

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P25



Docklands Primary host first-ever Athletics Day
Photo by Murray Enders

As a school still in its infancy, Docklands Primary has ticked off many “firsts” since opening in early 2021. And on Friday, August 12, another important milestone in the school’s history took place – its first-ever Athletics Day. *Continued on page 7.*

Construction of walking and cycling crossover to begin as part of West Gate Tunnel works

“Preparations are under way to start building the connections that will link up walking and cycling paths across Footscray Rd and Moonee Ponds Creek as part of the West Gate Tunnel Project.”

tunnels to CityLink and the CBD.” According to a press release provided by the WGTP, the 2.5km veloway will give cyclists a safe express route to and from the city and support the growing number of Melburnians riding to work each day. Two bridge crossings for pedestrians and cyclists will also be provided over Moonee Ponds Creek on either side of Footscray Rd. West Gate Tunnel Project acting chief executive Peter Lellyett said the active transport infrastructure works around Docklands were “about to step up a gear”. “The West Gate Tunnel Project is not only about cutting congestion and improving travel times on the roads – it will also transform the way pedestrians and cyclists travel between the inner west and the CBD,” Mr Lellyett said.

WORDS BY Sean Car PLANNING

A temporary walking and cycling path is now in place along Footscray Rd between Waterfront Way and Little Docklands Drive, which a West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) spokesperson said would allow a work zone to be set up to build the bridge over Footscray Rd.

“[This will] create a safer journey for cyclists who will no longer need to rely on traffic lights to cross one of Melbourne’s busiest intersections,” the spokesperson said.

“This section of the project will eventually link to the veloway that will be part of the new elevated road over Footscray Rd connecting the

“Construction of the walking and cycling paths near Docklands is about to step up a gear, and we’d like to thank local residents for their patience as this vital work continues.”

As part of the construction work and following consultation with the City of Melbourne and Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FoMPC), the WGTP said a number of established trees and vegetation have been removed to enable extension of the project boundary.

According to the WGTP, more new trees and understorey species will be planted to restore biodiversity and habitat in the area, with the Project working with the FoMPC and City of Melbourne on the revegetation plan.

Continued on page 3.

First Nations nod as ferry terminal renamed

WORDS BY David Schout COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Naarm more generally,” Cr Dr Olivia Ball said. “We welcome having a First Nations name for a new place that is, in fact, an ancient place.”

The City of Melbourne said that recent community feedback across all neighbourhoods identified the need for greater recognition and opportunity to learn about Wurundjeri and Bunurong heritage places, and ongoing cultural connection to Country, including through more understanding and visibility of Woi Wurrung language across the city.

At an August 16 Future Melbourne Committee meeting when the new name was voted in, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said it was “a really positive” move for a number of reasons.

“As Yanonung Quay we do hope that it’ll become a very busy, bustling commuter and sightseeing ferry terminal,” he said.

Continued on page 5.

Docklands’ ferry terminal at Victoria Harbour has been renamed “Yanonung Quay” – a Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung word meaning “waterways”.

Previously referred to as “VHO8”, the newly named area is a prominent point for locals and tourists when visiting Docklands, and features the *Cow Up a Tree* sculpture and a newly-opened ferry terminal and community hub.

The name was suggested after the City of Melbourne consulted with Traditional Owners, with Docklands community members putting forward the idea that the area should be referenced as a “quay”.

“We are very, very grateful to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation for supplying this name and it is very fitting that it should reference the ancient place that is the Docklands and

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A No buyer emerges for Melbourne Star



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Melbourne Star sits idle after one year as no solid buyer emerges



With the one-year anniversary approaching since Docklands' iconic Melbourne Star shut down, the sale of the giant observation wheel appears to be no closer.



WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

The 120-metre-tall waterfront wheel closed for good last September during the COVID-19 pandemic when its operating company MB Star Properties Pty Ltd went into liquidation.

The wheel, which opened in 2008 and cost an estimated \$100 million to build, looked destined for the scrap heap until multiple parties expressed interest in buying the landmark structure just weeks after its closure.

But the Docklands Chamber of Commerce chief executive Shane Wylie said he was disappointed that no solid buyer had emerged since the wheel had been abandoned.

"We are on the external of conversations regarding the Melbourne Star so aren't aware of every machination, however it is disappointing that the administrators are taking so long to reach a decision," he said.

"We'd love to see it stay as a feature of The District but if that's not possible we'd like to see a decision made on it sooner rather than later.



▲ Iconic Melbourne Star at night, before it closed last September, 2021. Photo: Tomas Vysniauskas, Unsplash.

There has been too much procrastination on key decisions in Docklands.

"We're all aware that the longer the Star stays still the harder it will be to engineer into a working attraction again."

Liquidator Andrew Hewitt of Grant Thornton said talks with interested parties

were ongoing, adding "different parties will have different aspirations for it".

"There's lots of moving parts to it but what I'm pleased with is we've currently got a couple of parties well engaged in the process," he told *Docklands News*.

"We would be keen to move it forward as quickly as we can but it's a very unique asset, and it hasn't moved, it hasn't operated for a year, so there's lots of due diligence that parties looking to do deal with it need to do to understand it."

He said the sale process was not like listing a car on Car Sales and then being able to "flog it" to the highest bidder.

"It's a much more difficult and a much more complex asset than that. And it's a significant investment for whichever party decided to deal with it," Mr Hewitt said.

"They are clearly doing their due diligence; to get it up and rolling again is going to require teams of people, and we all understand some of the challenges of resourcing and logistics."

Asked if the interested parties were offshore or Australian, Mr Hewitt said this could not be disclosed due to confidentiality agreements having been signed.

In January, Mr Hewitt said, "a number of" parties had entered into non-disclosure agreements but the Christmas period had "slowed things down a bit".

Earlier this year, leading architect firm Bates Smart pitched a bold plan proposing the observation wheel be moved to the Yarra River's edge in what it described as a "golden opportunity". ●



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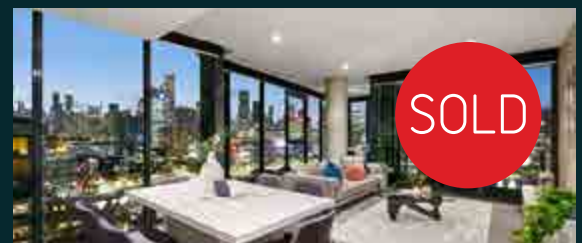
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Demolition of Central Pier moves ahead

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees and Sean Car*
PLANNING

A plan to demolish and revitalise Central Pier has progressed with a heritage permit application to be considered by Heritage Victoria, the state government has announced.

The news was warmly welcomed by the City of Melbourne with Lord Mayor Sally Capp saying the council would now support and lobby for its redevelopment, “because we know Docklands has enormous potential to be a major point of activation within our city”.

Central Pier – which will be at the centre of discussions at the Docklands Summit on September 2 – was permanently closed by Development Victoria (DV) in early 2020 due to safety issues and has since been left to deteriorate, presenting what the state government described as an “ongoing safety risk”.

With the pier’s western tip now removed, the government has since announced that DV would lodge a heritage permit application to remove the remaining “unsafe pier structure” to “ensure its safety and reliability for years to come”.

The permit application to demolish the pier will be considered under the requirements of the *Victorian Heritage Act 2017* due to its registration as a place of historical significance to Docklands, and the City of Melbourne.

In acknowledging that removal of the pier was a key step in revitalising the waterfront along Harbour Esplanade, Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan said the government would continue working closely with the community to ensure Central Pier’s future and recognise the history of the area.

Ms Allan added safety was their primary concern “which is why we are taking the next steps in delivering a safer and more accessible waterfront area for all to enjoy”.

DV’s group head of precincts Geoff Ward said specialist engineers continued to monitor the pier’s condition and had advised the safest way to ensure a future for the pier was to re-



move it from the water.

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce chief executive Shane Wylie said he was thrilled there was “finally movement” on Central Pier, adding “we sincerely hope that the process is now escalated, and that the next iteration of Victoria Harbour is forward thinking”.

Jackie Watts, chair of the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN), said while the pier was a “heritage asset” to the community, her organisation was heartened by the fact that DV had “proactively contacted” the MMHN prior to the demolition application to Heritage Victoria.

But she said the MMHN would advocate that Heritage Victoria attach “strict conditions” if granting a demolition permit, including that the heritage values of the site and the pier are preserved.

“This outcome will best be achieved by replacing the pier with a floating concrete pier of the same dimensions as Central Pier in its entirety”.

The Docklands Representative Group said Central Pier was the “anchor point” for the precinct and would be keen to be part of discussions going forward.

The state government will work closely with Heritage Victoria, the City of Melbourne, the local community, and other key stakeholders to identify opportunities for revitalising the pier and adjacent waterfront. ●



Construction of walking and cycling crossover to begin as part of West Gate Tunnel works

Continued from page 1.

“The community is calling for the northern veloway crossing of the Moonee Ponds Creek to be redesigned to remove the unnecessary U-shaped loop and [for it] to incorporate into the close-by former rail bridge crossing (Bridge 75), together with an interpretation platform and allowing the creation of more green space along the creek banks underneath,” Kaye Oddie said, who spoke on behalf of the FoMPC.

“Despite support from Bicycle Network, the WGTP community liaison group, FoMPC, approval of the redesign is held up in the WGTP approval process.”


The state government has also invested \$50 million into a package of improvements to pub-

lic space and traffic flow in the North and West Melbourne areas which includes funding to implement the Moonee Ponds Creek Masterplan for revitalisation of the area around the creek.

The WGTP, which is expected to be completed in 2025, is delivering more than 14 kilometres of new and improved walking and cycling infrastructure, and close to nine hectares of new parks and wetlands. ●



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Jean Hailes is supported by funding from the Australian Government.



How one zine that shares lived experiences is helping homeless people with what they need to know

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

Not-for-profit health agency Cohealth and the City of Melbourne have joined forces for a unique project that will help support people with current and past experiences of homelessness.

The project will involve the writing and distribution of a zine called *Need to Know*, which will be centred around providing both advice and information about services for people living on the streets.

Zines are small self-published works of text and images that are photocopied to make a limited number of physical prints.

Within the editorial committee of eight who meet fortnightly at the Kathleen Syme Library in Carlton, where they are provided with free printing and a space, are Cohealth peer workers with lived experiences of homelessness.

One of the Cohealth peer workers now assisting with leading the zine is Caitlin Gough, who is using her personal story and experience of when she became homeless during the pandemic to help others share their story.

"You can't learn what we know, you have to live it. It's coming from the inside, it's not the outside speaking in," Ms Gough said.

Currently living in temporary accommodation, Ms Gough said she was "proud" to be sharing her experience through the zine, despite still finding it tough.

The zine includes advice on how to get a vaccination certificate if you don't have a phone, updated lists of food, shower and laundry services, and will soon share articles about going through rehab and caring for your pet while homeless.

While already seeing its positive impact following a demand for an increase in copies to be printed, Cohealth peer worker and *Need to Know* editor Spike Chiappalon said "the process is as important, if not more, than the outcome".

"There's also the psychosocial aspect [for the members] of hanging out with other people with a shared experience and having a common goal," Mr Chiappalon said.

"We decide collectively what will be in each edition, then we all go away and do research, talk with people, and share our findings. Everyone is involved every step of the way with writing, researching, printing, and deciding where to distribute."

Through the project, the City of Melbourne's Kathleen Syme Library has also been able to provide upskilling opportunities through graphic design tutorials and digital literacy support.

But more importantly, Mr Chiappalon said the opening of the library's doors through the project has also helped break stereotypes that are often associated with people experiencing homelessness.

"There's a myth that homeless people are lazy or criminals, and that stereotype leads to people withdrawing from social participation, or even from occupying public spaces that they are entitled to, like libraries," Mr Chiappalon said.

To further break the stigma and encourage homeless people to feel comfortable going into libraries and accessing resources, the 300 hard copies of the bi-monthly *Need to Know* editions can be collected from Melbourne Town Hall, community centres, youth spaces and City of Melbourne libraries.

"We're doing everything we can to ensure our libraries are a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone in our community – no matter their circumstances," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"Melbourne is a caring city, and we believe everyone deserves access to vital services and safe spaces to connect with others."

"We're proud to support Cohealth's *Need to Know* zine initiative by providing a safe space for its contributors to share their stories and experiences." ●

First Nations nod as ferry terminal renamed

Continued from page 1.

"[It] will become something that's a household word and name in Melbourne and Victoria and indeed across Australia and beyond. We should also point out that the Woi Wurrung language is a language which is considered endangered. One important way we can preserve First Nations languages is by incorporating some traditional language names into our place names."

Ferry trial extended

The news came as a trial ferry route from Docklands to Portarlington was extended for at least another year by the state government.

In a win for both tourists and commuters, the government will invest a further \$1.34 million in the service operated by Port Phillip Ferries.

The government has said that passenger numbers had started to return to pre-pandemic levels, and a 12-month extension (until June 30, 2023) would "enable a better assessment of longer-term options".

"We want to continue this trial for another 12 months as we come out of the pandemic. We want to analyse the data, and then we're very keen to see it being an embedded part of our transport network," Public Transport Minister Ben Carroll said.

"Extending the ferry trial will be welcome news to the tens of thousands of visitors and locals who accessing this convenient link whether for work or holidays."

The ferry service launched in May 2017, and by 2019 had welcomed 110,000 users, including 15,000 passengers (an average of around 500 people per day) in the traditionally popular month of January.

However, COVID-19 lockdowns across Melbourne then saw those numbers drop considerably, and the company has slowly seen the return of passengers since.

Port Phillip Ferries marketing manager Brad Wright told *Docklands News* last month that the new terminal (at what is now Yanonung Quay) would add "significant value and benefit for res-



▲ The ferry terminal at Victoria Harbour has been renamed "Yanonung Quay".

idents and visitors to the Docklands precinct".
"It's not just a place for ferry passengers, we have worked very hard to build a community hub for residents, businesses, and visitors," he said.

The ideal Parade starting point?

News filtered through on August 27 that the AFL would host the 2022 Grand Final parade along the Yarra River.

Starting in Southbank, players would travel by boat down the river to Birrarung Marr followed by a motorcade across William Barak Bridge to Yarra Park.

However Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network chair Jackie Watts questioned whether the newly-named ferry terminal would be a better starting point.

"Obviously starting at the new ferry terminal on Harbour Esplanade is ideal," she said.

"It would attract a lot of folks there — its opposite Marvel Stadium anyway."

The parade was set to take place at 10:30am on Friday September 23. ●



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IT ALL HAPPENS IN MELBOURNE

The city will come alive with an exciting calendar of new events from now until December

A winter music spectacular and an alluring floral installation are among 18 activations set to delight Melbourne visitors in the coming months.

This round of City Activation Grants will deliver more than \$800,000 to support exciting pop-ups, performances and events from now until December.

The \$1.75 million grant program by the City of Melbourne and Victorian Government will bring more people to the city to support local businesses, boosting foot traffic and spending.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said Melbourne is renowned for its art, music and cultural offerings.

"We know Melburnians and visitors alike can't get enough of the city's spectacular array of pop-up activations and activities," the Lord Mayor said.

"The City Activation Grants program will give people yet another reason to explore every corner of the city,

with pop-up salsa dancing, music jam sessions and video and augmented reality experiences among the line-up designed to entice people in."

Events coming to the City of Melbourne in 2022 include:

Winter Sessions – bringing together emerging and established Melbourne musicians to create live music hubs at the Queen Victoria Market precinct, Lygon Street and Alexandra Gardens in August.

Creek Chat – a sound-based public art intervention amplifying the underground waterway Williams Creek in the CBD, acknowledging the journey the creek has been through on Wurundjeri Land.

The Greenhouse Conservatory – converting the waterside precinct in Docklands into a floral wonderland with spring-themed street art installations and projections in September.

Dock Your Bike – providing valet-style bike parking in Docklands, encouraging riders to make the most of the city sunshine in September.

Salsa in the City – dancing and live music jam sessions across the city from September to December, taking place at Queensbridge Square, Dukes Walk and Collins Landing.

Remember the Wild – an augmented reality experience of Melbourne's past and future.

City Activation portfolio lead Councillor Roshena Campbell said events are the key to driving Melbourne's recovery.

"We're doing everything we can breathe new life into Melbourne as our business owners bounce back from the pandemic," Cr Campbell said.

The City Activation Grants are part of the landmark \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund – a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government to stimulate the economy and bring the city to life.

To stay up-to-date with events and activities in the City of Melbourne, visit whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

IN BRIEF

ARTPLAY IN SEPTEMBER

There's an abundance of arts experiences for children to explore year-round at ArtPlay at Birrarung Marr. Bring along your little ones and get ready to craft and play, with creative workshops and interactive exhibitions.

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TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIORITIES



Our city is a dynamic place made up of 10 unique neighbourhoods – Carlton, Parkville, East Melbourne, West Melbourne, North Melbourne, Kensington, Docklands, South Yarra, Southbank and the CBD Hoddle Grid – and each have their own needs, services and priorities.

In 2021, we began working with a new neighbourhood model, focusing on listening to you to help us plan our services and activities. We asked for your feedback to identify your neighbourhood priorities. Using your feedback, we are developing new digital Neighbourhood Portals that will act as interactive one-stop-shops for everything happening in your neighbourhood.

Our first two portals – for the CBD and Kensington – are already online. We're now conducting the second round of community consultations for Carlton, Parkville, East Melbourne, West Melbourne, North Melbourne, Docklands, South Yarra and Southbank.

We want to speak to a diverse cross-section of the community, including residents, businesses, students, visitors and workers – to share the draft neighbourhood priorities identified by community members and to find out if there is anything missing.

This feedback will help us ensure the Neighbourhood Portals will serve your needs and that we have identified the priorities for your community. Consultation runs until Sunday 4 September.

To learn about what you've told us so far and to have your say, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-neighbourhoods

MELBOURNE GREETER SERVICE RETURNS

Discover what locals love about Melbourne by taking a free walking orientation of the city, conducted by our enthusiastic volunteers.

We're pleased to announce that from 19 September, the Melbourne Greeter Service will resume, offering free two to four-hour orientations of the city.

The service is offered by passionate, trained volunteers who are keen to share their local knowledge of Melbourne. Orientations in languages other than English are also available including French, German, Greek, Indonesian, Italian, Mandarin and Vietnamese.



To explore the delights of our great city on foot, book in for one of the daily 10am orientations that start at the Melbourne Visitor Hub at Town Hall. Bookings are essential.

Visit whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/visitor-info/greeter-service for more information.

COUNCIL MEETING IN THE COMMUNITY

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

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

This month, join us in Fishermans Bend on Tuesday 20 September at 6pm at ARRB, National Transport Research Centre, 80a Turner Street, Port Melbourne.

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

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Docklands Primary host first-ever Athletics Day

WORDS BY *David Schout*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Murray Enders*
 COMMUNITY

As a school still in its infancy, Docklands Primary has ticked off many “firsts” since opening in early 2021.

And on Friday, August 12, another important milestone in the school’s history took place — its first-ever Athletics Day.

Held at Ron Barassi Snr Park in NewQuay, students from Grades 3 to 6 competed in traditional track and field events like the 100m sprint, high jump and discus, plus more fun-based activities like a sack race and a traditional staff versus student sprint for ultimate bragging rights.

Reflecting on “an absolutely fantastic day”, with the weather gods playing nicely, principal Adam Bright told *Docklands News* he was happy to steer clear of the final event.

“I just dobed in all the other teachers to race,” he said.

“Our school captains ran off against some of our teachers — some of them almost tore a hammy trying to win.”

Successful students on the day have now been selected to represent Docklands Primary at an upcoming inter-school athletics meet on September 7 — the first time the school has sent an athletics team to the district competition.

Perhaps most pleasing aspect for Mr Bright was the community spirit in action on the day, underpinned by the help staff received from all corners of Docklands.

“We had a really great turnout from volunteers, particularly from parents within our community who came to support the event, which was really appreciated and meant it could run as well as it did,” he said.

“The athletics day was for Grades 3 to 6, but we had parents who had kids in the lower grades who came to volunteer even without their kids involved in the day, which meant the day went really well.”



The school also received a “significant contribution” from Lucas Real Estate that allowed it to purchase athletics equipment for the day, while Custom Couriers hauled heavy equipment both to and from the park that had been line-marked by the City of Melbourne.

Volunteers from Docklands Sports Club — which uses Ron Barassi Snr Park as its home ground — were also there to provide access to the pavilion throughout the day.

Mr Bright said the school’s sport program had come a long way in 18 months and would continue to build as the youngest pupils started to come through.

Restrictions due to COVID-19 in the school’s

first-ever year had “really impacted” the program and meant competitions like the forthcoming district athletics could not be held.

“It’s developing, I’d say. Everything we’re trying to do is new,” Mr Bright said.

“Our school itself has a lot more young students than ‘senior’ primary [Grades 3 to 6]. We have 466 students and 240 of them are in Prep and Grade 1. So, we’re very bottom-heavy, and that’s meant that the top year levels where you really start ramping up the sports program, they’re very small cohorts. But it’s developing really nicely. Jayne, our PE teacher, is a gun and a really experienced teacher.”

Mr Bright said the school aimed to keep extra-

curricular activities within the local area and were starting to use Ron Barassi Snr Park more often.

“Our Grades 5 and 6s will go down there for their sport lessons. In preparation for athletics day, they were down there for several weeks practising all the events like discus and shot-put that we can’t really practice on the small footprint of our school,” he said.

“We’re really trying to keep all our events in the Docklands. Trying to develop community is a big priority for us and using the Docklands community for everything from sporting to who we get to print our merchandise and stuff like that.” ●

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Spike in dog attacks, barking complaints

WORDS BY *David Schout*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The number of reported dog attacks within the City of Melbourne has doubled in the past two years, as the council considers ways to deal with increased pet ownership.

After a significant increase in local dog and cat numbers during COVID-19 lockdowns, dog attacks increased from 58 in 2019-20 to 113 in 2020-21, a figure that remained consistent in 2021-22.

The figures were revealed in the council's draft *Domestic Animal Management Plan* for the next four years.

The council said that while higher pet numbers and better awareness of how to report attacks had likely contributed to the rise, it was nonetheless worrying.

"Dog attacks sadly and significantly impact the lives of all people involved. Victims are often left with significant financial expenses as a result of hospital or vet bills and suffer physical and emotional trauma as a result of dog attacks," the report read.

"Further, dog attacks seriously impact the lives of dogs – many victim dogs suffer lifelong trauma following an incident."

An investigation into the attacks found that most attacks and "rushes" occurred while the owner was with their dog, which the council said indicated that some dog attacks were "able to be prevented through appropriate care and control".

Due to the "significant increase" in pet ownership, the council said there was now heightened demand for open space areas.

A survey of hundreds of local pet owners had suggested increased enforcement.

"Community engagement and feedback highlights the need for an increase in the number of patrols conducted by the [animal management] team, highlighting the need for more enforcement where people fail to meet their obligations as a dog owner in the City of Melbourne."

The report indicated a number of key initiatives to reduce the risk of dog attacks, including:

- Desexing of dogs
- Early socialisation and training of dogs
- Ensuring animals are not permitted to wander at large



▲ Reports of dog attacks and nuisance complaints have risen sharply in recent years

- Educating the community (particularly children) about bite avoidance and how to behave around dogs
- Educating the community and enforcing the requirements with respect to dogs accessing public places with their owner

The draft plan also revealed a sharp rise in nuisance complaints related mostly to dogs.

Barking complaints rose 30 per cent in the two years to 2021, while reports relating to leashing of dogs in public places [dogs not on leash where they are supposed to be] have more than doubled in that time, up from 83 to 200.

"[These increases are] believed to be due to more people being home more often, providing opportunity for them to hear dogs bark. The pandemic has also seen people utilising local parks more often, creating greater competing use of these spaces," the report read.

Despite having almost 8500 registered dogs and cats within the municipality, a figure that has doubled within the last 10 years, the City of Melbourne's animal management team has not increased during this time and remained at just four officers.

Councillor Rohan Leppert questioned whether this should be enhanced, not just to beef up response teams but also to improve preventative measures. ●

Scan to read more:



Afghan women's team kicking goals on and off the pitch

WORDS BY *David Schout*
SPORT

The Afghan Women's Soccer Team, based out of Ron Barassi Snr Park in Docklands, is kicking goals both on and off the pitch.

The team, which consists of players that dramatically evacuated out of Kabul in August 2021 when the Taliban seized control of the country, rounded out its season on August 28 with a 9-0 thumping of Brimbank Stallions FC at the picturesque Docklands ground in NewQuay.

Supported by professional club Melbourne Victory throughout the season, the side finished third in Football Victoria's State League 4 West, just three points off winners Gisborne Soccer Club.

Many in the team feared they might never play again during a traumatic period last year but were granted humanitarian visas by the federal government and eventually formed the team based in Docklands.

On the field, their inaugural season has been an undoubted success, however off the field they have been further integrating into Australian life, too.

Earlier this year, members of the team joined the Jobs Victoria Employment Services (JVES) program from employment agency Asuria and have recently completed a 10-week course to prepare them for the workforce and learn about job opportunities in the area.

After signing up to the program, Asuria mentors worked one-on-one with the women to help develop training and work pathways.



▲ Members of the team have recently completed a 10-week course to prepare them for the workforce.

Across the 10 weeks they covered employability skills, the labour market, resume writing, and managing internal and external stresses.

All 10 of the women graduated, receiving a certificate of completion to support their job searches and future engagement with potential employers, and a graduation ceremony at AAMI Park in August recognised their completion of the course.

Captain and goalkeeper for the team, Fatima, said she was grateful to be on the job-seeking journey with her teammates.

"The main thing is that we're alive right now, and it's because of our team that we were together, and we will be together; fingers crossed," she said.

"I'm really hopeful for the future as we are trying to accomplish much more, it's not just about sport; besides that, we have our education, and we have to care about that."

Asuria will continue to support members of the team with regular appointments and check-ins. ●



Victorian Opera 2018 Lorelei © Pia Johnson



COSTUMES TAKE CENTRE STAGE

Collins Place exhibits the Victorian Opera Costume collection as part of M/FW Fashion Capsule Series

This capsule is part of the M/FW Fashion Capsule series presented by Creative Victoria and showcases the work of three talented designers from different productions.

On display in the forecourt at Collins Place as part of M/FW from 13th September – 18th October.

Visit collinsplace.com.au for details.

M/FW

Focus groups identify core issues for Docklands Summit

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Focus groups involving the Docklands community have gathered to share ideas with the City of Melbourne to help inform the agenda and workshops of the long-awaited Docklands Summit.

The summit, which will explore the revitalisation and future vision of Docklands, will bring together more than 80 people from major development companies, businesses, representative groups, and the Victorian government.

Before the summit gets underway at the Medallion Club, Marvel Stadium on September 2, the City of Melbourne held a series of focus group sessions with small businesses, residents, and representative groups in Docklands to inform the summit's design and direction.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the sessions, which ran from August 8 to 21, provided "valuable feedback" and helped to identify "core issues and key challenges for discussion".

"Our Docklands stakeholders highlighted a range of priorities – including activating vacant floor space, improvements to make the precinct more vibrant and easier to navigate, creating

better connections with the picturesque harbour, and improving the public perception of the area," she said.

Ms Capp said the invite-only event was an historic opportunity to "reset the future" of Docklands, which had borne the economic brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic more than anywhere else in Australia, while also experiencing an exodus of workers and residents.

Visits to the precinct are estimated to be down about 30 million per year based on foot traffic counts, with the closure of Central Pier and the Melbourne Star observation wheel casting a further cloud of doubt over the waterfront's once-thriving hospitality and entertainment industry.

The summit will involve group activities, guest speakers, workshops, a panel discussion, and networking opportunities - with key players including Development Victoria, the AFL, Mirvac, Port Phillip Ferries, Lendlease, ANZ, and the Department of Environment, Land and Water, among others.

Among the attendees will be the Docklands Chamber of Commerce chief executive Shane Wylie who hoped the summit would identify a few key strategies for progress "rather than dwelling on small minutia and complaints".



"We will be following the results keenly and lastly hope that it actually leads to action. In the past five years the chamber has been involved in five different consultations of which none have led to any meaningful action," he said.

A spokesperson for the Docklands Representative Group (DRG), which will also attend, said: "Our fervent desire is that this summit will take a holistic approach and not just focus on improving visitation".

This included not just focussing on events and hospitality as a "solution" to Docklands' future, instead "that there is genuine openness

to consider new approaches, not the same old".

"The unique feature in Docklands is the harbour and the maritime history – no one else can actually claim that" the spokesperson said, adding one way to enhance the knowledge-based experience for visitors was leveraging the precinct's indigenous and maritime history.

The DRG spokesperson said there also needed to be some forethought to addressing crime and safety issues as well as what role residents could play in the community.

Another attendee, Jackie Watts, chair of the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network, said her group would advocate to optimise the "untapped value" of Docklands' waterways and heritage.

Ms Capp said the council was looking forward to creating a "collective momentum to revitalise the precinct" as it was one of Melbourne's "most important precincts, home to major business headquarters as well as the scenic Victoria Harbour that attracts tourists year-round".

The council will offer summit attendees \$50 cashback on money spent in Docklands over the next month, as part of the Docklands Dollars initiative – managed by the Docklands Chamber of Commerce. ●

Skyfarm's potential reimaged with latest partnership

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
SUSTAINABILITY

Following a partnership between Melbourne Skyfarm and Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), the rooftop car park's urban farm has successfully harvested and donated 650 kilograms of produce to OzHarvest.

The decision to grow, harvest and donate on a regular basis to MCEC's food charity partner has been one that follows on from OzHarvest's concerns surrounding the rising cost of living.

The donated amount equates to 8840 servings of vegetables with a supermarket value of \$40,000.

"With the rising cost of living, so many people cannot afford to buy fresh produce, so a locally grown, regular supply helps put healthy food on the table for families in need," OzHarvest founder and CEO Ronni Kahn AO said.

"The Melbourne Skyfarm project is sustainability at its best, [and] we are deeply grateful to Melbourne Skyfarm and MCEC for their incredible support."

The 2000sqm farm, while currently under construction, has been operational for more than six months following the first planting that occurred late last year.

The crops grown so far include lettuce, cauli-



flower, carrot, beetroot, snow peas, silver beet, rainbow chard, kale, radish, bok choy, chillies, apples and a multitude of herbs.

The success of the sustainably focused farm has been achieved through highly collaborative efforts from those involved.

Among one of the collaborating Melbourne based sustainability companies, alongside The Sustainable Landscape Company and Odonata Foundation, is Biofilta who is responsible for supplying the Foodcube farming modules used on the farm.

"Foodcubes are advanced wicking beds that are designed and manufactured in Melbourne, made from 80 per cent recycled food grade plastic, and are highly water efficient, low tech and accessible for city farmers," Melbourne

Skyfarm director Brendan Condon said.

"They allow any urban space to be rapidly converted into a productive urban farm."

When completed the Siddeley St car park's rooftop will have completely transformed from a previously underutilised space into not only a thriving farm but one with sustainable and contemporary dining, education and event spaces.

All of which will only cement the farm as proof of the continual potentials that lie within a bustling city landscape.

"It is wonderful to see this former under-utilised carpark growing significant amounts of vegetables and herbs for charity. Skyfarm helps us reimagine our cities as food producing, nature friendly spaces," Mr Condon said.

"With the current increases in the cost of fresh food, there is an acute need and ample opportunities to design food abundant neighbourhoods and city spaces."

"Urban farming will never replace the great work by our farmers, but it can augment food supply in our cities and help us reduce food miles to food metres, and create social contact, exercise and reduce food bills for communities."

At the beginning of the project works were deemed to go on for 12 months, meaning the completion of the site and its accessibility to the public will hopefully be on track before the end of the year. ●



Stolen car crashes in Docklands

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

Two people are at large after crashing an allegedly stolen car in Docklands on August 27.

Victoria Police said investigators have been told two offenders broke into a property in Glenton Court, Gisborne, 54km northwest of Melbourne, and allegedly stole a blue BMW520 sedan about 5.15am.

They drove off before later crashing into the on-ramp of the Monash Freeway at Montague St, Docklands, about 6.10am.

Police said two male offenders wearing dark clothing were seen fleeing from the scene on foot in a southerly direction..

Macedon Ranges Crime Investigation Unit detectives are investigating and are appealing for witnesses or anyone with dashcam footage to come forward.

Anyone with information should contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au ●

Glenn Harvey answers your legal questions

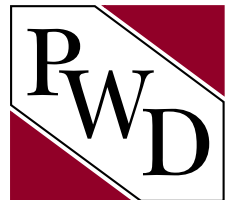
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Local dragon boats join national pride paddle

WORDS BY *David Schout*
SPORT

Two Docklands-based dragon boat clubs are set to support a nationwide pride initiative on September 10.

CYSM Sea Dragons and the Yarra River Dragons, clubs which have paddled in Docklands for a number of years, will take to the water alongside almost 50 clubs across Australia on the day as part of a wider push to encourage participation in the sport by the local LGBTQ+ community.

The clubs will open their doors to all community members as part of the event, which will kick off from the Community Boat Hub in Docklands at 912 Collins St.

The initiative, supported by both Australian Dragon Boat Federation (AusDBF) and Dragon Boat Victoria, was focused on the LGBTQ+ community to demonstrate the inclusive nature of the unique sport.

Dragon Boat Victoria board member James Hankin told *Docklands News* that the competitive sporting environment was an often difficult place for some members of the community, and the clubs were keen to open their doors and show what they're about.

"We particularly recognise that finding acceptance in competitive sport can be challenging for members of the LGBTQ+ community," he said.

"Dragon boating in Melbourne is already well represented by the LGBTQ+ community and this event offers a great opportunity to try the sport."

Both clubs will be on the water to give an opportunity to paddle and race in a dragon boat.

The event is free, and no experience is necessary.

"This is a great opportunity to demonstrate the inclusive nature of the sport. Dragon boat racing is great for fitness, making new friends and the opportunity to participate in competitive sport," Mr Hankin said.

On the day, CYSM is set to kick off at 9.30am,



▲ *Dragon Boat Victoria's James Hankin is helping organise the pride paddle.*

and the Yarra River Dragons shortly after at 10am.

Australian Dragon Boat Federation director of inclusion and diversity Dr Ruth Bollard said the event was a key step for the sport.

"Over the past two years we have joined Pride in Sport and Diversity Council Australia and reached out to our community for their thoughts and experiences," Dr Bollard said.

"Overwhelmingly, our members support diversity. Dragon boat is a sport for everyone, just as they are."

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

For further details, please visit either the Yarra River Dragons or the CYSM Sea Dragons' website. ●

Docklands activation ideas given priority

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

In an effort to revitalise Docklands and drive visitation up, new events occurring within the area will be given priority during the selection process of city activation grants.

The \$5 million City Revitalisation Event Support Program (CRESP) was announced on August 8 as part of the City of Melbourne and Andrews Labor Government \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund.

CRESP will also provide funding to the successful event organisers to support them in their endeavours to make Melbourne the events capital it was always known for.

"Melbourne is Australia's cultural capital, and we're delighted to add to our calendar of events to fill our streets and laneways with people, colour and vibrancy," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"We know events are driving Melbourne's recovery – attracting millions of people to the city to shop, dine and explore, providing our city businesses with a much-needed boost."

For people wanting to have their ideas for Docklands revitalisation in 2023 to be heard, the CRESP is calling on all applications to be submitted before 5pm on September 5.

Until then, Docklands can look forward to the launch of two of the 18 successful recipients of the latest city activation grants round for the second half of the year, which will be occurring within the local area.

The latest round is part of the joint City of Melbourne and Victorian Government's \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund.

To celebrate the beginning of Spring, *Floral by the Docklands* and *Bike Valet* will turn the waterfront precinct into a floral wonderland with street art installations, and encourage people to ride their bikes.

Already scheduled for the first three Saturdays and Sundays of September is *Bike Valet* which is being launched by the Bicycle Network, in partnership with Docklands Chamber of Commerce as part of the Docklands Dollars scheme.



The service will work by providing a free bike valet service for all people riding their bikes into The District Docklands, and will result in them receiving a cashback of up to \$25 to be spent in the Docklands Precinct.

"We want to show Melburnians that bikes are an easy and fun way to get around the city," Bicycle Network CEO Alison McCormack said.

"Bikes have the power to make our cities more sustainable, our roads less congested and our communities healthier. But the first step is for people to give bikes a try. This is what the Docklands Dollars Scheme is all about."

"Not only will Melburnians have a fun day out on their bikes, they will receive generous rewards for doing so."

Participants wanting to get involved can ride their bike straight to Melbourne Star at 101 Waterfront Way on the selected days the event is running, then continue on enjoying a nice day out wandering around Docklands. ●



Kaylah-Joelle Baker
JOURNALIST

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COLLINS PLACE



Works take shape at Australia Wharf

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

Lord Mayor Sally Capp has conducted a tour of Australia Wharf in Docklands as upgrade works get under way to make the wharf home to Melbourne's charter boat fleet.

The project, which began in June and is expected to be completed by the end of the year, will be delivered in two stages to create better berthing facilities for charter vessels, support long-term business and improve services and infrastructure for residents and visitors.

The first stage will see 51 timber piles installed adjacent to the wharf edge as well fenders and mooring cleats along the wharf while stage two, to begin in September, will involve providing new service pedestals with waste, water, and electrical connections for charter vessels.

"Australia Wharf is on a world class waterway - that's why we're committing to infrastructure upgrades that will ensure we have greater capacity to host charter vessels, making Australia Wharf an even more attractive prospect to visitors and businesses," Ms Capp said.

"We encourage everyone to come down to the water's edge in the Docklands precinct to enjoy this stunning location." ●

Docklands community groups join forces

Melbourne Community Toy Library has come together with Docklands Neighbourhood House and Docklands Representative Group (DRG) for a special toy-focused repair cafe.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

The partnered community event took place on Sunday, August 28 at the The Hub on Harbour Esplanade, following the repair cafe's relaunch last month.

Hoping to help use the events as a way to raise the profile of other community groups in the area, Neighbourhood House community development officer Jason Butcher said he was "really excited" to partner with the Docklands toy library.

"The repair cafes will continue to work pretty much the same as most, but what was different in the collaboration with the Melbourne Community Toy Library was the special focus we had on toys and fixing some of the toy library's toys that needed a little bit of tuning up," Mr Butcher said.

"At our repair cafes people can still come and bring anything though, as it is about just having a good family day."

While repair cafes heavily focus on the importance of sustainability and diverting waste from landfill, the days are also about community togetherness.

On the day The Hub had a community sausage sizzle and play sessions to help boost further engagement within the community of Docklands, and donations for the toy library were received.

Following the event, Mr Butcher said the Neighbourhood House was also looking for



more ways of working with the Melbourne Community Toy Library through some pop-up play sessions at the Neighbourhood House.

It's an idea that Melbourne Community Toy Library staff member and Docklands' Toy Librarian Ruth Fox said was "really exciting" for building community connections.

The Docklands' branch has been open since March 2021, but following a series of lockdowns it is now that they are really coming into their own and noticing the difference the library is having in the area.

Open on Thursdays and Saturdays, the Docklands' Melbourne Community Toy Library has now become a space for intergenerational play.

"We had a lot of new immigrant families who have joined, and because they often live in family groups with children, parents and grandparents, a lot of the members bring along the grandparents," Ms Fox said.

"First it was just the mum with the child and grandparent, but now the grandparents are bringing the child and it has been fantastic to see them all sitting together and chatting in their own languages and building those connections."

"We have one grandad who comes in on his own and picks out the toys he wants - it's really wonderful to see them feeling more connected to the community they are living in and having Docklands feel more like home."

While the library was initially for babies, toddlers and younger primary school kids,

the addition of STEM toys and board games to the collection has made the library of more interest to older kids in primary, parents and grandparents.

The positive of having a wide collection also means families are being able to collaborate with one another and teach the younger children problem solving skills through the more advanced toys.

"Families want a space where they can come and where dads can also play with the kids and explore new toys with their children," Ms Fox said.

"There is so much to benefit from the Melbourne Community Toy Library, and it is really making a big impact."

To become a member of the Docklands' Melbourne Community Toy Library, along with its other two locations at Carlton and North Melbourne, a small members fee is required to help fund the paid staff who coordinate the sessions and to maintain the collection.

While people are invited to come along and play in a session for free, the membership means you have access to borrowing toys to take home. Alternatively, adults can also opt to volunteer within a couple of the sessions while their child plays, which will then equate to a free membership for a certain period of time.

Despite their community's support through memberships and donations of toys, the Docklands Melbourne Community Toy Library is in need of additional support to continue to thrive.

They are currently underfunded and Melbourne Community Toy Library president Emily Corcoran said they were working with the City of Melbourne to try and find a permanent solution.

"The Melbourne Community Toy Library and the City of Melbourne acknowledge that it is really important to have services for young families in Docklands and that there is currently a gap," Ms Corcoran said.

"We are really keen to help fill that gap and to ensure families have somewhere to play for years to come." ●

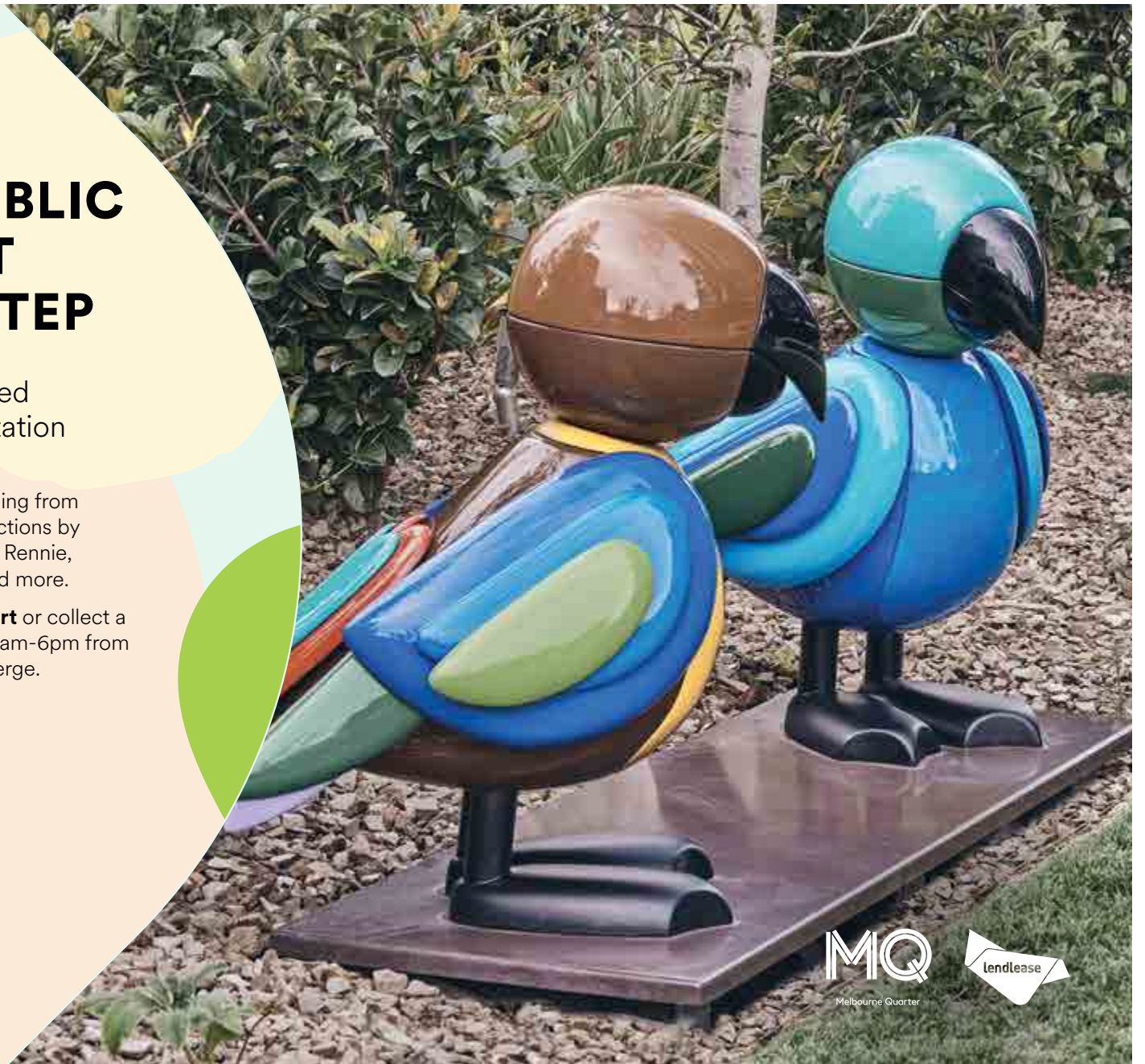
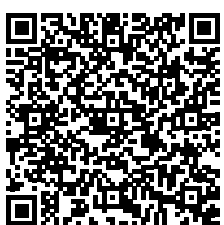
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Labor candidate begins campaign to claw back Melbourne from Greens

WORDS BY *David Schout*
POLITICS

Kensington resident and former journalist Rebecca Thistleton will attempt to unseat Greens incumbent Ellen Sandell and wrestle the seat of Melbourne back into Labor hands at the November state election.

A public servant who also served as a media advisor for recently retired planning minister Richard Wynne, Ms Thistleton was Labor's sole pre-selection nominee for Melbourne.

The seat has been held by The Greens since 2014 when the party prevailed in the electorate for the first time, before narrowly holding onto the seat in 2018 when Ms Sandell secured a second term.

The Greens now gunning for a third, Labor candidate Ms Thistleton has been tasked with shaking things up.

The 37-year-old began campaigning in July ahead of the November 26 election and said a number of issues had emerged in door-knocking and speaking with locals on the street.

"The hospital and hospitality workers around the city feel like they'll be locked out of the rental market here or have to live with sub-standard conditions," she told *CBD News*.

"Labor's new rental standards and rule changes have made a big difference, such as allowing for 10-year leases and making it easier to rent with pets. But there is still more work to be done and more awareness of renters' rights and landlords' responsibilities."

Ms Thistleton said that the environment was another key issue heading into the election and was adamant that electing a member for Melbourne who was part of the government in power could deliver tangible change.

"Without the effort from Victorian Labor, national emission reductions would be far less than they are," she said.

"The Greens have been sitting in the federal parliament and the state parliament all that time



▲ Labor's candidate for Melbourne, Rebecca Thistleton, with eldest child Tommy.

and have done nothing to help make that happen. You have to be in government. That's what I want to do for the voters of Melbourne."

The mother-of-two grew up in Goulburn, NSW, and studied journalism in Canberra before moving to Melbourne in 2009.

After working as a property journalist at the *Australian Financial Review*, in 2015 she shifted to the other side of the media landscape to work as an advisor for Mr Wynne.

Since the start of 2020 she has worked for Cladding Safety Victoria, the government agency tasked with rectifying residential apartment buildings affected by high-risk combustible cladding.

Ms Thistleton credits her journalism days as crucial to her political outlook.

"[I was] looking at market drivers and how planning and building policies shape cities and development," she said.

"My reporting experiences brought me to this point because I've witnessed how people live their lives at the margins or are doing it tougher than they should be. How we live is changing and I want to be a strong voice in those changes." ●

Scan to read more:



Punting on a sure thing

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
TRANSPORT

In a city renowned for its sprawling tram network – in fact, the world's largest – there is another form of transport, perhaps Melbourne's most unique, which many locals have probably never heard of.

Founded in 1993, the Westgate Punt has ferried thousands of passengers across the Yarra River from Spotswood to Fishermans Bend, and now, the service looks to continue for years to come as the Victorian Government invests \$200,000 in the service.

The Westgate Punt was originally conceived as a way to help unemployed youth get a start in the maritime industry; however, the punt has evolved to become an integral link in the city's transport network, allowing cyclists and pedestrians to travel from the city's west into the CBD without crossing the Westgate Bridge.

Owned and operated by Rob Horner, the punt attracts more than 35,000 passengers each year, with the five-minute trip across the river setting passengers back \$2.70.

With funding now secured, Mr Horner told *Docklands News* the Punt is here to stay, and he even has eyes for a new service that would cross Victoria Harbour.

"River punts were the first mode of transport in Melbourne to cross the river. Until settlers built bridges, there were punts. We are just keeping them going," Mr Horner said.

"We've proven that it is a great form of transport that crosses the main artery of our city. Our passengers are constantly surprised of this perspective of Melbourne. We cross the main artery of the city, and when you cross it, it's another world."

"I proposed to the government years ago to put a punt service in at Docklands. It would travel under the Bolte Bridge from a low landing on the north side of the river, with two stops, one at Victoria Dock and at South Wharf."

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Ben



Carroll said the continuation of the punt was part of the government's continued investment to improve Victoria's active transport network to deliver better connections and safer options for people travelling by bike or on foot. "The Westgate Punt is one of the west's best-kept secrets and we're ensuring more Victorians will have the chance to discover this unique way to travel," he said. "We're proud to be keeping the Punt's weekday services afloat – keeping active transport options available for inner west Melburnians."

A schedule of the Westgate Punt's weekday services can be found on their website or using the Public Transport Victoria (PTV) app. ●

For more information:
westgatepunt.com



Jack Hayes
BUSINESS EDITOR
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DEVELOPMENT VICTORIA



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Salvos' Pink Car officially takes to the streets

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
BUSINESS

Following a rising concern for young women's safety in the early hours of the morning on weekends, The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614 has launched The Pink Car.

The vehicle, purchased by the Collingwood Football Club, will be seen travelling around the city and South Yarra from this weekend following its celebratory launch on Wednesday, August 24 in Docklands.

As a standout hot-pink car, with an equally identifiable Salvation Army logo on the side, Salvation Army Major Brendan Nottle said the program was one that was "for women by women".

"The Pink Car will operate on Friday and Saturday nights, staffed by a female worker and a female volunteer with the purpose to engage with young women and help ensure they get home safely," Major Nottle said.

The need for the extra assistance for women was noticed during times when The Salvation Army Melbourne's Youth Street Teams would operate over the weekend to support young people who may have overdone it or were struggling to get home.

The Youth Street Teams program was first funded by The City of Melbourne in 2010 as a response to the concerning rise in alcohol-fuelled violence before becoming a suspended program at the beginning of the pandemic.

It was then reinstated with funding from the council this year, following a request from Major Nottle at a June 23 council meeting.

The announcement of The Pink Car program soon followed.

To aid with assisting young women on a night out, The Pink Car will work in collaboration with the police, paramedics and the City of Melbourne's safe city CCTV team, receiving referrals on areas of concern.

The all-women team will also check in on women who may be seen waiting for an Uber, a taxi or their friends, to see if they are in need of a lift or alternatively just someone to wait with them.

While labelled as The Pink Car for obvious reasons, the vehicle also goes by the name of "Anne's Van" in an effort to honour and recognise the significant work of the late Anne Malloch.

Ms Malloch was a significant contributor to the City of Melbourne for more than 30 years, specifically with regards to women's safety, and was involved in preliminary discussions about the program before her passing a month prior to the launch.

At the launch it was announced that the women focused support program would operate between 10pm and 4am on Fridays and Saturdays, and assistance from the vehicle can also be requested by calling 1800 266 686. ●

Solicitor sponsors major art prize

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ARTS & CULTURE

A lot of planning goes into arranging a major art prize and finding sponsors is one of the more delicate tasks.

Peter Neville donates the prize money for the runner-up at the Maritime Art Prize & Exhibition.

The \$25,000 in prizemoney makes it one of the most lucrative in Melbourne.

The Australian National Line is a major donor and Mr Neville got involved through his pro-bono work for exhibition organisers, the Mission to Seafarers.

"I don't claim to be an expert," he told *Docklands News*, but he does like the sea and has a feel for an artistic vision.

The theme for this year's exhibition, which opens on October 30, is "The Relationship of Humanity to the Sea".

The past two exhibitions have been held online so the Mission is looking forward to the public once again visiting their heritage building.

Mr Neville began sponsoring the prize seven years ago and will be making a speech at the



▲ Art prize sponsor Peter Neville in his eclectic boardroom.

opening ceremony on October 29.

He runs a commercial law firm in Collins St but has always aimed for a "quirky" practice.

"I want my clients to feel at home here," he told *Docklands News*. Many are overseas business clients, so he has a collection of artefacts in his board room, including a large Buddha.

"If you walk out of this room and write down your recollection you'll miss out the nuances, the time of the day, the light," he said. "The

immediate can't give you the nuances. Art is a vision re-encountered in tranquility."

Mr Neville and his young solicitor mates first got involved in art as a social activity.

A gallery director introduced them to young artists such as Dale Hickey, Peter Booth and Paul Partos.

They had a few drinks together then they bought work to the value of \$1500. He still has these in his home collection.

That early start made him aware of the presence art can introduce into a room and the way works grow on a viewer over time.

He says there are two ways of looking at the paintings in the exhibition: as metaphors for the human struggle as depicted in *Old Man and the Sea* and *Moby Dick*.

"They're both good sea tales, both express man's struggle against nature, the capricious forces of nature," he said.

But when he saw a painting of a lifeboat adrift in the sea it made him think of the former.

Paintings are about ideas and this year's theme accentuates the human response to the oceans.

20th Maritime Art Prize & Exhibition, Mission to Seafarers, September 30 to October 16. ●

Dead slow astern for the Wattle

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
MARITIME

The guys in the engine room were rolling up their sleeves as they got the *Wattle* ready for a trial run in October.

They'd fired up the boiler and checked they were reading commands from Captain Dick Francis.

All the cute little tug needs now is a "haircut and shave" to remove the barnacles.

All of the hard restoration work has been done after the tug's safety certificate was withdrawn 14 years ago.

Patrons came down to North Wharf on Sunday, August 28 for a free sausage and a demonstration of her fitness.

So far donations have amounted to \$1.75 million and 104 volunteers have put in 40,000 hours of work to get her to this stage.

The tug belongs to Bay Steamers Maritime Museum, and she will be available for charter but it's her history that gets the guys fired up.

Captain Dick Francis was waxing lyrical about the *Wattle's* past at the event.

"She's older than I am," he said. "She's 86 and I'm 83. She was born in the State Dockyard in Sydney in 1936 and I was born in Portsmouth, England."

Even though the early ships he captained were steam-powered, when he took out the *Wattle* in 2005, "it was a steep learning curve".

"It was quite hard to get her out," he said. "We took it down the river and back again."

The steering on the old steam tugs is not direct and to get the engine up to speed the captain has to send a command down via the



▲ Captain Dick Francis and the restored *Wattle* down at North Wharf.



▲ Engineer Howard Mumfara getting ready for full steam ahead.

ship's telegraph.

A bell rings below and the guys in the engine room read the command and use a throttle to select between full, half or slow.

They can signal they've understood by moving a lever on the circumference of the telegraph.

The romance of the old days is still living on in the portholes, galley, steam room and telegraph of a tough little vessel that requires 13

“I went to sea at 15 and retired at 65. I was glad to retire. I was snowed under by paperwork.”

tonnes of water in the steamer to get it moving. "My last ship before retiring was all levers and buttons," the captain said. "She had no steering wheel. In the modern method, the engine is computer controlled."

"I went to sea at 15 and retired at 65. I was glad to retire. I was snowed under by paperwork."

There are rules that still govern all the functions of tug such as the one that the horn must be heard from at least three nautical miles away.

The *Wattle* has been fitted out so that it will be able to cater for 50 passengers and the setting will be "dead slow astern" as she backs out of North Wharf. ●



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
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SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

DR LEILA ZAMANI - 15 YEARS OF SPARKLING SMILES

Feel cared for and walk away with a healthy smile after you visit dentist Dr Leila Zamani, conveniently located for Docklands and CBD patients at 488 Bourke Street.

Leila has always wanted to look after people's health and wellbeing, and she's now led her own dental practice for 15 years. We've celebrated her lasting success with a Small Business Achievement Award.

Born in Iran, Leila set out initially to study medicine but ended up studying dentistry instead. She migrated to Australia in 2003 and, after transferring her qualifications, started practicing dentistry here in 2005.

Two years later in 2007, Leila took over an existing dental practice in William Street and went on to establish a loyal following of clients, including city residents and workers.

'Dentistry is very rewarding: whether I am taking pain away from people, helping them to get over their fear, giving them nice teeth to smile with, or helping them restore their dental health,' Leila said.

Dr Zamani Dental Practice offers a variety of cosmetic, preventive and restorative dentistry treatments.

Leila's team members pride themselves in providing high-quality and affordable services. They also enjoy building long-term relationships with clients, to deliver 'a lifetime of healthy smiles'.

'When you work in the city, your main clientele are professional people. It feels great to look after lots of highly intelligent, successful professional people,' Leila said.

'Also, they are very time poor. For me to offer them service, I also have to be very punctual, which is my nature anyway. And I do enjoy it.'

As a lover of sport, art galleries and cosmopolitan cities, running her business in the bustling heart of Melbourne suits Leila just right.

'Coming from Iran, I was born and bred in a big city. I love the vibe of a busy city with people around,' Leila said.

'I live in South Melbourne and love having cafes and restaurants around me at walking distance.'

We recognised Leila in the latest Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Awards, among many other beloved city businesses that have been in operation for 10 or more years.

'The award is great as it is very challenging to run a business as small as mine,' Leila said.

Alongside the day-to-day challenges of being a small business owner, Leila is focused on the latest technological advancements in dentistry, and regularly updates her skills and knowledge base.

She is an active member of the Australian Dental Association and Australian Prosthodontic Society, and a member of the International Team for Implantology.

Looking to the future, Leila hopes to spend many more years caring for Melburnian smiles from her practice in Bourke Street - a brand-new facility with an inviting and calming atmosphere.

'After 15 years of renting from big corporations, I finally bought a premises. So now I'm my own landlord. I'm hoping to stay in business for many years to come, to continue to look after city people,' Leila said.

Dr Zamani Dental Practice is located at Level 6, 488 Bourke Street in Melbourne.



Dr Leila Zamani

ABOUT THE LORD MAYOR'S SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

Melbourne is full of fantastic small business success stories.

We celebrate the people behind inner-city businesses that have stood the test of time with our Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Awards, previously known as the Lord Mayor's Commendations.

Among the recipients are legends who have been in business in the city for 10+, 20+ and 40+ years. We also name a Small Business of the Year - the latest winner is sleek North Melbourne design studio Grafico Group.

You can learn more about all the amazing businesses we've honoured over the years at melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards

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

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Patricia Chircop from Knovus



Patrick Coppel from MAKE Designed Objects

MAKE DESIGNED OBJECTS AND KNOVUS

Treat yourself to sleek Scandinavian homewares and sustainable knits brought to you by Carlton businesses honoured in the Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards.

MAKE Designed Objects and Knovus have been named finalists in the Small Business of the Year Award.

Every beautiful product on the shelves at MAKE Designed Objects on Elgin Street must earn its place amid the other thoughtfully designed homewares, clothing and accessories.

'A MAKE product must perform well when considered for its design appeal - both aesthetically and

theoretically, its environmental soundness, its durability, its necessity and, in some cases, its humour,' owner Patrick Coppel said.

Over on Grattan Street, Knovus is doing impressive work at the nexus of design, innovation and zero-waste manufacturing.

'I enjoy coming up with innovative solutions for a wide range of knit products including medical device components, furniture and sports accessories, and of course fashion,' owner Patricia Chircop said.

MAKE Designed Objects is located at 194 Elgin Street and Knovus is located at 90 Grattan Street in Carlton.



Michael Cardamone of Amiconi Restaurant

AMICONI RESTAURANT

Great food and even better service is the key to good hospitality, according to West Melbourne restaurateur Michael Cardamone.

Tucked down the west end of Victoria Street, just a few minutes walk from Melbourne's iconic Queen Victoria Market, you'll find Amiconi Restaurant.

It's the go-to spot for locals and visitors alike - those craving fresh calamari, crumbed eggplant and a carefully-crafted, superbly seasoned bowl of pasta.

It's the spot with blissfully classic signage and where the walls are veiled with the faces of its smiley, loyal patrons.

This year marks 40 years of service from Michael, and we've recognised his efforts in this year's Lord Mayor Small Business Awards.

'Creating friendships and treating everyone as if they're a part of our family is at the heart of everything we do at Amiconi,' Michael said.

Amiconi Restaurant is at 359 Victoria Street in West Melbourne.



Tony Pierrakos

INTONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Tony Pierrakos has visited the Queen Victoria Market since childhood, taking photos with his very first camera as a boy and eventually starting his own photography business.

More than 20 years later, his images have shown Melbourne in all its moods - and Tony has received a Lord Mayor's Small Business Award.

His subject matter ranges from urban to regional, taking in the Yarra Birrarung river, the MCG and city laneways, as far afield as the Otways.

'One of the best parts of my job is meeting all the great customers. They

just want something to remember Melbourne by. When you get someone from Paris saying how much they love Melbourne, that's a special thing to hear.'

Composing scenes over the decades, he's seen numerous changes in the city he knows so well. Even during the pandemic he found a way to keep an idea alive. His book *STILL Melbourne* is a collection of photos taken during the lockdowns.

Find Intone Photography at String Bean Alley (M Shed) at Queen Victoria Market.



Eileen Carney from American Rag

AMERICAN RAG

Meet the woman who's been bringing vintage style to Melbourne streets for 30 years.

It took some fancy footwork for Eileen Carney to secure a shopfront in the new Melbourne Central complex in the early 1990s.

People told her there was no market for second-hand clothes. And yet, having grown up in New Jersey where the vintage rag trade was emerging, Eileen trusted her instincts.

Vintage was coming to Melbourne, and she was just the person to bring it.

She lovingly stacked her tiny shopfront with America's finest vintage jeans, outlandish coats and party dresses.

It was an overnight success. American Rag branched out to the new

Southgate complex in 1994 and stayed for 28 years. American Rag in QV Melbourne has been a fan favourite for 14 years.

'I love everything in my shops. I love super-old glamorous vintage, old t-shirts, old denim, everything in between,' Eileen said.

She estimates that American Rag has imported and rehomed some 300 tonnes of quality vintage gear over the past three decades.

And she's still going strong. We recently recognised Eileen's lasting success with a Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Award.

Find American Rag at 15-17 QV Terrace in the QV Melbourne shopping centre.

BUSINESS

World-class fertility treatment comes to South Melbourne

Dr Moses Abe, an internationally recognised obstetrician, gynaecologist, and Monash IVF specialist, has recently relocated his highly-regarded Melbourne Fertility Clinic to South Melbourne to better service the inner-city community.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*



Specialising in the fields of obstetrics, gynaecology and reproductive medicine, Dr Abe's experience in fertility spans three decades and his clinic offers a vast range of a high-quality medical and support services difficult to find elsewhere.

Dr Abe is a registered medical practitioner who studied and practiced in Ireland and the UK before moving to Australia in 2010, where he has been servicing communities around Victoria ever since.

With an ever-growing demand for fertility services in South Melbourne and its surrounds, he told *CBD News* that he recently moved his clinic from Carlton to the South Melbourne Medical Hub on Cecil St to fill a desperate void in the region.

Melbourne Fertility Clinic specialises in a range of services, including fertility check-ups, egg freezing, advanced laparoscopy for endometriosis and infertility, ovulation induction and intrauterine insemination, genetic screening and surrogacy, among many others.

But it is perhaps the clinic's cutting-edge partnership with Monash IVF – a trailblazing Australian research institution internationally recognised for its work over 50 years in the space of invitro fertilisation (IVF) – which is the most sought-after of its services.

Dr Abe said it was the opportunity to work with Monash IVF and the likes of pioneer figures such as Professor Gab Kovacs which had inspired him to move his practice to Australia all those years ago.

“When I finished my training in the UK, the question was: where to practice?” he said.

“I was inspired to be part of that team [Monash IVF] that had been so diligent in giving their time and energy to see people achieve their dreams. It was definitely the inspiration I got from those colleagues that attracted me here.”

Monash IVF, which celebrated its 50th birthday this year, was responsible for the world's first IVF pregnancy in 1973 and it has since continued its legacy to achieve countless “firsts” in the field of reproductive medicine.

Dr Abe said being part of the organisation not only gave Melbourne Fertility Clinic's patients first access to the biggest advancements in science, but also in education, awareness and treatments.

“The research is ongoing and every couple of years there's always something big to come out of Monash IVF, so it has been one of the world leaders in fertility services around the world for a very long time,” Dr Abe said.

“The advances that have come out of Monash IVF have been absolutely phenomenal. In fact, tens of thousands of babies have been born out of Monash IVF in the past 50 years. But it's not just about IVF; it's also about fertility awareness and treatments outside of IVF as well, so they provide vital education.”

With a lot of stigma often attached to the sort of services that Dr Abe specialises in providing, he said that the past 20 years had seen a “big shift” in the range of patients from diverse backgrounds seeking support.

A long-held believer that fertility should not be limited to anyone, Dr Abe said Melbourne Fertility Clinic offered a very inclusive service to everyone from singles, same-sex couples and transgender people.

Its support team is made up highly trained administrative staff, specialist nurses, counsellors, social workers and Monash IVF scientists, who Dr Abe said all worked together on a daily basis to provide the best for patients. ●

For more information:
melbournefertilityclinic.com.au
or call 1300 916 756

Cleaning up Melbourne's property management game

Managing director and owner of inner-city real estate agency Re-Define Real Estate Philip Middlemiss has seen a thing or two during his 21 years in the industry.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

After recently purchasing a new business with a portfolio of more than 500 properties, Mr Middlemiss was shocked to see the state of property management in Melbourne's inner city.

From forged, out-of-date or incorrect documentation to properties without essential services; he knew something needed to be done.

Now, he is on a crusade to clean up the industry, for the benefit of not only his growing business, but the rest of Melbourne's property management game.

“Our industry is in a state of flux. The recent changes to legislation, including the introduction of the bi-annual safety checks, have created more work for agents,” Mr Middlemiss said. “Combined this with the effects on rents due to COVID-19, which have caused mass movements of people in and out of the city. The inner-city agent, is very busy indeed.”

“Some of the practises we have uncovered include people other than the owners signing documents, agents telling rental providers “not to worry about safety checks, no one is checking”, and renters having to go without essential services for prolonged periods of time, as the rental providers don't want to spend the money to fix the issue”.

“My competitors are going to hate me for shining a light on this, but property management in Melbourne needs to be cleaned up and we need to support those who are leading the way in the industry.”

According to Mr Middlemiss, with an investor market that consists dominantly of overseas owners, the property management industry is primed for local agents wanting to cut corners when it comes to property inspections and dodging new legislation.

At Re-Define Real Estate, Mr Middlemiss's team of 12 staff work across 400 different properties, an unusually high agent-to-property ratio, to ensure his staff provide the best possible



service for their investors.

“Throughout the pandemic more than 4500 property managers have left the industry nation-wide,” Mr Middlemiss said. “A lot is due to the condition's property managers have been forced to face, particularly during routine inspections.”

“Aggressive animals, undressed tenants, hoarding, drug use and plenty of dirty underwear, we have seen it all recently.”

In an attempt to shake up the way his business and the industry functions, Mr Middlemiss has forgone the traditional idea of a property manager in exchange for a term he feels is more apt:

“relationship managers.”

He has introduced fair representation for both the rental provider and the renter, which has levelled the playing field when it comes to getting this done.

The job of his relationship managers is to proactively educate and communicate with investors to keep them abreast on changes to legislation and the state of their property.

Mr Middlemiss has also revolutionised the traditional role of a property manager by forming a new business, Respect Residential, which offers inspection services for local agents and those wanting to “self-manage”.

“I have a number of clients interested in the service, even agents on the Gold Coast, asking if I can fly up and help them,” Mr Middlemiss said.

“They don't have the time or people to inspect apartments, but for less than \$100 a year, they can get someone to do it for them.”

“Routine inspections are a vital role when it comes supporting both the Rental Provider and the Renter alike. With such busy schedules due to the recent legislative changes, an agent or now property owner can now employ a professional to do the job for them.” ●

For more information:
re-define.com.au

Join us over the next 3 months, as our team of experienced agents takes you over what has been driving the Melbourne property market.

August's Tips:

1. The Value Of Routine Inspections
2. Comparative Market Analysis
3. Marketing For Success



Scan the QR code to join the conversation

“After 20 years of selling and leasing apartments in Melbourne's CBD and surrounds, it's time to give back”



PHILIP MIDDLEMISS
OWNER
RE-DEFINE REAL ESTATE
0402 840 674

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REAL ESTATE

Kids go free this September school holidays at Port Phillip Ferries

Back by popular demand, Port Phillip Ferries is once again flinging open the ferry doors for kids to travel free during the September school holiday period.

Children aged from four to 16 can jump on the ferry (with their parents or guardians) free of charge starting from Saturday, September 17.

This offer will be available right across the school holidays until Sunday, October 2, so there's plenty of time to jump aboard and embark on an adventure with the family.

With the huge success of this offer during the last school holiday, Port Phillip Ferries marketing manager Brad Wright said it was great to see so many kids and families get out and about during the cooler months.

"With inside and outside seating available, it's a great opportunity to travel in a safe environment and get a dose of fresh air as you cruise across Port Phillip Bay to or from Melbourne," Mr Wright said. "And you may even spot the odd dolphin or seal along the way."

"The journey itself is something the kids



will want to do again and again, but apart from the ferry ride it's all about the destination and there are so many great school holiday activities happening on both sides of the Bay, so why not make getting there a part of the adventure."

"From Imaginaria, ice skating and the Arvo gallery in District Docklands to all the AFL footy finals at the MCG, there's plenty of free, low-cost and virtual events that will entertain the whole family on the Melbourne side."

Or if you're in Melbourne and looking for something different to entertain the kids, look no further than Geelong. School holiday activities in Geelong are a child's dream and include a museum designed purely for kids (MOPA) and a waterfront precinct with endless fun including a giant sky wheel, train rides and a

beautifully restored historic carousel that is a must for everyone.

With the freeway so congested by roadwork delays there has never been a better time to take the easy way across the Bay. It's all about jumping on the ferry and having a much nicer experience, and with kids being able to travel for free it such a cost-effective way to travel.

Added to all of this Port Phillip Ferries has just opened its brand-new Melbourne Ferry Terminal, a brand-new modern facility in Docklands where the ferry pulls in. It has all the creature comforts including accessible toilets, a tourist information hub, and a full-service café with lots of tables and seating where you can enjoy a bite to eat while overlooking the stunning Victoria Harbour.

To take advantage of this offer simply type **PPFKidsFree** into the promo code field under your children's name in the booking system. ●

For more information:
portphillipferries.com.au/kids-go-free-school-holidays

Financial fraud in property transactions – tips for consumers



Property transactions are rich targets for financial fraud, particularly with the advent of electronic conveyancing. If you intend to buy or sell a property, we recommend some tips to reduce the risk of exposure.



The insurers reported that last year was the fourth consecutive year of \$1 million-plus property related claims, with 2021's number skyrocketing. The majority of claims were attributed to cybercrime.

One of the most common methods used is to hack the email address of a buyer, seller, broker or a conveyancer, and attempt to divert funds (either being sent or received). Never rely on electronic communications alone, ALWAYS telephone to verify bank details of funds you are sending, make sure that your conveyancer takes the time to verify with you any proceeds funds account details that you provide. Call them yourself to a verified office number rather than provide details via a received phone call.

It's not just clients who are having emails accounts hacked. Industry professionals are also being targeted, and we must have very strict



▲ Jayson Sande, director and licensed conveyancer, Anchor Conveyancing.

procedures and protocols in place. Anchor Conveyancing does not open attachments without knowing their origin, we do not accept third party instructions (such as from an agent or another practitioner) to distribute a client's funds.

Limit the exposure your email has. For example, we thoroughly recommend creating a brand-new email address with a complex password to use only when handling your conveyancing transaction. That way you know that it hasn't been previously used for years, and it has not been exposed to criminals through a cyberbreach.

Ensure that your conveyancer protects you. With decades-long experience in handling property transactions, we've developed practices to ensure that our clients are covered, and we are constantly adapting and altering them with the changing threats. Every day brings a new threat. Our most recent story is noticing an imitation email account with one letter changed in an attempt to divert funds. Verify and check the origination of each and every email in a transaction.

The business environment is becoming more complex. When entrusting a professional to handle the most expensive transaction of your

Never rely on electronic communications alone, ALWAYS telephone to verify bank details of funds you are sending, and make sure that your conveyancer takes the time to verify with you any proceeds funds account details that you provide.



lifetime, it pays to do your due diligence and check how you are protected against fraud. Anchor Conveyancing nowadays not only needs to be on its toes to make sure your contract is prepared properly (or checked properly if buying), that your bank is on track for settlement, that your levies are adjusted and that settlement takes place on time – we also have to have modern fraud protection systems in place, and stay ever-alert to protect you.

For free pre-purchase or selling advice please email info@anchorconveyancing.com.au and call our office at (03) 8640 9002.

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How I'm fighting the cost-of-living crisis

Many people across Melbourne are doing it tough.

We're in a cost-of-living crisis and inequality is at a record high. My team and I have heard from countless members of our community who are worried about how they'll pay the rent, their medical bills or childcare costs as everything gets more expensive and wages and incomes flatline.

This week, I'm attending the government's Jobs and Skills Summit, to push Labor to deliver an immediate rise in the minimum wage to tackle the cost-of-living crisis.

With the Greens in balance of power in the Senate, we've made it loud and clear to Labor that we'll push to change the law to guarantee faster wage rises, especially for those in the care economy.

Our plan includes lifting the minimum wage to 60 per cent of the full time adult median wage, with a faster move to lift wages in women-dominated care industries.

Lifting wages is not out of reach. Rather than investing in the things that will make everyone's lives better, Labor is spending \$244 billion on unfair tax cuts to billionaires and handouts for big corporations.

Their plan will make inequality worse, make the cost-of-living crisis worse and dismantle Australia's progressive tax system.

Instead of investing in unfair tax cuts, the government should be funding free childcare, getting dental into Medicare for everyone and building more affordable housing.

Steps like this, alongside a lift to wages and income support, would fight inequality and



make sure everyone has what they need to live a good life.

In Parliament, I represent more renters than almost any other MP. With rental costs rising, renters are struggling to meet the soaring costs of living, with many in insecure and casual work.

That's why the Greens are calling on the

National Cabinet to introduce a two-year rent freeze and ongoing rent caps, allowing wages and incomes time to catch up to rents.

During the worst of the pandemic, Victoria froze rents to support tenants, now we need the Federal government to do the same nationally.

It's time to legislate protections for renters, so people are protected against unfair, arbitrary

“

During the worst of the pandemic, Victoria froze rents to support tenants, now we need the Federal government to do the same nationally.

”

evictions and skyrocketing rents. If the government is serious about cost-of-living relief, if they're serious about affordable housing, then it's a no-brainer to freeze rents.

With a new government, we have enormous opportunities to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. My team and I will be working hard, in Parliament and in the community, to deliver the transformative reforms we need to make sure no-one is left behind, starting with a lift in wages, stopping the unfair tax cuts and ending out-of-control rent rises. ●



Adam Bandt
FEDERAL MP FOR MELBOURNE
ADAM.BANDT.MP@APH.GOV.AU

ABBY'S ANGLE

Family is everything

Sometimes we don't realise this until it's too late. Or maybe we realise it, but still think we have time to appreciate them.

Somewhat incredibly, I still thought there was time for me to tell my grandmother just how much I adored her. That there would still be time for one more catch-up, to paint her nails just one more time.

Time ran out last week. It is a privilege not afforded to many, to be farewelled from this world having lived a magnificent 97 years, but it does not make it any easier to say goodbye.

I'm grateful I was there with my family as we formed our circle of love around her for her last few days. And I am also grateful that I did have the opportunity to regularly see her and share

stories with her and tell her how much I loved her. It just seemed that she would be with us always, and I guess in a way she always will be, through sharing our stories and holding her in our hearts.

The good thing that does come from funerals, is some form of peace and closure. It meant a lot to me to give her eulogy, and her wake was more of a cocktail party with friends and family laughing, hugging, and generally enjoying being together, even though in grief. And that's when you realise it's been so long since you've seen some friends and family.

They were all there to farewell and mourn our wonderful matriarch, and I realise how much I have missed them throughout the years of us all being absorbed by our own lives. Work is busy, house needs work, yard needs doing – we so easily get caught up in what we have to do, we don't even realise what we are truly missing.

My grandmother's funeral reminded me to enjoy life, to sing and dance as she was always

doing to Nat King Cole on the gramophone. To host dinner parties with friends, with crystal glasses flowing with champagne, tables laden with flowers and food, and the peals of laughter hanging in the air. Grandma would always freshen up her lipstick and celebrate whatever life had given them. And having been through World War Two, they had an ability to celebrate even the smallest of joys.

It breaks my heart to see families that are divided. Grown siblings fighting each other and being so cruel. Battles over entitlement and competing in a way that results in jealousy and negativity. Perhaps it's because they have been born into privilege, perhaps it's because there isn't a world war that brings ranks together in solidarity against a common enemy.

Whatever the reason, it is sad to see. The wounds that are inflicted by words can last a long time. I wonder if they can see the path they are choosing, or if they are so caught up in their resentment that it blinds them to the pain they are causing. When they realise that they have

hurt the ones they love the most, I hope that it won't be too late to repair the damage.

Remember that family – both the people you are genetically connected to, and the people you choose for your clan – are the greatest love, strength, support, and joy we have. Make time for them. Celebrate. Connect. Love them fiercely. Because when the end does come, they will be the ones you care about.

My grandmother lived a magnificent, full life and we adored her. And her lesson to us is to live life to its absolute fullest, to host parties and dance in high heels, to laugh and to create a lifetime of memories that live on through generations. To love your family.

Until next month, Abby x ●



Abby Crawford
LIFE@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU

ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen, your local state MP.
I'm here to help. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

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146 Peel Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051

Authorised by E. Sandell, 146 Peel St, North Melbourne.

SKYPAD LIVING

Vertical village winter blues

Melbourne definitely had a frosty winter, but did we have to shiver?

August saw the release of a report by Better Renting – Cold and costly: Renter Researchers’ Experiences of Winter 22 – which claims that our winter indoor temperatures are often lower than home temperatures of much colder countries.

Funded by Energy Consumers Australia Limited, this project highlighted the extent of our “indoor-cold” and emphasised the link with poorer respiratory health, poorer cardiovascular health and adverse mental wellbeing, all of which place additional stress on our overburdened health system.

In fact, according to University of Adelaide researchers, Associate Professor Baker and Research Associate Daniel from the School of Architecture and Built Environment, 26 per cent of people across all housing types are unable to stay warm at least half of winter. They claim there is a pervasive myth in Australia that

hot weather is the greatest danger to our health, while, in reality, it’s more likely cold weather will kill you.

So, what counts as “indoor-cold”?

According to The World Health Organization (WHO), to promote health and wellbeing, the recommended minimum home temperature is 18°C.

And why are we failing on our indoor temperatures?

The key culprit is poor design, and, in particular, inadequate insulation. This is because heat readily escapes through poorly insulated walls, ceilings and, notably, single-pane glass. The simple truth is that many colder countries are better at designing, weatherproofing and insulating, and, as a consequence, have more efficiently heated homes.

But surely, as many of our vertical villages are less than two decades old, we would have well insulated apartments? Our floor-to-ceiling glass windows and walls, a common feature of our high-rise abodes, would *certainly* be double glazed.

Regrettably, this is not the case.

This design fault was specifically highlighted

by researchers from Melbourne University who were looking at the flip side of our “indoor-cold” predicament – that is, they investigated how Melbourne apartment designs coped with excessively high temperatures. In their 2017 examination, researchers modelled both old and new apartment designs in Melbourne, including an example of recent best practice design. Their finding was that most west-facing apartments – and quite possibly those in other orientations – would fail international standards.

“Hot-boxes in summer and ice-boxes during winter” – not the tag found in most marketing promoting our vertical villages.

The way forward, as agreed by researchers investigating both heat and cold scenarios, lies with introducing standards, as these would not impose significantly higher costs on new constructions.

The big problem, however, lies with retrofitting existing apartment buildings.

Here the challenges are manifold, starting with the absence of solutions tailored to our high-rise context. It remains the case that many available solutions, such as retrofit-

ting double or adding secondary glazing, are designed for houses and are prohibitively expensive or not suitable for residential apartments.

Consider whether these panes might fit in your lifts!

Added to this are the needed approvals. Subject to your building’s rules, you will likely need authorisation from your owners’ corporation and if you are renting, then your landlord will also need to authorise (and fund!).

This said, better insulation of residential apartments is a health and wellbeing issue. And maybe the time is fast approaching that we vertical villagers needs to engage with health rights organisations, such as WHO, to shine a light on our systemic vulnerability. ●



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

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STATE MP

A day in the life of a Greens MP staffer

If you’ve ever called, emailed, or popped into Ellen’s office, there’s a good chance you’ve spoken to one of us.

WORDS BY *Jordy, Fern and Amy*

With Ellen on a short period of maternity leave, we thought we’d share a bit about what we do and what we can help you with.

An MP’s day is almost as varied as it gets. When Ellen is not at the Victorian Parliament, fighting for climate, affordable housing, and integrity, she can often be found at community events, celebrating our community’s diversity and connection; at local schools, learning about what needs to be fixed to give our kids the best possible education; and meeting with other MPs, councillors and community groups to achieve local wins.

Meanwhile, our small team is behind the scenes supporting Ellen and our community.

Jordy is our go-to person for support for residents. She knows all the ins and outs of getting local issues resolved.

“Every day is different – that’s what I love about this job. You’ll often find me on the phone with Ministers’ advisors, the council, schools, local organisations, and residents. I do a lot of work with public housing residents on maintenance issues in their home or fol-



▲ *Ellen’s team, from left to right: Amy, Fern, Ellen and Jordy.*

lowing up housing and transfer applications with the department to make sure people live in a house that is right for them. I also stay on top of local issues, regularly meeting with local community groups and supporting them however we can. For example, I’m currently working with artists and residents in the Nicholas Building to support their campaign to stay in the building which is being sold. I’m also working with staff at Docklands Primary School to help them get

much-needed safety upgrades.”

Fern is our policy expert. Her head is filled with information about renewable energy and threats to nature.

“Right now, I’m working on the Greens’ climate and environment policies as we head toward a state election in November. This involves researching renewable energy technologies, like batteries and offshore wind farms, and working with stakeholders – such as environment groups, coal workers, and scientists – to

ensure our policies reflect the changes we need to tackle the climate crisis. My job also involves meeting with local environment groups from right across Victoria. I love supporting these groups to get environmental issues raised in the State Parliament. It’s so satisfying when these campaigns get great outcomes. Earlier this year, I was thrilled when East Gippsland residents stopped a giant mineral sands mine, which threatened local farms, rivers, and wildlife.”

Amy makes sure all the great things Ellen does for our community are shared through Ellen’s website, emails, and social media.

“My day could include going to parliament or community events with Ellen and taking photographs, preparing petition pages on local issues, pitching stories to local newspapers (like this one), sending emails to our supporters, and designing flyers, stickers or posters. Today I’m working on a plan to spread the word about the awesome climate initiatives that Ellen and Fern have been working hard on. Did you know that the Greens have a plan to help one million Victorian families get their homes off gas?”

Our team is always available to help local residents. If there is ever anything we can do to support you, please do not hesitate to get in touch! ●

To contact Ellen’s team:
office@ellensandell.com

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Maritime garden for Docklands?

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) proposes that Development Victoria and the City of Melbourne activate the languishing Docklands precinct with a maritime garden – a unique public open space designed to attract and engage the public, and in particular engage young people, with the maritime technological wonders which enabled centuries of exploration and trade across the vast oceans.

There are many installations which enable the process of exploration above and below the water, e.g. navigation, monitoring and measuring weather, wave surge, environmental/pollution, marine and estuarine life, etc.

A water's-edge public open space in the Docklands precinct would be entirely appropriate, with permanent, heritage-based but future-oriented maritime activities which genuinely respect and reflect the unique waterways of Docklands. Perhaps the heritage fleet could be berthed nearby?

MMHN was delighted recently to discover plans for such a uniquely informative maritime garden were developed more than 20 years ago by landscape architect Simon Warrender. The form of the garden itself is based on the points of a compass.

MMHN argues that the time to implement these designs for a dedicated maritime garden in Docklands has come.

News now from the Heritage Fleet

MMHN recommends that you take a close look at the wonderful steam tug *Wattle* nearing the very "pointy end" of its painstaking restoration works on view along North Wharf.

Maritime restoration is always a time-consuming and costly undertaking. Volunteers have devoted 14 years and more than 40,000 hours work to the *Wattle* project. Funding is an ever-present headache (more of a migraine really) for those courageous folk valiantly intent on restoring and/or operating Melbourne's Heritage Fleet. Fundraising is not for the faint hearted.

Wattle's focus is now on the final funding "crunch" to realise the vision of operating and enlivening Victoria Harbour, the Yarra and Port Phillip Bay. So far nearly \$2 million and in-kind support has been provided by enthusiastic donors. The Port of Melbourne has been very generous with in-kind support covering hefty "slippage" costs.



▲ Steam Tug Wattle.



▲ Wikipedia Rotterdam rail solution.



▲ Maritime Garden Concept.

Before too long, *Wattle* will begin generating its own funds through tourism, but a further circa \$200,000 is needed to make the "vision" a reality. The sooner the *Wattle* is operational,

the sooner it can become self-sufficient.

If you recognise the immense efforts of so many, and if you acknowledge the value of

maritime heritage in the Docklands Precinct, perhaps offer your support by contributing to the completion of the *Wattle* works. The name of the account is Restoration Account. Bank details: BSB (083 163). Account No. (4374 59324).

Polly Woodside

News from the *Polly Woodside* nearby at Southbank is less cheerful. The National Trust (Vic) has announced that it will host open days on Sunday, September 4 and Sunday, September 2 and 10 and will offer optional guided tours 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm and 2.30pm.

Maintenance costs remain a serious issue and so too is invaluable but diminishing capacity and the number of *Polly* volunteers.

Port of Melbourne Rail Bridge – the solution!

MMHN has long been concerned that the Port of Melbourne has rail infrastructure plans, which will seriously and adversely impact on our waterways. References within the "Navigating Our Ports Futures" strategy justifies our growing alarm at the prospect.

Although no state government support is stated, much is inferred. Obviously, installing an at-grade rail line across the Yarra on the bay side of Bolte Bridge will certainly impede all water traffic in the Yarra rendering Victoria Harbour a mere pond.

MMHN genuinely acknowledges the Port's commercial imperative to progress such rail infrastructure, but utterly rejects the proposed plan of an old-style "at-grade" bridge when a submerged tube is the obvious "solution". Not new news, of course, as it happens the *Sydney Morning Herald* (August 1, 2022) cited the example of the historic yet redundant "Hef" officially Koningshaven Bridge, over the Koningshaven (Kings Harbor) channel at the port of Rotterdam. See smh.com.au/topic/netherlands-diu

This solution to Rotterdam's freight logistics problem was in 1987 to install a 2796-metre-long submerged rail tunnel, Willemsspoortunnel, a series of concrete caissons built offsite and lowered into the river to become a submerged tunnel. See: nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willemsspoortunnel

There are many other examples of such submerged prefab tunnel installations in Scandinavia. Clearly it is a SMART solution to the Port of Melbourne's logistics problem and is one which doesn't trash our waterways. Surely the state government in this SMART state should ensure that the port investigates these options – before totally ruining Docklands waterways? ●



Jackie Watts

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HEALTH



Workspace Week - work well from anywhere!

The Australian Chiropractors Association (ACA) has launched Workspace Week with a health warning urging Australians to correct their poorly set up home workspaces to avoid physical injuries that may be caused by unsafe workspace practices.

Since the pandemic began there have been numerous studies and surveys conducted by researchers, governments, organisations and healthcare professionals looking at the benefits and disadvantages of working from home.

The majority of Australians have spent the past three years working between home and office locations, with the risk to the health of those not working in ergonomically correct workspaces causing concern.

Following the survey conducted by the ACTU which found 42 per cent of Australians working from home did not have a suitable workstation or the correct equipment, and the federal government's announcement in August 2021 that up to two-thirds of Australians were still working from home, the ACA developed new effective resources to help Australians maintain a healthy spine.

To change the way Australians work from home, the ACA's National Workspace Week aims to alert Australians to the potential risks of unsafe workspace practices due to poorly set up workspaces at home.

During National Workspace Week, chiropractors are encouraging anyone using a computer at home, albeit for work or study, to learn some simple steps that may improve postural correctness and create an ergonomic workspace.

Those experiencing neck, shoulder, back pain and headaches and those concerned about their spinal health when working remotely should

contact their health professional to help address the issues. The team at Docklands Health can help you learn how to set up your workspace correctly so you can develop safe workspace practices and provide you with advice on exercise programs specific to your needs.

We're also encouraging everyone to participate in Workspace Week by jumping online and downloading the ACA's free Workspace Week resources to help maintain your overall health and wellbeing, allowing you to work well from anywhere.

ACA's Workspace Week Checklist can assist people work safely in an ergonomic setting, while using the Straighten Up app to improve posture, stabilise core muscle groups, and enhance overall health and wellbeing.

By using these free tools and implementing positive spinal health habits including using an ergonomic office chair, adjusting your laptop to eye level and positioning your knees slightly below your hips when sitting, you can help prevent potential physical injuries when working remotely. ●



Dr Mike Edgley
CHIROPRACTOR
DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU

CHAMBER UPDATE

Driving ideas for Docklands

An interesting month has just gone past in Docklands with the first round of the Docklands Summit workshops having been held. I attended along with a raft of fellow Chamber colleagues, Docklands businesses, residents, and reference groups.



Lots of fascinating ideas, many of them conflicting with one another but at heart there was a few key commonalities:

- Docklands needs activation of the harbour, action on Central Pier and a consolidated plan for Harbour Esplanade.
- There is a consensus that green planning and sustainability need to be at the forefront of thinking.
- Episodic activations while successful are not the long-term answer.

In participating in the Docklands Summit, it became very apparent to me that we aren't hearing enough from, and who, the average resident in Docklands actually is. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released its preliminary figures from the census last year and I think they are absolutely fascinating.

Summarising – and please forgive the literary licence in doing so – the average person in Docklands is a 32-year-old who identifies from another culture (almost 70 per cent), with 1.6 children and a household income of \$100,000 per annum.

I'd personally love to hear a whole lot more from this demographic as they are going to drive Docklands' needs.

They are certainly driving the primary school which is already at capacity and looking to explode.

The school was a focus for the Chamber for many years so we're so incredibly happy it's such a success, we just hope that the next stage of planning allows for rapid expansion as Docklands is really becoming a family friendly precinct.

Keep an eye out for our activations in Docklands in the coming month. Docklands Dollars is going to have a few variations to promote spending in the precinct. ●



Shane Wylie
MEDIA DIRECTOR
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WE LIVE HERE

Tourism sector calls for short-stay day limit

Tourism industry groups want Victoria to follow other states, including NSW, and impose a limit on the number of days per year that properties can be let as short stays.

The Victorian Tourism Industry Council and the Accommodation Association of Australia have each called on the Victorian government to create a level playing field for all operators.

Accommodation Association chief executive Richard Munro said while Victoria had among the most short-stay listings in Australia, there was little government oversight. "It's largely unregulated," he said.

In NSW, 180-day limits have been implemented in numerous coastal and regional districts and much of Sydney. Victoria is yet to even contemplate this basic regulation, leaving apartment residents exposed to well-documented, ongoing issues caused by short-stays.

The Accommodation Association, which represents caravan parks, regional motels and hotel chains, is also pushing for the short-stay sector to meet similar safety standards to commercial operators, including large hotels.

It's fascinating to see the tourism sector openly berate a state government that got itself very cosy with Airbnb, purportedly to "boost tourism".

Four years ago, the short-tenured Trade and Innovation Minister, Mr Dalidakis admitted to Parliament that "I visited Airbnb's office [in San Francisco] in a visit to North America". (Hansard, August 7, 2018, page 46). It was earlier reported by *The Age* that Premier Daniel Andrews had visited Airbnb in San Francisco in 2015 as part of an Emergency Management Victoria initiative.

After waiting four years for a review – four more years?

We continue to hope for an epiphany in Spring St – the irony of having the tourism sector attack the government's inaction on short-stay accommodation.

Alas, elevating inertia to an art, the government this month quietly announced that again it would defer its review of short-stay legislation – to an undefined date sometime in the next four years.

In 2018, the government committed to a "post-implementation review" in 2020, as a sop to the broad opposition. It was tantamount to admitting that the legislation was deeply flawed.

COVID intervened and the promised review was delayed until 2021, and then re-promised "maybe" for 2022.

This month the Leader of the Victorian Greens, Samantha Ratnam, speaking to an adjournment action in parliament, sought a formal response on the long-overdue review.

The government has just published its



word-salad response on the parliament website (you can find the link on our website, welivehere.net):

"As the tourism sector was heavily disrupted during the pandemic, the post-implementation review will be undertaken as part of the mandatory statutory review of the recent legislative reforms to the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006*, which is due to be undertaken between 2023 and 2026. Combining the reviews will allow for more extensive data collection to be undertaken and assessment of the amendments, while also ensuring consistency with the broader review into owners' corporation legislation and regulation."

Having deciphered that rather abstruse announcement, we are left asking this: why wasn't the short-stay legislation included in the overall review in the first place?

Playing the COVID card, the government says we could be waiting another four years before the topic of short-stay regulation is even considered in Victoria – a total wait of eight years. With a forthcoming state election, Victorian apartment dwellers are entitled to more than a vague mollification. We deserve a firm commitment to a fixed date for the review – this year!

Meanwhile, other states and territories have already got down to business and implemented solutions.

Is it any wonder the tourism sector is fuming with frustration in Victoria?

NSW tests lowering short-stay limit to 90 days

Attention, state government of Victoria: the **NSW Department of Planning** has approved a "Gateway Determination" for a planning proposal to reduce the number of days of non-hosted short-term rental accommodation in parts of the Byron Shire from 180 days to 90 days.

The proposal follows an Economic Impact Analysis, commissioned by the NSW Government, that found allowing 90-day caps is the most effective way to support the long-term housing pool.

The proposal is designed "to mitigate the significant impacts of short-term rental accommodation on permanent rental housing supply, amenity, local character, and community, while still allowing for a diverse and sustainable base of tourist accommodation options to support the local economy."

The NSW government-approved proposal is an exemplar of regulatory changes that are progressing with enviable velocity in NSW, Queensland and Tasmania, particularly for apartment buildings.

Must Victorians gaze disconsolately over the borders as our interstate neighbours tackle, and solve, the socioeconomic problems associated

with short-stays?

We understand that The Greens will keep pushing the Victorian Government to bring forward the legislative review and get moving on short-stay regulation sooner. We Live Here will keep making ourselves heard, too, until social equity and economic logic prevail.

Ban on developers locking residents into energy contracts

As an example of how the same state government can achieve results where there is a will, we have a significant win to report.

Victorian apartment developers will be banned from signing any private deals that would lock residents into a contract with an electricity retailer – known as an "embedded network" deal.

Embedded networks can deliver massive undisclosed profits to developers via an opaque "management fee" or margin structure. Although the quantum is usually undisclosed, residents can reckon the secret margin within a reasonable tolerance. For example, if your apartment is paying \$50 per month above the best available electricity supply rate, and your building has 200 apartments, the calculation is easy. Remember to add a similar estimate of the markup on the common area electricity costs too.

The good news is that state Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio has introduced a ban on embedded networks in new residential buildings, taking effect from next year. There are exceptions where buildings run on 100 per cent renewables. We applaud the state government for this initiative to proscribe an egregiously ethically practice.

This leaves the question of existing buildings with conventional embedded networks, which the government says it will address "soon".

Meanwhile, conventional embedded network managers are feeling immense pressure from soaring compliance costs. Residents in some buildings suffering with needlessly higher prices because of an embedded network might, just might, be lucky enough to see the private deals implode naturally rather than having to wait for government action.

Campaign donations

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Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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Berthing at Little Dock ... maybe for some tea

Before there was a bridge, this scene is what met vehicles at the corner of Spencer and Flinders streets.

WORDS BY *Ashley Smith*
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

The exact period of this photo is sometime in the late 19th or early 20th century, and features Spencer Dock, also known as Little Dock. It was opened in August 1854 and was described by *The Argus* (August 18) as the “first public dock in Victoria”. The first ship to enter was the *Flying Cloud*, which unloaded 300 tonnes of cargo. As *The Argus* reported, because the government was “too slow for the spirit of the people”, it was up to the merchants to do their own celebrating. Around 90 minutes before the dock opened, the *Flying Cloud’s* owner, Mr Throckmorton, ordered the Criterion Hotel’s Mr Moss to organise a makeshift luncheon on the vessel to celebrate the occasion. By some miracle, the order was fulfilled in the most “efficient and satisfactory manner”.

For more than 70 years, the dock was a mainstay for the many smaller boats that could navigate the shallow bends of the Yarra. This included a group of trading ships known as the Mosquito Fleet. The fleet consisted of small ships that travelled across Bass Strait, usually for timber and other cargo. Even as steamers became the primary mode of sea transport in the early 20th century, masted ships such as ketches, schooners and brigantines were still economical due to their reliance on wind power instead of expensive coal or fuel. Due to their small size, they were perfect for delivering cargo to seaside or riverside towns that didn’t have access to the rail network. *The Herald* in 1916 (May 27), reported how they were vital to resort areas between Mornington and Port Phillip Heads, especially as they visited with cargo three times a week in the summertime. Former president of

the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, George R. Leggett, wrote in 1945 (*The Argus*, April 21) that on a busy day, so many would berth at the dock that “it was possible to cross one side to another on the decks – five abreast and one across the end – two tiers of them.”

Two ships have been identified on the left-hand side of this image. The darker one is known as the *Orsin*, a 42-tonne ketch. The white-hulled ship is the *Berean*, a 71-tonne ketch that measured 24m long and was built in Tasmania in 1877. It served as a trade ship until it was sold to the Victorian Government in 1911 for £700. It then served as a storage ship for gunpowder and explosives until the 1930s. By 1937, *The Argus* (September 17) reported the “rotting hulk” was resting at Williamstown with other used ships, likely awaiting destruction.

After a voyage, a sailor would want a pint or two at the bar, or, if they were a teetotaler, a cup of tea. One of the most popular tea brands of the era was Robur whose warehouse (known today as The Tea House) is the lone behemoth towering over the South Melbourne skyline. Standing at six stories tall, the building was constructed in 1887 as a warehouse for stationers Ferguson and Mitchell. Built on swampy ground, the engineers were able to construct it using an innovative technique which created a sturdy foundation on 450 timber piles and concrete rafts. In the early 1900s it was owned by S. A. Palmer, who sold the herbal remedy known as “Vitadatio”.

Robur inhabited the building by 1906. They started as a brand owned by Hawthorn, Rhodes and Co. in the 1890s, at a time when Australia was drinking more tea than any other country. The distributor James Service and Co. bought the brand in 1900 and established the Robur Tea Company. They also had a factory on



Queensbridge St, equipped with machinery that mixed the tea leaves, using fans and magnets to remove dust and stray metal parts, before they were packed into vegetable parchment bags. Workers (around 120 at the time), wore white aprons as they diligently prepared the tea for grocery shops all over Victoria.

The brand was also known for its wide array of advertising campaigns. In the following decades they did printed promotional calendars with well-known artworks found in galleries, wartime promotions where families were encouraged to donate tea to the ANZACs, and a series of wall-painted advertisements featuring their signature teapot logo that

adorned various brick walls in and around Melbourne (some of these ghost signs can still be found in their fading glory today). All the while, they appealed to many middle-class or lower-class suburbanites, who wanted to be classy for their guests at only a fraction of the expense.

The warehouse would remain in business until the 1970s. The Robur Company was bought by Tetley and then the Indian-based Tatra. Today, the building’s towering presence on the South Melbourne skyline has been diminished by the Convention Centre. However, it is still an impressive vestige of Southbank’s industrial past. ●

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For Eva Yal and Meryl Liew, their time in Docklands would have been a very different experience without their two loyal and loving West Highland Terriers – Olaf and Yarra.



WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Adopting Olaf from a friend who was leaving the country, only to feel there was more room left in their hearts and homes for another addition to their family, the couple sought out the same breeder for another Westie.

"We really love the temperament of Olaf and wanted someone in the same bloodline as her, so we got Yarra through the same breeder and Olaf is actually Yarra's auntie," Meryl said.

"Yarra's name came about because of how much we love living in the area and because of the amount of walks we did around the water during lockdown."

While both are different, with six-year-old Olaf being more quiet and gentle compared to the nearly one-year-old Yarra, they have been a "good addition" to Meryl and Eva's Docklands townhouse during lockdowns.

"They are really great dogs and they have changed our lives a lot," Meryl said.

"Through lockdown they have provided us with a lot of emotional and psychological support and having two extra-cute dogs running around is always definitely a plus."

While adding so much to the couple's lives, the greatest benefits have been their Westies' abilities to connect with anyone and everyone in the community.

"Because of them we have made a lot of friends which has made the neighbourhood a very good place to be," Meryl said.

"Without them we would have not been able to bridge the social gaps you have in a lot of modern suburbs where you barely know the people living around you. We now have a great support network because the dogs have helped us to meet more people and extend our social circle."

In addition to making great friends at the readily available open spaces and dog parks within the area, Olaf's and Yarra's sensitivity to their surroundings has also been of great help within the area.

"A couple of months back when our neighbour's dog ran out in the middle of the night, Olaf and Yarra started barking and we were wondering what was happening, so we decided to look around," Meryl said.

"Because of them we managed to find our neighbour's dog running around on the street, and chased it. Without Olaf and Yarra our neighbour's dog could have gone missing."

As true local heroes for the night, the dynamic duo has only continued to prove the benefits of fluffy friends in Docklands. ●

10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

SEPTEMBER 2012 | ISSUE 79

DOCKLANDS NEWS



Breaking the cancer cycle

A team of ANZ Docklands staff is aiming to raise \$50,000 for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre by taking part in a 200 km bike ride next month.

Over 30 staff from ANZ Docklands are taking part in the two-day Ride to Conquer Cancer.

Participant Corbert Wilson said the ride involved a return cycle from Melbourne to Healesville, taking different routes both ways.

He said participants pledged to raise a minimum of \$2500 each when they signed up for the ride.

Steve Morgan, ANZ general manager of credit assessment and retail operations, helped organise the ANZ team.

Mr Morgan said it was the first time the ride was being held in Victoria and that the team had raised \$32,000 so far.

The team is raising money in a variety of ways including a bake-off competition featuring a visit from Beau of MasterChef fame.

Team members have also been busy collecting from friends and family.

One team member held a Christmas-in-July event and will be conducting a winery bus tour in order to raise funds.

The team is not training formally but many ride to work or arrange weekend rides together.

About half the team would describe themselves as cyclists, while others are getting back on the bike for the ride.

"Some claim not to have been on a bike since they were kids," Steve said.

Luckily for those cyclists, they say you never forget.

The Ride to Conquer Cancer will be held on October 27 and 28.

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港区小学举办首届田径日

作为一所仍处于起步阶段的学校，Docklands港区小学自2021年初创建开学以来，已经创造了许多个“第一”。

David Schout

8月12日星期五，学校举办了第一个田径日，这是该校历史上又一个重要的里程碑。

比赛在港区NewQuay的Ron Barassi Snr Park举行，3至6年级的学生参加了传统的田径比赛，如100米短跑、跳高和铁饼比赛，以及更多有趣的活动，如跳麻袋比赛和传统的员工与学生短跑比赛。

校长Adam Bright回忆起那天真是老天帮忙，给了他们“绝对美妙的一天”。

他说：“我让所有老师都参加比赛。”
“我们的学生队长和一些老师赛跑，他

们中的一些人为了获胜几乎拼尽全力。”

当天获胜的学生现已被选为代表港区小学参加9月7日举行的校际田径运动会，这是该校首次派出田径队参加地区比赛。

也许最令Bright先生高兴的是当天的社区精神氛围，主要来自Docklands港区各方面工作人员的帮助。

他说：“我们有很多志愿者参加，特别是社区内的学生家长，非常感谢他们来支持这项活动，这意味着这次活动像预期一样顺利进行。”

“田径日是3至6年级学生准备的，但我们有一些低年级孩子的父母，即使他们的孩子没有参与，他们也来做志愿者，使这个田径日进行得非常顺利。”



原住民同意渡轮码头更名

位于维多利亚港的Docklands港区轮渡码头已经更名为“yanonung Quay”，是一个Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung的词，意思是“水路”。

David Schout

该轮渡码头以前被称为“VH08”，这次新命名的地方是当地人和游客参观港区的一个突出景点，其特色为一座“树上奶牛”雕塑，以及新开放的渡轮码头和社区中心。

这个名字是墨尔本市政与原住民协商后建议的，而港区社区成员也提出该区域应该称之为一个“码头”。

Olivia Ball博士说：“我们非常感谢Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung原住民文化遗产公司提供了这个名字，非常适合指代更广泛的古代地方，即港区和纳姆(Naarm)。”

“我们欢迎一个新的地方有一个原住民的名字，事实上，这个地方就是一个古老的地方。”

墨尔本市政表示，最近所有的社区反馈表明，需要更多的认识和机会来了解Wurundjeri和Bunurong的遗产、地方以及与国家的持续文化联系，包括通过更多地了解整个城市的Woi Wurrung语言。

在8月16日举行的未来墨尔本委员会会议上，这个新名称被投票通过时，副市长Nicholas Reece说，这是一个“非常肯定”的举动，原因有很多。

他说：“我们确实希望Yanonung Quay能成为一个非常繁忙的通勤和观光渡轮码头。”

“这个新名称将成为墨尔本和维多利亚州乃至整个澳大利亚甚至更远的地方家喻户晓的词和名字。我们还应该指出，Woi Wurrung语言是一种濒临灭绝的语言。我们可以保留原住民语言的一个重要方法是将一些传统语言名称纳入我们的地名。”

激活港区 振兴经济

为了振兴港区经济并提高游客数量，在这次振兴城市拨款的评选中，优先考虑在港区举办创新活动。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

8月8日宣布500万澳元的振兴城市活动计划(CRESP)，是墨尔本市政和Andrews工党政府2亿澳元的振兴墨尔本城市基金的一部分。

CRESP还将为成功举办活动的组织者提供资金，帮助他们努力将墨尔本打造成闻名遐迩的活动之都。

市长Sally Capp说：“墨尔本是澳大利亚的文化之都，我们很高兴能在我们的活动日历上增加活动项目，让我们的街道和小巷充满人群、色彩和活力。”

“我们知道正是各种活动在推动墨尔本的复苏，吸引数百万人来到这座城市购物、就餐和探索，为我们的城市商业提供急需的推动力。”

CRESP呼吁，任何人有意为2023年振兴Docklands港区提出想法和建议，请在9月5日下午5点之前提交申请。

港区期待今年下半年进行一轮城市振兴拨款的18名成功获得者中的两名港区获得者。



最近一轮的振兴城市拨款是墨尔本市政和维多利亚州政府联合的1亿澳元振兴墨尔本城市基金的一部分。

为了迎接春天的到来，Docklands港区将变成一个花卉仙境的海滨区，街头将充满花卉艺术装置，并且推出自行车返现活动，鼓励人们骑自行车出行。

由自行车网络协会与港区商会合作推出的Bike Valet自行车活动，将在9月的前三个周六和周日举行，作为港区返现计划活动的一部分。

这项服务活动将为所有骑自行车进入港区的人们提供免费的自行车服务，可获得高达25澳元的返现，用于在港区购物。



屋顶农场 硕果累累

由于墨尔本屋顶农场(Skyfarm)和墨尔本会展中心(MCEC)的成功合作，这个城市屋顶农场已经成功收获并向慈善机构OzHarvest捐赠了650公斤的农产品。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

该慈善机构之所以与会展中心合作，决定种植蔬菜，是因为担心生活成本的上升。这次捐赠的数量相当于超市价值4万澳元的8840份蔬菜。

OzHarvest创始人兼首席执行官Ronni Kahn AO说：“随着生活成本的上升，许多人买不起新鲜农产品，所以定期的本地种植蔬菜供应，有助于为有需要的家庭提供健康食品。”

“墨尔本屋顶农场项目是可持续发展的

最好体现，我们深深感谢墨尔本屋顶农场和会展中心的大力支持。”

这个2000平方米的屋顶农场自去年年底第一次种植以来，已经运营了6个多月，目前正在建设中。

迄今为止种植的作物包括生菜、花椰菜、胡萝卜、甜菜根、荷兰豆、银甜菜、彩虹甜菜、羽衣甘蓝、萝卜、白菜、辣椒、苹果和多种香草。

该屋顶农场以可持续发展为重点的成功是通过相关人员的高度协作和努力而实现的。

城市农业可持续发展公司Biofilta，与可持续景观公司和Odonata基金会一起，负责提供农场使用的Foodcube农场模块。

墨尔本屋顶农场的主管Brendan Condon说：“Foodcubes是在墨尔本设计和制造的高级菜床，由80%的回收食品级塑料制成，节水率高，技术含量低，适合城市蔬菜种植者使用。”

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