

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P26



▲ Nutrimetic consultants Helen and Lil, Nutrimetics specialist and Living Centre volunteer Lucia Cardamone, and Living Centre Breast Care Nurse Consultant and Manager Andrea Cannon.

Think Pink Living Centre spoils the community with fun-filled days of indulgence

After having to close its doors to the community for too long, the Think Pink Foundation's Living Centre successfully held three fundraising events for Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Murray Enders*
 COMMUNITY

The events were led by Nutrimetics specialist and Living Centre volunteer of 12 years, Lucia Cardamone, who took participants through personalised makeup classes.

Three sessions were offered during the month of October, with the last one taking place on Thursday, October 27, from 1pm until 3pm.

"[The fundraiser] has been great and everyone had fun and learnt and tried different things they ordinarily wouldn't do," Ms Cardamone told *Docklands News*.

ly wouldn't do," Ms Cardamone told *Docklands News*.

"They were guided through the class and our [Nutrimetics] consultants helped them make the right choices based on their eye shape, brow shape, and skin colour, so it was very personalised."

While everyone in attendance was able to go away with specialised and tailored knowledge on how to apply their own makeup, the sessions also offered a chance for them to give back and help the centre with a \$50 entry donation.

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ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

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Launch of ATET throws spotlight on Docklands' future as an entertainment precinct

A newly launched floating bar in Docklands has ignited a fierce debate about the future revitalisation of the precinct after complaints of the venue's loud music became "untenable" for residents.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

The opening of ATET at North Wharf Rd went off with a bang with its bright lights and pumping music on the weekend of 22-23 October making its presence known after the owner promised to bring "much-needed life and energy" back into Docklands.

But the big launch misfired with some neighbouring residents saying the constant "doof doof" beats from 1pm to 1am had become unbearable, causing many to have sleepless nights, resulting in 140 complaints being reported to the City of Melbourne.

ATET's owner Jake Hughes said he was aware its launch had caused a "significant disturbance" in the community, which was "never our intention", and apologised "unreservedly".

Mr Hughes said his team was committed to listening to residents to gain a "better understanding of the situation" and reiterated the venue was a multi-purpose event space "with something for everyone".

"We are working closely with the City of Melbourne and all relevant authorities to ensure we are compliant with EPA (Environment Protection Authority) and council regulations. Through this process, we will be taking a number of measures to minimise the impact on

neighbouring residents," ATET said in a Facebook post.

ATET is Melbourne's first ever floating bar which is built on an old barge previously used for the restoration of historic tall ship *Alma Doepel*, with its atmosphere promoted as an open-air oasis inspired by the beach clubs of Mykonos and Ibiza.

The venue received the backing of the City of Melbourne, which approved the planning application in April this year "as the proposal met all planning requirements", however several conditions were included as part of the approval in relation to venue's management and noise. It also took into consideration seven objections as part its decision, which was not required to be made at a Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

However, in an unforeseen event, ATET was issued with a breach notice after its planning permit did not allow for it to trade on Sundays, despite being included in a liquor licence and venue management plan, which one City of Melbourne councillor put down to a "misunderstanding".

ATET's management undertook an acoustic report in the days after its launch to ensure its sound levels for outdoor entertainment met council regulations as well as compliance with the EPA before it reopened on Saturday, October 29.

Continued on page 3.

Community day celebrates everything Docklands

Photo by Ajay Viswanath

A community day promoting the talents of Docklanders as well as showcasing what the precinct has to offer will be held on November 26. The "Celebrate at Yarra's Edge" event will bring the community together through a range of exhibitors, information sessions, social connections, entertainment, and catering. *Full story on page 11.*

Huge crowds descend on Docklands for Diwali

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
EVENTS

More than 5000 people defied Melbourne's wet weather on October 29 to gather at Ron Barassi Snr Park for Docklands' first major Diwali event.

Despite the inclement weather forcing the cancellation of several other Diwali events around Melbourne, Docklands' first Diwali celebrations went ahead thanks to the hard work of more than 150 volunteers and the event's partners.

Local not-for-profit organisation SarasCare, which staged Diwali with the support of Docklands Neighbourhood House, gave away more than 4000 free meals and 3400 toys valued at more than \$70,000 to attendees on the day.

More than 250 performers entertained the massive

crowds during the eight-hour event, which saw a range of group and individual performances with no shortage of dancing, singing and drumming.

With crowd numbers far exceeding the organiser's expectations and the wet weather forcing cancellations and changes to a number of its plans, SarasCare director Gautam Gupta said he was grateful to everyone who helped make for a "safe and joyous event".

"The first Diwali@Docklands defied the worst Victorian October weather in decades and delivered an incredible display of Indian temple-made Sattvic food, a pop-up temple experience, music and songs from every corner of India," he said.

"The light and goodness of the Docklands community overcame the darkness of rain clouds and repeated showers. This was all driven by a massive grassroots community effort."

Continued on page 3.

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A Plans for \$1.75 billion City Harbour precinct



PLANNING, PAGE 07

B Consultation opens for Central Pier's future



COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 09

C Neighbourhood Portal goes live



COMMUNITY, PAGE 12

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ATET: a loud litmus test for Docklands' identity

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
EDITORIAL

Less than two months on from the Docklands Summit, the opening weekend of new floating nightclub/events space ATET in October provided the loudest post-COVID test for Docklands' identity to date, as the question begs: are we a city precinct, or a country town?

The Docklands Summit held on September 2 represented somewhat of a line in the sand moment for Docklands, as the City of Melbourne and all key stakeholders gathered for some soul searching.

No secret has been made of how challenging the past few years has been for Docklands. Since the closure of Central Pier and two years of lockdowns, workers have left, business has been ravaged, visitation has been in decline and the precinct has suffered as a result.

The need for such a summit, as well as the efforts of those such as Renew Australia to fill vacant shopfronts, are stark reflections of a precinct which is far from living up to its potential.

But with 16,000 residents now calling Docklands home, getting the balance between amenity and activation right in a precinct which has always been zoned as "mixed-use", continues to prove a challenge.

While the closure of Central Pier and some of its "noisy" operators, including Atlantic Group functions and Alumbra night club, represented a blow to the local business community, for some residents, it was quite the contrary.

These closures, in addition to lockdowns, have undoubtedly created a false sense of silence in Docklands for many residents compared to the sort of noise the area was once familiar with pre-COVID ...

And since ATET was first announced in *Docklands News* back in April last year, trepidation has been rising among some members of our community about what a floating nightclub could mean for the peaceful enjoyment of their homes. Opposition to ATET had been brewing for some time within the community

well ahead of its eventual launch on October 22 with a petition even having been proposed. One local even mistakenly took to social media associating "unacceptable" noise heard on the weekend of October 15-16 as coming from ATET – a week prior to its launch.

But the storm that erupted once ATET did launch over the weekend of October 22-23 was like nothing we've seen before in Docklands, with the business's decision to announce itself with two days of back-to-back DJ sets raising more than a few eyebrows.

It's fair to say that many of the issues stemming from ATET's introduction to Docklands could have been avoided with a bit more attention to detail. While not obligated under the rules, greater consultation with locals wouldn't have gone astray given what it was proposing.

Pushing the limits to 1am on the Monday morning was also clearly a bridge too far, and for residents preparing for an early start to the working week, this is more than understandable. And as the owners have since accepted, it was louder than it needed to be.

But for a business which had invested a significant amount of money into its venture, the "administrative oversight" of trading on a Sunday without a permit was gobsmacking, and only added fuel to the already raging fire.

However, nothing can excuse some of the disappointing commentary which ensued on social media on all sides of the debate, as well as threats made against the business in the days following. No amount of disrupted sleep can excuse some of what transpired.

As Cr Rohan Leppert would later point out in a Facebook post on October 29, "it is almost never the case that a single breach of a planning permit results in the destruction of the business responsible, and nor should it".

"Council is not in the business of taking a punitive approach to planning enforcement; Docklands is famously a mix of residential, commercial and entertainment uses, and whether the matter is ATET, or any other current or future land use, efforts must be made to find ways of co-locating these uses."

And in response to much misinformation which has been circulating regarding other alleged breaches of ATET's permit ...

The wharf upon which ATET is operating on is owned by Development Victoria (DV), which via "secondary consent" issued approval for the business to operate at its temporary location. *Docklands News* touched on this in its October edition ...

"While currently berthed in a temporary location near Shed 2, ATET will eventually relocate right to the tip of North Wharf near the Bolte Bridge subject to structural assessments by Development Victoria, which recently completed upgrade works on the wharf."

Approval was also issued by DV for ATET's customers to egress across the wharf, instead of via vehicle as stated in its permit.

As for the noise, well, it's a little complicated. But Docklands is what planning laws consider to be a "noise attenuated zone", meaning simply that developers need to ensure adequate double glazing in what's a mixed-use area. There's nothing in the rules which stipulate noise limits at the source; in ATET's case, the speakers. So long as the sound doesn't exceed 65db outside the apartment, then it's business as usual.

ATET since released a statement responding to the many concerns raised and reassuring locals that it would rectify issues in accordance with its permit obligations. It's since taken steps to reduce sound levels, so it can only be judged on its actions from here on in. For everyone's sakes, let's hope this new business, which has so much potential for success here in Docklands – an area which desperately needs such investments – can demonstrate compliance.

If it can, it will go a long way towards helping answer the looming question surrounding our identity in Docklands: city precinct, or country town? Given our thriving residential community and our less thriving business community, most would agree there needs to be a balance between the two.

Let's all work together towards that goal, so Docklands can fulfill the potential those of us who love it know it has in spades. ●

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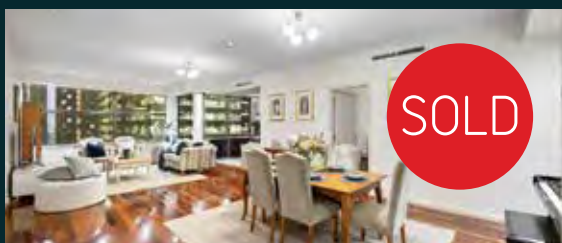
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Launch of ATET throws spotlight on Docklands' future as an entertainment precinct

Continued from page 1.

According to its planning permit, "the noise generated by the premises must at all times comply with the requirements of the EPA Publication 1826.4" which, for outdoor venues in Victoria, must not exceed 65 decibels when measured outside a "noise sensitive area", such as a residence, and a maximum of 55 decibels applicable indoors.

However, this does "not apply to music noise from an outdoor entertainment venue within the Docklands noise attenuation area" with the onus on developers to ensure adequate double-glazing for "a minimum standard of 45 dB (A)" as the "relevant noise limit".

In a Facebook post, Cr Rohan Leppert said, "It is almost never the case that a single breach of a planning permit results in the destruction of the business responsible, and nor should it".

"Sometimes breaches are the result of genuine misunderstandings, and sometimes conditions are not properly understood. Our planning enforcement team has worked with ATET to ensure that there is no possible room for future misinterpretation of their obligations under the permit," he said.

Victoria Police said officers responded to noise complaints in Docklands on October 23 and spoke to the ATET's management but "no offences were detected".

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council sympathised with affected residents and "is working swiftly with ATET operators to ameliorate noise issues relating to the floating barge".

"We are proud to promote and support new businesses like ATET throughout our CBD, especially in areas like Docklands where we know traders, who were the hardest hit during the pandemic, are desperate to see more people enjoying the neighbourhood," she said.

But the residents' backlash – which saw tensions boil over on social media – raised questions about how the community envisions the future of Docklands in its post-COVID comeback.

According to the Docklands Representative Group (DRG), the launch of ATET "highlights the growing pains of Docklands – showing the divide between residents who choose to live here and some businesses and policy makers which cling to an old vision of Docklands – where a 'just



add alcohol' was the primary strategy for activation".

"This is a timely message to Development Victoria about their revitalisation of Central Pier and surrounds – they must understand the changing nature of Docklands and that their approach must incorporate resident wellbeing," a DRG spokesperson said.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Shane Wylie said ATET shone a spotlight on the "confusion over what Docklands identity is and what it should be", adding "Docklands is a mixed-use precinct and has been since the first towers went up".

Docklands resident and local business owner Dean Jackson said he supported night-time entertainment venues and the "community need to allow these businesses to come in and operate and find their feet".

"The whole thing with ATET, it was a witch hunt from before they opened by a few of the residents," he said.

However, one Docklands couple said they "we're seriously thinking about breaking our lease and moving somewhere else" if the noise levels continued. ●



Continued from page 1.

"At SarasCare we were humbled by the generosity of so many Diwali champions – partners, supporters and performers – who came to our office for months to plan and execute a safe and joyous event that had never happened before in the Docklands."

The event was also attended by Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimoplous, Victorian MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell and City of Melbourne councillor and Docklands resident Jamal Hakim.

Mr Gupta said Diwali Docklands was made possible thanks to the support of donors, a \$7500 contribution from Docklands Neighbourhood House and more than \$4700 in donations from attendees on the day.

Having supported the event with a \$2000 donation of its own, Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Shane Wylie said it was "great to see Diwali celebrated in Docklands".

"We welcome greater input from our Indian community and are very cognisant that they make up one



▲ Photos by Rachel Litwin.

third of all residents in Docklands currently," Mr Wylie said.

"We'd love our Indian and Asian communities to have more input and cultural celebrations in Docklands. Together they make up almost 70 per cent of our Docklands population."

"Diwali celebrations saw an attendance that wasn't expected – clearly our Indian community gather when invited and we'd love to see more of it." ●

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Plans for a \$1.75 billion waterfront precinct revealed for Docklands

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

Ambitious \$1.75 billion plans to create “city changing” development in Docklands would transform a major site into a mix of luxury residential apartments, a hotel, sky-high hospitality venues, and “lagoon-like greenery”.

Positioned next to Marvel Stadium at 208-226 Harbour Esplanade, the public realm attraction has been touted as a “huge drawcard” for Docklands, with the scale of the waterfront precinct to rival the awe-inspiring buildings of Singapore, Dubai, New York, and London, according to project’s luxury developer Tim Gurner.

The project would be a joint venture between Mr Gurner and development consortium City Harbour – backed by the wealthy Liberman family – who hold the development rights of the 18,000-sqm site, which is currently operated as a carpark.

Details of the “botanical destination” are being finalised before the plans are expected to be lodged with the City of Melbourne before the end of this year.

Mr Gurner, the chief executive of Gurner, whose impressive portfolio includes the redevelopment of the Jam Factory in South Yarra and a new tower for 2-28 Montague St in South Melbourne, said the mixed-use, retail, and commercial precinct would anchor the site while multiple mixed-use towers, which would also house build-to-rent and build-to-sell residential apartments, would float above in “something Melbourne has never seen before”.

The site, bordered by Wurundjeri Way, Dudley St, La Trobe St and Harbour Esplanade, would be transformed to become the “entrance to the city and Docklands from Melbourne’s west,” with the development offering immediate quay and harbour-front views.

Gurner, together with City Harbour, are seeking to amend the existing scheme to “unlock the full potential of the site” with the hope of significantly improving and increasing the size of the ground-floor public realm, which would



▲ Developer Tim Gurner has a plan to create a \$1.75 billion development in Docklands.

also have a “significant focus” on pedestrian circulation, public activation, “lagoon-like greenery” and communal shared spaces.

The proposal also intends to “bring its distinctive ultra-luxury inclusions to each tower, amenity and public space”.

Mr Gurner said the large-scale precinct would put Docklands on the global map and “create a lot of excitement and drive huge interest to the area and be something truly different for Docklands”.

“I’ve always loved the Docklands; I lived there with my wife for many years, and I always wanted to put my own stamp on it, but we needed a site that was large enough to be transformative. We’ll be creating a new world-class precinct, which will take the area to another level and put it on the world stage in terms of architecture, design and luxury property,” he said.

“Opportunities to create projects of this size and scale come along once in a lifetime. The

Gurner brand has evolved into a national and multi-faceted business, and our capabilities mean we are among just a small handful of private developers that can confidently take on projects of this scale to deliver something that is transformative and ground-breaking.”

Mr Gurner said the proposed project would also create a “sense of adventure and wonderment in visitors”, with more public amenities and interaction between architecture.

“Our whole ethos is all about delivering a product that pushes boundaries, and this landmark destination precinct will be no different; it will feel like you’re stepping into another world and experiencing something you didn’t think was possible in the built form,” he said.

“We are committed to helping Docklands become what we all know it must be for our city to get back its claim as the world’s most liveable city.

“Docklands is the biggest opportunity in Melbourne for a world-class precinct and we



look forward to adding to its future.”

Mr Gurner said there had been great development progress in Docklands over the years, “however what we are going to deliver here will create a true heart and soul of Docklands where the community and visitors can come and embrace life”.

“We’ve taken cues from some of the best architects in the world, and some of my favourite designers. Each tower will be distinct in its identity, centred around the ‘creation’ in the centre of the site, with additional public land and amenities, interaction between each tower and world-class mixed-use spaces.”

City Harbour’s head of development David Napier said the partnership with Gurner was an exciting opportunity to “develop a truly world-class precinct”.

“We know the team will create something unique that will redefine the Docklands and Melbourne,” he said.

Development Victoria’s acting group head of precincts Niall Cunningham said discussions had been held with City Harbour and Gurner regarding their development plans, noting there was an existing approved development plan in place at the site.

“Development Victoria remains supportive of development in the precinct that creates jobs and homes, and encourages more people to live, visit and work in Docklands,” he said. ●

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Council approves build-to-rent apartment tower next to Bolte Bridge

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne has given the green light to plans for a 31-story apartment building at the foot of the Bolte Bridge.

Plans for the 402-apartment tower, at one of the few remaining development sites along Lorimer St, was also set to include community recreation and open space areas.

The “striking” building would “add to the city skyline” and provide greater diversity of local housing options, according to Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece.

Located directly next to Shed 21 on the banks of the Yarra River — a space currently occupied by One Padel Docklands — the council hoped ground-level community spaces would connect well with the heritage-listed sheds.

“We hope that this will link with the future community use for Shed 21, and that in turn will turn this entire precinct into a vibrant community hub for Yarra’s Edge and Fishermans Bend residents,” Cr Reece said at an October 18 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“Given the rate of development applications and new development now going on through Fishermans Bend, we all need to crack on and get that new community area right and create that vibrant, buzzing community that we want to see.”

In recent years the council has vocally supported build-to-rent schemes, including dual build-to-rent towers next to Marvel Stadium that are now under construction.

Unlike most apartment buildings where units are sold to prospective buyers, “build-to-rent” refers to a residential development in which dwellings are retained by the developer and leased out.

Proponents have said the system can mitigate issues with housing supply, affordability and the private rental sector, while being a win for prospective tenants.

“We welcome applications for build-to-rent, because we believe that offers a greater diversity



▲ The apartments would sit next to the heritage-listed Shed 21 at the foot of the Bolte Bridge.



however the application had around 30 per cent.

“Is it a standard that’s been accepted in other parts of both Fishermans Bend and the Yarra’s Edge area? Yes, it has, but I do hope that our DELWP (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) colleagues have done as much scrutiny of this particular issue as our City of Melbourne planners have,” Cr Leppert said.

While the state government was set to make the final decision on whether the project could go ahead or not, DELWP informally referred the application to the City of Melbourne for comment.

Speaking on behalf of developer, the Samma Property Group, Tract Consultants executive director Luke Chamberlain said the application was a long time coming, and did “a number of things really, really well”.

“It’s tucked in there at the foot of the Bolte Bridge, and I think we’d probably all agree it’s about time it was developed. We’ve got an emerging context down there and it’s going to really help finish that promenade,” he said.

“We think this site, in terms of its location, really lends itself well to hosting a feature building; it’s a high-exposure site, and we think at a capital city scale that it’s really important it’s been designed in this way. It’s very dynamic.” ●

of options to people to put a roof over their head and have a home,” Cr Reece said.

The council also pushed developer Samma Property Group to increase the level of affordable housing in the building from five to six per cent, and that they include more three-bedroom apartments in the \$152m building.

It is proposed the building would have 233 one-bedroom apartments, 154 two-bedroom apartments and 15 three-bedroom apartments.

“We think this is appropriate because we want to see a diversity of different types of households in this part of the city, and in particular we want to see more families moving to Yarra’s Edge,” Cr Reece said.

The developer’s initial plans for the waterfront site featured a 130-metre-high building, however the latest plans featured a revised height of 103 metres, which Cr Reece said was a “better outcome overall in that particular location”.

The Deputy Lord Mayor, who is also the council’s planning chair, paid tribute to the design by noted architecture firm Fender Katsalidis.

“I do think the application really does demonstrate exceptional design quality and really top-notch architecture and design. I think the design of the building itself has considerable flair about it, which is appropriate given its absolute waterfront there and part of the picture-postcard view of Melbourne which many people will see when they come across the Bolte Bridge.”

Deputy planning chair Cr Rohan Leppert agreed that the latest application represented a better result for the local area but expressed concern about ventilation throughout the building.

The Better Apartments Design Standards determine that at least 40 per cent of dwellings should achieve effective cross ventilation,

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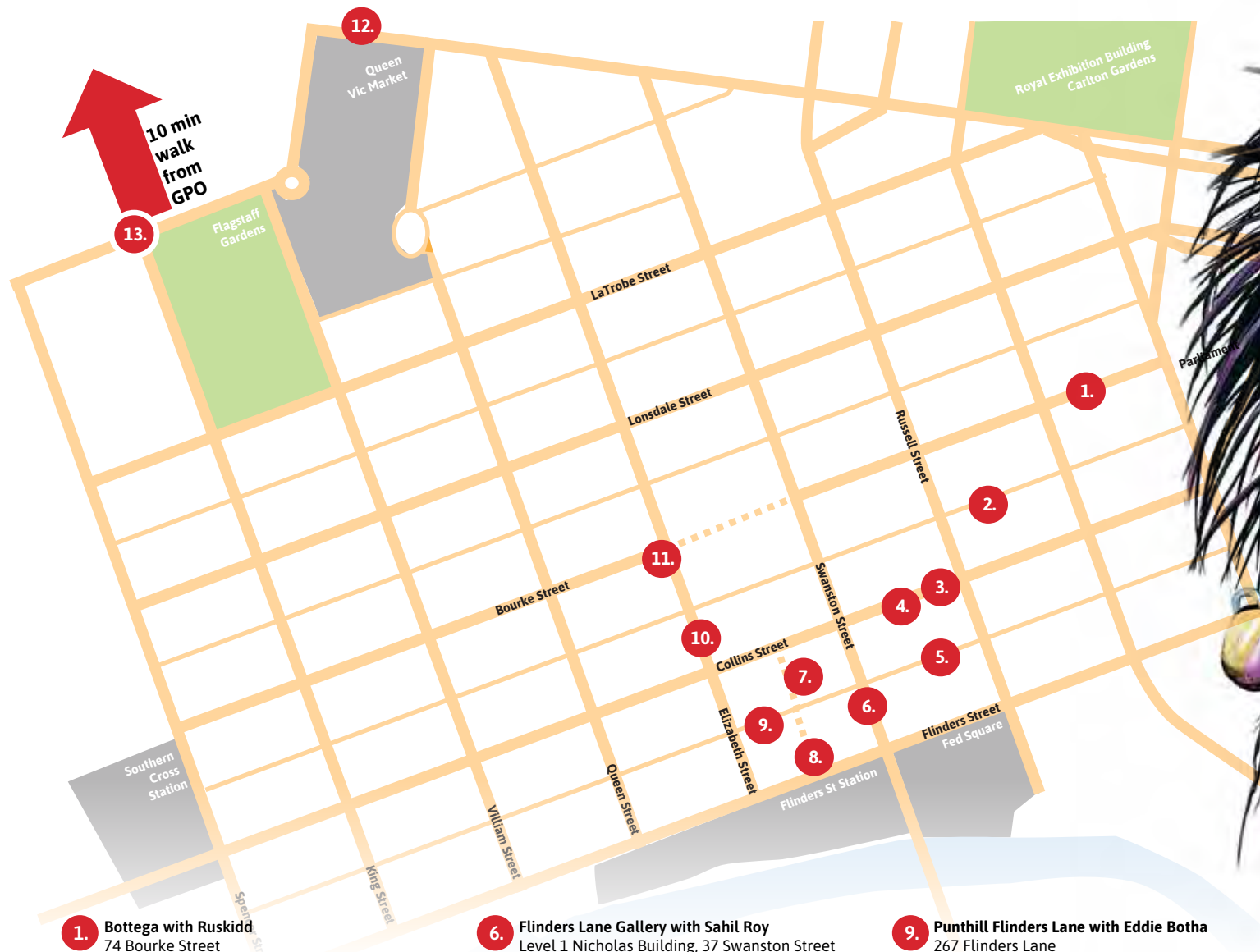


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Community consultation opens for the future of Central Pier

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

Docklands residents can finally have their say about their visions for Central Pier and how it can be made a vibrant destination after Development Victoria (DV) launched public consultation.

The historic structure was permanently closed by 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 to the City of Melbourne.

In the meantime, DV has launched a public online survey in which everyone is invited to give their feedback, ideas, and suggestions on what they want to see and do at this prominent Docklands site in the future.

In addition to the survey, which closes on Thursday, December 22, DV will host events where people can discuss their ideas in person as well as at an online webinar. An online community workshop will be held on Tuesday, December 6 from 7pm to 9pm, for which registrations are essential. Scan the QR below:



A “Stop by the Docklands” market will also be an opportunity for residents to talk in person with the DV team on the future of Central Pier and the waterfront.

The event will be held on Sunday, December 11 at 35 NewQuay Promenade, Docklands, from 12pm to 4pm.

DV has allowed about three months for community engagement, but it will be reviewing this timeframe while the engagement process is taking place to “make sure adequate time is allowed for all interested parties to provide their feedback”.

The demolition of Central Pier has been earmarked for the period between 2023 and 2024 while development for a business case will be under way next year.

DV’s acting group head of precincts Niall Cunningham said the feedback from the community and other key stakeholders would play an important role in shaping plans for the redevelopment of Central Pier and the delivery of a revitalised waterfront.

“We understand Central Pier has been a special place for locals who live and work here,

and for visitors to Docklands,” Mr Cunningham said.

“We also share the community’s interest in celebrating the traditional owners and maritime cultural heritage of that waterfront area.”

Details of the online webinar and the venue for a stakeholder workshop will be published closer to the dates.

The state government has invested \$3 million to further develop the concept design and associated business case to progress the demolition and redevelopment of Central Pier and adjacent waterfront.

To complete the online survey, visit engage.vic.gov.au/central-pier or scan the QR below:



We understand Central Pier has been a special place for locals who live and work here, and for visitors to Docklands.



For more on the Stop by the Docklands market, visit: whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/docklands-community-market or scan the QR below: ●



Brendan Rees
JOURNALIST
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LORD MAYOR SALLY CAPP

A vision for a cleaner, greener, busier city

Elected leaders might expect a few surprises once they're voted into office, but who could predict a once-in-a-century pandemic?

Lord Mayor Sally Capp quickly became a key figure in managing the city's response, a period she says was defined by 'ingenuity and collaboration'.

'It really was a time of collaboration and I've got more telephone numbers in my book than I ever had before,' the Lord Mayor said.

'I can call colleagues in state and federal government. We see efforts to bring Melbourne back better right across the private sector, community sector and cultural institutions. They're all pitching in to say "what can we do?"'

Indeed a typical week for the Lord Mayor features numerous meetings with a huge range of Melburnians and delegates from interstate and overseas.

'This morning I was with a small business owner hearing their great ideas to attract new customers. I applaud people for every single day making the effort to find ways to keep their doors open and people employed and customers coming in. That is so Melbourne.'

She'd recently worked the room at an arts festival launch encircled by acrobats and singers; welcomed an American climate policy foundation impressed with City of Melbourne initiatives; and taken a look at Melbourne Fashion Week planning.

'Ambassadors, residents groups, it could not be more varied. I see the catering staff here at Town Hall at six in the morning preparing beautiful

food for lunches at Town Hall. I'm an early starter and see the city awakening. We are a very big part of that.'

She believes the motivation for running for Lord Mayor held her in good stead for helping manage the city's COVID response and ongoing recovery. Melbourne was the hardest hit city in Australia, with long lockdowns emptying our streets and devastating the local economy - creating major challenges for the city and the Victorian Government, who worked closely together on revitalisation initiatives.

Reflecting on the past few years, she said: 'There were certainly lots of surprises about being Lord Mayor. I think it's important for everyone who takes on a leadership role to have a real passion for something, because there are going to be lots of challenges and the passion keeps you focused and feeling driven.'

'For me, that passion was for Melbourne. I'd had many roles in the past where I'd represented Melbourne or been involved in issues about the city, in roles such as CEO of the Committee for Melbourne, and representation and trade investment roles such as Agent-General for Victoria.'

One of the most satisfying aspects of her role, she said, is making a difference at the local level for Melbourne's neighbourhoods.

'Of course the list of things to do never ends and that can be overwhelming at times. I really focus on the things we can do which helps move me away from the things I can't get done,' she said.

Asked what she's most proud of midway through her term as Lord Mayor, she singles out 'the whole response of City of Melbourne to the pandemic. The Queen Victoria Market renewal was at an absolute stalemate and that is now moving ahead. Also, I'm so proud the city understands we can play a major role in helping people experiencing homelessness by dedicating a building to support them through the Make Room program.'

The Greenline Project to transform the river's north bank 'has excited and galvanised people', she said.

'It's moved beyond just my passion project - it has a business case, initial funding and multiple agencies working on it. I'm also really excited about Power Melbourne and the way we can change the paradigm on renewable energy in cities.'

'This is another reflection for me about the City of Melbourne. We are brave, we are happy to step into the unknown and to say this is important and we should give it a try. I think that sense of taking some risks because it's worth it, because it could and should lead us to better outcomes, that is extraordinary. I used to look at government as a very risk-averse, status quo kind of body, and I look at City of Melbourne and I think, wow, this is an organisation with people with the courage to do the right thing. I think that reflects where our citizens expect us to be.'

'Look at what we've done on the change the date discussion around 26 January - we had the debate, we've done the work. These are difficult conversations and they're challenging but they're important and we take a stand on these things which I think is fantastic.'



Meetings, conversations, decision-making continue apace in her life as there's much still to do, together with all councillors and staff, she said.

'We need to keep delivering on our essential services, to be a cleaner city, and to take bigger aspirational roles in important issues like climate change, being a greener city; and I think ultimately, following the pandemic experience, it's about being a busier city. Melbourne can be a magnet for students, residents, investors, business owners, workers, creatives - whatever your personal passions or professional pursuits are, you can do them here in Melbourne.'

To read the full story and watch the video visit magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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Council's Docklands "neighbourhood portal" goes live

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

An online portal for those who live, work or study in Docklands has gone live, giving locals a dedicated space to keep up to date with works and events in postcode 3008, and have a say on its future.

One of 10 "neighbourhood portals" that have recently been launched by the City of Melbourne — each covering different suburbs in the municipality — the webpage is intended to be a one-stop space that covers everything Docklands.

This includes, for example, development activity updates, how to book a space or meeting room, how to apply for funding, and importantly, how to have your say on things that are impacting the local community.

Notably, the council has employed a "partner" for Docklands (and all nine other neighbourhoods), who will act as the main point-of-contact on specific issues within the area.

It is hoped that the initiative will allow the community to better connect with the council by helping share its ideas for the future.

The council has acknowledged that there were vast differences in different suburbs within the municipality (for example, between Docklands and East Melbourne) and said its new "place-based" neighbourhood approach would ensure it could understand and respond to unique communities.

It said that this model ensured a "continuous cycle of community engagement", where local knowledge and priorities were translated into action.

"We know that each neighbourhood has different needs, opportunities and challenges, so we're proud to be rolling out a dedicated Neighbourhood Portal for every community across the municipality," Lord Mayor Sally Capp told *Docklands News*.

"We're listening to our Docklands community, who've told us that enhancing the diversity of local hospitality and retail offerings, and reactivating the precinct is important to them."

"That's why we're extending fee waivers for outdoor dining in



Docklands and bringing more businesses into the fold through an expanded Shopfront Activation Program."

The portals were endorsed at the council's Future Melbourne Committee meeting on June 14. The council's Health, Wellbeing and Belonging portfolio chair Cr Dr Olivia Ball said at the time that it was important recognition of suburbs outside the Hoddle Grid.

"Many people think of the City of Melbourne as the CBD, but it is, in fact, as you well know, the CBD plus all of the surrounding suburbs and each of them has its own needs and distinctive features," Cr Dr Ball said.

The council will create a database of people's views on certain topics, not merely from locals' input into the online portal but from letters and phone calls, which would be tagged by topic and location.

"We will build up, for our purposes, an internal-facing knowledge bank where we can find (for example) 'what does North Melbourne think about off-leash dog parks?' Or 'what does North Melbourne think about vaccinations?' etc., so we have — building up over time — an accessible and accurate picture of what the community wants on different topics."

The first two neighbourhood portals (for the CBD and Kensington) were launched in June and have received 1800 unique visitors in the first three months according to the council.

As of October 26, all 10 neighbourhood portals were live. The remaining eight are: Carlton, Docklands, East Melbourne, North Melbourne, Parkville, Southbank, South Yarra and West Melbourne. ●

For more information:
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods



Think Pink Living Centre spoils the community with fun-filled days of indulgence

Continued from front page.

The Living Centre is a free-of-charge centre for people journeying through breast cancer, and it exists solely to support patients, and their families and carers, in seeking professional and caring holistic support at any stage of their journey with breast cancer.

While the centre has on-hand support facilities, such as a nurse and a counselling room, it does also offer services that allow for clients to come together and indulge in fun activities.

One of the more popular activities are Ms Cardamone's makeup sessions, as she strives to "give back in a way that [she] can make a difference".

Offered free to clients of Think Pink, the "days of indulgence", which started in-person before COVID saw them move online, helps clients with navigating the "confronting" changes their skin and body go through as a result of treatment.

"I cover all sorts of things they may start to experience through their treatment that will impact their application, [for example] I help them with applying their makeup when they have had complete hair loss and teach them how to apply their eye makeup and eyebrows," Ms Cardamone said.

Among the group of women in attendance who couldn't wait to be a part of the fundraiser was Joan Hammond, who became a Think Pink Living Centre client upon being diagnosed with breast cancer just prior to the beginning of the pandemic.

"The sessions were great, and I looked a million dollars compared to how I looked when I walked in," Ms Hammond said with a laugh.

"I have been in the sessions on Zoom with Lucia, but this was good because it was a donation towards a centre that helps and really keeps everyone [diagnosed with breast cancer] going."

Believing in the mission of the centre and its ability to help clients not feel alone during their journey, Ms Hammond regularly attends a multitude of sessions offered at the centre and is part of running the book club.

And while she can't help but boast about the wonderful sessions on offer, she also reflected on the genuine support the clients receive at the centre from the Breast Care Nurse Consultant and Manager Andrea Cannon.

As the onsite nurse within the facility, Ms Cannon walks through the breast cancer journey with all the clients that



come to the centre for support.

She has also seen how treatment can often make people feel "vulnerable and fragile", and how the makeup sessions can give them the psychological boost they may need.

Being able to share the work of the centre through this fundraiser has been a long time coming, but its success has been rewarding.

"We thought this was an ideal opportunity for the general public and community to be able to attend and do something and do it as a fundraiser within the Living Centre," Ms Cannon said.

"We had a variety of ages, and for people who have been a Think Pink client or volunteer they were able to come and bring their family, friends and the general community with them for this really great fundraising opportunity."

"We had great numbers in attendance and the place was alive due to everyone not being together for such a long time."

For people who missed out on the fundraising event and are looking ahead at other ways they can help support the centre, Think Pink Living Centre has also been creating some wonderful merchandise, from fresh new aprons to the perfect summer fan, just in time for Christmas. ●

For more information:
thinkpink.org.au/merchandise-online-shop

Glenn Harvey answers your legal questions

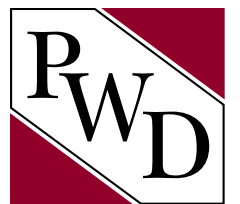
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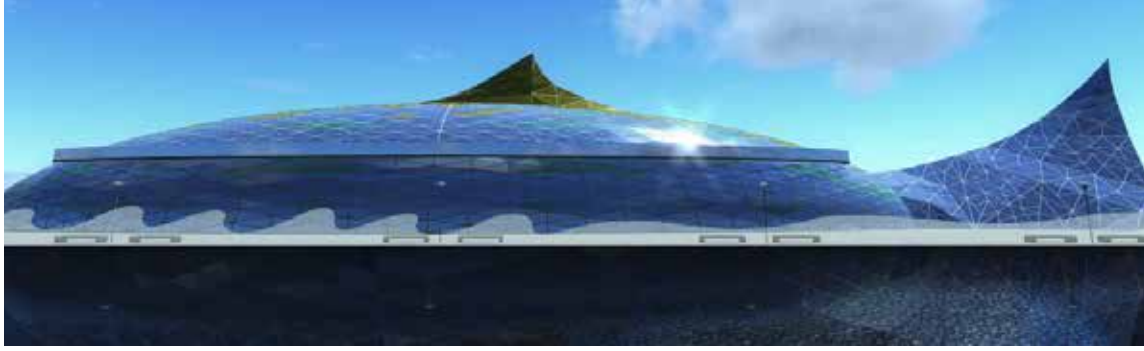
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Mixed-use “fish market” proposed for Central Pier

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PLANNING

A concept seven years in the making for a giant fish-shaped structure, complete with a wet fish market, education facilities, restaurants and an events centre to “compete with Crown Palladium”, is being proposed to replace Central Pier.

The group behind the draft proposal, the Melbourne City Fish Market, released images of the concept publicly last month and says it plans to take part in Development Victoria’s current consultation process for Central Pier to gauge the community’s interests.

Melbourne City Fish Market director Nick Tate told *Docklands News* that the team behind the vision wanted the multi-level space to be inclusive and “work for everyone”, including residents as “they’re a big part of Docklands”.

He said that the proposal, estimated to cost around \$200 million, would house a marine biology campus shared between University of Melbourne, and Swinburne and Monash universities, while also operating a sustainable seafood industry school.

It would also include an auditorium for cooking, high-end seafood restaurants, smaller “hawker-style” eateries, a large corporate entertainment centre to compete with Crown for events such as the Brownlow Medal, as well as accommodation “if it was permitted”.

The design of the building in itself proposes to become a major attraction and would allow for changing projections for major events and arts installations. As a “fully green building” Mr Tate said much of its operations

would be powered by solar energy.

He told *Docklands News* that the team behind the vision wanted to provide a “gravity point” for Docklands and help drive visitation to the precinct.

“I’ve been putting this together for seven years, so it’s not just something that’s come up since the pier was shut a few years back. It’s been about working with different areas of industry to make sure that’s it’s got something for everyone,” Mr Tate said.

“Melbourne is a multicultural town; one of the best in the world. And that’s the idea of having the wet fish market as well is to have the hawker stands around there, allowing for a lot of smaller type eateries and displaying Melbourne’s multicultural cooking culture.”

“To me, it [Docklands] needs a gravity point, and I think something like this is definitely needed just to breathe a bit of life into the area. We just want to see something successful go there – something that’s going to give something back, not going to take.”

Mr Tate said the proposal would also place a “major focus” on incorporating various heritage elements from Central Pier’s sheds within the new facility to showcase its rich maritime history.

While a formal business case has yet to be finalised for the concept, he said based on conservative estimates, the building would help inject \$400 million into the economy annually, with investment to be sought from both public and private sources.

For now, he said the group was looking for as much as feedback as possible as it continued to refine its concept.

For more information: facebook.com/melbournecityfishmarket ●

Young man’s body found in Victoria Harbour at launch of Melbourne Boat Show

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The launch of the Melbourne Boat Show has begun with a tragedy after the body of a missing teenager was pulled from the waters of Victoria Harbour on October 20.

Emergency services were called to NewQuay Promenade just after 1.30pm as crowds attending the major event looked on.

Police will prepare a report for the Coroner; however, the man’s death is not believed to be suspicious.

In a statement, police confirmed the identity of the man was that of an 18-year-old from Shepperton named Simon, who was last seen in Docklands on October 7.

Police released an image of Simon on October 19 in the hope anyone with information of the teen’s whereabouts would come forward after he was last seen on CCTV about 4am sitting out the front of a restaurant on NewQuay Promenade.

His friends, who were with him earlier in the night, woke up later but Simon had not returned to his accommodation.

He was last seen wearing black jeans, long white sleeve shirt with a dark green shirt over the top and white Nike runners.

A family member spoke of their despair on social media upon hearing the tragic news, saying “our hearts are broken for having had the privilege of bringing up the warmest of hearts”.

“Our family are well supported; we had prepared for this news. We just



need space to come to terms with it,” they wrote.

“Thank you to everyone who prayed for us, shared the posts, and sent messages of support. I’ll give an update as to when a celebration of Simon’s life will take place.”

The grim discovery comes as hundreds of people descended on Docklands to soak up the sunny skies and atmosphere at the launch of the much-anticipated Melbourne Boat Show where dozens of exhibitors had set up.

A large section of the show near berth E-11 was cordoned off by police along NewQuay Promenade as officers from the Water Police as well as uniformed officers, and investigators made enquiries at the scene for about an hour. ●

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The Docklands shopfront activation bringing art enthusiasts and chocoholics together

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
BUSINESS

As a self-proclaimed chocoholic and graduate of food science and product design, Danyoung (Young) Chen decided to combine her passions and open her very own edible painting shop, Yesign Chocolate Gallery.

Making this idea come to fruition wasn't always an easy process for Young, who originally started out in a petite space in Little Collins St and struggled with not having enough room for workshops.

But, after successfully applying for the Shopfront Activation Program, which is part of the City of Melbourne and Victorian Government's \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, she found her perfect solution in Docklands.

"It was unbelievable [to be accepted], because we needed a bigger space and it is better for us to have a private kitchen and a small office for storage, and this shop gave us everything," she said.

Yesign Chocolate Gallery has been situated on Wharf St in District Docklands for the past three months, and it seems to have already made a potentially lasting mark on the area with the council extending the lease. Currently contracted for eight months, Young has spent a lot of time and effort renovating and decorating the space.

Inside the Docklands gallery are various edible chocolate artworks on display, some of which closely resemble famous artists' paintings, but her vision to teach people the art of chocolate painting remains her priority.

"Each month we have themed workshops, and [on the day] I give people some background information about how we do chocolate painting and teach a few different techniques and skills that will need to be used in the session," Young said.

"I then also show them other paintings that use these skills, so there is a bit of basic art education involved too. Then we just paint coloured chocolate on top of a chocolate block, and that thin layer of art makes that chocolate unique to the person who made it."

Young said this concept had also seen many people with differing hobbies come together, and she enjoys watching people find common ground while doing something



completely unlike anything they may have tried before.

Spreading joy and happiness through this new creative outlet is her number one priority, and she is already making steps forward in introducing NDIS participants and aged care groups to the fun that is edible painting.

Yesign Chocolate Gallery is among 40 established and aspiring businesses the City of Melbourne has supported through the \$2.6 million Shopfront Activation Program, which has been delivered in partnership with property acquisition and leasing specialists Renew Australia, The Place Agency and Ginnane & Associates.

Also recently coming to Docklands, as part of the latest selected shopfronts, is The Mbassy Dance which can now be found at 915 Collins St.

Opened for just under a month, The Mbassy Dance founding director Minx Hafon has already made the space home, with more than 14 different dance classes, including Latin dance styles, already offered on a weekly basis.

"It is very exciting [to be selected], and we are thrilled to be back in person after teaching online in our living rooms for two years," Minx said. "It really helps to be supported by the city that we have represented for so long."

The Mbassy Dance is a studio aiming to spread awareness around the different aspects of Latin culture, and with a multitude of specifically tailored activations and events ahead, it seems it's also well on track to doing exactly what the program was designed for. ●

For more information:

yesignaustralia.com
thembassy.com.au

Community day celebrates everything Docklands

Continued from page 1.

Hosted at Shed 21 One Padel Docklands (206 Lorimer St) from 12pm to 3pm, the event will be open for everyone who lives and works in Docklands to attend.

Organisers Jenny Leyva de Loryn and David Wallace-Lemmon, who have a combined 22 years of living in Docklands, said there was pent-up demand for the community to "foster connections" after two years of lockdown.

"A survey was sent out to garner insights on community interest and there was an overwhelming response," they said. "This is where Celebrate at Yarra's Edge was truly born. Key sponsors of the event reached out early to get involved."

"Mirvac, which has been a huge part in literally building the Docklands community, was first to jump on board as a major sponsor, it will also be delivering an information session on its newest project at the event."

Exhibitors on the day include Barry Plant Docklands (a sponsor), ANZ, Eighteen Pence Lane Coffee and Food, the City of Melbourne (also a sponsor), The Hub at Docklands, the Docklands Toy Library, Think Pink Foundation, Victoria Police, LaGuapa, Mbassy, MTA Travel, Petwell, PH Celebrants, Premium Fitness, Sassone Cucina Italiana, Toucan, Works, Victoria's Attiq and more. There will also be "junior exhibitors" selling beads and candles.

Another exhibitor will be the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, which helped plan and develop ideas

for the event, and will use the opportunity to promote the Docklands Dollars scheme for residents who attend.

Information sessions will run for 15 minutes on two stages, covering information about the Docklands property market, financial wellbeing, health, accessibility, and electric cars, to name a few.

The team at Premium Fitness Crew will also be running classes all day which attendees are welcome to join or learn more about what they do.


In addition to the major sponsors and information sessions, organisers said they had received a huge response from local businesses providing some "absolutely amazing door prizes to give away on the day" including dinner and drink vouchers, books, art, pet treats, adventure activities and more.

"We really want everyone in the community to get something out of this event; it will be a great opportunity to bring all of Docklands together and meet people and hopefully find some common interests and new friendships," Mr Wallace-Lemmon and Ms Leyva de Loryn said.

"There will be a lot happening in a short amount of time so make sure you check out the event Facebook page as more exciting information will regularly be dropping on what to expect at the event." ●

For more information:

facebook.com/celebrateatYE



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Docklands' busiest working bees

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

The Docklands Community Garden has been left looking fuller and even more colourful after its successful spring clean working bee on Saturday, October 15.

The event was a time for Docklanders with a green thumb to come together for a couple hours of trimming, weeding, watering, mulching and planting new crops, and attracted nearly a dozen volunteers during the course of the day.

"We were really grateful for the high level of community support for the event, and we had a lot more community members there helping plant the spring crop than we thought we were going to get," garden volunteer Greg Wise said.

"[The number of volunteers] is indicative of how important the community garden is for a lot of people who live in Docklands, and since [the working bee] we have been very fortunate with the weather and reasonably warm and moist conditions which has helped everything that everyone planted on the day start off very strongly."

As a community garden, the Geographe St space is one that thrives and survives on volunteers and support from other organisations, and a recent donation from Bosch in the form of a battery-powered whipper snipper has not been lost on the volunteers.

"The community garden is 100 per cent totally funded by money that is raised by the community garden volunteer group and we are absolutely grateful for any contribution we get from businesses and corporations that help us maintain and run the garden to a standard that makes it very attractive for Docklands residents," Mr Wise said.

"On this occasion we would like to thank Bosch for the donation of the battery-powered whipper snipper."

Regular garden volunteer Shane Mason also expressed thanks to Bosch, and said having a battery-dependent whipper snipper, as opposed



▲ Locals hard at work at last month's Docklands Community Garden working bee.

Photos: Rachel Litwin.

to a fuel one, had made their job that much easier.

As someone who makes it down to the garden every fortnight to water, Mr Mason has been able to see the difference the space is having in the lives of fellow neighbours and office workers.

"The garden is a vital part of Docklands, and for many Docklanders it is seen as their chance to have a garden while still living in apartments and high-rises," Mr Mason said.

"I also get a lot of comments from people who work in Docklands who have their lunch at the garden and say it is so beautiful and relaxing."

Both Mr Wise and Mr Mason are hoping to

spread awareness about the great community aspect of the working bees, which wrap up with a picnic lunch or a sausage sizzle.

"We can always do with more volunteers, and we are more than happy to have anyone interested in the garden come onboard," Mr Mason said.

"To get out in the sun and breathe in the air is therapeutic and serves a lot of purpose."

For anyone interested in getting involved with the garden and a possible mid-November gardening event, to check on the seeds and plants recently planted, contact Greg Wise on wiseguy873@gmail.com or visit the Docklands Community Garden Facebook group. ●



The garden is a vital part of Docklands, and for many Docklanders it is seen as their chance to have a garden while still living in apartments and high-rises.




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Trailblazing women of the maritime industry come together

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
WATERWAYS

In celebration of the 60th Melbourne Boat Show and the remarkable women paving the way in the maritime industry, Boating Industry Association Victoria and the City of Melbourne hosted a *Women on Water* networking event in Docklands last month.

The one-day-only occasion was held on Thursday, October 20 at the Melbourne City Marina and was a time for women to connect, and share in their knowledge, experience and passion for gender balance in their chosen industry.

In attendance, and speaking at the event, was director of Better Boating Victoria Katherine Grech and general manager of Oil Response Company of Australia (ORCA) Narelle Ward.

Equipped with extensive careers and training, both women are an example of the trailblazing figures dedicating their time to changing the industry for the better.

Starting off the discussion, Ms Grech spoke about how she started as a marine scientist and environmental manager working in the tropics and the water industry, before discussing her journey during the past few years in recreational boating.

She also shared her vision for the maritime industry, and how her team of 11, which is made

up of six women, was turning these hopes into fruition.

"I feel it is really important to represent women in the industry, so others can see how well and effectively we work and how we really value our relationships with stakeholders," she said.

Ms Ward then went on to discuss the work ORCA does and what is involved in her field of work, before echoing how important it was to pave the way for women in the industry.

"I'm very proud of what I do and I will always promote the benefits of having more talented young women in the maritime industry," Ms Ward said.

In closing, the event finished off with time for women to congregate and discuss the future of the industry over morning tea, as they looked out onto the Melbourne Boat Show which was in the process of being set up.

In her address at the event, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it was "fantastic to hear from [the] inspiring line-up of women in the marine industry".

"These incredible women in water are doing their bit to break down barriers and shake up gender representation in the industry," she said.

"Melbourne is a city built on water, and we're working closely with groups like Yarra Riverkeeper, Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network, and local boating clubs to boost female participation in the marine industry." ●

Crowd favourite events to boost city numbers in Docklands

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
EVENTS

The City of Melbourne has confirmed that it will help stage and deliver 48 events in 2023.

While many favourites will return, a number of new events will be taking centre stage as part of the council's Event Partnership Program, and Docklands is confirmed to have two major exciting events.

Selected as 2023 recipients are VEE Agency Pty Ltd for its *Uniquely Melbourne* event – a floating entertainment experience in Docklands – and The District Docklands for its *District Live: Open-Air Series*.

A much-anticipated event, *District Live* will include outdoor live music and entertainment throughout the month of January, to help showcase emerging and established local artists from Melbourne and regional Victoria.

"We're thrilled to deliver *District Live*; a free, open-air event series running every Saturday in January," The District Docklands events and partnerships manager Jade Ogden said.

"This will be a fantastic opportunity to celebrate summer and reconnect with family and friends, all against the backdrop of local live music, entertainment, pop-up food and drink, activities for kids and so much more."

"We look forward to working closely with the City of Melbourne to provide this accessible event at The District Docklands, further cementing Melbourne as the events capital of Australia."

The Event Partnership Program provides \$2.5 million each year to jam-pack the city's calendar and add to its vibrancy, and more than \$1.4 million, with an additional \$430,000 in-kind support, has already been allotted.

"Melbourne puts on a show like no other – our stellar events calendar is one of our biggest assets – and a huge part of what draws people into the city," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"We're proud to support much-loved events such as Lunar New Year, the Night Noodle Markets and the NGV Kids Summer Festival, as well as six exciting, never-before-seen experiences."

The lining up of events has been the City of Melbourne's greatest asset of late when it comes to helping increase city visitation numbers.

After conducting and commissioning an independent survey to look into visitor number growth, the council found a 45 per cent increase of visitors from the data collected in the third quarter of 2021.

A positive aspect of the survey was also reflected through 90 per cent of people who were interviewed saying they would consider using the city for leisure, over and above outer city districts and regions.

"In September, pedestrian activity near Town Hall exceeded pre-pandemic levels nearly every day of the month – and we expect this spectacular line-up of events will drive further visitation to the city," Cr Capp said.

"We know that events are the number one driver of trips to Melbourne, attracting 30 million visits and boosting our local economy by \$52 million. That's why we dedicated \$25 million to events in our 2022-23 Council Budget."

Among the events already allocated for 2023 outside of Docklands are the day-long Taste of Portugal Festival, a magnificent Lunar New Year celebration featuring lion and dragon dancing, live performances and street food in Chinatown, and Holi Festival.

International students making Melbourne their home will also be introduced to the city and everything it has to offer through Melbourne International Student Week.

Not in a rush to bypass through to next year, special attention has also been put into planning a Christmas Festival extravaganza, with more details to come from the council in mid-November. ●

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GRANTS HELP NEIGHBOURS PRESERVE HISTORIC STREETSAPES

Passionate Melburnians are making-over their heritage places to help preserve beautiful streetscapes for generations to come.

Heritage plays a key role in making Melbourne a place where people love to live, work and visit.

To preserve the city's unique character, we offer heritage grants to help people complete restoration projects at residential, community and commercial properties across the municipality.

We recently awarded two heritage grants to neighbours on McCracken Street in Kensington.

Ian Porter restored floor tiles on his verandah, and Kensington Neighbourhood House replaced the stained glass on its front-door sidelights.

A common feature on McCracken Street, the sidelights cast a beautiful crimson glow into homes during summer sunsets.

'I was pleased to be able to access a grant to restore our verandah and make it safe, as some of the tiles were broken. The project has been well worth it,' Ian said.

'When you live in a heritage home, you can modernise the inside to make it liveable, but exterior restoration helps preserve the character of the streetscape.'

Kensington Neighbourhood House runs educational, wellbeing and social events to bring diverse local people together. Manager Rebecca Smith said restoration helps make the community hub a welcoming place.



Ian and Rebecca chat over the fence at Kensington Neighbourhood House on McCracken Street

'The heritage grants program gave us the opportunity to repair our sidelights, which were cracked and broken, to help restore this beautiful building to its former glory,' Rebecca said.

'Projects like this help make the Kensington Neighbourhood House a welcoming and friendly place that the community can be proud of.'

Ian and Rebecca have both lived in Kensington for decades and love the character and community of the suburb.

'Kensington is a very historic area. We love walking our dog, Lucy, down along the old stock route,' Ian said.

Looking to the future, the neighbours will continue to take care of their piece of local heritage.

Kensington Neighbourhood House recently replaced its slate roof, which has made it watertight and ready to face another hundred years.

Roof works are on Ian's wish-list too, and he's also planning to paint his front door to continue to maintain his home's facade.

About the heritage grants program

First established in 1988, the Melbourne Heritage Restoration Fund is our local fund for heritage grants, held within the Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund. Grants are administered by the National Trust of Victoria.

How to apply for a heritage grant

Have you been thinking about a project that would transform your heritage place? A little restoration work can go a long way to transforming your building and keeping it in great condition for years to come.

To be eligible, your property must be within a heritage overlay and located in the City of Melbourne. The works must also be visible from the public realm.

To find out more, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritagegrants

More off-leash areas for our four-legged friends

If there's one thing we know, it's that Melburnians just love dogs.

For it is our fabulous loyal four-legged friends who encourage us to lead active and healthy lifestyles, and importantly offer companionship like no other.

Since 2018, the number of dogs registered within the City of Melbourne has increased by a huge 44 per cent from 3292 to 4750.

That includes a 20 per cent increase in the past two years alone.

As the number of dogs and dog owners in our city increases, so does the need for everyone to have access to safe and secure spaces in which to frolic.

Council is doubling the number of off-leash dog areas within the municipality.

Over the coming months, there will be more than three hectares of new off-leash parkland added to the existing 16 hectares - that's five times the size of Federation Square.

New designated off-leash areas for dogs

- Eades Park, West Melbourne
- Kings Way and Moray Street Reserve, Southbank
- Ron Barassi Senior Park, Docklands
- Royal Park (Manningham Reserve), Parkville

Timed off-leash areas

- Wellington Park, East Melbourne
- Point Park, Docklands
- Riverside Park, Kensington

To ensure everyone can enjoy our parklands safely, timed off-leash access is available between 6pm and 8am from November to March, and 5pm to 9am from April and October.

Top five dog breeds within the City of Melbourne

1. Cavoodle
2. Greyhound
3. Labrador
4. French Bulldog
5. Mini Dachshund

Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/dogwalking for details.



We're creating more off-leash parkland for our furry friends

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Your City of Melbourne community update

How we support food security in Melbourne

Melbourne is a famously liveable city. We're renowned for the quality of our food and world-class dining and hospitality scene.

Despite this, in 2021, about one in three residents experienced food insecurity and only 4 per cent of adults consumed the minimum recommended daily serves of fruit and vegetables, our City of Melbourne Community Indicators Survey 2021 shows.

That's why we're taking steps to make sure everyone in the community has access to affordable, fresh and healthy food.

Community Food Guide and community food map

Increasing levels of food insecurity is a health, social and economic issue.

As a council, we're focused on strengthening food relief initiatives and supporting communities to grow their own food through our Community Food Relief Plan 2021-25.

We have a history of working with the community on food security, and we'll continue to ensure those in need can access food relief.

Our Community Food Guide is a helpful resource for community agencies or anyone in the community who needs information about how to access affordable, fresh and healthy food.

We've also committed to partnering with food relief and other charities – like SecondBite – to provide groceries and meals to vulnerable residents.

We're looking into community food enterprise models, including opportunities to work with Queen Victoria Market traders to redirect edible surplus food that would otherwise go to waste.

This work will help reduce overall food insecurity to 25 per cent by 2025, back to pre-pandemic levels.

Explore our Community Food Guide and food map at melbourne.vic.gov.au/communityfoodguide to find free or low-cost meals, food banks, community gardens and cooking and growing classes near you.

Grow your own

Filled with spinach, cauliflower and kale, the crops in Melbourne's communal food gardens in Boyd, Docklands, Drill Hall, East Melbourne, Melbourne University, North Melbourne, Southbank and Kensington are thriving.

We support the Kensington Stockyard Food Garden, established in 2018, which features more than 100 square metres of growing space, an Indigenous garden and fruit forest with more than 30 trees, including figs, apples, citrus, elderberry, and other berries.

Nan Austin, chair of the Kensington Stockyard Food Garden said the growing is primarily in self-wicking beds as the stockyard is paved with bluestone.

'While we make some compost onsite we cannot meet our ongoing needs so we recently purchased two tonnes of compost from the City of Melbourne green waste program,' she said.

'We've done the sums and we're using a whopping 5000 litres of compost each year, which is equivalent to at least five tonnes of food and green waste redirected from landfill.'

As well as feeding members with fresh produce, the Kensington Stockyard Food Garden delivers kilograms of vegetables to a local food pantry to be shared with the community, and collects seeds for reuse in the future. Excess seed is shared at regular plant swap meets.

Getting creative with our food and garden organics waste

Food and the ways we produce and dispose of it has a huge impact on our environment. In fact, if food waste were a country, it would be the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gasses.

About 45 per cent of our residential landfill bins are made up of organic waste, which ends up in landfill producing methane gas, odour and contributing to climate change.

We're taking steps to cut this in half, and achieve zero net emissions by 2040, with our new food and garden organics waste service.

Since launching, we've provided 23,000 households in the City of Melbourne with the food and garden organics service, diverting more than 1400 tonnes of organic waste from landfill.

That's the equivalent weight of 46 Melbourne trams.

We've just begun trialling the organic waste we collect as compost for our local parks and gardens in Kensington. We're also about to commence a pilot program, testing on-site food waste processing in up to six high-rise apartment buildings.

Visit melbourne.compostapak.com.au for more information.

SENSORY GARDEN A DELIGHT FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Enjoy nature, get your hands dirty and enjoy garden-to-plate morning teas at Kensington's sensory garden.

We've created a beautiful garden at Kensington Neighbourhood Centre where local people, including people living with dementia and their carers, can come together for a weekly gardening and social group.

A professional gardener from Cultivating Community is on hand to guide participants through optional light gardening activities designed to ignite the senses and facilitate a connection with nature.

The fun continues with morning tea, often featuring produce grown in the garden, like herbs and edible flowers.

Visits to Kensington Neighbourhood Centre's sensory garden are free, but bookings are essential.

To register, contact Healthy Ageing on 9658 9190 or email healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au



Fresh produce at Queen Victoria Market

IN BRIEF

MARVELLOUS MELBURNIANS

Celebrating 20 years, the Melbourne Awards are the City of Melbourne's highest accolade, celebrating inspirational people and organisations making extraordinary contributions to our community. The awards acknowledge the contribution of 27 finalists in 8 categories: Aboriginal Melbourne – ganbu guljin, arts and events, community, hospitality, knowledge and innovation, LGBTIQ+, sustainability and urban design.

Tune in to Channel 9 at 4pm, Sunday 13 November to find out who wins.

Learn more about the finalists at melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards

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Visit melbourne.compostapak.com.au for more information.

A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

At the City of Melbourne, we are committed to bringing people together, fostering communities that connect, care and collaborate.

From supporting new parents, to acting on food security and making sure our city is a great place to age, we're here for everyone.

Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/community to learn more.



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The First Nations fashion brand putting informative conversations at its centre

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

First Nations fashion brand Ngali was a notable standout during Melbourne Fashion Week (MFW), and its presence in Docklands is now permanent after moving into its new Melbourne Quarter studio.

Founded by Wiradjuri designer Denni Francisco, Ngali is built around not only showcasing the work of First Nations artists but also about creating conversations – something she already saw taking place at MFW.

“We were really looking forward to having more young First Nations people involved so they could shadow the professionals, like the makeup artists, creative directors and stylists,” Ms Francisco said.

“But we also took on a lot of non-First Nations volunteers and what that provided fantastically was this intersection of them being able to learn more about First Nations and what it means to volunteer for a First Nations brand. We could have these conversations about who we are and create a culturally safe environment for everyone.”

As well as having people help on the day, six First Nations artists were also involved in painting magnificent, show-stopping artwork on boots that were provided by retail store Country Road.

These boots currently sit in the studio, ready to be marvelled at.

Ms Francisco first launched the brand in 2018 after feeling like she was missing a creative output in her life, and while she deliberated over whether it was the solution she was looking for, she soon realised the potential it could have in sharing a bigger message.

“I recognised that fashion is an easy entry for people to find out about our culture and Country, and it does start conversations,” she said.

This idea then soon developed into collaborating with First Nations artists and expanding the reach of their work through showcasing them on the clothing.

“It is all about translating the work, rather than just taking them as they are and putting them onto fabric,” Ms Francisco said.

“It’s a translation piece because every First Nations artwork has the story of the artist involved and it’s not really our story to tell, but we can translate it in such a way that the artists agree upon and that is respectful to their work and story.”

This vision to collaborate is at the centre of everything Ms Francisco does now, but it was her intention from the start with Ngali translating to “us” or “we” in a number of Aboriginal languages.

“We do more together, and the brand’s byline is also ‘together we create’, and that is around the whole concept of when people come together to make something happen, it really is fantastic,” she said.

Ngali is currently showcasing its latest collection *Miya*, which translates to “together”, and while a new collection also means new pieces, Ms Francisco is set on still incorporating pieces from older collections.

Incorporating sustainable practices and sourcing materials ethically is something Ms Francisco is really conscious about, and it comes from her drive to continue to put care for Country first.

“The garments themselves are on a journey and we don’t really have a stop and start point where we just do something for one season only,” she said.

“Having pieces from the last collection paired with something else in the new collection reduces the concept of how many clothes we need to have. Having less and having more versatility is really important.”

The Ngali studio is open from Tuesday to Friday, from



“*It’s a translation piece because every First Nations artwork has the story of the artist involved and it’s not really our story to tell, but we can translate it in such a way that the artists agree upon and that is respectful to their work and story.*”

10am till 4pm, and visitors can now have a chance to look at the latest collection, and the beautifully crafted scarves that are a key part of the brand.

But with the brand’s name only on the rise after their runway in Milan Fashion Week and MFW, and a list of future runways to come, a phone call through to the studio before visiting is the best way to ensure someone will be on hand to take visitors through the works.

Ngali studio is located at 24 Aurora Lane, Docklands. ●

For more information:
ngali.com.au



Bumper crowds turn out for the Melbourne Boat Show as tills ring for local businesses

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
EVENTS

The Melbourne Boat Show in Docklands has been hailed a huge success after crowds of about 30,000 turned out for the four-day event.

The show’s organiser, the Boating Industry Association of Victoria (BIAV), said pent-up demand from two years of COVID cancellations had contributed to the record crowds, which tripled their expectations.

“We are very pleased with the overall event,” BIAV’s chief executive Steve Walker said, noting it also provided a boost to local shops, cafes, and restaurants, but “very importantly, a lot of our exhibitors got really good value out of it”.

“The appetite for boats and boating lifestyle is growing,” he said.

The 60 exhibitors who lined up at NewQuay Promenade said the event had provided a “great vibe” to the precinct and was the “best Melbourne show for many years”.

Visitors were spoiled for choice with activities ranging from on-water boat displays and trials to waterfront boat displays, a marketplace, musical entertainment, a seafood cooking demonstration, a Welcome to Boating Hub for new people to boating, and more.

The boat show also saw the Ice Hockey Australia National Championships at the O’Brien Icehouse held on the same weekend of October 22-23, as well as the World Supercross Australian Grand Prix at Marvel Stadium – delivering a much-needed economic stimulus for Docklands in its post-pandemic bounce back.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Shane Wylie said all three events were a big win with local businesses seeing a positive uptick in trade.

“Restaurants were at capacity, and it had such a friendly vibe,” he said.

“It was such a sight to see the entire promenade filled with boats and traders and what a glorious vision with

the *Enterprize* [Melbourne’s tall ship] moored up at Cargo and Berth.”

“Pedestrian counts were enormous and truly translated to increase retail spends. We hope the event stays in Docklands permanently.”

Rachel Crook from The Yacht Sales Co said they had enjoyed a strong show with a consistent flow of visitors.

“We will be back next year and are definitely happy to have the Melbourne Boat Show back on the calendar,” she said.

MY Marine’s Theo Rozakis was also upbeat, saying, “We’re really happy, it had a great vibe, a lot of buyers, and even on Saturday morning when it was raining, they kept coming.”

“The local businesses seemed to get a boost also. It looks like a good future model.”

The BIAV will complete an event review, consult with the industry and work towards a boat show plan for 2023 that will be best for exhibitors.

Asked whether the boat show would return to Docklands next year, Mr Walker said it depended on their financial model but noted, “We like the on-water component and the outdoors”.

The Ice Hockey Australia National Championships also attracted a “huge following of fans” at the O’Brien Icehouse with the Victorian women’s team taking out gold while the Victorian men’s team won bronze.

President of Ice Hockey Victoria Maureen Black said the tournaments went “very well” with the Icehouse being “so accommodating, as we had a lot of people and equipment coming through the venue constantly; they opened up all available spaces for use to utilise”.

“We had both tournaments’ dinners at Urban Alley Brewery restaurant [at the District Docklands] which were just wonderful serving so many people all at once. Hoyts bought Ben and Jerry ice cream samples to hand out on the final day; they also donated movie tickets and Costco donated some chocolates,” she said. ●

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2. Self-managing your apartment
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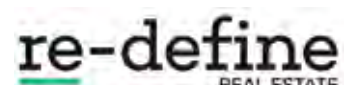


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Candidates make their pitch ahead of November 26

“

Candidates vying for the seat of Melbourne in the upcoming Victorian State Election spoke with Melburnians in October about a number of key local and wider issues.

”

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ELECTIONS

Victorians head to the polls for a second time in five months on November 26 and the seat of Melbourne, which includes Docklands, the CBD and a host of surrounding inner-city suburbs, is set to be hotly contested.

Melbourne has been held by Greens MP Ellen Sandell since 2014, when her party prevailed in the electorate for the first time, and in 2018 Ms Sandell narrowly held onto the seat to secure a second term.

While the incumbent MP starts as a warm favourite to claim victory for a third straight time, she faces a stern test in the form of Labor candidate Rebecca Thistleton who has spent the past few months knocking on doors and raising her profile around the electorate.

Both lower house candidates, plus Nicola Foxworthy (Reason Party candidate for Melbourne) and Colleen Bolger (Victorian Socialists) met with locals at the CBD's Kelvin Club on October 13, in an event organised by Residents 3000 with discussion chaired by EastEnders president Stan Capp.

Also in attendance were two upper house candidates for the Northern Metropolitan region; the Liberal Party's Evan Mulholland and the Liberal Democratic Party's Paul Silverberg.

The Liberal's lower house candidate, George Palackalody, was not in attendance.

State and nationwide issues were prominent throughout the evening — namely the cost of living, housing affordability and climate change — as candidates pitched their party's policies and what they would do to contribute to solutions.

Locally, the decline in CBD safety and the expected safe injecting room near Flinders Street Station also emerged as hot-button issues.

If the electorate votes in a similar manner to the 2018 election, the lower house is likely to be a showdown between the Greens and Labor.

A clear divide emerged between the two candidates on who will make the bigger impact on Melbourne.

Ms Sandell boasted the Greens' track record on how they've pushed Labor in recent years.

“During the pandemic the Greens were able to sit at the negotiating table with the government. We secured things like financial support for renters who lost work during COVID, grants for international students who were struggling to survive, and a lot more.”

However, Ms Thistleton said this was simply not enough for constituents.

“The Greens will talk about what they will push for and what they will advocate for and talk about a style of politics that isn't entirely without merit and isn't entirely different in values to what Labor is presenting. But it doesn't get things done, and it especially doesn't get things done locally. It is not good enough to be standing on the sidelines and offering criticisms of decisions well after the ink has dried.”

The Victorian Electoral Commission will share voting centre locations and opening hours from Wednesday, November 2.

In 2018, Docklanders were able to vote at Library at The Dock.

What they said ...



Ellen Sandell, MP for Melbourne (Greens):
“I think it's more important than ever to have Greens and independent voices in parliament, pushing the next government to go further and faster on issues that matter to Victorians and holding the government to account.”



Rebecca Thistleton, Labor candidate for Melbourne:

“Sometimes people say that it doesn't matter who you vote for, that the outcome is just the same. But that cannot be said in Victoria — not after what has been achieved [by Labor] in the past eight years.”



Nicola Foxworthy, Reason Party candidate:

“The Reason Party represents the change that I want to see in politics. The approach — evidence-based, compassionate and pragmatic — has shown that listening to people, working together, can successfully deliver real results, real solutions to real problems.”



Colleen Bolger, Victorian Socialists candidate:

“In regards to the cost of living pressures, socialists talk about it as a crisis of inequality. We need to be talking about it in terms of wage justice and social justice, because it's not the case that everyone is experiencing these issues equally.”

Evan Mulholland, Liberal Party candidate (upper house):

“Cost of living is far and away one of the biggest issues in this election. It's all many people talk about. Looking around at the CBD in comparison to what it used to be is pretty heart-breaking. Every ‘for lease’ and ‘for sale’ sign to me is a family, is a small business owner that's really struggled throughout the pandemic.”

Paul Silverberg, Liberal Democratic Party candidate (upper house):

“[Born in the former USSR] I know, quite well, what it's like to have government interfering in each part of your life, and it always ends in failure ... a lot of the policies that I have seen not just over the last two years but particularly coming from the current Labor government, is almost like looking in a time machine.” ●

Council CEO stood down immediately after internal probe finding on anonymous donation

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

City of Melbourne chief executive officer Justin Hanney has finished up in his role earlier than expected after an internal investigation found he should have declared an anonymous donation for a yacht race.

Mr Hanney made the shock announcement on October 19 that he intended to stand down in late December after four years in the top job.

It came after a probe into a fundraising campaign from which Mr Hanney received an undisclosed donation believed to be more than \$35,000 to cover the cost of racing in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

At the time of his resignation announcement, the council said its internal CEO Employment Matters Committee had conducted a “thorough review” of the donation Mr Hanney received through the Australian Sports Foundation, before issuing a council statement saying it had “not identified any decisions that have been influenced by the donation” and had accepted his offer to resign at the end of the year.

But in a backflip decision, the council announced Alison Leighton had been appointed as acting chief executive effective immediately on October 27, and “thanked Mr Hanney for his dedicated service to the organisation”.

The subsequent statement said the council had considered a confidential report of the CEO Employment Matters Committee on the anonymous donation, which found “the donations should have been declared as part of City of Melbourne's personal interests return process”.

However, it found “no evidence to indicate that Mr Hanney intentionally or recklessly lodged returns that were false or incomplete”.

The CEO Employment Matters Committee began undertaking a review in August, which is currently being led by independent chair, Jude Munro AO, and has access to independent legal advice and other necessary resources.

The council said it would advise Local Government Victoria of the need for “strengthened guidelines” in the Victorian *Local Government Act 2020* relating to CEO personal interest returns and issues relating to joint ownership of assets, and requested that action be taken to address these shortcomings.

Mr Hanney, whose leadership has been lauded for navigating the council through the COVID-19 pandemic, acknowledged he should have declared the donation.

“As I have previously acknowledged, I should have nominated the Australian Sports Foundation donation as part of my personal interest declaration process, and this was an oversight,” he said.

Mr Hanney co-owned a yacht with Nick Foa, the former head of transport services at the Department of Transport. He too resigned in September following a government investigation into his role over the donation investigation.

Cr Capp thanked Mr Hanney for his unwavering service, saying he was a “dedicated champion of the municipality and



▲ *City of Melbourne chief executive Justin Hanney speaking at a Residents 3000 meeting in April. He has stood down from his position immediately.*

“

Justin has transformed the culture at the City of Melbourne, strengthening its focus on performance and achievement, and this will be one of his legacies.

”

has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of its residents and business owners”.

“Justin has transformed the culture at the City of Melbourne, strengthening its focus on performance and achievement, and this will be one of his legacies,” she said.

“Melbourne is a marvellous city which is bouncing back following some of its toughest times and Justin's outstanding leadership has contributed to this.”

Mr Hanney was reappointed as CEO for a further four years in June, with his contract term due to end on June 30, 2026.

He has been praised for his implementing an ambitious reform and revitalisation plan to help the city recover from the pandemic after being the most locked down city in the world.

Mr Hanney also led a new neighbourhood planning process and a council-wide commitment to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. ●



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Students showcase creativity at maritime art exhibition

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
EDUCATION

Students at Docklands Primary School have showcased their artistic talents after taking part in an inaugural maritime art exhibition.

The October 17-23 event saw students' work exhibited at the Magnet Gallery at The District shopping centre, which was organised by the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) and the Offshore and Specialist Ships Australia.

Students were tasked during their school holidays to create a piece that celebrated Victoria Harbour by drawing inspiration from everything maritime including water, boats, docks wharves, ropes, ship tools, fishing tackle, sails, engines, flags, wind, and more.

Renowned maritime artist Bridget Thomas assessed more than 100 art pieces and awarded the most interesting work from each grade level.

All participating students were awarded a certificate of recognition.

MMHN chair Jackie Watts said the event was an "immense success", which was held at the same weekend as the Melbourne Boat Show with thousands of visitors flocking to the precinct.

Ms Watts said volunteers were excited about the quality of the children's submissions and their enthusiasm for maritime.

"We hope to hold this event again in 2023. We are grateful for the support of Magnet Gallery, maritime artist Bridgit Thomas, Boating Industry Association of Victoria and the marvellous Docklands Primary School community."

Docklands Primary School principal Adam Bright all students were thrilled to be part of the event.

"We are all super proud of the effort that has gone into these artworks," he said.

"A big thank you to MMHN, O SSA and Magnet for providing this opportunity for our students." ●



Major fundraiser generates \$27,000 for Alma's restoration

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COMMUNITY

The return of the *Alma Doepel's* major fundraising gala luncheon after a two-year hiatus due to COVID was a resounding success as a further \$27,000 was raised towards the ongoing restoration of the historic tall ship.

Function space The Promenade Docklands provided the perfect outlook across Victoria Harbour to the *Alma Doepel's* home by the North Wharf boat sheds as 110 people gathered on October 7.

Hosted by Channel Nine's Peter Hitchener, the event saw speeches given by Lord Mayor Sally Capp, former *Alma Doepel* youth training program participant Eliza Tipping and director of Sail and Adventure Ltd - *Alma's* owner - Matt McDonald.

The fundraising event saw the *Alma Doepel* launch its partnership with the Waypoint Foundation, which Mr McDonald said would run the tall ship's "life-changing" youth training programs once the restoration was complete.

"The Oxford Dictionary defines a waypoint as the point or place of a line of travel at which the course is changed. So, a waypoint when we're navigating a ship, we put our course onto a chart or a map, and the waypoint is where that course is changed," Mr McDonald said.

"Many of the early explorers have gone into places where there is no map, they've made their own map and put their own waypoints on these voyages of discovery. These voyages were all about what lies beyond the horizon."

"Our life is a journey, and waypoints are part of our voyage and ultimately leads up to our final destination. So, it's through this concept that we've developed the Waypoint Foundation to support our life voyagers and our life changing moments."

"We believe that through tall ship sailing, we can deliver life-changing experiences. It teaches us about teamwork, leadership, resilience, humility, empathy, passion and life skills - all these elements are critical to the waypoints in our lives."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the City of Melbourne was "really proud" of the *Alma*



Doepel's place in Melbourne's history, adding it was an important part of the Docklands precinct's range of activities and activations.

"We're really proud of the *Alma Doepel* in the way that it has transformed people's lives whether it was from trade early on, through to those youth training programs more recently, and that's what the *Alma Doepel* will continue to do," Cr Capp said.

Over the past decade, volunteers have raised more than \$3.5 million to restore the 119-year-old *Alma Doepel* to its former glory as one of Australia's oldest surviving tall ships. About two years and \$1.4 million are still needed before it can set sail.

Built in 1903 by Fredrick Doepel and named for his youngest daughter Alma, the ship is the last surviving coastal trader from the early 1900s and originally sailed around the coast of Australia, carrying goods like timber, wheat, and jam. ●

For more information:
almadoepel.com.au



▲ A "hotspot" in Docklands identified by the council.

Council ramps up graffiti blitz

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The City of Melbourne has pledged "faster graffiti removal" than ever before, with its Rapid Response Clean Team now proactively patrolling graffiti hotspots in neighbourhoods outside the CBD and Docklands for the first time.

At their October 18 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, councillors unanimously endorsed a series of recommendations from council management, which provided an update on the Clean Melbourne Graffiti Blitz while advising "next steps".

Since the blitz began in the Hoddle Grid in March then completed by June 30, the council worked in partnership with various state government agencies and private asset owners including Telstra, Australia Post and CitiPower.

As part of the program, the council called on businesses and property owners to help remove graffiti from their buildings and assets, while encouraging residents and visitors to report it using QR codes located around the city.

The report from management stated that during the blitz, more than 68,000 sqms of graffiti were removed across 17,600 locations, equivalent to more than three Melbourne Cricket Ground surface areas cleaned and representing a 140 per cent increase compared to the four months preceding the blitz.

The council noted the success of the introduction of the QR code reporting system, which it says has seen residents play a "greater role" in reporting graffiti with a 60 per cent rise in reporting recorded between March and June.

The council said the "success of the program has allowed council to double down on its efforts and allocate resourcing more effectively, determining the optimal service levels required for each neighbourhood", while also helping to identify "hot spots".

In Docklands, this includes a significant area bordered by Latrobe St, Spencer St, Collins St and Harbour Esplanade.

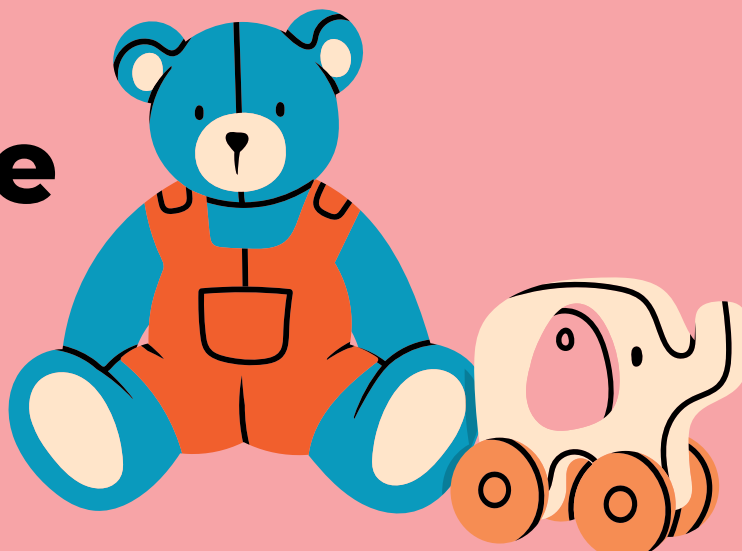
On October 18, councillors requested that management implement the "enhanced Graffiti Prevention and Management Plan", which calls for faster graffiti removal, hot-spot management, continued stakeholder partnerships, youth engagement and making public reporting of graffiti easier. ●

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Jam-packed 2023 Melbourne Symphony Orchestra program announced

The 2023 Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) program of nearly 200 events has been announced this week, released by the chief conductor Jaime Martin.

WORDS BY *Jemma van Zaanen*

Audiences can expect to see 36 Australian works and 86 guest soloists and conductors, including 26 debut appearances, throughout the year.

The focus of the program will be on “the majesty of nature through music”, and the celebration of Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninov’s 150th musical anniversary year. Audiences will also be invited to enjoy violin concertos by global-leading soloists.

Half of the guest artists on the main stage are female and 10 out of 17 MSO commissions are composed by women, according to the MSO.

To start off the year, the MSO will present the Season Opening Gala *Zenith of Life*, featuring the soloist in residence Siobhan Stagg performing Richard Strauss’s *Four Last Songs*.

Australian MSO composer in residence Mary Finsterer will then premiere her new work *Mysterium I* at the gala.

Mr Martin said he was thrilled to be able to



▲ *Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.*

release the 2023 program.

“Each day that I work with the MSO, I am genuinely inspired and invigorated by the passion and professionalism of the players and the organisation,” he said.

“I can’t wait to share this excitement and energy with audiences across Victoria during the magnificent 2023 season.”



Photo: Laura Manariti

The Sidney Myer Free Concert Series will return later in 2023, with Johannes Fritzsich conducting the MSO in *A Tchaikovsky Spectacular*.

The Free Series will continue with the principal conductor in residence Benjamin Northey taking the lead for *Mosaics*, a celebration of Melbourne’s diversity which will feature Melbourne-based contemporary artists.

Mr Northey will return for Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana* featuring the voices of the MSO Chorus and accompanied on piano by the winner of Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, Hannah Shin.

Next year’s program will mark 20 years from when Mr Northey first conducted the MSO and 20 years of the artist development program with The Cybec Foundation.

These will be celebrated when Mr Northey conducts a special performance at the Melbourne Town Hall in November 2023. There will also be special showcase at the start of the year for the Cybec 21st Century Australian Composers program.

Managing director Sophie Galaise said the 20-year legacy was an inspiring success story for both.

“Next year, two wonderful concerts will celebrate the enormous legacy of a generous and progressive donor and the extraordinary career of Ben, our much-loved principal conductor in residence,” Ms Galaise said.

The MSO will also tour across Victoria throughout 2023 and continue its work with schools, and extend its audience through “digital channels”. ●

For more information:

mso.com.au

Re-defining Melbourne’s property management industry

In the last instalment of this three-part series uncovering the issues and opportunities in Melbourne’s inner-city property management market with Re-define Real Estate’s Philip Middlemiss, we ask “where to next?” for an industry under severe pressure.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

Mr Middlemiss’s story is a cautionary tale, not of pity-pandering, but of a need to educate and inform rental providers (landlords), tenants and agents of the dark underbelly of our city’s leasing market.

After significant deliberation and a long process of due diligence, Mr Middlemiss purchased a business and with it a rent roll of 520 properties, almost entirely within Melbourne’s inner-city apartment market.

What he alleges to have found, was a network

of properties in various states of disrepair, apartments overloaded with tenants and huge amounts of rental arrears.

“It was horrific,” Mr Middlemiss said. “After the four-month retention period, we had a mass exodus of clients who no longer wished to use our services; most running from the requirements of the new legislation, claiming that they would be ‘self-managing’ their properties.”

What he also uncovered was a culture of agents assisting these rental providers to avoid doing the right thing.

According to Mr Middlemiss, you need to ask yourself, how do you know if your agent is doing the right thing?

He says it is easy for these agents to discount fees when they are only doing half of the work, and cautions any investor who has secured a bargain management fee, encouraging them to look deeper into what the agent will do in return for taking the fee.

Mr Middlemiss estimates the dollar value of loss to his business in less than a year to be around \$500,000.

Instead of wallowing in both financial and personal pain from the experience, he is turning his experience into a platform to revolutionise the property management industry by bringing technology and flexibility to the forefront.



With the advent of a new arm to his business, Respect Residential, which sees a dedicated team carrying out routine inspection for agencies, Mr Middlemiss is already in talks with other city-based agents, about how he can help divert their workload into a specialised service.

“Compliance documentation is exhaustive for rental providers and agents, working with trust accounts can be overwhelming, maintenance is time consuming and routine inspections are often dreaded; that’s why I’m removing those tasks from the traditional property management job, so agents can dedicate their time to speaking with rental providers and overcoming any issues they may have,” he said.

“We now have the technology that allows our team to operate much more effectively and efficiently; we have embraced this change and

have created much more flexible working conditions for those studying or returning to the workforce.”

“With Respect Residential, we are offering \$40 to \$50 an hour for someone to work the hours they want and have their own business to fit in their own lifestyle.”

With this revolution of a traditional property manager, or as he calls them “Relationship Managers,” Mr Middlemiss is not only hoping to increase productivity, but also the quality of work and life of those within the industry. “We can do more as employers to support the mental health of our employees. We need to ensure the industry, which has already lost 30 per cent of its workforce, moves with the times and creates a safe and rewarding environment.”

“If your agent is not doing the right thing, you as the landlord could be tens of thousands of dollars short at the end of your dealings, but we also need to be compassionate to those who are doing the right thing.”

To discuss any issues read in this series with Mr Middlemiss please call 0402 840 674. ●

For more information:

re-define.com.au



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DOCKLANDER

Designers move into Escala

A concrete benchtop, a stained-glass window, and a price tag of \$400,000 sold the studio apartment.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Jack Bethell had been looking around the city fringe to buy.

He had an eye for design and a Byron Bay temperament.

"I could have bought a house on the edge of Byron Bay for a bit more," Jack said.

But instead, the trend for Melburnians to flee north has found an antidote in Docklands.

"I'm big into fishing. My new home is as close to the ocean as I'm going to get," he told *Docklands News*.

Jack moved into the studio apartment in early October and set to work.

As a designer, Jack works at home and he appreciates the detail of Escala, a new mixed-use development on Docklands Drive.

Escala is the first apartment complex designed by Six Degrees, a company that has made its name in the CBD with its laneway bars.

The firm prides itself on designing spaces that fit humans rather than the other way around.

Jack has left his apartment for a lunch break with his dog Murphy. He's proud of his choice and

starry-eyed about getting to know Docklands.

"I looked in Carlton and North Melbourne. The prices there were more than \$600,000 for anything worth looking at," he said.

Price was, and is, a big factor. He ordered his kitchen appliances from Costco and his furniture from Ikea.

He moved here from Latrobe St, and this was an extension of his 'hood even though he didn't really know it.

"I'm so new to the area I haven't gone outside the dog park and waterfront. I've met a few people through shopping."

For visually aware young workers the Escala complex offers style and opportunities.

As a designer, Jack works at home and he appreciates the detail of Escala, a new mixed-use development on Docklands Drive.



▲ Jack Bethell, a new resident of Docklands.

“

I'm big into fishing. My new home is as close to the ocean as I'm going to get.

”

The roughcast concrete surfaces soften the lines of the building as do the arches.

"A design firm has moved in," Jack said of the office which shares an entrance with the residences.

As domestic and professional barriers break down, Escala is quietly showing how it's done. ●



Rhonda Dredge

JOURNALIST

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HISTORY

Flinders Street Extension murder

At 10.30pm on Wednesday, January 29, 1947, four gunshots echoed off the walls of the Flinders Street Extension. At this hour of the night, Docklands would have been deserted (marked on the left of photo).

Two men, Yueng Shing, captain of the ship S.S. *Fort Abitibi*, and local taxi driver, Albert Sydney Pack, had been shot. Shing was hit by two bullets which pierced his lung and heart; these wounds would soon prove to be fatal. Pack was hit once, but luckily managed to recover in hospital.

Four hours prior to the event, Shing had been gambling at a Fan Tan parlour in Chinatown. His massive winnings of £400, the modern equivalent of \$28,500, had attracted the ire of the seedy underbelly of 1940s Melbourne, and for two weeks the police and detectives attempted to track down the perpetrators.

Two days after the shooting, the D24 Taxi Company, whose telephone number was one digit off the local police force's, received three cryptic phone calls. The anonymous caller told the company that if police went to a certain hotel, the name of which was never published, they would find "three men and a woman in gold shoes."

Allegedly, this group would provide information on the whereabouts and identity of the killers. The taxi company, upon receiving the call, immediately contacted the police who rushed to the hotel. Unfortunately for the detectives, the group was nowhere to be seen.

Another two days passed, and the police received another tip; the primary suspect was residing in a cafe in Fitzroy. Two police cars rushed to the location, stormed the cafe, and found their first suspect, Chan Kwan, a Chinese migrant from Singapore.

Police found him hiding in the walls of a shed behind the café covered in filth, with £56 in bloodied bills in his pockets. Kwan was in

Melbourne to seek medical treatment for an injury he sustained whilst aiding Australian prisoners of war – the injury had turned cancerous. He was brought in by police for questioning and charged with murder and assault with intent to commit murder. Kwan was held in Pentridge Prison to await his trial.

However, Kwan was not the sole assailant, and his suspected abettor was still at large. After several days of investigation, the police received another tip that led them to arrest Chan Sin, a Singaporean labourer, who had ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time. While giving evidence in court, Sin revealed that he had first met Chan Kwan just a few days prior to the murder.

He was unaware of Kwan's possession of a firearm and was only present at the murder site as Kwan had asked him to "visit a friend" at the shipping yards. Sin initially refused but was dragged by Kwan into Albert Pack's taxi where Yueng Shing was awaiting his journey home. The following is directly drawn from the testimony that Chan Sin delivered which convinced the jury of his innocence ...

"As it [the car] went under a bridge", Sin "heard Kwan's gun clicking but thought something must have been wrong with the car." Sin then "heard Kwan ask the driver to get into the back of the car, the driver had difficulty getting over and Sin helped him" then "Sin heard bullets pass his ear. [But] he could not see distinctly what was happening. After the shooting he chased Kwan for about a quarter of a mile and nearly caught him" however upon "seeing blood on Kwan's hands" Sin retreated out of fear for



his life, not seeing Kwan again. Upon the recounting of his story, as well as corroborating evidence from Albert Pack, the jury delivered a not guilty verdict upon Sin.

Chan Kwan's presence in the court room was far less predictable than Sin's. His testimony was largely incoherent. When questioned on why he was in the vehicle with Pack and Shing, Kwan responded that he was intending to purchase the vehicle and wanted to take it for a test drive. However, the vehicle was *not* for sale. While in the courtroom examining the evidence table with his attorney, Kwan identified an image of his father that had been placed in front of him.

Sources vary over the exact wording, but Kwan mumbled something to the tune of "I have disgraced you, Father" and proceeded to tear apart and consume the image of his father in the court room. After this stunt the hearing

was adjourned for the day.

Kwan, seemingly overwhelmed by the prospect of a prison sentence, took his own life in his cell at Pentridge Prison on the morning of his next court session. He left a note proclaiming his innocence. It is likely that if he had attended the court session the jury would have handed down a guilty verdict.

However, this has left the case without a clear conviction, and it is still considered to be unsolved to this day. ●



Luis Calleja

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ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
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HISTORYVICTORIA.ORG.AU

Victoria is awash

Flood water is causing havoc, breaking riverbanks – and hearts – on its way to the ocean via our rivers.

Brown water can be seen fanning way out into Port Phillip Bay from creeks and rivers. Perhaps this is a timely moment to consider the immense power of water and its immense impact on our lives.

Flood mitigation in the Yarra River, the Maribyrnong and various creeks feeding into the Yarra estuary is not new. Historic images and public records reveal that floods were a critical concern from the early days in 19th-century Melbourne, threatening lives, livelihoods, property and trade.

Prior to colonisation, for the Indigenous people, the threat of flooding was likely to have been less of a concern. Perhaps the seasonal inundation which naturally flushed the swamp and lower estuary actually improved its capacity and the supply of food.

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) encourages all Docklanders to subscribe to the free Melbourne-based online news source *The Conversation*. An article on the floods (October 14, 2022) reported that management of Yarra flooding mitigation has been happening for a very long time.

Historian Margaret Cook writes that although widespread floods in Victoria are uncommon, Victoria tends to experience “flash floods” because the stormwater drains in cities and towns can be overwhelmed by sudden downpours. Docklanders may be familiar with the lake in the Royal Botanic Gardens but may not be aware that it is the remnant of Yarra billabongs which swelled into existence during floods.

Docklanders will also be familiar with the work of Sir John Coode, the engineer commissioned by the state government to design Victoria Port (now known as Victoria Harbour), crucial maritime infrastructure (wharves) greatly increasing its capacity. This investment enabled Victoria to thrive and prosper through maritime trade.

Perhaps less well known is that the ambitious Coode works were also designed to reduce the impact of dramatic disruptive flash-flooding of the Yarra River as it made its way to Port Phillip Bay.

In this sense, flood mitigation played a part in the creation of today’s Docklands Precinct. The Coode works changed the course of the Yarra River and deepened it. This lessened the adverse impact of flooding which periodically inundated and disrupted much of Melbourne

in the late 19th century and early 20th century. The new, wide channel in the Yarra Estuary also improved cargo ship access to Docklands and is used to this day.



Pollution flush

The pattern of natural inundation which benefitted the swamps associated with the Yarra River estuary as it snaked its way to Port Phillip Bay have long gone. Docklanders are spared disruption today.

However, Docklands’ waterways now experience an ugly “modern inundation” of sorts. A by-product of the flooding in creeks and rivers upstream inevitably causes a significant increase in the volume of water-borne litter.

Parks Victoria has the task of trapping as much as it can – “at the end of the line”. Vast amounts of rubbish float past Docklands under the Bolte and the Westgate bridges and out to Port Phillip Bay.

Central Pier saga

As the tide ebbs and flows up the Yarra estuary and into in Victoria Harbour each day it hastens the degeneration of the Docklands Precinct’s iconic Central Pier. The sorry saga of the heritage-listed pier is drawing to a close.

Early in October 2022 Development Victoria (DV) applied to Heritage Victoria (HV) for a permit to demolish the pier, stating, “engineering advice has confirmed that the condition of the pier continues to deteriorate and no loading of the pier or access onto or below the deck is advisable under current conditions”.

DV proposed that work be completed in two stages: Stage One (design and investigation) and Stage Two (demolition) “including, but not limited to, demolition of Central Pier including Sheds 9 and 14, the decking and piers to the seabed”. Scan the QR code below for more information:



MMHN has no doubt that HV heritage experts agonised over this decision. We recommend that Docklanders read the heritage Statement of Significance for Victoria Dock (and Central Pier).



See http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/search/nattrust_result_detail/3705 or scan the QR below:



Public safety obviously trumps heritage preservation. Docklanders may also check Demolition Permit details for Central Pier.

Scan the QR for more information:



Absence of a Victoria Harbour plan – the heart of Docklands

It is hard to comprehend why such a plan does not exist already – surely this is an oversight?

MMHN would like to draw your attention to the really important wording in the HV Permit which refers to a plan encompassing the whole of Victoria Dock, not just Central Pier and the adjacent spaces along Harbour Esplanade ...

“Heritage Victoria recognises that a well-considered future plan is required for Victoria Dock and acknowledges that this will take some time to develop. The risk of collapse is such that Development Victoria has not lodged a proposal to rebuild or redevelop the site as part of this permit.”

Development Victoria has publicly declared their intention to engage on the future of Victoria Dock, and community engagement has commenced via engage.vic.gov.au/central-pier or scan the QR below:



▲ Before and after of flood mitigation in the Yarra River, the Maribyrnong and various creeks feeding into the Yarra estuary.

Your opportunity

MMHN encourages all Docklanders to participate in this DV community consultation. This is an opportunity to tell what DV precisely what Docklanders expect DV to provide to compensate the community for the loss of Central Pier – a much-loved and significant heritage infrastructure asset in the heart of the Docklands Precinct.

MMHN has long anticipated this heritage loss and has proposed an appropriate ‘replacement’ structure to compensate for this loss. See <https://mmhn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/MMHN-Opportunity-1-Maritime-Centre-Sept-2021.pdf> or scan the QR below: ●



Jackie Watts

CHAIR OF MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK

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HEALTH

Healthy eating on a tight budget



A common complaint of both individuals and families is that it’s too expensive to eat regular healthy meals.



Watching the prices of proteins and produce rise over the years, it’s hard not to become downhearted about what your shopping bill might look like if you pack your trolley with healthy foods.

But, before you opt for the

processed route (which can often end up even more expensive), take a look at these tips and hacks for eating healthily on a tight budget.

Make a list – check it twice

Planning your shopping list is five minutes in your day that you won’t regret.

A staggering amount of household rubbish is attributed to unused/wasted produce that sits in your fridge like an abandoned afterthought.

Jot down the meals you want to make for the week, then only list the ingredients and quantities you *actually* need so nothing goes to waste.

Add staple foods to your meals

Certain foods are metabolised slower than others, and fill you up quicker, keeping you satisfied for longer. Foods such as fresh potatoes, pasta, rice, oats, whole grains, and

legumes are cheap, healthy, and a great source of slow-burning energy.

Buy what’s in season

Do some digging on seasonal fruit and vegetables and stick to the list for each season to make sure you’re not paying top dollar. Prices are generally set on supply and demand, so in-season fruit and vegetables are typically much cheaper, more plentiful, and tastier!

Minimise the meat

Our bodies don’t tend to need as much meat as we statistically consume at each mealtime. Meals that use meat as an ingredient rather than the star attraction of the dish can help spread out the quantities and get more bang for your buck.

It’s also a great idea to mix in some vegetarian meals throughout the week to minimise the need for buying

larger quantities of meat.

Go cheaper over convenient

It’s easy to fall into the habit of getting all your groceries in the one place to make things more convenient, but the habit is hurting your hip pocket!

Shop around at different places such as fruit and vegetable stores, produce farms, butchers, and bulk discount stores to find yourself a better bargain. Specialty shops are often cheaper and better quality, making the extra trip worth your time.

Go for budget over brand

Unless you have a very refined palate, it’s often difficult to spot the difference between budget brand products and their name brand equivalents. In most cases, the ingredients tend to be identical (beans, corn, beetroot, crushed tomatoes), and the

rest is just fancy labels and a higher price bracket.

Swap out soft drinks

Not only are these beverages harmful to your health, but they also add up on the docket. Consider swapping soft drinks out for soda water, fresh juices, or cheaper alternatives. Your body and your wallet will thank you! ●



Dr Mike Edgley

CHIROPRACTOR

DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU

State election – representing vertical villages?

“

One in four Victorians live in residential strata – but are our vertical villages on the election agenda?

”

Multi-owned dwellings, or residential strata, is the way 1.6 million Victorians now live. This includes those who live in townhouses, “walk-ups” and our own high-rise vertical villages.

And, as we well know, state government regulations and policies daily impact upon how we vertical villagers live our lives.

Front and centre of this is Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV). As part of the Department of Justice and Community Safety, one of CAV’s responsibilities is the administration of the *Owners’ Corporation Act 2006*. It is this legislation and associated regulations which defines the scope of what owners’ corporations (OCs) can – and cannot – do.

For instance, this is where limitations are placed upon an OC’s authority to manage short-stay accommodation businesses operating within their residences. This is also the source of restrictions regarding an OC’s ability to improve common property.

In a nutshell, current regulations aim to maintain the status quo which, regrettably, often has the effect of impeding sustainability improvements, as these initiatives typically involve a change of use for common property (e.g. installation of solar panels on facades or rooftops).

The Victorian Government’s approach contrasts with the path taken in NSW, where recent legislation – *Strata Schemes Management Amendment (Sustainability Infrastructure) Bill 2020* – has changed the approval requirements, making it easier for OCs to install “sustainability infrastructure” on common property.

There are many other “sore points” for our vertical villages but perhaps most disappointing is our non-inclusion in state government schemes, such as energy efficiency programs which remain primarily aimed at “houses”, leaving out our strata “homes”.



There are many other “sore points” for our vertical villages but perhaps most disappointing is our non-inclusion in state government schemes.



This lack of appreciation for residential strata was apparent in a recent meet the candidates event hosted by Residents3000. This event saw no mention of any issues specifically related to high-rise living, with attendees revealing their frustration through comments such as “don’t they know who they are talking to and how we live?”

There is one group which is seeking to make strata living an election issue.

This is the Strata Community Association Victoria SCA (Vic). It is the peak member-based association for service providers to Victorian OCs. Its membership includes OC managers and facility managers, along with industry suppliers such as essential safety measures managers, building maintenance and tradespeople, lawyers, accountants, insurers, property valuers and quantity surveyors.

SCA (Vic) is seeking to highlight the economic importance of Victoria’s strata sector, which they state contributes an estimated \$1 billion in annual economic activity, yet the sector remains largely overlooked by our state government.

So, what does SCA (Vic) see as key election issues for the strata services sector?

They nominate three priorities:

- Protecting and supporting strata consumers: which includes lobbying for a dedicated helpline (operated by CAV) and advocating for a minimum educational standard for OC managers;
- Creating smarter, greener and more liveable strata communities: under which SCA (Vic) is seeking a partnership with Sustainability Victoria to establish a Victorian Sustainability Fund and associated joint projects; and
- Combatting the high prevalence of building defects in strata: here they propose the creation of a building information portal (managed by VBA) and the closing of loopholes in the Domestic Building Insurance scheme.

From the point of view of OCs, while we do not embrace our label as “consumers” (as this relegates us to an unacceptable passive role), there is much merit in SCA (Vic) raising the profile of residential strata with the state government.

It is important that the Victorian Government appreciates our sector’s economic contribution and understands that strata living is now a mainstream way of living for Victorians and, as such, our specific circumstances must be addressed.

To this end, the focus of SCA (Vic) on raising the skill level of OC managers is a much welcomed and strongly supported initiative as improving the calibre of service providers to our vertical villages is essential.

But as our final words are *nihil de nobis, sine nobis* – “nothing about us, without us”. OCs, most especially the elected committees must be part of these decisions and not simply “consulted”. We are not passive consumers. ●



Dr Janette Corcoran

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Boom, bust and out of here

More builders and developers will choose to “go bust” instead of being held accountable to owners’ corporations (OCs) for dodgy building defects.

More consumer protection is required for Victoria’s \$343 billion property sector in these uncertain times, as higher construction materials costs begin to bite, and higher interest rates continues to take the wind out of the sails of the booming property market.

More than 1.6 million Victorians (25 per cent of the population) now live or work in an OC building. However, light-touch building standards and the Victorian Building Authority’s failure to use its enforcement powers over the past 20 years had led to a decline in building standards for high-rise apartment buildings.

An OC recently found out the hard way, when the builder it had taken to VCAT for building defects slipped into voluntary liquidation shortly before the hearing commenced, leaving the OC out of pocket and unable to chase any other wrongdoers in the matter.

In my view, this is a cautionary tale for consumers and investors of apartment buildings and the lessons ought to be heeded by other OCs otherwise the same thing could happen to them.

Ascot Constructions Pty Ltd (in liq.) constructed a three-storey residential apartment building in 2011 at Caroline Springs. Soon after the occupancy of the brand-new building, complaints about defects including water leaks, blocked pipes and flammable cladding emerged.

It took the OC three years to bring proceedings against the builder for damages in respect to the defects and a further three years before the claim was finally set to be determined at a hearing in VCAT.

The architect and building surveyor had also been joined to the claim but had ultimately acted to settle

their share of the liability before the hearing outside of the proceedings. The OC was left with around \$2 million in out-of-pocket costs, and the building company tipped itself into voluntary liquidation shortly before the commencement of the VCAT hearing.

- This meant that VCAT was left with no option but to strike out the OC’s claim, leaving it with no way of recovering the outstanding costs from the builder.
- Three key lessons can be taken away from this experience. OCs and owners that find themselves in a building defects dispute with a builder should:
- Act quickly to bring a claim against the liable parties. One of the problems in the case above, was simply the amount of time that it took for the OC to begin proceedings.

Retain good building experts and engineers to provide the OC with accurate and timely reports that can be used as evidence in legal proceedings.

Be open and flexible in negotiations

and settlements because of the unavoidable danger of the respondents going into liquidation.

In the meantime, if a defect arises in your building be sure to use the small window of opportunity to bring a claim, do your due diligence on the ability of the builder and other concurrent wrongdoers to meet the costs of the claim, and remain open minded and practical when conducting negotiations and settlements. ●



Tom Bacon

TOM BACON IS THE PRINCIPAL LAWYER OF STRATA TITLE LAWYERS.

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State election – the short answers

Last month in this column we asked the question of the major parties competing at the forthcoming state election – what are your party's policies on short-stays?

We have talked *ad infinitum* with all the parties about regulating short stays. We have engaged with the first, second and third Minister for Consumer Affairs, currently Melissa Horne. We met with former Planning Minister Richard Wynne. We had talks with the Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council David Davis. And we have had ongoing communications with leader of the Victorian Greens Samantha Ratnam.

Despite the pandemic, political turmoil, scandals and factional machinations, we tried to keep engaged with politicians across the political spectrum. We have been providing concerned Victorian politicians with case studies, precedent legislation and regulations from other jurisdictions, expert reports, impact statements and statistics.

In this pre-election column, we will summarise what we know about party policies on short stays.

Party Policy Scorecard

SHORT-STAY POLICIES	LABOR	LIBERALS	GREENS
STRATA RULES	✗	✗	✓
DAY CAP	✗	✗	✓
REGISTRATION	✗	✗	✓
PENALTIES	✓	✗	✓

▲ The Party Policy Scorecard shows the short-stay policies of the major parties, ranked against We Live Here key policies.

There are four key policies that We Live Here has been articulating in this column since the previous election:

- **Strata rules:** Let owners' corporation lot owners decide if their building will have short stays. Owners should have the right to regulate short stays by enacting special rules, within a common framework. This should include the right to on-charge additional costs on a *cui bono* basis.
- **Day cap:** Limit the number of days that an apartment can be short-term let.
- **Registration:** So many jurisdictions around the world already require short-stay operators to register their property, usually at the municipal level and for a cost-recovery fee. This most fundamental regulation will also help governments understand the extent of the industry.
- **Penalties:** Regulations only work if there are consequences for breaching those rules. The penalties must be enforceable and proportionate to the social and economic impact.

Labor

From previous meetings and correspondence with the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Melissa Horne and her office, we know that the Labor policy is to maintain the status quo until after "a" review. This repeatedly deferred review had been promised in 2020, then 2021 and now it has been pushed out to "between 2023 and 2026".

The status quo continues to be resistance to any regulation by strata rules, day caps, and even registration, one of the most basic governance tools. Our Party Policy Scorecard shows a tick for the Labor policy on "penalties". This attribution is exceedingly charitable, because while there are penalties in the current patchwork legislation, they are virtually unenforceable in practice and risibly meagre in quantum. In our extensive review of VCAT cases there has been not one instance where VCAT has enforced a penalty. Zero.

Our dialogue with the minister's office will

be maintained because we trust that empirical economic evidence will eventually have an influence on policy – and we will continue providing that evidence.

We had been hopeful that the departure of Richard Wynne might have afforded an opportunity for a broad review of policy from the planning portfolio viewpoint. We hope this may still be forthcoming from the new Minister for Planning the Member for Pascoe Vale and Legislative Assembly Leader of the House Lizzie Blandthorn.

In Victoria it seems evident that the disconnect between the planning and consumer affairs "silos" of government is at least partly responsible for the short-stay policy disarray in this state. It is therefore perhaps not all that perplexing that the Labor party can only tell us to wait a few more years for yet another review.

Meanwhile there are lessons that can be learned from other states e.g. NSW where the intersection of the NSW equivalents of planning and consumer affairs portfolios has been recognised and managed, producing some nascent yet remarkable reforms.

Liberals

Liberal policy is quite hard to discern, given that the last known stance was evinced by the party's 2018 mass absence from parliament when the short-stay issue came to a vote.

Prior to the last election, We Live Here was equally engaged in dialogue with all the major parties, including the Victorian Liberals.

At the time, David Davis, Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council, declared his party's support for a legislative review on short stays, making the party's parliamentary walkout even more shocking.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Liberal Party arguably has had few other distractions that may have relegated our humble edification.

While we remain hopeful of a policy announcement from the Victorian Liberals, it will be a little too late for this pre-election wrap. For

now, our Party Policy Scorecard for the Liberals shows no known policies.

The Greens

Moving along the spectrum, the Victorian Greens have made a welcome announcement that has made headlines, including in the news pages of this issue. We had been anticipating this policy release for some time. Last year Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell called for regulation of the short-stay industry, something we have been arguing strenuously for. Our ongoing dialogue this year with Samantha Ratnam further stimulated our expectations.

Now they have proposed a regulatory framework for short stays:

- A cap of 180 nights a year for a property to be rented as a short stay.
- Allowing owners corporations to regulate short stays where the property is not the host's principal residence.
- Setting up a mandatory register of short-stay operators.

We Live Here is pleased with the Green's announcement and the concordance with our key policies. We look forward to seeing the details.

Campaign donations

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



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET
LEARN MORE AT
WELIVEHERE.NET



CHAMBER UPDATE

Docklands is alive and kicking

What a welcome change to see our precinct re-emerge.

WORDS BY *Daniel Hibberd*
PRESIDENT

Who could deny how spectacular the NewQuay Promenade looked as it set the stage for the 60th Melbourne Boat Show; what a perfect place for the annual event and what a win for local traders seeing increased footfall and spend throughout the local area.

Many excitedly commented on the potential of the show stretching down Harbour Esplanade past Yanonung Quay and wrapping around Victoria Harbour Promenade ... let's keep this professionally conducted event here in Docklands permanently.

The pilot season of the WSX Australian Grand Prix amazed at Marvel. What an experience to see the stadium completely transform from pristine turf to a battlefield of dirt. These elite world-renowned riders encouraged serious numbers to the Docklands precinct. Hotels were absolutely packed for the entire week

and so many food and beverage traders reported a great increase in sales.

We've had the re-introduction of ice hockey tournaments to the O'Brien Icehouse and with the Trans-Tasman clash upcoming followed by the restart of National Ice Hockey League all we can say is, welcome back to Docklands!

With so much conversation speaking directly to the controversial opening of ATET, it's fair to say this local business has arrived in Docklands with a bang.

It must be said that The Chamber does not play a role in permits, licenses,

applications, sound monitoring, complaints, etc. We do work with our members to promote and to engage them with community and other businesses. We will continue to do that.

It should be celebrated that we all enjoy a precinct uniquely zoned for residential, commercial, entertainment and industrial use providing vast opportunity and potential for growth particularly when emerging from the hardship of recent years.

We do agree, mistakes can be made and in turn, should be rectified. Above all, community must uphold a level of mutual respect which includes visitors,

residents and business alike.

Docklands is a mixed-use precinct and ATET is a family-owned business that is within its rights to operate within the rules in Docklands. We welcome ATET and on top of a cocktail and a boogie we look forward to open air yoga, cinema nights with a harbour backdrop and chilled acoustic sessions.

It's with excited anticipation we see summer months approaching and can't wait to see existing businesses fire up and welcome new business to the opportunity we have within our community our precinct. ●

ADAM BANDT

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE



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What's on: November 2022



MAKERS MARKET AT THE DISTRICT

UNTIL NOVEMBER 27 - FREE

Enjoy live entertainment and creative, colourful market stalls showcasing art, craft, jewelry, fashion, homewares, gifts, and delicious homemade and homegrown produce.



LIBRARY CINEMA

UNTIL NOVEMBER 28 - FREE

See contemporary, classic and documentary films on the big screen at Library Cinema. Feel free to stay for snacks and a chat afterwards.

Performance Space, Library at The Dock

SEA SHANTIES AND FOLK SONGS
UNTIL DECEMBER 8 - FREE

Come down to the Mission to Seafarers for a rollicking singalong of shanties, folk songs, work songs and drinking songs – no shanty experience or singing ability is needed, and newcomers are very welcome!

info@missiontoseafarers.com.au



TALAMITAM INTIMACY

UNTIL NOVEMBER 24 - FREE

An exhibition by four photographers who make work that explores aspects of 'talamitam'. Entry to gallery is on Batmans Hill Drive near corner of Bourke St (see website for instructions).

photo-gallery.xyz



STOMPERS AT LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

UNTIL NOVEMBER 29 - FREE

Come along for an energetic 30 minutes of stories, songs, rhymes, music and most of all, fun. Ages 18 months to 3 years; no bookings necessary.

Library at The Dock



BEARBRASS PROBUS MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 10.30am - FREE

Bearbrass Probus Club invites guests to our November meeting and lunch to hear speaker Jennifer Porter on "Archaeology in Melbourne's CBD". Jennifer has worked on sites ranging from PNG to Port Arthur. She now specialises in unearthing the buried histories of Melbourne emerging from sites like the Melbourne Metro Tunnel.

Dock Library, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands
Contact bearbrassprobus@gmail.com or just turn up.

FEDERAL MP

Cost of living crisis



Melbourne is a fantastic place to live, but many in our community are doing it tough, with the cost-of-living crisis spiralling out of control.



As Labor delivered its first federal budget last week, it had a choice: tax cuts for billionaires and politicians, or immediate cost of living relief.

It was disappointing to see Labor choose tax cuts for the wealthy, while everyone else was left waiting. People can't afford childcare, can't afford the rent and can't afford to go to the dentist. They can't afford insurance, and they can't afford the power bills.

We must do more to address the cost of living right now. That's why the Greens will keep fighting to get dental into Medicare for everyone, deliver free childcare and wipe student debt.

With a Victorian Election around the corner, it's time for our community to make a choice.

In a wealthy country like Australia, everyone should have a roof over their head. But the homelessness crisis remains, and renters are doing it tough. During the first six months of 2022, the big four banks made \$14 billion in profit, while interest rates rose too.

The Greens will make housing affordable and end the special treatment for property developers. We'll cap rents, giving renters' real rights and push for urgent action to regulate short-stay apartments.

Last month, communities in Melbourne were devastated by climate-floods. Coal and gas are fuelling the climate crisis, but the Victorian



Labor Government wants to open up new gas drilling, near the 12 Apostles. Only the Greens have a plan to get out of coal and gas and replace it with 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

During the past eight years, I have worked closely with my colleague in the Victorian Parliament Ellen Sandell to deliver for the Docklands community. Alongside the community, together we have improved TV reception, secured a Docklands school and invested in infrastructure and services.

I am confident that Ellen can continue to be your strong, independent voice in Parliament, restoring integrity and working for you.

This November, vote Greens for climate action, rent caps and integrity in government. ●



Adam Bandt
FEDERAL MP FOR MELBOURNE
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10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

NOVEMBER 2012 | ISSUE 81 |



It feels good to Micah

Like many four-year-old boys, Micah Cheung loves trains.

However, unlike most four-year-olds, Micah can read about trains in books written in Braille.

Micah is vision-impaired and attends Gowrie Harbour Family and Children's Centre in Docklands.

He has attended Gowrie since he was 18 months old and the staff have incorporated Braille into the centre's programs in a variety of ways.

Notices put up around the centre are Brailled, the children have learnt about Braille artists and the centre has been visited by paralympian Ian Speed, who also has a vision-impairment.

By incorporating Braille in these and other ways, Gowrie hopes to enable Micah to reach his potential and also to educate his peers about vision-impairment.

Gowrie educator Ceri May said Micah's peers were keen to incorporate Braille into their programs and to make sure Micah was included.

Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development, Wendy Lovell, visited the centre last month to learn more about the Braille program.

She said it was clear that the staff at the centre were doing a fantastic job.

"It's clear he has a lot of confidence and that they are setting him up for his future education," Ms Lovell said.

Sue Hartley, from Vision Australia has worked with Micah since he was a toddler and said, in her experience, Gowrie's Braille program was unique.

She said Gowrie had not only provided the assistance needed for Micah to reach his potential but had also created a supportive environment.

"It's fantastic how Gowrie has taken on Micah's needs and created such an inclusive environment," Ms Hartley said.

Micah's mother, Elaine Wong agreed that



▲ Vision Australia's Sue Hartley, Minister Wendy Lovell, Gowrie educator Ceri May and Micah Cheung.

By incorporating Braille in these and other ways, Gowrie hopes to enable Micah to reach his potential and also to educate his peers about vision-impairment.



Gowrie had provided an exceptional opportunity for Micah to learn.

Micah will start school next year and Ms Wong said she was busy looking for a school that would be able to support Micah's needs in the same way Gowrie had. ●

港区社区日庆祝活动

11月26日Docklands港区将举办一个社区日庆祝活动，宣传港区居民的才能，并展示港区所能提供的一切。

Brendan Rees

社区日“在Yarra's Edge的庆祝活动”将通过一系列的参展商、信息会议、社会联系、娱乐和餐饮将社区聚集在一起。

该活动于中午12点至下午3点在港区One Padel体育场 21号棚(Lorimer街206号)举行，向在港区生活和工作的所有人开放。

活动组织者Jenny Leywa de Loryn和David Wallace-Lemmon在港区生活了22年，他们表示，在两年的疫情封锁后，社区受到压抑的有需求“关怀联络”。

他们说：“我们发出了一项调查，旨在深入了解有关社区的兴趣，结果反应非常

热烈。”

“这就是举办这个庆祝活动的真正原因。活动的主要赞助商很早就主动要求参与。”

“Mirvac集团是港区社区建设的重要组成部分，是第一个加入的主要赞助商，在活动中还将提供最新项目的信息。”

当天的参展商包括澳新银行、18 Pence Lane 咖啡馆、港区社区之家、O'Brien 滑冰场、Barry Plant地产商（也是主要赞助商）、港区玩具图书馆、Think Pink基金会、维州警察厅、EmaJane Fisher 艺术公司、MTA旅行社、Petwell宠物店、Premium Fitness健身房等。

活动还有“小型参展商”出售珠子和蜡烛。

Docklands港区商会也将作为参展方，帮助筹划和开展这项庆祝活动，并利用这个机会为参加的居民推广“港区货币（Docklands Dollars）”的计划。

欲了解更多信息，请访问：facebook.com/CelebrateatYE



港区社区门户网站上线

一个面向Docklands港区的社区门户网站已经上线，为在港区生活、工作或学习的当地人提供了一个专用空间，让他们可以随时了解邮编3008区域内的项目开发和各种活动，并对社区未来发表意见。

David Schout

该网站是市政新建立覆盖本市不同区域的10个“社区门户”网站之一，希望成为一个一站式的社区门户空间，提供所有相关的本地信息。

这其中包括开发项目的更新、如何预订场地或会议室、如何申请资金，重要的是如何对影响当地社区的事情发表意见。

值得注意的是，市议会还为港区（以及其他九个区域）聘用了一名“合作伙伴”，作为社区具体问题的主要联络人。

市政希望此举将有助于社区与市政议会的联系，分享他们对未来的想法。

市政承认，市内的不同区域(例如，港区与东墨尔本之间)存在巨大差异，并表示其新的“基于区域”的邻里方法将确保能够理



解和应对独特的社区问题。

市政表示，这种模式确保了“社区参与的持续循环”，使得当地知识和优先事项转化为具体行动。

市长Sally Capp告诉本报：“我们知道每个社区都有不同的需求、机遇和挑战，所以我们很自豪能够为全市每个社区推出一个专用的社区门户网站。”

截至10月26日，所有10个社区门户网站都已上线。其余八个是：卡尔顿、港区、东墨尔本、北墨尔本、帕克维尔、南岸、South Yarra和西墨尔本。

欲了解更多信息，请访问：participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods

墨尔本船展人群蜂拥

为期四天的墨尔本船展吸引了约三万人参加，在Docklands港区举行的这项活动取得了巨大的成功。

Brendan Rees

船展的组织者，维多利亚划船行业协会(BIAV)表示，由于两年COVID疫情造成活动取消，给人们带来的压抑，促成了这次创纪录的参展人数，比预期增加了两倍。

BIAV的首席执行官Steve Walker说：“我们对整个船展活动非常满意，”并指出这也促进了当地商店、咖啡馆和餐馆的振兴，“非常重要的一点是，许多参展商家获得了非常好的价值”。

他说：“人们需求船只的生活方式正在增长。”

沿着NewQuay 海滨长廊的60个商家表示，船展活动为本地区提供了一个“良好的氛围”，这是“多年来最成功的船展”。

前来观展的游客尽情选择各种活动，从水上游船船只展示和岸上船只展示、贸易集市、音乐娱乐、海鲜烹饪示范、欢迎新游客来划船中心体验等等。

10月22日至23日的这个周末，与船展



同时进行的还有在O'Brien滑冰场举行澳大利亚全国冰球锦标赛，以及世界摩托车超级锦标赛也在Marvel体育场亮相，这为疫情后振兴港区带来了急需的经济刺激。

港区商会执行官Shane Wylie说，这三个活动都取得了巨大的成功，当地商家看到了营业额的积极增长。

他说：“餐馆席位满员，气氛热烈友好。”

“看到整个滨海长廊挤满了船只和商家，还看到Enterprise号(墨尔本高桅船)停泊在泊位上，是多么壮观的景象啊。”

“游客流量巨大，这确实促进了零售消费。我们希望这项活动能永远留在港区。”

原住民时尚品牌

原住民时尚品牌Ngali在墨尔本时装周(MFW)期间引人注目，其新工作室将永久入驻Docklands 港区。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Ngali由Wiradjuri设计师Denni Francisco创建，她不仅致力于展示原住民艺术家的作品，还致力于创作对话，她已经看到了这种对话发生在墨尔本时装周。

Francisco女士说：“我们真的很期待让更多年轻的原住民参与进来，这样他们就可以跟随专业人士，比如化妆师、创意总监和造型师。”

“但我们也招募了许多非原住民志愿

者，而他们之间的交流让他们能够更多地了解原住民，以及为原住民品牌做志愿者意味着什么。我们可以就我们是谁进行对话，并为每个人创造一个文化安全的环境。”

当天除了有人帮忙外，六位原住民艺术家还参与了由零售店Country Road 提供的靴子上绘制的宏伟画作艺术品。

这些靴子目前放在工作室里，等待着人们的惊叹观赏。

Fanscsco女士于2018年首次推出该品牌，当时她觉得自己的生活中缺少创意，尽管考虑到这是否是她正在寻找的解决方案，但她很快意识到在分享更大信息方面可能具有潜力。

她说：“我认识到，时尚是人们了解我们的文化和国家的一个简单入口，它确实开启了一种对话。”

这个想法很快发展成为与原住民艺术家



的合作，并通过展示原住民的服装来扩大其作品范围。

Francisco女士说：“这一切都是为了演绎作品，而不仅仅是照原样把它们放到布

料上。”

Ngali工作室位于 24 Aurora Lane, Docklands

欲了解更多信息，请访问：ngali.com

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hello@re-define.com.au re-define.com.au

Community



Docklands Neighbourhood House provides social and educational opportunities for the community of Docklands.

A: 4 Wharf St, Docklands
P: 9328 1126
W: thecentre.com.au



www.victoriaharbourmedicalcentre.com.au

Victoria Harbour Medical Centre Telephone 9629 1414
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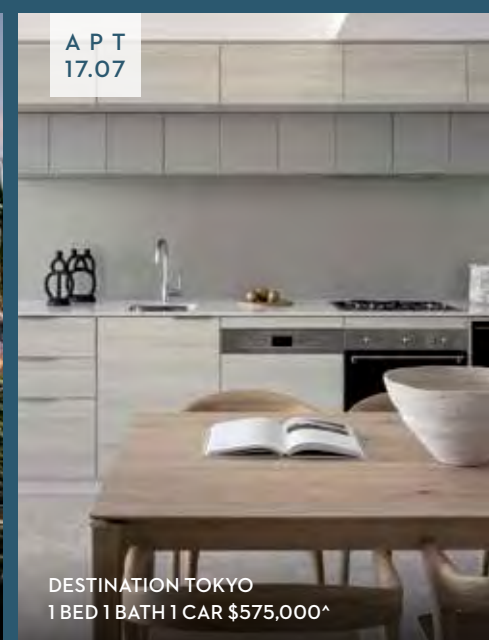
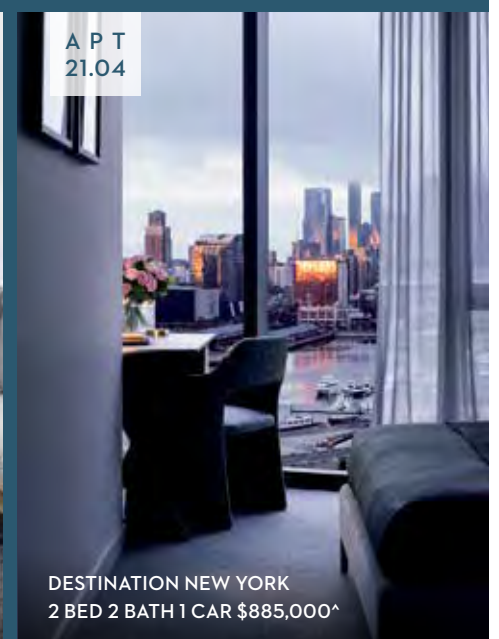
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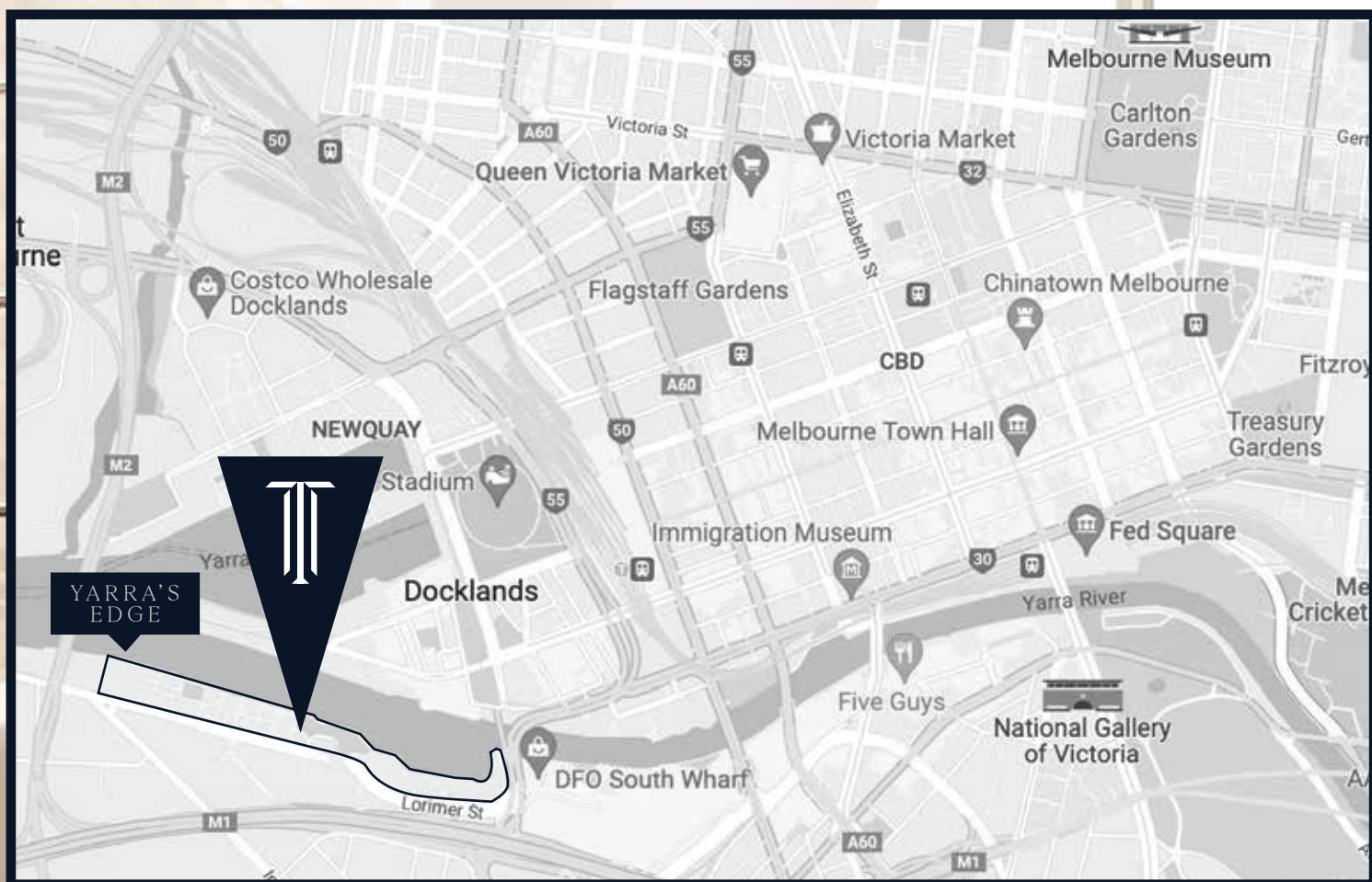
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