Our Journey opens May 26 and runs until August 28 at the Koorie Heritage Trust, Yarra Building, Fed Square. Free entry ●

For more information:
korieheritagetrust.com.au

Vertical village “Strata Hub”

“*The NSW Government is introducing “Strata Hub” which aims to consolidate core information about strata schemes – but who will it really benefit?*”

Information, and its management, is well-recognised as a vital organisational resource, essential for informed decision making. And it is now widely accepted that an organisation’s performance is strongly linked to how well it captures, stores, analyses and utilises its information assets.

However, as a sector, residential strata is not known for its information management prowess.

Indeed, even the management of documents (records) is widely regarded as deficient.

Owners, for instance, often bemoan the availability of their building’s records and point to the difficulties of inspecting these (especially if they are not digital). Owners’ corporation (OC) committees meanwhile criticise the availability of government records (especially those developer agreements negotiated decades past), the

details of which can be spread across a myriad of ever-changing government agencies. Residents are cited as having concerns about knowing key contact-points, such as their building manager or emergency connections.

And all these concerns have also been attributed to prospective purchasers, who, according to the NSW Government, believe that finding information on strata schemes is “just too difficult”.

It is these information deficiencies in strata schemes that are claimed as the impetus for the NSW’s Governments new regulation – *Strata Schemes Management Amendment (Information) Regulation 2021*. This requires all strata schemes to annually submit key information about their building to NSW Fair Trading, and it will then form part of the government’s Strata Hub.

There is, however, another reason for this new system. It goes to the realisation of the NSW Government that it had little information about, and no reliable way of communicating with, strata schemes – a point emphasised during the pandemic.

Hence, the introduction of a new annual reporting requirement for all NSW strata schemes which will come into force on June 30, 2022. Significantly, there is both a fee to submit (\$3 per lot) and a fine if you don’t. There are also obligations to correct or update information within 28 days. Again, fines apply.

So, *what* is being required and *who* can access this information?

With regard to what is required, much of this is straightforward, such as the strata plan number, date of registration, address, number of lots, etc. Interestingly, if your building has a NABERS rating, this must be provided, which

may mark the beginning of this scheme becoming mandatory. There are also requirements for proof of certification (e.g., insurance).

But what has caused a few ruffled feathers is the requirement for the full name, telephone number and email address of the secretary, chair, strata manager and emergency contact person. This issue was recently raised by Jimmy Thomson in his *Australian Financial Review* column, where he speculated that this requirement could cause “a mass exodus of office-bearers.” The rationale given is that strata committee chairs and secretaries likely won’t want to be too contactable by the general public.

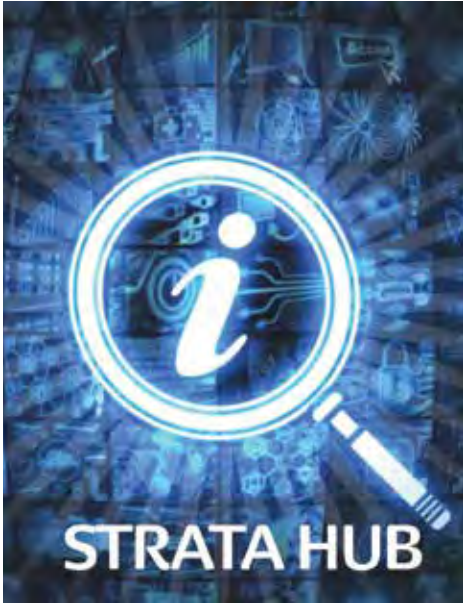
This now goes to who can access this information on Strata Hub, as it has been stated that not all will be publicly available.

Starting with the information custodian, NSW Fair Trading, it is understood it will grant access to other regulatory authorities for compliance purposes. Also, emergency services, such as the NSW police, the ambulance service and NSW’s State Emergency Service will likely be able to view particular details.

Managing agents, owners, residents and members of the public will be able to access *some* information on Strata Hub but not, it is believed, the personal contact details of the secretary and chair. Stay tuned to what level of access will ultimately be made available!

As regards what this might mean for our vertical villages, currently there appears little appetite within the Victorian State Government to follow NSW’s lead. However, now that Pandora’s Box (otherwise known as Strata Hub) will soon open, we may find that the interest of our Victorian regulatory bodies has been piqued.

Our hope, then, is that they do not slavishly



follow NSW. But take the opportunity to consider how such a system, rather than being a reporting burden, could assist OCs with their information challenges ●



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

FEDERAL MP

Thank you, Melbourne

Thanks for putting your support in me, and the Greens, again. I will work hard to honour the trust you have again given me.

This city is incredible. By electing the first Greens MP 12 years ago, we started something here in Melbourne, which is gaining momentum across the country.

Across Australia, communities are electing strong, independent voices that will fight for them. In the Lower House, in the Senate – everywhere, more and more people are voting Greens, and thousands of people voted Green for the first time.

There are more Greens MPs in the House and the Senate, and we also saw a flood of independent members elected in seats where the government had ignored the community.

The community is getting heard in Parliament, and I am so grateful for your support.

Together, we cannot be ignored. Together, we are powerful. Together, we can phase out coal and gas, we can tackle inequality and we make this country a better place, for all.

We’ve survived some tough times. The past two years of doom scrolling and remote schooling have been hard. But through our sacrifice, we saved thousands of lives. By working together, we kept each other safe.

Now, together, we have kicked out the horrible, Morrison government. They were so arrogant; they ignored our questions about their lack of integrity and climate policy, and refused to take people’s concerns seriously. They’ve paid the price for denying the climate crisis.

They ignored women, ignored people of colour, and ignored renters and people who were struggling to get by. They’ve been dealt a harsh, but deserved blow, being wiped out across our city, and in the capital cities across the country,

by more Greens, and more women who have won with a commitment to tackle the climate crisis and restore integrity.

I cannot wait to have them join me on the cross bench and to work with them to clean up politics and drive climate action.

Sitting in Parliament during the past few years, it was striking how the Liberals were only there for themselves. They were entitled and arrogant. There was no agenda for the future.

Politics doesn’t have to be like this. This election, people have seen that they don’t just have to vote for one of the old parties. We can have more. Politics can work for the people, not just for vested interests.

We want action on the climate crisis. We want the billionaires and big corporations to pay their fair share of tax. We think dental and mental health should be part of Medicare, and we should make childcare free for all.

And that’s what we will fight for. We won’t stop fighting until we tackle the climate crisis and inequality. This is the fight for our future.

The majority of people in the country are decent, good people. We have shown people this election that there’s another way.

And you, Melbourne have led that. I hope I can make you proud. ●



Adam Bandt
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MARITIME

Pollution in our waterways

Melbourne’s 19th century waterways, including Docklands, were regarded as efficient industrial waste disposal systems.

According to the Old Treasury Building website, “Noxious trades lined the lower banks of the Yarra River and upstream ... slaughterhouses, tallow works, tanneries, glue works, bone mills, fellmongers, wool washers, and soap works. In the 1880s the Health Committee of the City of Melbourne toured the river, shocked by what they saw.”

“Open vats of offal, piles of drying bones and the hair and flesh from tanned hides, lay discarded in the open air. Animal carcasses floated in the water. Foul, black waste from industry poured into the river,” it stated.

Perhaps this mentality lingers today?

Rubbish littering and polluting our waterways somehow seems to be even more offensive and irksome than rubbish littering our streets. Heading towards the convention centre at Southbank last week, I noticed people pointing down to the water’s edge. What were they pointing at? Birds, fish? Sadly, no.

They were pointing to a sizable collection of rubbish – clearly not new rubbish – gunk obviously captured and then simply left to sit, degenerating in this prime CBD site alongside parkland at Southbank.

A pile of rubbish has also accumulated at the edge of the wet dock nearby in the parkland. Stating the obvious, if such a pile of rotting rubbish had accumulated at some land-based kerbside location, it would be cleared away pronto as a health hazard. Quite the opposite occurs with such accumulations in our waterways.

Since 1996, Parks Victoria (PV) has been the authority responsible for floating litter in our waterways. PV manages 18 litter traps on the Lower Yarra and Maribyrnong rivers and nine traps within the city’s boundary.

PV is collecting floating litter in litter traps, but regrettably, the captured rubbish left to rot in traps at highly visible public sites is left for far too long. Certainly the volume is immense: “Litter in the Yarra is an ongoing issue with up to three billion pieces of litter (about 2000 to 3000 tonnes) washes into Melbourne’s waterways through stormwater drains every year.”

That the job is difficult is no excuse for a poor outcome.

PV claimed all litter traps are cleaned via a barge system at least every two weeks and more often after rain or in winter. Clearly the collection system is inadequate. A land-based clearance system would enable a more flexible, frequent, and efficient service.

The Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) has now been advised that PV will pay closer attention to litter traps and

clean them more often, especially those within the commercial (CBD) district. Docklands residents can “encourage” such service improvements by acting on litter in the waterways.

There is a dedicated number to report dumping – and it can be argued that in tolerating accumulated litter to sit for far too long in the litter traps, it is in effect being “dumped” at the water’s edge awaiting a barge-based collection.

Docklands residents may not be comforted but may be interested to know that data about litter in our waterways is submitted for analysis by the non-profit group Tangaroa Blue with the objective of identifying where the problems commence upstream. See tangaroablue.org

It is simply unacceptable to claim that the configuration and water current are problematic and excuse poor service by responsible authorities.

New technologies now available, e.g., Australian cleantech start-up, Seabin Project helping to reduce plastic pollution in Sydney Harbour, see:



Docklands residents may have noticed that PV is currently conducting a dredging campaign in CBD Yarra waterways, including Docklands. Those of us living or working near these dredging works will have noticed the obvious link between dredging and rubbish.

The objective is to reduce the amount of sediment in seven locations to enable safe boating access and ensure the river is accessible for public use. Such dredging of sediment also delivers a truly astounding amount of, yes, rubbish!

The four-year dredging program has involved removal of about 12,000 cubic metres of river sediment and will conclude in August. Dredged material will be transported by pipe to deeper sections of the river upstream of the Bolte Bridge.

The cubic volume of rubbish is not known – but observers are astonished at what emerges. Someone should tally the number of bikes and scooters. Do the commercial operators of these



▲ Rubbish on the Yarra River.

items contribute to the costs of recovery? Once the sites have been dredged, the low tide water depth at the dredging sites will be around two metres. See the PV website – River Users Update No.3.

The water was apparently clear at the time of European settlement, but intensive land clearing and development soon resulted in the presence of microscopic clay particles in the water, maintained in suspension by turbulence in the middle and lower sections of the river.

Docklands residents are acutely conscious of

this and the value of adequate waterways services. So be vigilant, call the EPA litter line on **1300 372 842** or contact the City of Melbourne on **9658 9658**. ●



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CHAMBER UPDATE

The Chamber’s agenda

It’s been an intense couple of months emerging out of COVID. One thing I am adamant on is that the Chamber is going to take a more proactive and vocal leadership role in driving our community. This past week we have participated in a few key initiatives.

Firstly, was the Future Melbourne Committee meeting held in Docklands for the first time. A great turnout was seen from locals with several key submissions. While I won’t delve into each personally, I will say that the Chamber has three key agendas we will be pushing at local, state,



and federal levels.

The first of these is action on Central Pier. We’re very aware that it is a complex issue with several key governing bodies having a stake in the project, but there needs to be movement on it and publicly visible movement. We will be pushing this heavily, particularly with respect to the upcoming state election.

Secondly, Docklands needs certainty regarding planning and the harbour. Every so often

a rumour pops, whether it be a freight bridge spanning the Harbour, a tram bridge spanning the Yarra, developments along Harbour Esplanade.

We’re asking for these to be laid out bare, in the open, for public and stakeholder discussion, rather than rumours to fly. It’s easy enough to quash if they aren’t true and better to do that than for Chinese whispers to propagate.

Lastly, our harbour needs attention and ideas.

It should be a centrepiece for Melbourne and even Australia, a home to something magnificent. We honestly don’t mind what the direction is so long as it’s focussed on creating organic traffic and exposure for Docklands.

On a more Chamber-focused note, both of our Docklands Dollars programs will be winding up soon. We’re so proud of what we have done and the acknowledgement of its success from people such as the Lord Mayor.

We’re not finished yet with ideas so keep an eye out for our next big projects. ●



Shane Wylie
MEDIA DIRECTOR
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DOCKLANDS
Chamber of Commerce

HISTORY

The House of Stoush

This map shows an empty lot of land near the current railway bridge at Dudley St, West Melbourne. While empty at the time, in the century to follow, generations of dock and railway workers and other Melburnians would flock to the site for an evening’s entertainment.

This is a detail from a Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works map, dated sometime between 1892 and 1913. The map includes Victoria Dock and Spencer Street Station as well as the gasworks. It also gives us a glimpse of a time before Dudley St was occupied by a complex that is still part of Melbourne’s fabric today: the West Melbourne Stadium, later renamed Festival Hall.

The story of the stadium starts with the Sydney-based boxing promoter Reginald L. “Snowy” Baker (1884-1953). In his prime, he was a sports wunderkind who competed in more than 20 sports, including swimming, rowing, boxing, horse-riding, and rugby union. Famously in the 1908 Olympics, Reginald competed in swimming, diving, and middleweight boxing, winning a silver medal in the latter. His life after sport was just as eventful, as he went into journalism, owned the famous Sydney Stadium at Rushcutters Bay, acted and did stunt work in several Hollywood films, and managed a country club in California.

In 1913, he was in Melbourne to promote an upcoming boxing rematch between England’s Mat Wells and local hero, Hughie Mehagan, for the lightweight championship of Australia. While there, he made an announcement (*The Herald*, August 19) that a new 12,000-seat stadium would be built for the occasion. With the help of architect Frank Stapley, a stadium between Dudley and Rosslyn streets was constructed. Amazingly, despite an early delay due to the weak foundations, the whole stadium was completed in six weeks, with the louvred roof added days before the fight. The building opened on November 3, 1913, with an estimated 10,000 people witnessing an epic 20-round (no, that’s not a typo) battle won on points by Mehagan.

In 1915 the stadium’s ownership passed to Stadiums Ltd, a business run by infamous Collingwood-based bookie and businessman John Wren. His associate, Dick Lean, was the general manager and, under their company’s ownership, he turned the stadium into Melbourne’s home of boxing. While for a short time in the late 1910s it was used as a wool storehouse, the so-called “House of Stoush” would soon again



hold weekly bouts involving the best boxers in the country and from abroad and dramatic pro-wrestling fights. The stadium was multipurpose with various workers’ unions such as the Waterside Workers and the Tramways Union using it as a meeting place, and it was a venue for big musical acts such as Louis Armstrong and Frank Sinatra who needed something larger than a regular concert hall.

Then, mid-way through Sinatra’s tour in 1955, disaster struck on the morning of January 24. The stadium caught fire, gutting the building. The fire was such a sight that according to *The Argus* (January 24, 1955) up to 8000 people crowded to see the burning wreckage, and the flames were so intense that the night sky above Victoria Dock “was deep scarlet” as the stadium burned for hours.

The fire was barely cold when Dick Lean announced, the very next day, that a new, 15,000-seat stadium would be built in time for the Melbourne Olympics. Within months construction began, and by October 12, 1956, the new brick structure was completed as fans rushed to see Italian boxer Bruno Visintin beat George Barnes. Unfortunately, Lean’s plan for 15,000 seats wasn’t met, with the new building capable of housing only around 8000. Four-thousand disgruntled fans found out the hard way when, at 8pm with the match starting, they were barred from entering the building. In the chaos, those angry fans blocked traffic and two exit doors were torn off their hinges.

Unsurprisingly, following that early drama, Festival Hall, the new moniker for the phoenix-like stadium, has experienced an eventful

second life. It hosted the boxing and gymnastics events at the Melbourne Olympics, and it continued to host a new generation of boxers such as Lionel Rose and Johnny Famechon who fought for glory and the world championship. Baby boomers may remember watching the chaos at the Hall from their homes through programs such as *TV Ringside* and *World Championship Wrestling*. Under Dick Lean Jr’s ownership, the hall’s status as a stadium was overshadowed by its use as a music venue; most famously when The Beatles performed a series of concerts during their 1964 Australian tour in front of thousands of hysterical fans. Before and since then, the list of acts that has graced the stage is long and stellar: Australian acts such as John Farnham, Olivia Newton John, AC/DC, Midnight Oil and Powderfinger, and a diverse range of international artists such as Shirley Bassey, Black Sabbath, Bob Marley and the Wailers, The Police and The Red Hot Chili Peppers. However, in-between all the sweaty boxing and guitar solos, Festival Hall has also hosted countless conferences, cultural and religious functions, and ballroom dancing contests.

By 2018, the stadium was at risk of being torn down for an apartment complex. Fortunately, the Heritage Council of Victoria was able to save it by adding it to the Heritage Register. In 2020, the long-time owners, Stadiums Ltd, sold the stadium to the Hillsong Church before folding altogether.

Festival Hall is functioning again after all performance venues ceased to operate due to the COVID pandemic of the last two years. To hear the familiar sounds of loud music and screaming fans ring across the site is a great sign than normalcy is returning to the city. ●



Ashley Smith
RESEARCHER
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

ABBY’S ANGLE

I’ve started travelling again

“
And it’s not a post COVID thing, it’s a post being a single mum of a child thing.
”

You see now that my son has been through the tortured last year of finishing school, where he and his mates somehow seem too old to be subjected to the childish rules that schools can implement (no hair touching collars, no hair fades, no room to be an individual) while seemingly being too young to be ready to launch into the world unsupervised, we somehow made it through the final exams and he is submerged in the semi safety of uni, and I am free.

The combination of COVID restrictions being a distant memory at the same time school regimes have also been swiped from my routine, is quite intoxicating. The sense of freedom is liberating. I’ve stopped setting an alarm clock and am determined to live on “my time”. Unfortunately, my rescue kitten and my old

darling dog are not wavering on their 5.30am starts to the day – so my mornings are not quite “my time”, however I have learnt the joy of second sleeps and starting the day with coffee in bed. I call this my “research time” (self-justification at its best!) and avidly add destinations to my wish list of destinations I must visit ... from our incredible Australian outback to the Northern lights in Norway, from the ancient cities of Morocco to the beaches of Thailand, there is a world to explore. The list is long – but why shouldn’t it be?

So, armed with this new freedom, and with work being undertaken remotely now more than ever, I have started booking travel back into my life. Little trips at first. Last weekend was a trip to Sydney for Vivid with two nights at the Shangri-La and a handful of restaurant bookings that I had been dying to try. Well, it seems after all these years I have lost my knack for packing. And my patience for overcrowded elevators (possibly a COVID hangover there). However, I have not lost my appetite for new experiences, for exploring the wonder of museums and galleries, for cocktail drinking and indulgent degustations ...

The reality is that now we are “back to normal”, it is easy to get locked into our former routines; of overworking, of denying ourselves the very things that make the working worthwhile. We all learnt in COVID to nurture our homes,

our gardens, our family units. We longed for the time when we could travel and explore again. And we all need the reminder that the time has finally come, where we can explore and travel and make time for the important things. We can carry everything that we have learnt with us – to make sustainable choices, to care for each other, to care for the planet and to appreciate the incredible opportunities in life.

We are all getting older, but we can also get wiser about how we seek our new work life balance, or maybe even our retirement plans. It’s so important that we take the opportunity to reset the path we may have been following, to remember all those promises we made to ourselves in lockdown and get out and enjoy all that life has to offer! Life is precious, and for

many it’s over way too soon.
So, plan to get away, plan to see your friends and family, plan for a life you dream of, and make it happen. We just don’t know what is around the corner, waiting to be discovered. Or lost. There’s no time like the present.

Until next month,
Abby x ●



Abby Crawford
LIFE@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU

We all have those days

“
The days that are jam-packed with stressful situations, things, people, work, kids, deadlines ...
”

It can seem like an impossible dream to finally sit and relax after getting pummelled all day, but destressing doesn't have to take too much time or coordination and your body and mind will thank you for the self-care.

Here are five quick ways you can destress after a stressful day.

Breathe

Sometimes your day can be so chaotic that you haven't even allowed yourself to stop and breathe. Yes, you breathe all day (hopefully!), but there's a difference between autonomous breathing and deep, controlled breathing.

Deep breathing has a catalogue of positive effects on the body including lowering your blood pressure and heart rate, bringing more oxygen to the brain and balancing carbon dioxide levels, and reducing the levels of stress hormones in your blood.

Walk

If every step you've taken today has been with purpose to some task, destination, or event, try taking a small amount of time to walk with the sole purpose of just walking. Getting outside in fresh air and getting your body moving can



boost your heart rate, expend some pent-up tension from the day, and have your body feeling rejuvenated (and healthier) afterwards.

Listen

Music is a great stress soother. We're not talking about the radio in the background of the office, or whatever cheesy stuff is on someone's playlist. We're talking about your favourite music.

The music that feeds your soul and sweeps your mind out of its daily grind and into some daily grooves. Though slower musical tempos are usually synonymous with relaxation, go with whatever works for your tastes.

Read

Read. Not the news. Not the stuff on your social media feed. Pick your favourite genre of literature and make room in your schedule for a little reading. By concentrating on the story and how it takes shape in your imagination, your mind will be engrossed with the book instead of all the other stressors of your day.

Unplug

It's inevitable that people spend large portions of their days on devices of some kind. Whether it's a smart phone, computer, tablet or television, these digital devices have become a natural part of people's daily lives, but not a

natural part of destressing.

When you're constantly consuming online content or even staring at a screen for work or leisure, your brain is working hard to process and store information as it comes. Slow things down a little and allocate at least an hour of device-free time in your downtime. ●



Dr Mike Edgley
CHIROPRACTOR
DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My thoughts for Docklands

I would like to share some of my thoughts about a vision for a thriving Docklands.

I have been living here for 18 months and have watched the sense of community (multicultural) deepen during the COVID narrative. I guess many residents could not return home so needed to develop stronger links here. Whatever the case, the community that actually lives here is a seriously pleasant and warm group of people. I celebrate that and would like more focus on actually building from what is already a strength: multicultural community. Other strengths are the green spaces, festivals of various groups/religions, and of course Birrarung and the harbour.

During 2014 and 2015, I was a writer-in-residence in one of the "Dockland Spaces" that were given to artists to bring heart/soul into Docklands. This gallery (held by Mission to Seafarers) was on Docklands Drive and I shared it with a painter (Robert Lee Davis). During my time there, I organised a three-day workshop for writers/artists/thinkers on the theme of "Home and Sanctuary". There were 12 participants from varied backgrounds and two indigenous artists.

Since this time, Docklands has continued to search for identity. I see the harbour as a sanctuary, and I think it is very important to honour our maritime history in Docklands. One of my favourite places is the pier where all the old boats (*Wattle, Enterprize, Alma*) and the boat builders/restorers are. The new floating hospitality venue is coming along, and it will be important for that to strengthen that precinct with boat-building themes. It will draw people to the area and create an appreciation for the craftsmanship involved with shipwrights, met-

alwork, woodwork, steam-engines, sailboats and boat building.

My second suggestion is regarding the lack of spiritual/sacred space in Docklands. I remember back when I was working in The Porthole Gallery (2014/2015), there was an article in *Dockland News* about tendering for a sacred space. A large evangelical church (not named) was the main contender and was knocked back, which I thought was a good decision as there are many different faith groups represented in Docklands. Although I myself express faith through Christianity, I believe the best way ahead for Docklands is a sacred space (or spiritual centre) that could accommodate all faith groups including Aboriginal Dreamtime spirituality, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, New Age spirituality, etc., etc.

I believe that without such a place, the soul of Docklands will struggle to find identity, and healing and heart will be allusive. I would love to see a purpose-built spiritual space sitting out over the water in Central Pier that could be used by all faith groups and have a part set aside for any individual to sit and be able to find sanctuary, quietness and prayer. It would also be able to accommodate times for healing and spiritual education (especially indigenous spirituality).

These are my thoughts on two aspects of Docklands that have not reached their potential and would bring heart and soul into the community and the city of Melbourne. I hope you find it helpful. ●

Lyn Beattie



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Pet's Corner

JJ the therapy dog

“

Docklands local Jenny Leyva Deloryn’s dog, JJ, has been selected as the first PAWS Pet Therapy dog in Victoria and will be volunteering to help others through its Pet Therapy Program.

”



WORDS BY *Rebecca Broadhead*

Jenny knew from the beginning that JJ had the potential to share joy and optimism with the wider public and with those in need. JJ is just over 18 months old and loves to play ball, socialise with her friends, sleep and eat bones, and currently she’s also learning to be an agility dog! After researching many organisations that would include herself and JJ in community service roles, Jenny landed upon and applied for PAWS Pet Therapy. The two are now delighted to start their volunteering journey together. JJ and Jenny are helping people who are lonely or isolated, those with complex needs

such as people in hospitals, aged care, rehabilitation and palliative care facilities, people with special needs and mental health issues. Jenny is excited to start their volunteering journey together. Jenny said, “If you see JJ around, please come and say hi. You can also stalk her on Instagram at #JJtheSpoodle.” Or, if you’d like more information on PAWS Pet Therapy please visit its website. ●

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10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

JUNE 2012 | ISSUE 76 | **DOCKLANDS NEWS**

Thinking inside the square

Nick Moloney (right) spent hours last month thinking inside the square to help out his artist mate Emily Castle.

Emily was one of many young artists taking advantage of Rising: The Victoria Harbour Young Artist Initiative which returned to Docklands for the fifth year in a row in May. And while Nick and others attempted to spend as much time as possible inside the marked-out-square on Victoria Harbour Promenade, it was left to Emily to explain the art-piece she called “to occupy”. She said she was interested in public space and believed that public space in Docklands was not occupied in the same way as some other spaces, such as the lawn outside the State Library in Swanston St where people typically behaved as if they had more licence. “It seems too corporate and commercial in Docklands,” she said. “There are only people around at lunchtimes and, even then, they seem to perch on the edge of the space rather than really occupy it.” She said she believed that in corporate Docklands, time equated with money. “Spending time doing nothing is a potent gesture,” she said. Rising is a public exhibition of artworks by Victorian College of the Arts students studying sculpture and spatial practice.

While not claiming that her installation was necessarily a success, Ms Castle said the project had been “interesting” and “rewarding”. And while she may have saved on materials for the piece, she certainly owes a lot a friends a lot of favours. Nick Maloney was in his second two-hour shift when Docklands News caught up with him. He said most passers-by were mostly accepting of the concept, but some had expressed annoyance. “When you see people doing something out of the ordinary, at least you have to consider it,” he said. Nick said he found his time within the square relaxing and meditative. Readers will notice from the photo that he was also fortunate enough to be rostered on during the best of Docklands’ May weather. ●

港区选民偏向绿党

在最近的联邦选举中，Docklands港区的选民与墨尔本选区其他选民一样，以压倒性的票数支持绿党，对自由党来说是一次剧烈的摇摆，这可能是当地最值得注意的趋势。

David Schout

5月21日星期六，共有1702名选民前往维多利亚港图书馆投票，比去年的1667人略有增加。

近一半的港区选民(47.6%)在联邦下议院的选票上在绿党领袖Adam Bandt名字旁写了“1”，这与整个墨尔本选民的投票基本一致。

在墨尔本选区Bandt以50.9%的高票当选，这是自2004年工党执政以来，第一次有候选人在这个席位上获得超过半数的排序第一选票。

他在2010年首次当选，这场胜利确保了其第五次连任。

港区的初选投票对绿党来说是一个强有力的成绩，他们在当地从未获得超过 40% 的选票。

自2010年的选举，澳大利亚选举委员会(AEC)首次在Docklands港区开设投票站以来，当地的选票逆势而上，比墨尔本其他地方更加保守。

例如，在2019年，自由党在墨尔本仅获得21.5%的初选选票，然而，在港区自由党的选票要高得多，为34.6%。

这次2022年的大选，当地选民背弃了自由党，这对该党候选人James Damches来说是一个糟糕的结果。

虽然整个选区自由党的支持率为 7.1%



，但在 Docklands港区，支持率超过 17%。

也就是说，自由党仅从港区选民那里获得了 16.4% 的初选选票（在 2013 年高达 41%）。

事实上，自由党对墨尔本的席位缺乏信心，一位内部人士告诉本报，投票当天，在 the Dock图书馆门口，没有志愿者分发“如何投票”的宣传资料。



摩天观景轮出售仍在进行中

备受期待的墨尔本之星 (Melbourne Star)摩天观景轮仍在进行出售之中，清盘管理人员继续与“多方”合作，希望很快达成协议。

Brendan Rees

管理人Grant Thornton表示，“有各种各样的选项摆在桌面上”，各方都有“一大堆考虑因素”，不能确认何时或是否可能最终完成出售。

他告诉本报：“如果我知道，如果这是

可以告知的，那我会说。但是说实话，我不知道。有很多本地人和海外人士在考虑这件事，他们来过这里看了。”

“我们正在取得一些进展，但是很缓慢。”

这座位于海滨120米高的标志性观景轮于去年9月疫情期间永久关闭，当时观景轮运营公司MB Star Properties 有限公司进入破产清盘。

如果不是在其关闭几周后，多个公司表示有兴趣购买这座标志性建筑，这个观景轮注定要被扔进废品堆了，这样给了Dock-lands社区一些希望，期待某个买家会介入拯救，以维持这个旅游景点的运营。

今年1月，Thornton先生曾表示，“许多”总部位于澳大利亚的公司签署了保密协议，而由于圣诞节而“稍微放慢了脚步”。

他当时还表示，这个巨型观景轮的出售正在“进行之中”，然而，与感兴趣各方的商讨结果要在3月份才能知晓。

他最近对本报的讲话中说：“要让观景轮重新运转起来，还有相当多的工作要做，因此他们正想办法把所有的事情都考虑进去”。

当被问及潜在的买家是否有希望让观景轮再次运转时，他说，“我无法对此发表评论。我只能说，我们有数个买家，而不是一两个，他们仍在关注着这件事。”



重启阔别两年的火光节

火光节(Firelight Festival)由于COVID疫情连遭取消2年，今年7月在Docklands 港区将重启为期三晚的冬至庆祝活动。

David Schout

上一次的火光节是在2019年举办的，在三天内吸引了超过75000人，今年将在维多利亚港举办这个备受欢迎的节日活动，其关注力再次聚焦家庭、社区、食物、音乐、火和光。

从 7 月 1 日星期五到 7 月 3 日星期日，海滨区将装饰成火鼓和火焰、弹出式舞台、大型火焰雕塑以及巡回表演。

在整个节日的三个晚上，四场以激光、LED灯光和喷水为特色的“水、灯光和激光”表演将在维多利亚港的两个地点举行，每场持续六分钟。

5 月 17 日在Docklands港区滨江大道

的The Hub举行了未来墨尔本委员会会议，市议员批准了 2022 年的这个节日活动，将耗资 100万澳元。

据报道，2019年的火光节为当地经济注入了400万澳元，市政的激活城市组合部门主管 Roshena Campbell议员表示，这次的节日需要有相同的结果。

Campbell议员说“我们知道现在需要这个节日。”

“我们很高兴再次举办港区火光节，因为整个港区的商家明确又响亮地告诉我们同一件事，那就是他们希望游客回来。”

Campbell议员说，在接下来寒冷的几个月里，为游客提供一些节日活动是很重要的。

保护濒危动物展览

为了提高人们对易受伤害的濒危物种保护意识，Yarra’s Edge 现设有20个小动物雕像。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

还将设立一座三米高的东部低地大猩猩雕像，非常醒目，象征着所有孩子的母亲和保护者。

Wild About Babies濒危动物保护展是开发商Mirvac和国际知名艺术家Gillie和Marc合作的成果。

Gillie 表示：“这些年来，我们走遍世界各地研究动物，这些小动物是我们拍摄许多照片和素描的产物。”

“我们试图让它们尽可能栩栩如生地展现，这样一旦人们看到这些动物，就会爱上它们，并受到启发而采取行动拯救它们。”

在鼓励游客游览Docklands港区的同时，举办濒危动物的展览，其目的是教育并为这些濒危动物发出呼吁。

每个动物标牌上都将有一个二维码，在那里可以了解更多关于这个特定动物的信息，同时也让人们有机会直接向野生动物保护组织WWF–Australia捐款，这是一个专注于帮助保护濒危物种的组织。

动物命名比赛也已经启动，一旦获胜，他们最喜欢动物的名字将刻在小动物的标牌上，获胜者将获得价值849澳元的Gillie 和



Marc印赠品。

此外，开发商Mirvac还将以获奖者的名义向WWF–Australia捐赠100澳元。

从巨龟到苏门答腊猩猩、印度象和猎豹，了解人类如何不幸地影响它们的濒危状态，并希望通过这个展览，能成为改变这个状态的一部分。

该展览于5月20日在Yarra’s Edge揭幕，这一天恰逢国家濒危物种日，并将在接下来的六个月中展出。

欲知更多信息，请查阅: yarrasedge.mirvac.com

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Afghan women’s team make Docklands their home

WORDS BY *David Schout*
SPORT

On a still autumn Sunday afternoon in late May, Melbourne’s sporting attention was primarily on the happenings at the MCG where traditional rivals Carlton and Collingwood played out a Round 11 thriller.

But four kilometres west, across the CBD and into Docklands, another sporting event of significance was taking place.

At Ron Barassi Snr Park next to the Bolte Bridge, the Afghan Women’s National Team were playing in a Football Victoria Senior Women’s clash against Point Cook FC.

Prevailing 8-1 in a clinical performance, the win bumped them up the State League 4 West ladder.

But the game, and indeed this season, is about much more than football.

Players from the team were part of a 77-strong group of Afghan athletes, officials and family members dramatically evacuated out of Kabul in August last year when the Taliban seized control of the country.

Granted humanitarian visas by the federal government, the players have now begun integrating into Australian life and as part of that, are playing in the local Victorian competition.

Many in the team feared they might never play again, such was the impending restrictions on women set to be placed on women.

This has already, tragically, begun to play out in their homeland.

A Taliban decree in May, for example, ordered female news anchors to cover their faces on air.

Former Socceroos captain Craig Foster, an outspoken human rights advocate, was one of several key figures that helped the athletes evacuate Kabul last year.

Mr Foster, along with several others, ensured the team could continue playing competitive football, albeit more than 11,000kms away.

“The Afghanistan Women’s National Team encourage us to think about women’s rights



▲ Members of the Melbourne Victory Afghan Women’s Team, with coach Jeff Hopkins (right) at Ron Barassi Snr Park.

everywhere,” Mr Foster said recently.

“To play sport, attend school, participate fully in social and cultural life. But also to think deeply about our own response to refugees in Australia and, perhaps around the world.”

The team plays under the banner of Melbourne Victory, and championship-winning women’s manager Jeff Hopkins has taken the reins as coach.

Hopkins, who has been working with the squad since February, will provide his expertise for the duration of the 2022 season.

After the comprehensive victory on Sunday May 29, the team noted on its Twitter page: “Great win today. Another win at home game with @gomvfc thank you to our wonderful

coach Jeff for leading us to victory. We love you.”

Notably, the team calls Docklands home, with home games played at the local ground named in honour of Ronald James Barassi Senior, located next to the Bolte Bridge at the western end of NewQuay.

The ground is primarily used by Docklands Sports Club; a burgeoning local club formed in 2019 that offers junior soccer, football and cricket programs and continues to grow its membership.

President Carina Parisella told *Docklands News* “how proud we feel about sharing our local home ground with the brave and inspiring women from the Afghan National team.”



▲ An Afghan Women’s Team player shoots for goal in their May 29 clash against Point Cook FC.



▲ The huddle. Photos: Murray Enders.

Melbourne Victory director of football John Didulica said the club was honoured to help in the way it had and was glad to be playing in Docklands.

“We’re incredibly pleased to call Ron Barassi Snr Reserve home for the Afghan Women’s Team,” he said.

“The picturesque venue truly reflects urban Melbourne and for this team to play here is a celebration of the city and what opportunities it can create for people from a range of diverse backgrounds.”

“Football is a sport for everyone, and to support this team’s return to the pitch with our resources at Melbourne Victory is the least we could do for them.” ●





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