

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Community Day celebrates Docklands
Photo by Ajay Viswanath

A vibrant community event has attracted more than 500 people for an inaugural “Celebrate at Yarra’s Edge” day on November 26. Shed 21 was transformed into a parade of music, dance, food and fun while showcasing a mix of local talent and everything that Docklands has to offer following pent-up demand for the community to foster connections. *Full story on page 3.*

New 3500-capacity live music venue in Docklands rouses community concern

A new pop-up live music venue that could be built in Docklands under a state government-backed proposal has sparked community concern over its capacity to host 3500 people.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

The new venue – which *Docklands News* understands could be built at a vacant space next to the Costco supermarket on Footscray Rd – is part of an initiative to attract more people to the CBD and surrounding area.

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Ben Carroll announced in November that the government would spend \$5 million to create a “pop-up live performance venue which will attract new audiences and activate underused parts of the CBD”.

A Victorian Government spokesperson said the location of the venue, as well as its size and capacity had yet to be determined.

However, according to *The Age*, which had obtained cabinet documents, the proposed venue was being pushed by Live Nation, a US-based live music company, with a space being sought in Docklands to “fill a known gap in the Melbourne event and performance landscape” and host more than 100 shows a year with the capacity to hold crowds of up to 3500 people.

The Age also reported that the proposal had the support of Development Victoria, with Live Nation costing the venue at about \$20 million – of which it hoped the government would contribute \$5 million.

Documents stated the venture “may need to be market-tested for value, as other players in the indus-

try may also wish to be considered in achieving these outcomes,” according to *The Age*.

Docklands News sent multiple questions to the state government about the proposed venue including the preferred location, however in a statement it said, “the venue would be located in an under-utilised part of the city – the venue’s location, size and capacity are to be determined”.

“The government received a number of confidential proposals about temporary performance venues in Melbourne’s CBD,” it said.

“As is the case with projects of this nature, due diligence and assessment processes will be conducted in accordance with established probity guidelines.”

The government also referred to a \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund and \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, a government partnership with the City of Melbourne, which was “supporting festivals, events, public infrastructure works and upgrades to bring people into the city”.

The proposed venue comes as the recent launch of Melbourne’s first ever floating nightclub, ATET, caused a fierce community backlash after its throbbing beats were played until 1am.

A Docklands Representative Group spokesperson said the announcement of a new music venue “raises more questions than it

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Council’s “governance review” to tackle the *Docklands Act*

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne’s deputy chair of planning Cr Rohan Leppert has said “the timing is right” to embark on a governance review in an effort to move to a “post *Docklands Act* state”.

Cr Leppert made the comments at the November 8 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, whereby councillors unanimously endorsed the “Actions and Next Steps” report following September’s Docklands Summit.

While the report made a series of short- and medium-term recommendations to support reactivating the precinct (*read more on page X*), it was the longer-term recommendations of a strategic plan and governance review

that Cr Leppert described as the “really, really big issues”.

The council says it will establish a “Docklands Governance Review Group”, which will include representation from “the various government agencies in Docklands” and review roles, responsibilities and decision making.

In his submission to the report, Docklands Representative Group (DRG) chairperson Ben Ball asked whether the council would review the *Docklands Act 1991*, which he said was created to “streamline planning decisions at the time [when] there were no residents”.

“Now that there are 17,000 residents in Docklands, it’s appropriate that residents can have input to planning applications that affect their high-density living,” Mr Ball said. “Other ‘carve outs’ in the *Docklands Act* regularly

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New 3500-capacity live music venue in Docklands rouses community concern

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answers – and to date, we are unaware of any local consultations”.

“The first issue is what the government deems to be ‘underused space’, most especially in high-density residential areas, as the ATET debacle has shown,” the spokesperson said.

“Whether these proposals ultimately benefit Docklands both residents and local businesses – will be entirely dependent on good design.”

“This includes a focus upon acoustics, location (for transport and ease of access and egress) and finally, how they will be managed. But we can’t emphasise enough – talk to locals before proceeding down either of these paths”.

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce chief executive officer Shane Wylie said he had recently learned of a “large-scale festival and live music site” to be created in Docklands but did not have any further details about the proposal.

Mr Wylie said while Docklands was “certainly an example of an area that craves activation”, it was a mixed-use precinct which meant “that business, activations, and residents all need to co-exist”.

“We look forward to seeing the mix that the state government proposes moving forward and how this reflects on plans for the Central Pier evolution,” he said.

Lisa, a Docklands resident, said she was still experiencing noise issues from ATET, and worried that a bigger venue might be the breaking point for the community.

“ATET was the taster... I don’t think you’re going to get the community on

side with this one, they’re going to be very scared I think,” she said, adding community consultation was critical if the proposed music venue went ahead.

Lisa, who asked not to use her surname, said family-oriented events like the Firelight Festival were better options than music venues to “bring the tourist dollar back to Docklands like it used to be”.

“We know when we put events on in Docklands, the people and families come. We’ve just got to get that right mix and a good team together that just solely works for Docklands.”

Another resident Martin said while Docklands was an entertainment precinct, it was also heavily residential and the government “can’t have it both ways”.

“We’re not ones to complain easily but it’s a mild cause for concern,” he said of the proposed venue.

Akshay Bhatia of Victoria Star Cruises said the new music venue may not be of great benefit to cruise boat operators, but it would “probably be good for Docklands to reinvigorate the whole area”.

“Docklands is quite quiet. I guess having something like that and putting a few performances on, why not? Hopefully it would stimulate the area,” he said. ●



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“No end in sight” for Moonee Ponds Creek trail closure

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne (CoM) has called on Development Victoria (DV) to “articulate a process and date” by which the Moonee Ponds trail in Docklands would be reopened, with Cr Rohan Leppert describing the situation as “outrageous”.

As part of the Docklands Summit Actions and Next Steps report tabled at the November 8 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors supported an amendment to the motion which expressed “serious concern” with the trail’s ongoing closure to the public.

The motion stated that the council’s acting CEO Alison Leighton write to DV and responsible Minister to give effect to its position to provide the public with a plan and timeframe for the trail’s reopening.

A section of the Moonee Ponds Creek trail adjacent to Docklands Studios Melbourne has been closed since November 2020 to enable the construction of the studios, while a further section of trail has been closed due to works associated with the West Gate Tunnel Project.

During the meeting, Cr Rohan Leppert said he was “very angry” that it still remained closed, stating the council “didn’t think it would take this long for the trail to be reopened and there appeared to be “no end in sight”.

“I’m very angry that the Moonee Ponds Creek public trail

is still not open when permission was granted to close that temporarily to facilitate the refurbishment and expansion of the Docklands Studios,” he said.

“We didn’t think it would take this long for the trail to be reopened. There is no end in sight yet as to when the trail might be reopened and what design interventions might need to be pursued in order to actually get public access to the creek.”

“But, oh my goodness, it is outrageous that there is no plan in place; no time set, no process to explain to the public when public access to this public waterway will be reinstated.”

In response to questions from *Docklands News* as to whether it could provide the community with a timeline for the trail’s reopening, DV’s acting group head of precincts Niall Cunningham said it was working closely with the council on “options for reinstatement”.

“While we’re only in the very early stages of scoping this work – Development Victoria and CoM will continue to engage with stakeholders and the community in the development of any proposals to create a new trail,” Mr Cunningham said.

A statement from DV noted that prior to construction works beginning, it had established an alternative route, which “remains operational”, and said it would continue to work with the council to achieve its vision of a new trail outlined in council’s 2019 Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan. ●

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Council’s “governance review” to tackle the *Docklands Act*

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leaves council [with] the inability to make meaningful changes that residents ask for at these FMC meetings.”

Mr Ball added that, “similarly, the Docklands Community and Places Plan was created in 2012 and laid out numerous infrastructure project ideas, most of which haven’t eventuated” and asked councillors whether the plan would also be included in the review.

The *Docklands Act* – the overarching laws governing the precinct’s urban renewal – was created in 1991 to provide the then Docklands Authority (now Development Victoria) to enter into confidential agreements with developers to support streamlined development.

Development Victoria’s ongoing presence in Docklands has long been linked by many in the community with the “decision-making paralysis” that has long marred the precinct, which is governed by multiple authorities.

With an overwhelming majority of Docklands now built out, the DRG has called for residents to be given a say in planning matters affecting the area through the clear and publicly available controls set out in the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

In response to calls from the DRG, Cr Rohan Leppert said while there were still “a few key blocks which are yet to be developed”, bringing a review of the *Docklands Act* forward was “right” given the timing of the pandemic.

“What happens after this wave of development has concluded?” Cr Leppert asked.

“Well, most of the objectives and visions of those decisions to separate the *Docklands Act* and the strategic documents that fell out of that process early on have mostly been implemented.”

“So, what the position of government is, and by that I don’t mean the council and I don’t mean Development Victoria, but the government as a whole about what the future of Docklands is now that that mission is nearing conclusion.”

“This is a really, really important question ... bringing that question a bit earlier than when we might have tried to tackle it and answer it given the timing of the pandemic, I think is the right one.”

Cr Leppert said the council needed to think carefully about when to “pull the starter’s trigger” on a governance review and the development of a strategic plan, because they “really have to happen at the same time”.

“If we want to move to a post *Docklands Act* state, which I would quite like to do because I’ve been here for 10 years and I’ve still never seen a single word written in any development agreement signed between any of the developers and Development Victoria or its precursors ...” he said.

“Therefore, we don’t know what’s in store not just for building finance and development yield, but how many people are proposed for each precinct based on the agreements that are being set in secret. It makes it very difficult for government to plan for community when you don’t have access to that key information; even a summary of those development agreements.”

In flagging “a post *Docklands Act* way of planning” where “I hope the City of Melbourne takes the lead”, Cr Leppert called on the council to “give it our all, and let’s figure out what might be possible”.

The council has vowed to continue working with Docklands’ major planning authority Development Victoria as part of its partnership agreement. DV’s then group head of precincts Geoff Ward told *Docklands News* as recently as May that it still saw an important role for itself in Docklands.

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

“We know there is still more to do in Docklands – which is why we’re continuing to look at opportunities and events which will entice people to the area and support local businesses.”

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

For more coverage on the Docklands Summit report, head to page 9 for a further report, as well as an editorial from Docklands resident Cr Jamal Hakim. ●



Community day celebrates Docklands with mix of local talent and music

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

A vibrant community event has attracted more than 500 people for an inaugural “Celebrate at Yarra’s Edge” day on November 26.

Shed 21 at One Padel Docklands was transformed into a parade of music, dance, food and fun while showcasing a mix of local talent and everything that Docklands has to offer following pent-up demand for the community to foster connections.

“The wind was strong but the spirit of the Docklanders couldn’t be wavered, and people are already talking about the connections made on the day as well as the good vibe that was felt,” organisers Jenny Leyva de Loryn and David Wallace-Lemmon, both long-term residents, said.

“The event was an overwhelming success with 39 door prizes won, 40 stallholders, two dance showcases, seven information sessions, 250 showbags handed out and around 500 to 600 locals in attendance with DJ Antidope keeping the energetic vibe going with his tunes.”

Mr Wallace-Lemmon and Ms

Leyva de Loryn sincerely thanked all of those who were there and made the event a success including volunteers, The District Docklands, and the City of Melbourne.

“We also thank all of the sponsors who donated the budget to make the event happen; Mirvac, Barry Plant, Docklands Chamber of Commerce and One Padel, and also all of the local businesses that donated prizes totalling nearly \$6000.”

At time of publishing a photo competition was still active:

Grand Prize: Chimp Love Forever (small bronze statue) crafted by Gillie and Marc donated by Mirvac valued at \$1000 gillieandmarc.com/products/chimp-love-forever-medium-bronze

Second Prize: “Melbourne my Night” class from Matt Krumins Photography valued at \$130

Third prize: \$100 voucher from Teds Cameras ●

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North Wharf works due for completion by mid-2023, as ATET's push for Sunday trading heads to council in December

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Development Victoria (DV) says it has started the process to remediate the western end of North Wharf allowing floating nightclub ATET to move to its preferred location in mid-2023, with the operator's bid to trade on Sundays to go before the City of Melbourne for a decision on December 6.

The controversial floating nightclub, which originally proposed to operate at the western tip of North Wharf near the Bolte Bridge, remains based at a temporary location near Shed 2 while DV completes restoration works at the wharf's end.

In a statement to *Docklands News*, DV's acting group head of precincts Niall Cunningham said it had started the process to procure a contractor to undertake remediation works to "strengthen and improve" the western tip of North Wharf.

"We anticipate these works will be complete by mid 2023. These repairs will allow more people and businesses to enjoy the wharf safely," Mr Cunningham said.

However, he added that, "any move from ATET's current location along North Wharf would require the operator to seek the relevant permit and licences approvals from the City of Melbourne, who are the responsible authority."

While ATET's barge is currently situated around 250 metres from the closest apartment towers at Yarra's Edge and Victoria Harbour, the move



to the end of the wharf is hoped to provide affected residents with added reprieve from any ongoing noise impacts.

The barge's location was just one of a string of issues raised by more than a dozen residents who addressed the City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on November 8 to express their concerns directly with councillors.

It followed ATET's opening weekend on October 22-23, which attracted an unprecedented number of complaints from locals due to excessive noise until 1am, while the business was also found to have breached its permit by operating on a Sunday.

ATET was ultimately ordered to cease Sunday trading and undergo

an independent acoustics assessment that was later peer reviewed by the council, which also conducted separate testing of its own.

The council has confirmed the venue has since demonstrated "general compliance" with its permit and noise protocols set out by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and said it would continue to facilitate "random noise testing".

Local resident Graham Mercer, one of 13 Docklanders to submit questions to councillors at the November 8 FMC meeting, asked, "when can residents expect some relief from this untenable situation?"

"Nearby residents are severely impacted by this business, young residents and children in general aren't

able to sleep until 1am," Mr Mercer said.

Docklands Representative Group (DRG) chairperson Ben Ball questioned the suitability of ATET operating in a high-density residential area, while another resident said "disturbing noise" was causing stress and anxiety for residents. "Residents are unable to open their doors or sit on their balcony," she said.

Another resident asked why the council supported ATET as a way of bringing people to Docklands, while others pointed to the validity of the approval process, antisocial behaviour and whether a more suitable location could be found for the business.

The council's director of planning

and building Julian Edwards said it approved the use of the barge as a place of assembly at the location as it "met all of the planning requirements" within a mixed-use environment.

However, he added that the council had formed the view that noise from the venue during its opening weekend was "likely to have been excessive", but that ATET had since demonstrated compliance following acoustic testing.

"On this basis, council currently has no grounds to start proceedings to seek the venue be discontinued," Mr Edwards said, adding that any issues relating to antisocial behaviour should be directed to Victoria Police.

Mr Mercer responded to Mr Edwards by saying, "I would invite Julian or anybody else that can make a decision to come to somebody's apartment on a Friday or a Saturday night at 1am and listen to the rubbish that residents have to put up with. It is no way able to meet some theoretical noise limit."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp replied, "the noise limit is certainly not theoretical; it is set by the EPA, and we are responsible for monitoring and managing that. And, we do have a resident Cr Hakim here and he has certainly been monitoring activity there."

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said antisocial and dangerous behaviour would not be tolerated in the City of Melbourne, and told residents, "We have heard you, loud and clear".

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▲ Cr Reece addresses the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on November 8.

amenity concerns in Docklands do need to be responded to and I think that the top of that list includes the City of Melbourne committing to work with Development Victoria and others to identify a location for this barge which is sustainable," Cr Reece said.

While noise from ATET's barge has dramatically reduced since its infamous opening weekend, many locals have continued to experience issues, with one Yarra's Edge resident reporting that their furniture was vibrating during the weekend of November 12.

As recently as Victorian Election Night on November 26, many were still claiming noise from the barge was "too loud", and the council told *Docklands News* it continues to receive an average of 10 to 15 ATET-related complaints each weekend.

Resident Bill Thompson attended the council's most recent FMC meeting in Southbank on November 22 asking several questions of councillors, including whether sound measurements had been made from inside apartments.

Mr Edwards said acoustic testing

was "not required inside of residential premises to determine if a venue is compliant with the protocols", adding "if levels are compliant outside of a building, then they will be compliant inside".

He also confirmed that ATET's request to amend its permit to include Sunday trading would be considered at the December 6 FMC meeting, with the council having received a total 448 submissions at the time *Docklands News* published its December/January edition.

Cr Reece sought to assure Mr Thompson at the meeting that the council was "all over it".

"As councillors we've made multiple site visits at quite late hours of the evening I should say, just to satisfy ourselves that what we're hearing is correct," he said.

"We have also had numerous discussions around the independent acoustics, and I can say I have verified for myself that acoustics framework that we've put in place."

"We're also in discussions with multiple parties and agencies about the location of the venue as well - we're working on it." ●

Residents up in arms about case 953770 – ATET nightclub

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
COMMUNITY

Heather Richards lives in the Forge apartment tower at Yarra's Edge and she looks out over the river.

She has a clear view of a new, contentious night club ATET on Victoria Harbour.

By day it looks like a charming greenhouse nestled next to the wharf.

But by night, most recently on Victorian Election Night, it was a pulsing mass of colour and of the deep, deafening bass of "doof doof" music.

If Heather opens the doors and has dinner on her balcony, she can still hear what her dining companions have to say. However, the noise from ATET is still present and intrusive.

But when the ATET nightclub first opened over the weekend of October 22-23, the noise was so loud for the people of Yarra's Edge that children couldn't sleep, furniture rattled, and residents were riled.

On November 26, Election Night, Heather received a close-up video of the nightclub from a fellow resident and campaigner. It included footage of a patron jumping into the water (pictured above).

The fight to have the volume of ATET turned down has taken residents to multiple City of Melbourne council meetings, to the EPA and now to *Docklands News*.

When *Docklands News* first spoke to Heather she was relaxed about the campaign. She said that hundreds of residents were affected, however, the communication that she personally had with the council indicated it was listening.

She'd lodged a complaint via the council's website the week before and they'd phoned back the next day. Patrols were sent out and it appeared that the volume had been turned down at around 9.30pm.

She said the volume may have gone up again when there was a new DJ but she, in a "live and let live" community spirit mood, was off to make her own noise at a council Gateway Hub community event by the river. Then she received an email from the council and said to disregard her former comments.

"The person on duty last weekend was compassionate," she said. "He heard you. This [next council officer] person has dismissed everything I had to say."

The residents of the Forge and Voyager apartment



blocks and the townhouses facing the river at Yarra's Edge say they have been severely affected by the nightclub's noise and have a right to be taken seriously.

"Last night [November 26] there was a lot of comment," Heather said. "It was louder than it has been. There were a lot of chats."

Heather, who has a therapy background, added, "I appear calm. I have a good grip on emotions. It's okay to be angry. It's what you do with it that counts."

She said she was using her anger in a constructive way to get an outcome from the council, but that the officer she'd most recently dealt with had been dismissive towards residents and they're "up in arms about it" because the email titled "case 953770" attempts to pass the buck between different departments.

"Certain issues reported to council can be directed to various different areas, depending on the precise nature of the issue and based on information provided by our customers," the email from a City of Melbourne local laws officer said.

"This is an example of an issue that may be handled by planning, waterways, or local laws. I noticed that this case has come through to local laws but your previous case was directed to planning enforcement, so I've reviewed the background on this issue before proceeding to ensure that it is being managed in the most efficient and appropriate manner."

The email went on to reallocate the case to Planning Enforcement then stated: "I will let you know that it appears this matter [the investigation] is confidential so there may only be very limited information available to you, but rest assured the matter is being taken seriously and work is well under way." ●

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DEPUTY LORD MAYOR NICHOLAS REECE

Think big and act local

Now in his sixth year as a City of Melbourne councillor, the Deputy Lord Mayor said he was inspired to stand for election after being part of a citizens' panel.

"My first encounter with the City of Melbourne - apart from having been a resident and working in the city - was running a citizens' panel that helped develop a 10-year council plan back in about 2014. That experience really opened my eyes to all the important touchpoints local council has in people's lives.

"I have been very fortunate to have a career in public service working for a Prime Minister and premiers, not-for-profits like *The Big Issue* and Movember, as well as having been a lawyer and in business. Having got under the bonnet at Town Hall I was struck by a sense that I could bring all that experience together and make a real difference.

"The thing I love about the City of Melbourne is that you get to think big and act local.

"We tackle some of the toughest issues going around such as economic recovery after the pandemic, homelessness or climate change - but we do it in ways that make a real difference to people's daily lives."

"We also turn up every single day and deliver all those key services that make the city hum. There is a lot of pride to be found in keeping the city, clean, green, bustling, buzzing, healthy, smart and safe."

The Deputy Lord Mayor says sustainability and design excellence are two priority interests in his role as head of the City of Melbourne's planning portfolio.

"We have a big role to play in making Melbourne a truly sustainable city - we are leading the way in moving to zero emissions and zero waste.

"Two thirds of emissions in the City of Melbourne come from buildings - so having more environmentally-friendly buildings is a critical part of the pathway to us being a sustainable city."

The Deputy Lord Mayor said he was proud of the work being done at the City of Melbourne to lift standards of design and architectural excellence.

"Too much crap was being built. So we've introduced a design excellence program which for the first time includes a Design Review Panel and a Design Excellence Advisory Committee.

"We've put in place new standards so Melburnians will see more buildings that they can be proud of, that give back to the city more than they take.

"Buildings that have high quality materials that will stand the test of time, with green roofs and walls, energy efficient, sustainable transport enabled, and delivering high levels of amenity.

"I want Melbourne to be the Copenhagen of the south, a city that people from all over the world visit because we are an exemplar of architectural excellence, urban design and green buildings."

Having been part of council before and during the pandemic, he regards 'Melbourne in lockdown' as his biggest challenge.

"As a city councillor I was coming into Town Hall a lot during that period and it was an absolute tragedy to see those empty streets. Cities without people are sad and scary places.

"COVID-19 was a one-in-100-year disruption for Melbourne and we were the hardest hit municipality in the country economically.

"Melbourne was really tested during the lockdown and the mettle of the council was tested too. I think the city rose to the challenge and showed Melburnians, and the world, our character.

"For example, when nine public housing towers in North Melbourne and Flemington were put into hard lockdown without warning, there were issues getting food supplies in. The City of Melbourne stepped up and played a coordinating role through our community centre to get vitally needed supplies to people in need."

He's also proud of City of Melbourne's support for international students during this period.

"They were left high and dry without work and without any form of welfare support.

"So we stepped in with food vouchers for students which they could redeem at the Queen Victoria Market - we made a very clear statement about the students being part of Melbourne, part of our community, good young people who needed our care.

"Melbourne Town Hall was also set up as a community health vaccination hub that was open to everyone - it became a popular vaccination centre for homeless and marginalised people, international students, people on temporary permit visas, and anyone else who fell through the cracks of the health system.

"We were there at the coalface, as the level of government closest to the people. The City of Melbourne was there for them."




Now that the economic outlook is more promising, he says council's support for business, events and city activation are all bearing fruit.

"The city has gone through some really tough times, but now there is a real sense of excitement as the recovery takes off."

"Recent data shows a record number of new hospitality venues opening. The buzz is well and truly coming back to Melbourne and it's new and exciting, and different. Melbourne right now is a city of possibility."

In distilling his approach as a councillor, the Deputy Lord Mayor said: "No issue too small, no issue too big. I absolutely love helping people with day-to-day problems around the city, fixing things for them. I also love being part of something bigger than any of us. The survival, then the recovery, and now the reinstatement of Melbourne as the world's best city - bigger, better and brighter than ever before."

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

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End of an era for Central Pier as demolition permit gets approval

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

Heritage Victoria has granted a permit to demolish Central Pier with Development Victoria (DV) revealing a strategy will be formed to guide the pier's revitalisation options through community consultation.

The demolition, which is expected to begin in 2023, marks an end of an era for the 100-year-old pier which was previously home to The Woolshed Pub, and function spaces, with the pier and Victoria Harbour included on the state heritage register.

The 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".

DV's acting group head of precincts Niall Cunningham encouraged the Docklands community to share their ideas and visions for Central Pier and adjacent waterfront areas via the online survey on the Engage Victoria website at engage.vic.gov.au/central-pier before it closes on December 22.

"The feedback, ideas and suggestions we gather from the consultation phase will help us develop a Place Principles and Vision strategy that will guide future development options," he said.

"We will share this strategy with the Docklands community, as part of our ongoing commitment to engaging with all key stakeholders on the pier's future redevelopment."

Mr Cunningham said DV also shared the community's interest in celebrating the Traditional Owners and maritime cultural heritage of the waterfront area.

DV lodged a permit application with Heritage Victoria in August this year to remove the remaining unsafe pier structure from the water - with Mr Cunningham maintaining DV would comply with all conditions attached to

the heritage permit.

A procurement process was underway to appoint a contractor to remove the pier. The pier's western tip has been removed after it was deemed dangerous and structurally unsound.

In addition to the online survey, the community is invited to share their ideas for the area, in person, at the Docklands Community Market on Sunday, December 11 along NewQuay Promenade. DV's project team will be on hand to help between 12pm and 4pm.

An online community workshop will also be held on Tuesday, December 6 from 7pm to 9pm, in which registrations are essential at:



The City of Melbourne has made Central Pier a priority project with a council report in November stating the council would "continue to advocate for delivery of anchor attraction on Central Pier as a drawcard for Docklands" while also committing to work with DV to "deliver outcomes of interpretation strategy for Central Pier and Victoria Harbour more broadly".

Last month, *Docklands News* revealed a giant fish-shaped structure, complete with a wet fish market, education facilities, restaurants and an events centre to "compete with Crown Palladium", was being proposed to replace Central Pier.

The group behind the draft proposal, the Melbourne City Fish Market, released images of the concept, which it said would take part in DV's public consultation process for Central Pier.

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

Angel comes home after being snatched in frightening theft

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A much-loved family pet has been reunited with her owner after being taken from outside a Docklands restaurant on November 5.

Angel, a five-year-old Shih Tzu, was secured to a pole on Bourke St outside a restaurant before she was brazenly snatched at around 8.30pm.

Police launched a public campaign into the theft with Melbourne West police releasing CCTV and images of a man they hoped could assist with their enquiries.

In a stroke of luck, police confirmed Angel had been returned to her owner by a third party on November 11 at around 7pm.

The offender, however, remained at large with police investigating. The man is perceived to be Indian subcontinental in appearance with black curly hair and a black beard.

"He was wearing a bandanna as a headband and a black long-sleeve polo top with a white stripe on the collar over a white shirt and light jeans with large horizontal rips across the knees, and sneakers," a police spokesperson said.

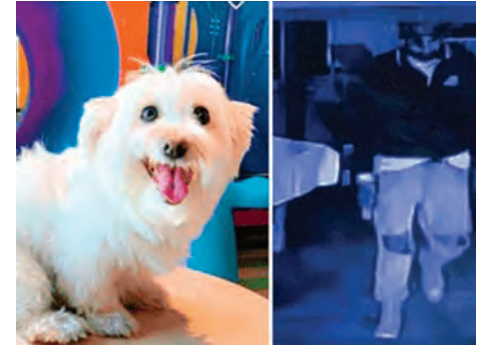
Among those to help find Angel was Docklands resident and dog owner Ayda Hornak who said she cried after learning of the incident.

"I was in tears, I thought if that was my dog, what would I've done. I watched the footage, and I was just horrified, it really disturbed me," she said.

Ms Hornak said she, along with dozens of other community members, shared the CCTV from police with community groups on social media.

"We were all so relieved," Ms Hornak said upon hearing the news Angel had been found, but added the theft was a reminder for all pet owners to keep their dogs safe in public.

"We see on the news constantly and social



media that there is a big black market selling stolen dogs. Everyone knows about it, and owners need to be more diligent and make sure that their dogs are safe," she said.

Ms Hornak said she never left her dog alone and if she was refused entry to a shop she wouldn't enter "because there's no way I'm leaving him outside".

Ms Hornak, who runs PetWell, said her business had team up with RES by Mirvac in running community-based pet education sessions to share valuable tips around responsible pet ownership, pet care, behavioural training, health and nutrition tips for pets, as well as offering tips around myotherapy for pets and more.

"We have a network of qualified pet professionals who deliver these valuable tips. Our next session is in the first week of February. For more details on the event simply email us at enquiries@petwell.au and we will keep you in the loop," she said.

Pet professionals wishing to share tips on how to maintain a healthy and happy pooch, can register their interest at petwell.au/affiliate-application-form

Anyone with information about the theft of Angel is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au ●

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Community battery a first step for renewable energy in Docklands

WORDS BY *David Schout & Sean Car*
SUSTAINABILITY

The state government has announced a new community battery for Docklands, which will give locals small businesses owners without roof access the chance to benefit from renewable energy.

The battery, charged by rooftop wind and solar during the day and released back into the energy grid when most needed, is set to be located at Library at the Dock.

It is one of the first of a series of neighbourhood-scale batteries to be installed by the City of Melbourne as part of its Power Melbourne project.

Victorian Minister for Energy Lily D'Ambrosio announced two new neighbourhood batteries in Richmond and Docklands – which, combined, would cost \$1.5 million – in November as part of the government's ambition to "slash emissions and power bills".

In the lead-up to the November 26 Victorian Election, Premier Daniel Andrews then made a commitment to install 100 neighbourhood batteries across the state.

Neighbourhood-scale batteries increase energy stability and enable the grid to support more rooftop solar by storing generated electricity during the day and discharging it back at night.

The Library at the Dock battery will be a 150kW/300kWh system – a one-megawatt capacity (1000kWh) system is equivalent to powering 2000 average homes for around two hours.

So, while the battery alone would not make a pronounced improvement on both the price of energy and the consumption of "greener" power, it represents a solid first step to the council's aim of being 100 per cent powered by renewable energy by 2030. Many Docklanders cannot install their own rooftop solar panels and were worried about the extra cost of green power.

The council has said that locals and business owners will eventually be able to sign up to a Power Melbourne electricity plan for "reliable,



affordable, renewable energy".

"Neighbourhood batteries capture more power from rooftop solar during the day and feed it back in the evening, sharing the cost savings of solar with local communities," Minister D'Ambrosio said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was "thrilled" that the state government was getting behind its "ambitious" Power Melbourne project, which presented "exciting opportunities for emissions reductions, as well as job creation and the local economy".

"This innovative renewable energy initiative will also make it easier and more affordable for local residents and small businesses to access clean energy sources – something that's important to so many Melburnians," Cr Capp said.

In 2019 City of Melbourne councillors declared a climate and biodiversity "emergency", and have said this was done to "bring a focus to our efforts and investments".

Addressing the Zero-Carbon Jobs Summit on November 23, held at RMIT University as part of the Victorian Cleantech Expo, the Lord Mayor said council facilities were already 100 per cent powered by renewable energy, however the wider goal was far greater.

"Every light on our streets, every barbecue in our parks and every treadmill in our recreation centres is powered by renewable energy," she said.

"Our next renewable energy endeavour, Power Melbourne, builds on that remarkable success. It will establish a network of coordinated neighbourhood-scale batteries to deliver more renewable energy into the grid – ensuring that Melbourne is powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and achieves zero net emissions by 2040."

"But Power Melbourne will also rally a wave of innovation in the mid-scale battery sector. It will encourage greater uptake of renewables and create opportunities for research, training and jobs in the green technology sector."

She has said Power Melbourne was a "lead project" in the wider renewable energy by 2030 push.

The council says it is exploring a range of other locations throughout the city for battery assets, including Council House 2, Queen Victoria Market and land owned by Power Melbourne partners. Community consultation for the neighbourhood batteries closed on November 4 and the council is expected to announce its successful retail partner for Power Melbourne in December. ●



Residents call for action on nightclubs

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

Docklands residents have called on Premier Daniel Andrews and other parliamentarians to ban nightclub operations in the precinct as noise and anti-social behaviour were pushing the community to the brink.

In a six-page letter, residents outlined how nightclubs, in which it singled out the Sri Lounge, had impacted on their health and well-being – with loud beats being played until 3am.

"Nightclub operation in Docklands residential area is not just to deprive Docklands residents basic sleep human rights, to deteriorate local residents' mental health, but it has also dramatically increased criminal rates," the letter, which was submitted on behalf of the Docklands Resident Neighbourhood Watch before the state election, stated.

It also stated that nightclubs brought "many outsiders of troublemakers" who wandered around the area until the early hours of the morning when nightclubs closed.

The letter urged the state government "to commit original Docklands development principles," and to "stop nightclub options in Docklands residential area".

"Docklands is considered to be one of Victoria tourist destinations, many interstate and international visitors are accommodated and dine in Docklands hotels and restaurants," the letter read.

"Therefore, it is necessary and obligatory for political leaders to safeguard international visitors' safety and to preserve Victoria's respectable safety reputation internationally." ●

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Docklands is the water gateway to Melbourne.



WORDS BY *Cr Jamal Hakim*

Those who know Docklands know it is an amazing place to live, work and play. But Docklands has long been perceived as an isolated neighbourhood that lacks community. I've always argued this is not true – Docklands is home to a growing community that is set to bloom.

When I first moved to Melbourne after graduating from uni in 2008, I stumbled across Docklands for lunch and I fell in love with the place. Since then, I've called Docklands home and have seen it evolve and grow every year, whether it's the tram realignment on Harbour Esplanade, the upgrades to The District, or the addition of Ron Barassi Senior Park. By 2019, Docklands was going from strength to strength with an extra 39,100 jobs created in the precinct in the preceding decade. Then came 2020.

Docklands was one of the worst affected neighbourhoods in the country under the pandemic. Two-thirds of shopfronts were vacant, thousands of apartments sat empty, and offices became unoccupied shells. As we emerged from lockdowns, Docklands started to take shape again – but something was missing.

At the City of Melbourne, we are not going to let this burgeoning, dynamic suburb fade away. We hosted the recent Docklands Summit to bring the community together, build trust and establish common ground to start delivering for Docklands.

Docklands is an asset to Melbourne as a thriving, connected and exciting neighbourhood. The Summit is only the start of our work. It gave us a platform to set out short-, medium- and long-term actions for success.

We need a three-pronged approach. We need to foster a collaborative community environment, maintain energy and momentum to delivery, and we need to create certainty and common drivers. This is how actions

envisaged are delivered, and this is how the vision for Docklands as the water gateway to Melbourne is realised and maximised.

Collaboration through active participation across the community is essential. Residents, businesses, and government: collaboration means balanced outcomes that best meet the needs of the community. Every single person has a role to play in manifesting Docklands' bright future by taking part and genuinely working together.

A collaborative environment lays the bedrock for action, and maintaining momentum is critical. The actions from the Summit have a short, medium and long-term view so Docklands is progressively transforming every year. In the short-term, an oversight working group and the neighbourhood portal will play an important role in facilitating that momentum by holding each other to account and driving delivery right now, while a strategic plan and multi-agency partnership will curate outcomes in the medium- and long-term.

There are positive signs the neighbourhood is regaining its 2019 rhythm. Throughout November, night-time activity was above pre-pandemic levels. The state government has committed to the redevelopment of Central Pier as a hub for hospitality, entertainment and retail – a project that has the potential to generate more than \$770 million in economic benefits and create as many as 3800 jobs.

To harness this momentum, clear themes for Docklands will provide clarity and direction to locals, visitors and government. Its rich maritime heritage pulses like an undercurrent, connecting 60,000 years of experience. It is an increasingly family-friendly and accessible suburb, with the school, library and community centres as anchor points. Docklands is home to innovation hubs for technology, film, sport, arts and technology. These reasons and more are why people choose to live, work and visit Docklands.

The Summit allowed the community to come together and step into the driving seat. When there is unity, nothing is impossible. The outcomes are clear, and a whole-of-community effort will ensure Docklands continues to grow as a thriving and exciting place to live, work and play. ●

Harbour beautification and small-scale activations on the cards for Docklands

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has prioritised a long list of projects to help reinvigorate the Docklands precinct with immediate harbour beautifications and a community events space along Harbour Esplanade being proposed.

The potential new projects – which include advocacy for the redevelopment of Central Pier, delivery of the shopfront activation program, Greenline, and the events partnership program – were put forward after councillors endorsed the Docklands Summit “actions and next steps” at their November 8 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

The Docklands Summit was a half-day event held on September 2, which consisted of presentations by key stakeholders and workshops to “elevate the urgent need and generate enthusiasm and outcomes for regeneration in Docklands” after it was heavily impacted by the pandemic.

A 38-page “What was said” report was compiled by the council and published on the Participate Melbourne website following the summit, which detailed ideas and aspirations to revitalise the Docklands precinct.

In endorsing the Docklands Summit, the council will now consider a range of project items in the short, medium and long term (subject to future council budget and resource planning) including:

- Undertake immediate beautification and wayfinding improvements around Victoria Harbour, Harbour Esplanade, NewQuay and Yarra's Edge, including planter boxes, public benches, public artwork and additional greening.
- Partner with Development Victoria (DV) to deliver physical improvements and a program of small-scale activations to Yanonung Quay (the new name for the ferry terminal at Victoria Harbour).
- Ensure communications celebrate Docklands and promote events that align with Docklands as a family friendly precinct.
- Partner with DV to review the operational capacity of existing community facilities and identify opportunities for improvements.
- Prepare a public realm improvements plan to review the current provision of amenities and identify areas for improvements and activations.
- Create a strategic plan for Docklands, partnering with the state government to ensure cross-government support to review “sub-precinct character and identity”.
- Establish a Docklands governance review group with the state government.

Addressing the council meeting, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the summit was the “reset that was needed in terms of energy and focus thinking” to ensure “Docklands delivers on its potential as one of Melbourne's and one of Australia's most amazing suburbs”.

In terms of the council's priority projects, Cr Reece said it would be “doubling down” on its efforts to work with Development Victoria in redeveloping Central Pier, which

he described as an “absolute must for Docklands”.

“It's such an asset with such potential and yes, it must be fixed,” he said.

Cr Reece also said Yanonung Quay could become “a world-famous location” in Melbourne as well as Australia's busiest commuter port by 2030 when Melbourne is predicted to overtake Sydney as the nation's largest city.

Overall, Cr Reece said the future of Docklands was exciting, and while the council would consider its budget deliberations he believed “there's a very big gain to be made from a modest investment”.

Other projects in the pipeline include exploring a space to display heritage vessels as part of Central Pier and Harbour Esplanade redevelopment, identifying opportunities to celebrate Aboriginal and maritime heritage, and finding new landscaping opportunities and upgrades.

A reconnection of the Moonee Ponds Creek trail, supporting water-based events, and working with DV to plan for “future community infrastructure” as part of addressing short-term demand will also be pushed.

The council will continue working with the Docklands Chamber of Commerce to support local businesses and hoped to review extending the Docklands Dollars program.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Shane Wylie said while beautification and activation of Harbour Esplanade was an “easy short-term win for all” and would promote visitation, he questioned why it had taken three years of community advocacy and a summit to achieve.

“Long-term collaboration and a strategy acknowledging that Docklands needs an aligned vision is one of the most important outcomes of the summit,” he said. “One of the issues that we, traders, event managers and developers have had is the number of authorities that Docklands has.”

A Docklands Representative Group spokesperson said document was primarily aimed at increasing visitation to Docklands with little focus on residents.

“It is very telling that this document mentions ‘events’ 18 times, ‘activations’ 15 times, and ‘residents’ once,” the spokesperson said.

“It is also very disappointing that the statistics about residents, in particular the vacancy rates, shared at the summit were a year out of date with no source stated.

“Despite repeated requests to City of Melbourne, they have not explained why they used a vacancy rate of 42 per cent when the current Docklands residential vacancy rate is very low. The question is, why did they paint such a negative picture of the residential situation in Docklands?”

A Docklands Representative Group spokesperson said the document was primarily aimed at increasing visitation to Docklands with little focus on residents.

In its submission to the report, Docklands Neighbourhood House (DNH) said it while it was in “absolute agreement” that adequate resourcing was required, it said investment in Docklands in recent years hadn't so much been the issue, but rather how it had been made.

“We implore the council to not fall into the traps of the past and only fund ‘big ticket’ infrastructure projects,” its submission said. ●

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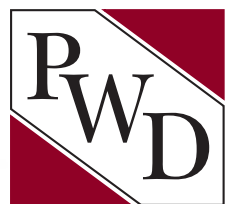
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Residents call on council to support Docklands Neighbourhood House

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COMMUNITY

A group of Docklands residents launched a petition in November in support of Docklands Neighbourhood House's efforts to secure vital gap funding of \$50,000 necessary for it to continue its operations during the first half of 2023.

Located at The District Docklands, Docklands Neighbourhood House (DNH) has played an integral role in supporting our local community since initially launching as a pop-up in late 2019 thanks to initial support from the City of Melbourne.

Since funding from the council finished in late 2021, its operations have been funded by Development Victoria (DV), which provided \$162,000 to allow the space to remain open until the end of 2022.

DNH is operated by not-for-profit organisation The Centre, which has supported community in North and West Melbourne for 40 years. In a submission made to the council's community grants and partnership framework 2022-25 tabled at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on September 20, its director Ariel Valent called for DNH to be supported with long-term funding.

Mr Valent said DV had made it clear that its funding for DNH was not ongoing, and that it expected it to be funded like any other Neighbourhood House, "principally through support of both state and local governments".

Addressing councillors again at the November 8 FMC meeting in response to the Docklands Summit report, Mr Valent said the council's community grants and partnerships framework provided a pathway for potential funding from July 2023.

However, he said this left a funding gap from January to June in 2023 and called on the council to provide a "relatively modest investment of \$50,000" to allow it to continue its "community strengthening work in Docklands".

"In September, the City of Melbourne provided a pathway for potential funding helping to facilitate a variety of events and programs including weekly social fishing excursions, yoga and Pilates, children's programs including arts sessions and playgroups, repair cafes and cultural celebrations including the Hindi festivals of Holi,



▲ Docklands Neighbourhood House's Jason Butcher.

Navratri and Diwali," Mr Valent said.

"This investment of \$50,000 is money well spent as it will allow continuity of staffing at DNH and will allow DNH to work closely with City of Melbourne to ensure the council's short-term priorities for the Docklands community are delivered."

The community, led by the Docklands Road Safety Group, made up predominantly of families from Docklands Primary School, last month initiated a petition in support of DNH's request for gap funding, describing its work as "vital" in the local area.

"Community without a heart does not have a soul. Docklands community has been missing one for a very long time. We do not want to lose it again," the petition stated.

"We are appealing to our local council to find resources to ensure continuation of the Docklands Neighbourhood House activities without interruptions as it will be detrimental to the wellbeing of the community."

"We are asking the council to make it urgently a priority! We can't lose the DNH in January to June in 2023."

Speaking at the November 8 FMC meeting, Docklands resident Cr Jamal Hakim paid tribute to what DNH had done in Docklands, and assured Mr Valent that the council continued to explore funding mechanisms to support its work. ●

Artwork by the harbour taken down, with "immediate" beautifications being explored

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

A timber art installation that occupied a space along Harbour Esplanade for more than a decade has been removed after it was engulfed by flames in September.

The structure, known as the *Sealight Pavilion*, opened in November 2022 after it was commissioned between Monash University, Rintala Eggertsson Architects and Grimshaw Architects and supported by Development Victoria (DV).

The recycled timber – which included a tower and a cantilever – was chosen to amplify the experience of "the natural phenomena of sea, sky and light" while offering a place to meet, to "escape the elements, or simply to witness the passage of time".

However, a fire tore through the installation on September 16, with the cause being unknown, although Victoria Police said it was not being treated as suspicious.

Fire crews were called to the structure fire near Latrobe St just before 12.30am, which was brought under control within six minutes.

Docklands News inspected the charred remains of the structure days after the fire however the cantilever appeared undamaged.

DV confirmed in late November that the installation had been safely removed from its location after it was "damaged beyond repair by fire".

"We will continue to work closely with the City of Melbourne on future activation opportunities that will



▲ After fire engulfed the art installation.

benefit the community and promote the vitality of the precinct," a DV spokesperson said.

It is not known whether another structure will be erected to fill its place, however the City of Melbourne is pushing to beautify Harbour Esplanade with "immediate" temporary measures including relocatable planter boxes, public benches, public artwork, and additional greening being suggested.

"There is an opportunity to partner with Development Victoria to deliver physical improvements and a program of small-scale activation at Yanonung Quay on Harbour Esplanade; leveraging the recent investment by Port Phillip Ferries," a council report said.

"This proposal would create a community focal point, including a platform for community events and place-based engagement which can be realised within the next 12-24 months."

The council will also seek an update from DV on a public art fund while also investigating opportunities for creative spaces, and options to "celebrate the water as a unique element of Docklands". ●

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The pink-powered event changing lives one paddle at a time

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

For the first time ever in Australia, Dragon Boat Victoria is coming all aboard to host the country's first ever national breast cancer regatta for their Dragons Abreast Australia network and all its pink paddler members.

Taking place in Docklands on Saturday, December 3, the Pink Paddle Power Regatta follows on from the launch of Docklands' newest team, Dragons Abreast Melbourne Pink Phoenix, merely months ago.

And while regattas have been held in the past by Dragons Abreast Australia, this coming event will mark the first time a state sporting body has taken on the event, and teams from all over Australia and New Zealand will be in attendance.

"We are so grateful and thankful that Dragon Boat Victoria have created a special regatta for all of us, and it's just fantastic that there will be hundreds of breast cancer survivors coming," Pink Paddle Power Regatta publicity officer Linda Papworth told *Docklands News*.

"It would be great if the local community could come down, help us create a bit of a buzz and make some noise. We have all been through a lot, and we are all winners just to step into the boat and get out on the water."

While some full teams will be coming across for the fun, "non-competitive" event, Dragons Abreast Australia will also be helping with coordinating teams who may need some extra paddlers, resulting in some boats being crewed by composite teams.

The event will officially launch on the Friday night for participants, with the regatta beginning for both participants and the public on the Saturday with an opening ceremony full of lots of energy, noise and drumming.

Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) CEO Kirsten Pilatti will be in attendance to open the day at 9.30am and will be followed by a traditional Chinese ceremonial lion dance



from the Chinese Youth Society of Melbourne.

The 200-metre races will then start from Docklands Harbour, with a half boat race of 10 paddlers racing in each boat, followed by a full boat race with the capacity of 20 paddlers racing in each boat.

The sporting part of the day will then wrap up with a memorial race and a Flowers on the Water ceremony to remember those who have not been so fortunate in surviving their fight against breast cancer.

"We had a lady paddle with Dragons Abreast in Gippsland, and she passed away a few years ago, and she was an absolute mad, crazy woman and keen paddler, so we named the race in her honour," Ms Papworth said.

"Us pink ladies really know how to have a

good time, so there will be lots of fun and a chance for everyone to mingle and chat about what we do."

As well as the focus being on the water, a long line of marquees full of different teams and health alliance groups will also line the waterfront, including Docklands' very own Think Pink Foundation.

In addition to supporting many of its Think Pink families who will be participating in the regatta, the foundation will also be sharing more about what it is doing through its Living Centre.

"Think Pink has been part of the Docklands community for the past two years, so it is an ideal opportunity to participate in this fabulous event that brings together the breast cancer

community in which Think Pink plays a vital role in providing care for," a Think Pink spokesperson said.

While an exciting event for all in attendance, Ms Papworth said the event was also a really important opportunity to get the message out about how "life-changing" dragon boat racing could be.

As a sport that involves strenuous, repetitive movement of the upper body, dragon boat racing has been on the rise for its post treatment benefits, and with people at all different stages and strengths, it is a sport that can be easily tailored to suit each person's journey.

"We really want to get the message out there that exercising after breast cancer treatment is not only safe and something you should be doing, but that it also helps with regaining your confidence and health after going through something as horrible and daunting as treatment," she said.

"One of the main benefits besides physical wellbeing is that you can also be around people who completely understand what you are going through. We don't often talk about cancer in the boat, but if you have an ache, pain, or concern, someone would have been through it and can talk to you about it."

"The mental wellbeing of people who dragon boat has just been incredible, and it has changed lives, because you feel like you are not alone anymore."

In support of the special day and its significance, the night will also end with the Bolte Bridge lit up in pink, as paddlers, supporting family and friends, and health alliance partner organisations celebrate with a Pink Power Regatta Ball. ●

For more information:
dragonboatvictoria.com.au/events/106086/



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The creative space for your holiday crafts and innovative ideas

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

Whether you are a hands-on, make-it-from-scratch kind of person, or aspiring to be one with a little guidance, the Library at The Dock's Makerspace is the creative hub to be.

Set to close from December 19, with a re-opening date of January 3, now is the time to make the most of its offerings or to begin thinking about the 2023 creative aspirations you wish to pursue.

Opened Tuesday to Thursday, and Sunday, the space is the ideal place to experiment and upskill with its free offerings for crafting, digital designing, engineering, coding, and music and video production.

Since it opened, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the Makerspace had only continued to provide many "wonderful offerings" and been "filled to the brim with all kinds of innovative technologies".

"Perfect for young and old, our Makerspace is a place to unleash your creativity and learn new skills – from music and video production to robotics, coding, repairing and embroidery," Cr Capp said.

An ideal spot for an end of year trip, or to tick off a "learn a new skill" new year resolution early, the Dockland's Makerspace is the community hub where regular visitors have watched their creative ideas flourish and grow.

But for anyone unsure where to start, City of Melbourne staff will also be on-hand at the library to offer one-on-one support, and to connect visitors with online learning modules and knowledge resources.

Because no matter your level of skill or knowledge, the space is one that encourages and welcomes newcomers to learn and have questions about what they don't know.

"The Library at The Dock Makerspace is a wonderful space in a beautiful corner of our



city – perfect for everyone to come and try something new," Cr Capp said.

Further on from the usual day-to-day running, the Makerspace has also been host to a range of community events this year, from clothing repair workshops, to robotic technology sessions, community days, and game making days.

Following its break over the Christmas period, locals can be assured that its return in 2023 will only be bigger and better, as it continues to strive to be the creative space to be when it comes to fostering and shaping new ideas.

As well as the Makerspace at the Library at The Dock, a space can also one found at Kathleen Syme Library, and a similar Make*It Space at the Elizabeth Street Pop-up Library. ●

Community Sports Day kicks off the festive season in Docklands

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

This December, Docklands is set to get a little bit more festive and celebratory of its community with people coming together for sports, Santa visits, live entertainment and an abundance of market stalls.

First up, is Docklands Community Christmas and social Sports Day and The District Docklands Christmas Twilight Market on December 10, followed by the NewQuay Twilight Christmas Market on December 17.

Taking place from 12pm to 4pm on Saturday, December 10, the Christmas and Sports Day event is the result of a multitude of organisations coming together armed with a focus to unite locals in celebrating together.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Shane Wylie said it "represents a new era of collaboration".

"We recognised in our five-year strategic plan that one single body can't take on all of the efforts needed for Docklands, and that partnerships are the key to amplifying events," Mr Wylie said.

"The Docklands Community Christmas and Sports Day would not have come about without the immense help of Neighbourhood House, The District Docklands, and the Docklands Sports Club, and we thank them for jumping on with much enthusiasm."

Already on the schedule of sports for people to participate in are fishing, cricket, table tennis, and soccer, and for any one not keen on trying a new sport, the event will also be a chance to come and meet other locals, listen to music, and share in a free barbecue.

While the majority of the day will take place at Ron Barassi Senior Park, The District Docklands will be creating a fun space for people to have a hit on some table tennis tables, and some groups will move on to NewQuay Promenade to cast a line.

Social fishing clubs have been a breakout program for the Neighbourhood House as of late, particularly with Docklands Primary school students who have been "loving it", according to Docklands Neighbourhood House community development officer Jason Butcher.

It is also why he is so excited to have fishing as part of the community sports day.

"At the Neighbourhood House we have an absolute legend of a local volunteer who fishes around the area, and we will be leading fishing in and around NewQuay Promenade and Barassi Park," Mr Butcher said.

In addition to having sports that people of all ages can get involved in, kids will also be particularly excited to learn that Santa has in fact registered and confirmed his attendance on the day too.

While people are more than welcome to pop by for any amount of time, registrations are encouraged beforehand to help with the organising of the day.



The District Docklands Christmas Twilight Market

Following a day of sports, everyone is then invited to wander over to the District Docklands Christmas Twilight Market, which will begin at 3pm.

The market will see regular traders extending their hours, as they are joined by a multitude of market stalls, selling everything from art, craft, jewellery, homewares, and food.

While an ideal night to tick off your Christmas shopping list, the market will also be a great place to eat among new friends, with food trucks selling everything from Spanish paella, to crepes, American pies and cheesecakes.

Live entertainment from performers, muralist artists, and DJs will also ensure to spread the Christmas cheer.

For more information:
thedistrictdocklands.com.au

NewQuay Twilight Christmas Market

For anyone unable to make it down on December 10, or for anyone wanting to get among all the Christmas celebrations, the NewQuay Twilight Christmas Market will take place the following Saturday, December 17.

Held over the entire promenade with an expected 60 market stalls and live entertainment, Santa is also scheduled to make an appearance and provide some Christmas cheer for locals, as well as free gift bags provided by local not-for-profit organisation Saras.Care.

The market is being led by the Docklands Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Lifestyle Markets and with the support of the City of Melbourne. ●

For more information:
Facebook: Visit Docklands

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Experience a Nordic Christmas with WØRKS

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Ajay Viswanath*
BUSINESS

Docklanders are being offered the chance to experience a Nordic Christmas thanks to sustainable hand and body care and home fragrance store WØRKS.

The Scandinavian-inspired store is a first of its kind in the area, and was created by husband and wife, Christoffer Kjærgård and Suze Raymond, who wanted to bring their values together and create something unique and new.

“Christoffer is Danish and when he moved to Australia, he was looking for small beautiful design elements for home but couldn’t find many with a Scandinavian style, and then I’m vegan and all into organics and sustainability,” Ms Raymond said.

“We had no background in product development, but we wanted to do something together and put all of our values together and this is what we came out the other end with.”

Now an established brand with a strong focus on organics and sustainability in a strikingly chic Scandinavian design, WØRKS is looking ahead to its first Christmas in Docklands with a positively uplifting festive cheer.

As a successful grant recipient in the City of Melbourne’s Christmas Collective program, WØRKS will be transforming its shop floor into a Nordic Christmas from December 13.

“One of the key criteria [for the grant] was celebrating the traditions of other countries, and they were also looking for sustainable initiatives, and we thought, ‘this is perfect,’” Ms Raymond said.

“There is so much going on with plastic decorations, glitter and tinsel, and that is all so bad for the environment, so we put together the proposal for our event, which is a Nordic Christmas theme in terms of the aesthetic, and we will be focusing on a 100 per cent plastic free Christmas.”

Inspired by the few times she has been able to experience the magic of a Christmas in Denmark, Ms Raymond said they would bring in multiple live Christmas trees that would stand bare in order to create the illusion of a beautiful “Scandinavian-style Christmas forest”.

The store will then be consumed with festive spirit through the addition of Scandinavian-style paper and wooden decorations that are all plastic free, reusable, and offer a timeless aesthetic.

“People will come in, experience this Christmas forest, and then if they want to participate in our Advent calendar-style event they can take a selfie to upload with the organised hashtag, and qualify to enter a draw,” Ms Raymond said.

Going into the draw will then allow the attendee to pick an ornament off the wooden



tree set-up, with the number on the ornament corresponding to a prize.

Included in the prizes is everything from chocolate and candy canes for the kids, to beautiful Christmas decorations, and WØRKS latest most-commonly-asked-for product; handbag-sized hand creams and body balms.

Aligning with the sustainability focused theme of the store’s products, the mini product can be easily refilled from an at-home larger glass vessel, and is a “100 per cent post-consumer recyclable material, and made in Melbourne to reduce the carbon with shipping”.

The event will then wrap up on December 23, which aligns with the Nordic tradition of a “little Christmas”, and there will be sparkling wine served, chocolate for the kids, more giveaways and VIP discounts.

“We are trying to bring something that is family friendly, welcoming to all ages, and provides an opportunity to learn more about a different culture and more about sustainable ways to decorate homes and apartments simply and effectively,” Ms Raymond said.

“We want to create some buzz and connection in the area and provide people with an opportunity to connect with a local family-owned business and to connect with their neighbours or another business owner.”

As well as thinking of how to share the festive spirit through its event, WØRKS has also just recently released its duo hand and body

“There is so much going on with plastic decorations, glitter and tinsel, and that is all so bad for the environment, so we put together the proposal for our event which is a Nordic Christmas theme, in terms of the aesthetic, and we will be focusing on a 100 per cent plastic free Christmas.”



packs, that have been carefully packaged with recyclable cardboard in a Christmas design, and with a in-built card.

“They’re new and exciting, and the concept is that you don’t need to buy a card or even wrap it,” Ms Raymond said.

The duo packs will be available in four different signature fragrances and, just like all of their products, the collections are named after Danish cities, including Aarhus, Ødense, and København (after Copenhagen, or “København” in Danish).

Different from your everyday skincare products, they are not only made of high-quality skin health formulations, but also have performance functions, with body balms being made to plump and firm, and hand creams for anti-ageing and tackling hyperpigmentation.

And with the recent recognition of being named Most Sustainable Personal Care Brand in Australia 2022, WØRKS has well and truly established itself as the must-have Christmas product this season.

WØRKS is open from 11am at 897 Collins St in Docklands, and will be offering a late night shopping special for their little Christmas event to round off the year. ●

For more information:
worksliving.com.au



Boats sail into a new-look Melbourne City Marina

WORDS BY *David Schout*
WATERWAYS

A \$1.97 million upgrade of Melbourne City Marina on Victoria Harbour has finished including with new pontoons, security gates, and piles being installed in time for summer.

The City of Melbourne carried out the improvements, which Lord Mayor Sally Capp said would allow “a greater variety of boats to use our fantastic facilities”.

“As we enter the summer months we’re expecting a big increase in the number of bookings – bringing visitors right into the heart of Docklands and supporting local businesses,” she said.

“Originally built in 2006, the marina needed to be upgraded to be able to welcome all of Melbourne’s boating community and visitors to our city.”

The marina is rated as a level five gold anchor marina by the Gold Anchor International Scheme.

The upgrade has kept the existing four berths with the design preparing for two additional berths in the future. The vessel size allowance has been increased, with two berths rated for 1350 tonne vessels and two berths rated for 600 tonne vessels.


Meanwhile, the upgrade of Australia Wharf is well under way, with stage two works starting in late November.

Stage one of the project saw the installation of 53 new timber piles along the water’s edge, including 10 piles to the west of the site near 915-941 Collins St to accommodate a future increase in capacity to berth vessels along Australia Wharf.


Stage two works, which is expected to take three weeks to complete, will involve installing new brackets to attach the piles to the wharf from the water.

“Melbourne’s waterways are a treasured gem in our city and the upgrades to Australia Wharf will improve the accessibility of charter vessels services – allowing them to bring more people than ever into the city,” Cr Capp said. ●


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SIX WAYS TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Get set for Melbourne's New Year's Eve celebrations

Welcome 2023 in spectacular style with the city's biggest-ever New Year's Eve celebrations.

We know Melburnians have missed the chance to celebrate together, so we're marking the end of 2022 in style.

If you're planning to head into the city, the best place to see the fireworks is from one of our four Celebration Zones. But you can see them from anywhere you can see the city skyline, or even watch on TV.

Here are six ways to celebrate New Year's Eve in Melbourne:

1. Be dazzled by a fireworks display from 30 CBD rooftops. You can watch the fireworks from anywhere you can see the city skyline.
2. Head to our Celebration Zones at Docklands, Flagstaff Gardens, Treasury Gardens and Kings Domain for family-friendly fun like live music, dance workshops, light installations, food trucks and extra fireworks at 9.30pm.
3. Book a table at one of the dozens of hospitality venues offering special New Year's Eve feasts.
4. See superstars Marina Prior and John Foreman host the Aussie Pops Orchestra's New Year's Eve Gala extravaganza at Arts Centre Melbourne.
5. Settle in at Sidney Myer Music Bowl to watch some of the world's best live acts, brought to you by Falls Festival.
6. Stay home and tune in to the official New Year's Eve live broadcast on Channel 9 from 11pm.

Safety remains our number one priority and a detailed safety plan will be in place to ensure the wellbeing

of everyone celebrating in the city, in partnership with Victoria Police and other emergency services.

Revellers are encouraged to plan early, book into one of the city's world-class hospitality venues and act responsibly.

New Year's Eve celebrations in the city and the Christmas Festival are supported by the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund - a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/nye

CHRISTMAS IN YOUR PRECINCT



Keen to keep it local this Christmas? Here's how to support your local business precinct, and share the love with nearby neighbourhoods across the City of Melbourne.

Christmas in the CBD: Explore the Christmas Festival across the city. Go old-school with a Christmas Film Photowalk from 4 to 8 December. Take a selfie with the Roving Drag Santa around Degraeves Street on 3 and 4 December. Join the Look Draw Love Melbourne walking tour on 10 December.

Giveaways at the Carlton Roller Rink: Headed for the roller rink in Piazza Italia from 10 to 24 December? Enjoy roving performers and Italian Christmas biscuit giveaways and gift vouchers for iconic Carlton shops.

Gift-wrapping on Collins Street: Buy gifts from participating Collins Street stores, save the receipts and head to Howey Place for free gift-wrapping from 10am on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays before Christmas, starting 8 December.

Great Greek Quarter Christmas Feast: Join a laneway party with music, performers and food from local venues. All afternoon, Sunday 18 December. Waratah Place and Heffernan Lane.

Kensington Christmas Fair: Enjoy live music and entertainment on the main stage. Free activities, performers, magicians, face painting, giveaways and a visit from Santa. Saturday 3 December in Bellair Street from 10am to 4pm.

Little Korea Christmas Festival: Experience Korean culture and street food, with market stalls, music and decorations. Sunday 18 December in Little Lonsdale Street and Healeys Lane from 11am to 5pm.

Christmas cheer North and West Melbourne: Choirs, buskers and roving Christmas characters will entertain shoppers. Look for Santa in a fire truck. Enter the Christmas raffle, go late-night shopping and enjoy free gift-wrapping and giveaways.

South Wharf Christmas Choir and Film: Join a family carols concert and screening of *The Grinch* on the Common Lawn on Dukes Walk in South Wharf. Sunday 18 December from 5pm to 8pm.

Twilight markets in Docklands: Stock up on stocking-fillers at the District Docklands Twilight Christmas Market on 10 December from 3pm to 8pm. And at the Docklands NewQuay Twilight Xmas Market on 17 December from midday to 8pm.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Keep your cool this summer

By 2050 Melbourne will experience an average 16 days over 35 degrees.

The City of Melbourne is committed to reducing the threat of extreme urban heat for vulnerable people.

Our goal is to turn Melbourne into a refuge for workers, residents and visitors during extreme heat events.

We have already started acting to:

- Cool the city through urban greening
- Invest in projects like Greenline to provide a cool green corridor through the city
- Help keep cool, through our Cool Routes online maps, public drinking fountains, and by providing practical support during heatwaves.

All our efforts combined aim to cool Melbourne by four degrees, to improve liveability, resilience, and community health.

Keep an eye out for heat health alerts on City of Melbourne's social media channels and from the Department of Health, or be aware of upcoming weather.

For tips on how to stay safe during the heat visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwave

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HOW TO HAVE A TREE-MENDOUS CHRISTMAS IN MELBOURNE

Roller-skate in Carlton, swing on a giant bell and head to the iconic Myer Christmas windows to celebrate 100 years of Disney this festive season.

The Christmas Festival is well underway, with decorations bringing colour and joy to every corner of the city.

Fed Square has been transformed into Christmas Square with Santa's workshop, our stunning 17.3-metre LED Christmas tree and festive entertainment galore.

Our popular Christmas Projections have returned to Town Hall, plus a new showstopping projection on Flinders Street opposite Fed Square.

We've also welcomed back the String Bean Alley Christmas Night Markets at Queen Victoria Market, the giant Christmas Maze in Docklands and the Christmas Carnival at Birrarung Marr.

Pillars of Light, a Chanukah celebration for all Melburnians, and Koorie Krismas, a First Nations

celebration at Fed Square, are also bringing communities together in celebration.

Exciting additions to this year's festival program include:

- a roller-skating rink in Carlton
- a pop-up playground at Queensbridge Square with bell swings, a dance floor and an interactive orchestra
- the Christmas Eve Circus Spectacular, bringing festive cheer to Town Hall.

We're also supporting small events across the city, such as Christmas markets, workshops and laneway parties, through our Christmas Collective grants program. So there's plenty more to discover.

The Christmas Festival runs until 25 December.

Major partners include the Victorian Government, Fed Square and TAC.

PAY IT FORWARD THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Make a difference to Melburnians in need this Christmas by donating to our Good Giving program.

Homelessness is a complex and confronting issue that can affect anyone at any point in their lives.

We believe all Melburnians deserve access to safe and affordable housing. That's why Homes Melbourne, a special entity of the City of Melbourne, is committed to ending homelessness in the city through our housing project, Make Room.

By donating to our Good Giving campaign this festive season, you will support Make Room and help those who need it most.

About Make Room

We're stepping up to address homelessness by working in partnership with the Victorian Government, Unison, and the philanthropic and corporate sectors.

The \$20 million Make Room development will deliver 50 studio apartments, housing and homelessness services, and other support. Residents will stay for up to 12 months, or until they are connected with long-term housing. We are currently raising funds to complete a dedicated floor for women, who are the fastest-growing group of people experiencing homelessness in our city.



An artist's impression of the Make Room development

How to help

By giving direct to Make Room, you are helping provide for people's immediate needs and deliver the crucial, long-term support they need to exit homelessness.

Donate at lmcf.org.au/makeroom

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au



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New studio dancing its way into the heart of Docklands

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

The Mbassy Dance has only just recently established itself on Collins St in Docklands, but it's already looking ahead to the festive season and ways to spread the Christmas joy through dance.

The chance to launch two unique events has come about for the studio after they were successful in receiving a grant from the City of Melbourne's Christmas Collective program, an initiative aimed at casting a new light on the festive season.

As someone who knows all too well about the positive benefits of dancing after being a freelance instructor for 14 years, The Mbassy Dance founding director Minx Hafon is looking forward to helping locals understand that anyone and everyone can dance.

"People dance for so many reasons. There are the social interactions you get especially from partner styles where you get to connect with different people while dancing, and then there's the physical exercise aspect which is of course endorphins," Minx said.

"Some people also say it is better than therapy, so there is that as well."

Labelling salsa as "literally fancy walking", Minx is hopeful that people in and around the city will make the most of the free *Salsa in the City* beginner dance sessions in the style of Salsa and Bachata.

The sessions will take place at Collins Landing from December 6 to 22, 5.30pm to 7pm, every Tuesday and Thursday, and are a chance for the new studio to bring the community together to share in its love of Latin culture.

To round off the December celebrations, The Mbassy Dance will also be hosting *A Cuban Christmas Party* that will involve a South American barbeque, followed by lots of dancing and socialising.

"We will have a little dance lesson at the start so people can feel what it is like, then there will be a circle of dancers, and you can switch partners constantly," Minx said.

"There will also be live drums, Latin DJs, and we will dance until the sun sets by the river."

Sharing in the joy of dancing has always been the goal of The Mbassy Dance, and now through the dance company's first official studio it's determined to remain focused in "encouraging everybody to dance", while also teaching people about each dance style's culture.

"We have a big focus on the culture and stories behind the dance styles, so you are not just learning the routine



▲ *Salsa in the City pop-up class at Collins.*

and some steps, but you are also learning what it is called, why it is called that, where it is from, and what it means," Minx said.

"All those things make the dance experience so much richer and paint a picture of the culture it comes from."

The Mbassy Dance primarily works on a term-by-term basis, but it also offers casual class passes to people if it is needed, or if they want to use the first week of a term trying out all the beginner classes to see what one best works for them.

Currently on the timetable The Mbassy Dance has 14 different dance classes, including Bachata, Cuban Salsa, Afro Salsa, Latin Fusion and Twerk 101, and the classes are offered on a weekly basis as practice and consistency is key.

Some of the classes are also still offered over Zoom to help people who may have to miss a session or want to get in some extra practice.

The Mbassy Dance is part of the Shopfront Activation Program, which is part of the City of Melbourne and Victorian Government's \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, and Minx said they are hopeful to make Docklands more "nice and colourful, and active".

The Mbassy Dance can be found at 915 Collins St. ●

For more information:
thembassy.com.au



Docklands' baby zebra nameless no more

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

For the past couple of months, all but one of Yarra's Edge's 20 baby animal statues had been named, and now after careful consideration the lone Grevy's zebra is finally joining the pack with the name Clyde.

The *Wild About Babies* sculptures have been situated in Docklands since mid-year and are the result of a partnership between Yarra's Edge developer Mirvac and internationally renowned artists, Gillie and Marc.

While a fascinating and realistic exhibit, its main priority has been to build awareness, educate visitors about the threats to our most vulnerable species, and raise money for the World Wide Fund For Nature Australia (WWF-Australia).

Following the official naming of the other animals after a community-wide competition in September, Mirvac turned to students at Clyde Grammar school, hopeful that they could come up with a perfectly fitting name.

And according to Clyde Grammar principal Leanne Evans, the opportunity came at just the right time.

"Our Year 2 students have been learning about animals and discovering new species this year, and what a wonderful way to wrap up the curriculum by visiting Mirvac's *Wild About Babies* exhibit," Ms Evans said.

"We are focused on creating a rich, engaging learning experience and our students [were] so excited for this excursion to the exhibit to discover the importance of animal conservation and protecting our wildlife and of

“

Our Year 2 students have been learning about animals and discovering new species this year and what a wonderful way to wrap up the curriculum by visiting Mirvac's Wild About Babies exhibit.

”

course, to see Clyde the zebra named after our school, Clyde Grammar."

School kids involved in the naming of the loveable zebra visited the interactive exhibition on Tuesday, November 29, to not only officially meet the animal they played a part in naming, but to also learn more about the importance of the animals situated along the water's edge.

Clyde Grammar is a newly established school and an independent CSV Limited school within Mirvac's Smiths Lane community in Clyde North, and upon completion it will allow for the full enrolment of 1200 Prep to Year 12 students.

CSV Limited is the governing body for three low-fee independent schools, and alongside Clyde Grammar, Balcombe Grammar in Mount Martha and Casey Grammar in Cranbourne East are also included. ●



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The District Live is back

While it may seem unseasonably cold to start our warmest season, The District Docklands is about to heat up with the return of its open-air music series, District Live.

Running every Saturday during January 2023, District Live showcases some of the best emerging and established local artists from Melbourne and Victoria, with headline acts such as Isaiah Firebrace, DJ Murray Cook (the original Red Wiggle), Ross Wilson, and Montaigne.

The all-ages event will showcase a diverse line-up of talent and genres featuring DJs, solo artists and bands.

Locals and visitors alike can enjoy pop-up food and drink stalls as well as a line-up of fun interactive activities dropping weekly.

There will be Sip 'n' Paint sessions, trivia, silent disco, giant outdoor games, a photobooth and an Instagrammable shimmer wall, along the precinct's open-air laneways where more than 30 permanent food and dining experiences will be on offer.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Shane Wylie told *Docklands News* it was "incredible to see the return of a crowd favourite" event in Docklands.

"The District Docklands continue play a pivotal role in activating, not just their own precinct,



but Docklands as a whole," Mr Wylie said. "Major drawcards like the District Live: Open-air Series cements Melbourne's reputation as the nation's cultural capital and drives activity for our local businesses."

District Live is a free, inclusive event that is wheelchair accessible, along with Auslan interpreters, a Welcome to Country by local Elders and a dedicated quiet space.

The District Docklands is easily accessible for all people, with Melbourne CBD's most affordable parking options, a new bike track on Footscray Rd and the free tram service on Docklands Drive.

Dance the night away with a mixture of emerging and established artists featuring local DJs, solo artists and bands each Saturday or relax and unwind on the grassy hill as the sun sets over Melbourne's CBD. ●



“

Locals and visitors alike can enjoy pop-up food and drink stalls as well as a line-up of fun interactive activities dropping weekly.

”

For more information:
thedistrictdocklands.com.au

Greens comfortably retain Melbourne as voter dial barely budges

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ELECTIONS

The Greens' Ellen Sandell has been re-elected as the Member for Melbourne, securing a third term at the November 26 Victorian election.

Ms Sandell is set to pass over a decade in office this term, after comfortably retaining the seat she first won in 2014, this time against Labor challenger Rebecca Thistleton.

While just over half of votes across Melbourne had been counted at the time of publication — made up of the election-day votes at 13 voting centres across the seat — early indications suggested a strong swing to the Greens after preferences were distributed.

However, in terms of first preference votes across Melbourne, the dial barely budged.

Despite the city undergoing considerable change since the last election in 2018 and facing particularly tough periods as a result of COVID-19, voters largely stuck to their guns from four years ago.

From the early numbers, the

Greens' primary (or "number one") vote dropped slightly, from 38.9 per cent to 37 per cent.

Labor suffered somewhat of a hit, dropping from 35.9 per cent first-preference votes in 2018 to 30.8 per cent, while the Liberal Party vote remained largely the same, with candidate George Palackalody receiving 17.6 per cent of the overall vote (up slightly from 17.1 per cent).

Colleen Bolger from the Victorian Socialists, which did not field a candidate in 2018, received the fourth-most first preference votes, at 5.7 per cent.

These figures, of course, could shift slightly when all early, postal and absentee votes are counted for Melbourne.

Around 45 per cent of enrolled voters in Melbourne did not cast a vote on November 26, reflecting the wider shift to early voting.

Ms Sandell, the Victorian Greens deputy leader, took to social media after the victory to thank those who voted for her, and pinpointed the three areas she would continue to push the Labor government to go "further and faster" on.

"Thank you, Melbourne. It's an honour to be re-elected as your MP for another four years," she said.

"To the voters of Melbourne, thanks for putting your faith in me, I look forward to working with you to get stronger action on climate change, housing and integrity."

Ms Thistleton, a Kensington resident and former journalist who, like Ms Sandell, is a mother of young children, sent her congratulations to the now three-term Melbourne MP.

"Wrapt and relieved that hope, positivity and action won over hate," the 37-year-old said on Twitter.

"I've loved campaigning, our little team put in a mighty couple of months. Well done and all the best to @ellensandell who has held Melbourne — hope you enjoyed spending today with your kidlets as much as I have."

Ms Sandell responded: "Thank you Rebecca, and well done to you and your hard-working team. It was a pleasure to campaign alongside other strong women! Thanks for putting up your hand, it takes courage, but our democracy relies on people being willing to do it, and democracy is a precious thing!"

Ms Sandell's office did not respond to questions from *Docklands News* prior to publication.

While it was a resounding victory for the Victorian Greens in Melbourne, the statewide result was not quite as strong as was being pushed by those within the party.

On the ABC's election coverage, Ms Sandell referenced a "green wave moving out across the city", while leader Samantha Ratnam declared the result a "Greenslide".

But in raw terms, the party improved its primary vote across the state by just 0.2 per cent (at the time of publishing, when almost 70 per cent of statewide votes had been counted), while gaining just one lower house seat (the Greens retained Melbourne, Prahran and Brunswick, and gained Richmond).

Earlier in the night the party was optimistic about landing one or several of nearby Albert Park, Footscray, Pascoe Vale and Preston, but all four were retained by Labor.

It reserved strong hopes for Northcote, too, and while the counting remained close, that seat was similarly expected to be retained by the ALP.

Democracy sausages prove a hit in Docklands

Victoria Harbour's Library at the Dock was one of the 13 voting centres across the seat of Melbourne, and the humble democracy sausage once again proved a hit with locals.

Reports suggested some voters waited up to two hours in lines that went back up Bourke St, so were overdue a feed after their trip to the ballot box.

On the day, the untiring volunteers from the *Alma Doepel* set up stall at Buluk Park next to the library and, reportedly, were happily inundated until the last sausage was sold.

"I want to say to our great band of volunteers (90,000-plus hours since 2010) thank you for your support today, in what was a very busy day for sausage sales," volunteer Bill Reid said in a wider email sent that evening. "We had barely set up around 9am when hungry voters gathered around for their democracy sausage. From that point on we were flat out till 3pm when we had to call it a day as we sold our last sausage... the best thing of all was that we able to advance the 119 years of Australian history about the *Alma Doepel*..." ●

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BUSINESS

Docklands real estate defies market gloom

The past three years have been described as the most turbulent period in Melbourne's real estate history.

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

In October, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) forecasted a property price drop of 1.5 per cent each month to finish off the year; and, according to the nation's central bank, the picture doesn't look much brighter in 2023.

Docklands News spoke with three of the area's top agents – Baden Lucas from Lucas Real Estate, Glenn Donnelly from City Residential and Geoff White from Barry Plant – to get an understanding of the state of play with regards to property prices. Their response was unanimous; despite volatility as a direct result of rising interest rates, Docklands' property market continues to defy market expectations.

According to Mr Lucas, director of Docklands' top performing agency, there are two key drivers when it comes to new sales in the area: first home buyers and tower jumpers.

"What is most interesting is that the first home buyer traditionally had anywhere between \$450,000 to \$600,000 to spend on property, but right now they have anywhere between \$450,000 and even \$1 million to spend on their first property," Mr Lucas said.

"Tower jumpers are people moving between buildings, are local to apartment living, or are renting as a first home buyer. We are seeing a lot of activity in this space with people watching new



▲ L-R: Baden Lucas from Lucas Real Estate, Glenn Donnelly from City Residential, and Geoff White from Barry Plant.

listings carefully and jumping on opportunities."

"Value for money, the liveability of any of the precincts in Docklands is unbelievable. When you think about what \$600,000 to \$700,000 buys you outside of the city, you would need to drive an hour."

Mr Lucas told *Docklands News* there has been a significant shift in the demographic of individuals purchasing in Docklands, with 88 per cent of sold properties through Lucas Real Estate during the past 12 months in Victoria Harbour and NewQuay alone, going to owner-occupiers.

"The people who are buying here is such a positive story. With the opening of Docklands Primary School, we are seeing a huge number of young families move into the area, particularly in NewQuay and Victoria Harbour," Mr Lucas said.

"Probably the one box we don't tick is immediate health access, which is definitely an area we would welcome some investment from developers."

With the frenzy of property price increases of early 2022 behind us and falls being experienced throughout the wider property market

since then, dwelling prices in Docklands, contrary to popular opinion, have increased by 3.5 per cent during the past 12 months, according to Barry Plant's, Geoff White.

"It has gone from a strong seller's market to more of a balanced market now," Mr White said. "You don't want unsustainable growth and craziness in the market, you want something that is stable going forward, and I think we have it right now."

"Each precinct in Docklands, whether you are in NewQuay, Victoria Harbour or Yarra's Edge, are seeing great results with clearance rates across the suburb sitting at 70 per cent, meaning seven out of 10 properties sold on the day under the hammer."

"We are seeing a real mix of buyers, which we had never seen before. Some people buy on price, some buy on views, others buy for convenience to services. If you want to buy on price, then you are probably best to look at NewQuay or Victoria Harbour, however, if you are buying for lifestyle Yarra's Edge comes into the conversation: each precinct has their own distinct benefits."

"Unfortunately, the media loves looking at the negative view that property prices are beginning to fall, but we are seeing steady growth in Docklands despite the bad press."

According to our three agents, Docklands' rental market is on the up with rental yields sitting at an average of 4.8 per cent, which sees a gradual realignment with pre-pandemic levels.

Landlords will typically gain the best rental results with one-bedroom apartments returning anywhere between five and five-and-a-half per cent, two-bedroom apartments will fetch you four-and-a-half to five per cent returns, and three-bedroom apartments between three and four per cent depending on the property.

City Residential director, Glenn Donnelly said in his 15 to 20 years working in Docklands' property market there had been few greater periods for renter and buyer interest.

"Rental prices are back to pre-COVID levels, which has improved a lot quicker than any of us in the industry were thinking," Mr Donnelly said. "We advertise a property for rent, put it on the market, and it will be snatched up straight away."

"We are seeing a lot of new purchasers dipping their toes in the market by renting for six or twelve months before buying in the area; that way they can get a taste for the suburb."

"We are also seeing the international and domestic investor market return, with those who left starting to come back again, and as of January and February, there will be another big influx of international students again."

While Docklands may not have the clickbait appeal of other markets where you will see properties sell for \$200,000 over reserve, it continues to buck market trends and raise its hand as an emerging blue chip real estate suburb. ●

Chemist Warehouse opens at Docklands, just in time for Christmas

Christmas is just around the corner and "tis the season to be even jollier" with the news that Chemist Warehouse has opened its doors with a brand-new store in Market Lane.

As a Melbourne-born business, for us to launch a store at Docklands alongside many other major retailers who are institutions in Australia, is a fantastic milestone for our business.

Offering an incredible range of products with all of the brands you know and love, including authentic fragrances, vitamins, weight loss, baby care, cosmetics, skincare, hair care and a whole lot more, we'll definitely be making spirits bright.

Our purchasing power as Australia's largest pharmacy retailer means we beat everyone's prices, not only at Christmas but every day

of the year, so come in and see what all of the fuss is about. You'll quickly understand why so many of our customers pop in to buy for one thing and leave with many!

We look forward to celebrating with some of the super sales we've become famous for, at a time when getting value for money has never been more important.

They say Christmas isn't a season, it's a feeling and at Chemist Warehouse Docklands we're all about making that feeling the best it can possibly be with gifts galore for every member of the family, no matter how young or old.

With our passionate and helpful staff one of the keys to our success, we're committed to ensuring your gift buying is simple, smooth and hassle-free.

Ultimately, Chemist Warehouse is a place where customers come to be happy and healthy and we pride ourselves on supporting all of your support all of your medical, health and wellness needs, not only at Christmas but every



▲ Chemist Warehouse team outside their new Market Lane store.

day of the year.

From our unmissable bright and welcoming colours on the outside to aisle after aisle bursting with Australia's best-loved brands on the inside, we want you to feel at home in OUR house in the middle of YOUR street.

We are proudly owned and operated by Australian registered pharmacists, and we love supporting local and staying local. Nowhere more so than at Market Lane where you can shop stress free seven days a week with 90 minutes free parking for more than 1000 cars. It doesn't get easier than that.

On behalf Chemist Warehouse Docklands owner Ted Apostolopoulos, pharmacist manager Leonard and retail manager Sue, we'd also like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy Christmas, whatever you're planning and wherever you'll be.

We can't wait to look after you in 2023, with the best products, the best service and best prices anywhere. MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS, from our (new) house to yours! ●

Stepping out

For children at Gowrie at The Harbour, the community is an extension of the classroom.

The path from Gowrie at The Harbour to the local supermarket is a well-trodden one. Gowrie Victoria children of all ages make the short walk several times a week to shop for baking ingredients or afternoon-tea fruit. Along the way, they wave to familiar vendors, point out favourite landmarks, and notice any changes in the environment.

It might be a trip to the supermarket, primary school or library, it might be an excursion to the Museum or Federation Square, or it might simply be a walk down to Birrarung to enjoy a story. Whatever the outing, children from Gowrie at The Harbour are recognised as active and visible members of the community.

An extensive Out & About program is an integral aspect of life at Gowrie Victoria. Gowrie at The Harbour education leader Sam Fernandez said it played a key role in helping nurture children's sense of belonging, curiosity

and self-empowerment.

Sam said the program allowed children to explore the world around them and make meaningful connections, while learning to work as a team, follow instructions and build new social skills – all integral to becoming global citizens with a voice.

Many of the excursions involve catching public transport, which Sam said was a great opportunity for children to learn about public transport etiquette, crossing streets and being aware of people around them.

The children relish opportunities to show their skills and engage in more hands-on development, and never shy away from the chance to spread their wings and share their knowledge with the outside community.

"The Out & About program is also intertwined with other aspects of the pedagogical framework and curriculum," Sam said. "Docklands has many sites of First Nations significance so it's only natural that we explore our local area as a means for further connection and learning in relation to reconciliation. There's so much opportunity here for amazing learning and child-led engagement."



Early Childhood teacher Carla Beslagic said recent excursions to the Koorie Heritage Trust, Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Melbourne Museum and Big Esso's Mabu Mabu restaurant were an extension of the First Nations *Knowings* program.

Carla said the multi-age (babies and kindergarten-level) excursion to Bunjilaka gave children the opportunity to discover more about Bunjil's story and the role of possum skin cloaks in First Nations culture.

At Mabu Mabu, (which was also attended by infants, toddler and kinder children) they sampled saltbush and wattle seed damper and yams with pickled karkalla (pigface), and shared

stories and knowledge with each other and the Mabu Mabu staff and owner.

"We began earlier this year by exploring Birrarung, as Docklands is where Birrarung opens to the ocean," Carla said. "These experiences support children in exploring the truth about the history of this country and in supporting Reconciliation."

"It's a chance to understand that different cultures or peoples have different beliefs and different creation knowings, and we learn to respond to these with respect, by listening to them, learning with them, and encountering them."

Carla said these outings were followed up with a visit to Gowrie Carlton North where the children cooked their own damper on the campfire.

"These excursions bring us closer together as a community and support different ways of thinking, being and knowing," she said.

Gowrie at The Harbour and Gowrie Docklands Kinder are currently enrolling for places in 2023.

For more information, call 8624 1000 or visit gowrievictoria.org.au/docklands ●

It's raining election promises, but nothing in sight for owners' corporations



What has been most surprising during this most recent election campaign is that there has been no post-election commitment to fund Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) from either of the major parties.



Maybe they don't think there's any votes in it? Without desperate and emergency funding being allocated to the struggling government agency, hundreds of residential apartment buildings are going to be left on their own without taxpayer-funded relief.

The CSV was established in 2019, and the government announced this new agency with much fanfare and to great applause. However, problems soon emerged. The problem was far bigger and more widespread (and costly) than the original bean counters had envisaged.

While rapid progress has been made with cladding removal and replacement, issues have emerged that go beyond the purview and tenure of CSV, particularly in relation to building defects beyond the scope of combustible cladding removal.

It should also be noted that while CSV's focus has been directed at rectifying buildings prioritised as highest risk, it also had an important role to play in providing guidance to owners of buildings assessed as a lower priority who may still need to take action to reduce the risk posed by combustible cladding but are ineligible for

CSV funding.

CSV has acquired world-leading expertise in this area over the past two years and is in a position to apply that expertise in a practical way to help owners. A comprehensive plan is required to deal with these buildings and CSV is contributing to this with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), the Victorian Building Authority (VBA), local government and other stakeholders.

However, with no more funding being announced, the program will shortly be unable to continue to deliver upon its promises, and its statutory purpose.

This will create a huge outcry when it finally happens. Melburnians don't expect to be left high and dry when it comes to the supposed equal distribution of taxpayer-funded resources. Those who get left out will have a bitter taste in their mouths when their place in the program is taken away and are told they can no longer rely on funding from the CSV.

While cladding can elevate a building's fire risk to an unacceptable level, the level of risk posed to building users varies in accordance with the type, amount and configuration of cladding on each building. The Victorian Cladding Taskforce recognised that a balanced approach is needed to ensure that safety obligations imposed on building owners are proportionate to the risk posed by combustible cladding.

Buildings identified as moderate risk in the audit will need to be further assessed to determine if they require replacement of combustible cladding or whether other steps can be taken to enable them to be categorised as low risk and compliant with the Cladding Safety Victoria Act 2020.

Owners' corporation groups that have the ear of parliamentarians will need to do their best to ensure that funding can be found to resolve this situation. It is imperative that Melbourne's apartment buildings are made safe and compliant with the Building Code of Australia. After all, it is not the building owners' fault that this situation has occurred.

Owners' corporation groups that have the ear of parliamentarians will need to do their best to ensure that funding can be found to resolve this situation. It is imperative that Melbourne's apartment buildings are made safe and compliant with the Building Code of Australia. After all, it is not the building owners' fault that this situation has occurred.



Decades of lax government building regulations and building industry self-certification has created this problem. A solution to this issue is required urgently. ●



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Christmas is upon us

Well, I have to say, I'm just a little bit excited for Christmas. Or the "Festive Season", as I have said, to be politically correct when writing for my corporate clients.

To be fair, I've always been a lover of this time of year ... even the early Christmas carols in the supermarket don't bug me too much. But this year feels intoxicatingly exciting.

Retail stores are brimming with vibrant, glamorous clothes, sequins seem to have made a strong comeback and there's a heel and handbag to match every colour you can imagine. Tantalising seafood suggestions are leaping from the pages of magazines and champagne has never been more heavily marketed, eager to be the chosen bubbles for the season. It seems only sensible to be trying a few before making such a commitment!

And some of the most bah humbug of folk I know are eagerly reviewing invitations to the multitude of gatherings on offer from friends, family and work. Tickets to wreath-making workshops (although it could be because of the glass of bubbly that you have with it), member events and community activities are selling out in record time. There is a definite festive feel in the air.

I think of my adored grandma, who hosted the most impressive Christmas events. The tree was

heaving with ornaments, glittering under the Christmas lights. The house was full of music, and champagne glasses would "clink" under the peals of laughter in the summer air. It was a joy for us all to return "home" to Granny's for Christmas, all were welcome, all were loved, and all were very well fed. Sadly, she passed away this year from COVID and I can't help but think that perhaps her love for celebrating in the most glorious way was due to those war years. It must have felt just so wonderful to have survived the war and to have her beloved Fred return.

And perhaps now we all have just a tiny glimpse of how that might feel. How it might feel to survive the harrowing war, and just want to kick up your heels and paint the town (and in my grandma's case, her lips) red. They valued the simplicity of having family and friends home, while never forgetting the huge cost of what they sacrificed in their supreme efforts to keep the world a better place. So, with the huge restrictions we survived last Christmas, and the isolation we were in, maybe it's only sensible to let the joy of the festive season in.

This year I will be dancing by the lights of the Christmas tree with a champagne in hand, and Bing Crosby's *I'll Be Home For Christmas* playing knowing that my grandma will be in the arms of my papa up there doing the same. I am grateful that she taught us how to be stoic, and I am grateful she also taught us the joy of celebrating together. And I am grateful that this year, we can celebrate with those we love, we can hug without fear, we can squish as many people as we can at our dining tables and we can



I am grateful that Granny taught us how to be stoic, and I am grateful she also taught us the joy of celebrating together. And I am grateful that this year, we can celebrate with those we love ...



breathe a sigh of relief that while the hard times will never be over, it's not as bad this year.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, may your hearts be full of joy, and may your party shoes match your sequins.

With much love,
Abby x ●



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Rising star Lachlan McKillop celebrates Christmas in Docklands.

It has been a while since Docklands resident actor Lachlan McKillop walked his dog Jet along Yarra's Edge.

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*

In 2019 he was working on set with Jessica Orcsik, fellow actor, producer, director and CEO of the American Arts Film and Television Academy (AAFTA), when she invited him to join her Actors Conservatory program to meet and train with industry professionals.

"She told me that I had something special and that I should be part of her six-month intensive program in Los Angeles to take my career to the next level," Mr McKillop said.

"I had heard about the program from close industry friends who talked very highly about it and the opportunities I might experience."

"I was honoured to be invited by Jessica; this opportunity opened me to the intensity of the industry, and I have learnt an extensive amount."

All the students in this year's intake at AAFTA are Australian.

Mr McKillop appeared in seven films during his training with AAFTA.

His most prominent role is in the short film *Starry Eyed* set in 1940s Los Angeles, which explores what really happened in the golden age of Hollywood.

Jessica Orcsik, CEO of Diversity Pictures, is producing and directing this film with Young One Studio.

Mr McKillop has recently been working alongside world-renowned actor Charlie Di Stefano, known for his leading roles in *Crazy Fun Park* and *How to Stay Married*.

During the program, he has had the opportunity to hone his writing skills and also started developing his modelling portfolio, as he believes this is another avenue of performing and self-expression.

He is almost five months into the six-month AAFTA course and, on his return to Australia, he hopes to continue gaining more experience on the local sets.

"I love what I do every day, so I hope to get back to Los Angeles in 2023 to achieve my goals further."

He turned 21 in October and is expected to return to Docklands in mid-December.

He has a lot to celebrate and a patient dog to hug. ●



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Time for action in Docklands



More wind and rain in Docklands – but hopefully less “hot air and more action” from Development Victoria (DV) and City of Melbourne (CoM) in their consultations with the community about how to revitalise the Docklands precinct.



Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) obviously applauds such community engagement while remaining sceptical. Many will feel dismay to discover that amid DV's community consultations – and amid the unresolved controversy over the ATET noise nuisance, *The Age* (November 21, 2022) reported that the state government would spend \$5 million, in collaboration with the CoM to install a “pop-up” 3500-seat concert venue somewhere in Docklands. No site was specified and there certainly was no community consultation. Note this \$5 million is on top of the \$3 million DV was granted for community consultation some time ago to determine what will be, in effect, compensation for the Docklands community for the destruction and loss of the significant key heritage-listed asset, Central Pier. Meanwhile the community continues to play its part in good faith – hard pressed not to succumb to “consultation fatigue”.

This week the CoM released its Docklands Forum Report on community consultations held at Marvel Stadium. Several points are of particular significance to MMHN and the Docklands Community:

- 5.2. Celebrate the water as a unique element of Docklands
- 5.3. Strengthen the identity of Docklands
- 5.8 There is a need for an “anchor institution” or draw-card destination to change public perception
- 5.9 Harbour Esplanade and Central Pier remain the focus for the longer-term vision.

The Docklands community appears to have been heard. Consultation findings are incorporated into the Neighbourhood Planning Framework (NPF). Yes, but what of specific actions? As is the case with such community consultations, credibility would be enhanced if

community input could be clearly identified in the NPF and other reports. CoM could clearly state what had actually changed in response to community input. See



Turning now to the DV community consultations. There is still time to respond – put aside your scepticism and have your say. MMHN encourages ALL Docklands stakeholders to respond to the DV questions. Some are “tick-box”, others call for more comment if you wish.

MMHN is filled with dismay at one question – “What experiences and uses would help make Central Pier and adjacent waterfront a unique, vibrant destination”? DV asks us all to “consider what you have seen or experienced in other waterfront precincts in Australia or overseas and that you may wish to see in a future Central Pier. Tell us what made them great!”

MMHN will respond by stating the obvious: Internationally, other waterfront precincts have retained maritime infrastructure and site identity. Regrettably the unique maritime infrastructure and “site identity” of Docklands has been eroded over recent decades. Central Pier is a painful example, however, MMHN perceives that all is not lost. DV can indeed retrieve serious damage inflicted on Docklands. MMHN advocates that it can be rekindled, to an extent, by reinstating Docklands' maritime legitimacy on the “unique” and “vibrant” site of Central Pier and adjacent waterfront in the form of a large floating pontoon connected to Harbour Esplanade. A new permanent cultural institution – the Maritime Experience Centre (MEC) situated on this pontoon at the very centre of heritage-listed Victoria Harbour. The MEC concept references successful models including:

Site

Looking first at the site of the MEC. Docklands' heritage-listed aquatic amphitheatre of Victoria Harbour deserves, and must have, its visual focal point re-instated – ideally in a form which adds to its aesthetic appeal. A large floating pontoon can, in a cost-effective way, replicate Central Pier. Successful floating piers exist, e.g., Brooke Street Pier in Hobart which offers useful comparisons with the 150-year maritime trade heritage of Brooke Street Pier and Central Pier. Private developers identified the economic value in “rekindling” the spirit of the old Hobart pier using maritime heritage and architecture to deliver a new maritime asset for



Hobart. Sound familiar? See [brookestreetpier.com](#)

Design

Looking now at the design of the MEC, a new Cultural Centre at Cowes, Phillip Island is under construction, designed by Australian architects Jason Clement Burrows (JCB). It is a useful model for the MEC – 5000 sqm; three to four levels of flexible spaces to be shared with the community; 250-seat theatre; flexible tiered lecture and exhibition spaces; various types of workshop spaces; experiential; research on view; various office, studio and storage spaces; cutting-edge technical capabilities, including external and internal projection; library; toilets; retail space; café and restaurant with out-of-hours external access from adjacent landscaped maritime garden, encircling promenade deck – proximate to the Heritage Fleet mooring. See [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowesccc](#)

Noting that the community is calling for more open space in Docklands, the MEC floating pontoon site will feature a maritime garden and/or promenade deck around the perimeter. The maritime garden features citizen science

installations relating to navigation, astronomy, observation and measurement (wind, weather, tide, pollution, litter, wildlife, etc.).

Program

Looking at the immensely successful ACMI (Federation Square) “model” of a cultural centre using creative technology to “showcase” an industry, the MEC will showcase all aspects of the maritime industry and trade, which remains the basis of Victoria's prosperity - past, present and future.

We live in hope, with the support of the Docklands community, that NOW is the time for DV, CoM and the newly elected state government to take action on the MMHN's bold yet appropriate MEC project for activating Docklands. ●



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CHAMBER UPDATE

Looking ahead to 2023 in Docklands

It's encouraging to see that the big corporates' promise to bring their employees back to the office is finally beginning to come to life in Docklands.

WORDS BY *Daniel Hibberd - President*
DOCKLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Office occupancy data was released in late November indicating that Melbourne occupancy for October has risen again. According to the City of Melbourne, it was 45 per cent, up 10 per cent from September.

Can we see this reflected in our community? We've seen our businesses busier than they've been during the past couple of years, with corporates starting to come into work at least two to three days a week, with the

most popular days looking like Tuesday to Thursday.

While this is positive, it is clear there is still some progress to make around the return to workplaces in 2023.

However, the increase in visitation and activity is not just about our corporates returning to the office. We've recently seen more leisure visitors than ever come into Docklands which is aiding to supplement foot traffic and somewhat fill the void of less corporate presence. The opening of our newest hotel located at Waterfront Way early next year also speaks to the excitement and ongoing confidence surrounding our precinct.

And, why not? Summer's looking like it's going to be a ripper. We have Christmas activations galore coming to the precinct, many of which we are either sponsoring, partnering or managing.

There's full-day, Christmas-themed fun starting on December 10 at 12pm at Ron

Barrassi Senior Park, which includes an Aussie Christmas barbeque, free ice cream, DJ, loads of organised sports, dance classes, yoga and even a visit from Santa.

This then leads on perfectly to The District Docklands Twilight Christmas Markets, where regular traders will be extending their hours supported by entertainment, market stalls and food trucks.

The following Saturday we are supporting the NewQuay Twilight Christmas Markets activating the entire promenade. We're expecting 60 market stalls, loads of entertainers and, of course, another visit from Santa. We're also told that this New Years' Eve celebrations will be the largest in history and we all know Docklands is the focus point for fireworks.

Summer doesn't stop there though with Live Nation in partnership with The District Docklands presenting District Live – six hours of food, entertainment and music every Saturday in January. Which somewhat hints

to the whispers of Live Nation having an enormous festival scale entertainment site on Footscray Rd.

This recent \$5 million investment into a 3500-capacity open air festival and music venue from the state government has opened up many questions: what is Docklands?

Is it an entertainment precinct? Is it a residential precinct? A place for corporates to come into the office?

The answer is that it's all those things and you can add in a few more dynamics as well. We welcome it all – the school, restaurants, bars, the charter boats, clubs, library and the new events starting to find their home in our cherished precinct.

The world of work has certainly adapted, but so have we. As hard as it was, there's no doubt COVID has forced us to understand the true multi-dimensional potential of Docklands. I'm looking forward to working with all of you to unlock that vision in 2023. ●

Koorie Heritage Trust ends the year on a celebratory high

To celebrate the start of the festive season, the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) is busily preparing for its annual family friendly Koorie Krismas, but not before it also celebrates 10 years of the Koorie Art Show.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*



▲ Tom Mosby.



▲ Fed Square Christmas. Photo: Liam Neal. NearFarProduction.

While a busy way to round off the year, both events are a chance for KHT to not only showcase the amazing artistic works of the Victorian First Nations community, but to also celebrate the holiday season with the broader community.

The Koorie Art Show and the Koorie Art Show Young Mob, which has been added on for the past five years, will have their community launch day on Saturday, December 3 with the award winners announced that same day.

Describing the art show as a “fantastic legacy”, KHT chief executive officer Tom Mosby said they really wanted to make the launch day “a special day” given they weren’t only celebrating an important year, but it was the show’s first time back on-site since pre-pandemic.

“We have presented well over 1000 artworks from more than 350 artists here in Victoria, and had about \$160,000 worth of prizes awarded over the ten years, so celebrating 10 years is a great thing for us,” Mr Mosby said.

This year, more than 100 artists will have their work and stories shared in the Koorie Art Show, with presentations ranging from works on paper, photography, sculpture, multimedia, to fibre art,

and 49 of the artists are first-time entrants.

Opening up the entries to first-timers is of particular importance to KHT, as it strives to make it the type of show that is inclusive to all First Nations artists.

“The Koorie Art Show is the only award show of its kind specifically for the Victoria First Nations community, including the Koorie community, and all Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander artists who have lived in Victoria,” Mr Mosby said.

“It is all inclusive and for all artists, whether you are an established artist, an emerging artist, or just a Saturday painter who works out in your back shed.”

Included within this year’s awards is the \$3000 Josh Muir Digital Art Award.

For KHT it is an award that takes the time to honour and remember young Ballarat artist Josh Muir who sadly passed away earlier

this year.

Describing Josh as a “rising star, not just in the First Nations Indigenous industry, but also generally, Mr Mosby said the award was about acknowledging Josh as a “great young artist and role model for new artists”.

Josh was always a strong supporter of KHT, and even entered into the very first show that was held in 2013.

He then continued on to participate in the show up until 2018, winning a number of prizes along the way for his curiosity and well-known digital works.

All entries for the Koorie Art Show will also be eligible for the following awards:

- \$10,000 Creative Victoria Award for Excellence in Any Media
- \$5000 Metro Tunnel Creative Program 2D Award
- \$5000 City of Melbourne Aboriginal

Melbourne Award

- \$5000 Lendlease Reconciliation Award
- \$5000 Viva Energy Australia 3D Award
- \$5000 RMIT University Emerging Artist Award
- 2 x \$500 KHT’s Encouragement Awards
- \$1000 KHT’s People’s Choice Award

As well as attending the launch day to hear the winners announced, attendees also have the opportunity to purchase their favourite works, although they will have to remain displayed until the show wraps up on February 19.

In addition to the excitement of preparing for the Koorie Art Show and the Koorie Art Show Young Mob, KHT is also looking forward to being able to celebrate “the start of the holiday season, but in a very special First Nations way”.

“We have put on Koorie Krismas here at Federation Square ever since we moved to the square back in 2015, [and] it’s for our community and the broader community as well, to get together and celebrate, and explore all aspects of Koorie culture,” Mr Mosby said.

“We will have music, market stalls with gifts and crafts that people can buy for Christmas presents, and also creative workshops with First Nation creative artists, designers and craftspeople, and people can come along and make things to give away as Christmas gifts.”

Also making a special appearance on the day, as has been done every year, is Koorie Klaus, who has continued to prove a hit with the young kids.

Koorie Krismas will be held on Saturday, December 10 from 10am until 3pm at Federation Square outside KHT, with performers on the main stage.

While anyone and everyone is welcomed to attend the Koorie Krismas extravaganza, KHT is asking for people to RSVP for the Koorie Art Show for catering purposes. ●

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Why dancing is great for your body



For as long as humans have been walking, we’ve been dancing.



Dance is viewed in many different ways across cultures. It can be part of religious expression, spiritual connection, celebration, self-expression, and performed competitively across nations as we watch in awe and admiration.

What if a boogie was good for your body?

It doesn’t have to be strictly a boogie or strictly a ballroom, but there is plenty of evidence to suggest that dancing has some great benefits for your body from your muscles to your mental health.

Dancing helps improve your posture

Unless you’re into dancing with only one part of your body (which is fine if that’s your thing!), it typically involves the coordination and use of multiple muscles to balance, including your core. Good core strength helps promote good posture and stability, which is great news for your body.

A lot of dances also require a good deal of flexibility (although you might leave the flips and splits to a few classes in). Flexibility calls for good joint health, and the two feed on each other as you glide your way across the dance floor.

Dancing is great cardio

Both fast- and slow-paced dances have the ability to get the heart pumping, which is the

WHY DANCING IS GREAT FOR YOUR BODY





goal of a good cardio workout. When your heart gets pumping, your blood gets pumping and carrying oxygen around the body to help lower your blood pressure, strengthen your heart muscle, regulate your blood sugar, improve your mental health and sleep, and helps to maintain or lose weight as you increase your fitness.

Some people also might find a dance less intimidating than going for a run!

Dancing is great for your mental health

Dancing can help improve your mental health in both a psychological and physical way. Through the cardiovascular benefits, it helps to release endorphins (feel-good hormones)

which can improve your mood and help fight against anxiety, depression, and memory loss. Dancing can also give you a confidence boost as you learn a new move or dance style and add to your self-esteem.

Dancing is a great social connection point for you as you meet new people, learn new things together, and provide a sense of community and belonging which can help combat loneliness and isolation.

Dancing helps tone your muscles

A great deal of dances will have you moving most of your major muscle groups from your glutes and legs to your arms and abdomen.

The more you use those muscles with regular dancing, the more toned they will become from getting a routine and rhythmic whole-body workout.

There are a lot of great reasons to make dancing a regular part of your week! ●



Dr Mike Edgley

CHIROPRACTOR

DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU

WE LIVE HERE

A legal labyrinth

Navigating the legislative changes affecting owners' corporations (OCs) over the past four years is quite a challenge. We offer this thread to help you through the maze:

The *Owners' Corporations Act 2006* has had two acts incorporated:

- *Owners Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act No 4 2021* – a range of welcome reforms with noticeable omissions.
- The unreviewed *Short Stay Accommodation Act 2018* – the so-called “Airbnb party bill”. This Act was supposed to be reviewed in 2020 and the review is now scheduled “between 2023 and 2027”. This Act has been treated as an amendment, despite its standalone name.

If you want to find the latest version of the *Owners Corporations Act 2006*, search for the “Authorised version 019”, dated December 1, 2021. This version has annotations showing where the amendments have been made.

We Live Here has ongoing dialogue with Consumer Affairs Victoria, which is part of the Department of Justice and Community Safety. In our most recent meeting, we learned that the proposed review of the *Owners' Corporations Act 2006* during the term of the next government would cover both acts that were incorporated into the Act.

Short-stay accommodation was excluded from the 2014 review of the Act because of planning issues. Have these issues been resolved to allow a simultaneous review of both acts? We certainly hope so, because the current legislation is far from workable.

The short-stay legislation has been tested twice recently – sadly the plaintiff residents struggled to prosecute the most fundamental types of claims against commercial short-stay interests.

In both cases the VCAT member sided with the short-stay operators.

- In the first case, the OC recognised that the VCAT member's expressed sentiments did



not bode well. The OC quietly negotiated a compromise settlement for the damage done to their building.

- In the second case, which was also lost, the OC was left frustrated and fuming because the law requiring three consecutive breaches was prohibitive.

After four years of so-called short-stay party laws, the number of VCAT orders we can find in favour of residents is still zero. If you know of any exceptions, please let us know.

Turning to the positives, the 2021 amendments introduced some long-overdue reforms to resolve unfair practices in the appointment of OC managers.

The reforms limit the common practice of apartment developers awarding long-term OC managers contracts to associates. The legislation targets these ball-and-chain contracts, limiting terms and outlawing clauses that require a special resolution to remove a manager. We Live Here applauds the overall reforms – they are closely aligned with the recommendations we have made for several years.

Regretfully, there was a huge oversight in these reforms; similar principles should apply to all contracts, particularly building or facilities management. There are some inner-city apartment buildings whose committees are burdened with one-sided, irrevocable facilities

management contracts, for 20 years or more. The excessive tenure of these contracts can breed contempt and disrespect for committee members and owners. The government must regulate these contracts with the same type of reforms that apply now to OC manager contracts.

Builder's roadblock: residents turn to the council

Residents at a La Trobe St apartment building are furious over a neighbouring builder's plan to create traffic chaos for at least four years.

The builder has reached stage 2 of a twin tower project. Rather than use the vicinity of its first tower for stage 2 construction traffic management, the builder plans to endanger and distress hundreds of neighbouring residents.

The affected OC has contacted We Live Here, hoping we can help.

The OC has already put its case to Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, and councillors Rohan Leppert and Davydd Griffiths:

The OC said, “To date, there has been zero community consultation and so we are contacting [the council] directly. We have already contacted the site services of the Melbourne City Council, which has repeatedly referred us to [the builder], and when we have contacted [the builder], they have refused to engage with us in any meaningful way or respond to our genuine questions and queries.”

This case highlights problems at intersection of the state and municipal tiers of government:

- severe deficiencies in the building approval process, in this case overseen by the former Minister for Planning Richard Wynne.
- flawed traffic management processes – the responsibility of the City of Melbourne, although the council does not have an active role in the implementation.

We Live Here suggests that any residential building that could be affected by a new development must be consulted in the early planning stages so that proactive measures can be taken to ensure resident safety, minimise noise and preserve amenity.

The La Trobe St residents in this matter should not have been placed in this intolerable position.

An OC recovers

We have been following a long-running resident challenge to a developer-dominated OC. Nerida Pohl has this update:

“After amended laws enabled fresh new candidates to be elected, residents have complimented the obvious changes.

- The previous committee members (three of the committee of five) removed their real estate agency from our residential lounge, which can be enjoyed now by all residents.
- After the cleaning company of the members was replaced, we now can instruct our cleaners independently.
- We have sub-committees working on freshening the landscape, energy and waste reduction issues, pool and gym upgrades, management of short-stay visitors.
- A lawyer is representing the committee against the forces of the shopping plaza, which still tries to keep us out of our private undercover loading dock and goods lift.

We are optimistic going into the new year that we can put all this behind us.”

We Live Here is delighted to hear there has been positive progress – a vindication of the stoic determination of Nerida and fellow residents to fight for a representative and productive committee.

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 welfare.net. We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests. ●



Barbara Francis &
Rus Littleton
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LEARN MORE AT
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SKYPAD LIVING

How cyber-secure are our vertical villages?

“

Technology has changed the landscape of when, where and how crimes are committed – and our vertical villages have already been breached!

”

While central to the way we live our lives, our increased use of technology has also seen dramatic increases in the frequency and reach of many crimes. According to the World Economic Forum, cyberattacks, together with data fraud or theft, make up two of the top 10 global risks facing the world today.

Generically referred to as cyber-crimes, Victoria Police uses this term to describe a broad range of offences against both “the person” (such as stalking and extortion) and against property (such as hacking and online scams).

And our residential strata sector has already been targeted.

Take the instance of SSKB (a Queensland-based body corporate and community management firm). On October 27, 2022, SSKB reported



that a third party had accessed its IT network, downloaded data and demanded a ransom.

A statement from SSKB said, “as soon as we became aware of the unauthorised access, we deactivated the systems involved and secured our IT environment.”

“We are working as swiftly as possible to determine what, if any, personal or sensitive information may be contained in the dataset that was downloaded.”

While the unauthorised access of any organisational data is disturbing, recent incidents have shone a light on the range of personal information that organisations are collecting and keeping – even long after you part ways.

As for us vertical villagers, we ask the question “what personal information about us is being captured and kept – and by whom?”

Unsurprisingly, our starting point is the *Owners Corporation Act 2006*. As clearly stated by Consumer Affairs Victoria, an owners' corporation (OC) is required by law to keep certain records. They must, for example, ensure they

have “records from the developer” (such as the plan of subdivision). They must also establish, maintain and have “easily accessible and available in English” an OC register. This is a summary of an OC's activities, undertakings and membership (including the full name and address of each lot owner). And this register must be made available for inspection upon request to authorised parties (with specific exclusions made regarding commercial use).

The Act also stipulates how long OCs must keep specific records, for example voting papers and ballots must be kept for at least 12 months. And there is also a general stipulation regarding protecting privacy wherein OC may only collect and use personal information in a fair and lawful way and that the personal information it holds must be accurate, up-to-date and secure.

Two questions now come to mind.

First; “what other data is being collected?” For instance, our management systems record such information as our payment history (including arrears), breach notifications, grievances and related legal correspondence. Added to this, our building management systems typically record delivery notifications, resident access activity and information regarding requested mobility assistance (eg for emergency evacuation). And there is also our growing CCTV network.

Added to this, there may be a number of “informal databases” (likely set up with the best intentions). Here are bits of information relating to, for instance, pet ownership (name and breed), your birth date (so staff can wish you a happy day) and in-house surveys (which

seek to help planning). And this information may reside, unprotected, on multiple personal computers.

This now leads to the second question, which is how well managed and secure are these various systems that contain our personal information – keeping in mind that a system is only as secure as its weakest link – and this includes staff's home computers (how up to-date is their anti-virus software?). Additionally, we need to know whether our vertical village, and our management companies, have policies and procedures ready to enact in the event of a cybercrime – will you / they pay a ransom demand?

The key point is that vertical villages must now take a more proactive approach towards managing and securing information. Rather than relying on assurances from our various service providers that their respective systems are “secure”, we must each develop strategies – *govern, protect, detect and respond* – which strike a balance between ensuring the capture and leveraging of needed data (to best manage our villages and comply legally) and minimising the risks associated with being the custodian of this critical asset. ●



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

HISTORY

Berthing at Little Dock ... maybe for a cuppa?

Before the Spencer Street Bridge was built, this was the view from the corner of Spencer and Flinders streets.

WORDS BY *Ashley Smith*
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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

For more than 70 years, the Dock was a mainstay for many smaller boats that were able to navigate the shallow bends of the Yarra. This included a group of trading ships known as the Mosquito Fleet. The fleet consisted of many small ships that would buzz across Bass Strait to Tasmania and back, usually for timber. Even as steamships became the primary mode of sea transport in the early 20th century, sailing ships such as ketches, schooners and brigantines were still seen as economical due to their reliance on free wind power instead of expensive coal. Due to their small size, they were perfect for delivering cargo to seaside or riverside towns that didn't have access to rail. *The Herald* in 1916

(May 27), reported on how they were vital to resort areas between Mornington and the Port Phillip Heads, especially as they delivered cargo three times a week in the summertime. Former president of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, George R. Leggett, wrote in 1945 (*The Argus*, April 21) that on a busy day, so many would berth at the Dock that "it was possible to cross one side to another on the decks - five abreast and one across the end - two tiers of them".

Two ships have been identified on the left-hand side of this image. The darker one is known as the *Orsin*, a 42-tonne ketch. The white-hulled ship is the *Berean*, a 71-tonne ketch that measured 80 feet in length and originally built in Tasmania in 1877. It served as a trade ship until it was sold to the Victorian Government in 1911 for £700. It then served as a storage ship for gunpowder and explosives until the 1930s. By 1937, *The Argus* (September 17) reported the "rotting hulk" was resting at Williamstown with other used ships, likely awaiting destruction.

Usually after a journey, a sailor would want a pint or two at the bar, or, if they were a teetotaler, a cup of tea. One of the most popular tea brands of the era was Robur, whose warehouse (known today as The Tea House) is the lone behemoth, in this photo, towering over the South Melbourne skyline. Standing six stories tall, the building was constructed in 1887 as a warehouse for stationers, Ferguson and Mitchell. Built on swampy ground, the engineers were able to construct it using an innovative technique: the sturdy foundation used more than 450 ironbark timber piles and concrete rafts. It is one of the finest examples of a 19th-century warehouse in Melbourne and, indeed, Australia. In the early 1900s the building was owned by S. A. Palmer, who sold the herbal remedy known as "Vitadatio".

Robur occupied the building by 1906. Robur started as a brand owned by Hawthorn, Rhodes



and Co. in the 1890s, a time when Australia was drinking more tea than any other country. The distributor James Service and Co. then bought the company in 1900. They also had a factory in Queensbridge St, equipped with machinery that mixed the tea leaves, using fans and magnets to remove dust and stray metal parts, before they were packed into vegetable parchment bags. Workers (around 120 at the time), wore white aprons as they diligently prepared the tea for grocery shops all over Victoria.

The brand was known for its wide array of aggressive advertising campaigns. In the decades that followed, they did *everything* including distributing promotional calendars featuring famous artworks, wartime promotions encouraging families to donate tea to the ANZACs, created a separate teapot brand made of the finest silver, and covered Melbourne in a series of outdoor wall advertisements featuring their signature teapot logo; some of which can still be found in their fading glory today. Through these promotions, Robur pitched itself to the

many aspirational middle-class or lower-class suburbanites who wanted to be posh but at a fraction of the cost of the more expensive tea brands.

The warehouse would remain in business until the 1970s. The Robur Company was bought by Tetley, which in turn was swallowed by the Indian-based Tata, then, in 2021, Tetley was purchased from Tata by Harris Tea. Today, the building's presence along the South Melbourne skyline has been diminished slightly with the Convention Centre impinging on its glory. Importantly, the tea house remains as one of the last very vestiges of the south bank of the Yarra's industrial and warehousing past. ●



Ashley Smith

RESEARCHER
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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SALSA IN THE CITY

The MBassy Dance is excited to share our love of Latin culture with Melbourne through a series of FREE and beginner friendly pop-up dance classes.

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Outdoors on Collins Landing
835-849 Collins St, Docklands



DECEMBER 13 – 24 - FREE

NORDIC CHRISTMAS IN MELBOURNE

Immerse yourself in a living forest and discover hidden treasures as WØRKS brings a touch of Nordic festive tradition to Melbourne.

WØRKS
897 Collins St, Docklands 3008

UNTIL DECEMBER 8 - FREE

SEA SHANTIES AND FOLK SONGS

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



UNTIL DECEMBER 22 - FREE

TAI CHI AT DOCKLANDS

Free Tai Chi classes include qigong breathing and meditation techniques; strength, flexibility, balance and coordination exercises; and martial applications, forms and, in time, weaponry. Suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

The Hub at Docklands
80 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands 3008



The Women's Investment Club
MENTORING FOR EASY INVESTING

JANUARY 14, 11AM – 12.30PM

BOOK CLUB

Meet locals here at Book Club and learn how to build your financial literacy skills and promote inclusivity.

Books to be discussed – *Nice Girls Don't Get Rich* – Lois P. Frankel.

Although women may not know it, certain behaviors and habits that they learned when they were girls are now preventing them from attaining financial fulfillment. Women are more likely to depend on men for financial advice and decisions and make mistakes that men don't make. The book provides a list of 75 Unavoidable Mistakes Women Make with Money.

Financial literacy is supposed to have a positive impact on mental health and community. The initiative is being supported by The Women's Investment Club – a social enterprise promoting financial empowerment, investment know how and community in Melbourne.

A series of book clubs are being held in the city, docklands and Southgate. The Book clubs are funded by a Inclusivity Grant from City of Melbourne.

thewomensinvestmentclub.com.au

Library at The Dock
107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands VIC 3008

10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

DECEMBER 2012 - JANUARY 2013 | ISSUE 82 |

DOCKLANDS NEWS



What's that you said Jack?

While the Norfolk Pines on Harbour Esplanade may struggle in Docklands' wind, there's a new tree in town that is firmly planted in the ground.

A talking tree has found a home at Docklands' Wonderland Fun Park in front of the Spiegel tent.

The tree has been shipped all the way from the Philippines and upon arrival required some heavy pruning to ensure it would fit in its new surroundings. Several of the tree's longer

branches were removed.

For those who have already seen the tree and heard it speak, you weren't wrong if you thought its voice sounded familiar.

Renowned Australian actor Jack Thompson has lent his talents to give the tree a truly distinguished voice. ●

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Quiz



1. City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney resigned recently for not declaring a donation to what event?
2. The City of Melbourne has launched what new services for residents of Docklands?
3. Mt Isa is a mining town in which Australian state?
4. Where is the Sea of Tranquility?
5. What live music series is returning to Docklands this summer?
6. Which song by Adele (pictured) features the lyrics, 'There's a fire starting in my heart, Reaching a fever pitch, it's bringing me out the dark'?
7. True or false: the banksia plant is native to China?
8. Which Australian bird is sometimes known as the 'bushman's clock'?
9. A major event to raise funds for the Alma Doepel generated how much money last month?
10. Are white or green beans used in the French dish cassoulet?
11. A proposal to replace Central Pier with a giant fish shaped building has been revealed. What is proposed to be inside?
12. How many people attended the Melbourne Boat Show at New Quay: a) 15,000, b) 20,000 or c) 30,000?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. A Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race 2. An online Docklands Neighbourhood Portal 3. Queensland 4. On the moon 5. The District Live: Open Air Series 6. Rolling in the Deep 7. False (Australia) 8. Kookaburra 9. \$27,000 10. White beans 11. A mixed-use fish market 12. c) 30,000

5x5

No. 018

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

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SOLUTIONS

ABASE, VALID, EKIING, REVUE, TRESS

Sudoku

No. 018

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

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HARD

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SOLUTIONS

EASY

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Wordfind

Theme: War

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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| C | N | T | P | F | Q | E | N | K | D | A |
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| B | A | I | E | L | L | R | N | T | P | I |
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| T | M | P | B | N | T | R | N | A | T | C |
| A | A | O | C | C | U | P | Y | O | E | I |
| N | C | H | O | S | T | I | L | E | C | N |
| V | I | E | T | N | A | M | A | R | M | Y |
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| ARMY | FRONT |
| ATTACK | HOSTILE |
| BOER | INVADE |
| CAMPAIGN | IRAQ |
| CIVIL | NAPOLEON |
| COMBAT | OCCUPY |
| CONFLICT | STRIFE |
| CRIMEA | TRENCH |
| DISPUTE | TROOPS |
| FIGHT | VIETNAM |

Secret message: Peace train

Crossword

No. 018

ACROSS

- 1 Swamp (7)
- 5 Slid; dashed (7)
- 9 Tribes (5)
- 10 South American (9)
- 11 Wrath (3)
- 12 Connect; associate (11)
- 13 Struggles; filters (7)
- 15 Dried or cleaned without wiping (6)
- 18 Scottish delicacy (6)
- 20 School (7)
- 22 Bug poison (11)
- 24 Common pet (3)
- 25 Emitting (9)
- 26 Expel; escape (5)
- 27 Accounts (7)
- 28 Feather cleaners (7)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 |
| | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | |
| 9 | | | | | | 10 | | | | | | | | |
| | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | |
| 11 | | | | | 12 | | | | | | | | | |
| | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | |
| 13 | | 14 | | | | | | 15 | | 16 | | | | 17 |
| | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | |
| 18 | | | | | | 19 | | 20 | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | 23 | | | | | | | | 24 | | |
| | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | |
| 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | 26 | | |
| | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | |
| 27 | | | | | | | | 28 | | | | | | |

DOWN

- 1 Strangest; craziest (8)
- 2 Exchange (5)
- 3 Descending with rope (9)
- 4 Argues (7)
- 5 Boxed; fought (7)
- 6 Oily fruit (5)
- 7 East Asian nationality (9)
- 8 Tangoed (e.g.) (6)
- 14 Epic; instrumental (9)
- 16 Those with faith (9)
- 17 Grows in the womb (8)
- 19 Alcohols (7)
- 20 Wincod (7)
- 21 Reflector (6)
- 23 Seat (5)
- 24 Greek island (5)

SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| S | H | E | L | L | S | D | H | O | E | R | S | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | E | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| V | H | A | N | R | H | O | R | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | I | R | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | A | V | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | N | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | R | A | B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | V | I | Z | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| V | A | L | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | C | O | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Codeword

No. 018

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 12 | 3 | 16 | 10 | 23 | 5 | 20 | 3 | O | | 12 | 22 | B |
| 3 | | 1 | | 9 | | 23 | | 16 | | 21 | | 23 |
| 5 | 20 | O | 21 | 9 | | 11 | 3 | 10 | 20 | O | 22 | 10 |
| 7 | | 22 | | | | 23 | | 21 | | 19 | | 20 |
| 13 | O | 10 | 22 | 16 | | 3 | 10 | 23 | 13 | 3 | 5 | 16 |
| 17 | | | | | | 3 | | 5 | | 13 | | |
| 16 | 5 | 21 | 3 | 12 | 10 | | 9 | 3 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 10 |
| | | 17 | | 22 | | 17 | | 16 | | | | 21 |
| 15 | 23 | 2 | 17 | 13 | 3 | 1 | | 4 | 23 | 3 | 8 | 17 |
| 23 | | 17 | | 10 | | 8 | | | | 21 | | 23 |
| 12 | 17 | 21 | 15 | 22 | 21 | 24 | | 17 | 14 | 23 | 4 | 16 |
| 23 | | 16 | | 21 | | 4 | | 4 | | 6 | | O |
| 1 | 17 | 17 | | 17 | 14 | 17 | 5 | 22 | 10 | 3 | O | 1 |

SOLUTIONS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| X | J | S | E | G | F | H | R | U | A | V | O | B |
| SC | CC | CC | CC | CC | CC | CC | CC | CC | CC | CC | CC | CC |
| L | V | A | I | M | C | Z | D | T | W | P | | |
| ET | ET | ET | ET | ET | ET | ET | ET | ET | ET | ET | ET | ET |

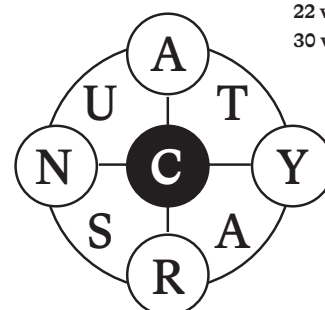
9-Letter

No. 018

Today's Focus:

- 15 words: Good
- 22 words: Very good
- 30 words: Excellent

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



SOLUTIONS

Reference:

Collins Concise English Dictionary

acts, actuary, arcs, canary, cans, cant, carts, cast, cast, crast, crust, crusty, curt, curts, cuts, cyan, cyst, tacy, sacra, SANCTUARY, saucy, scan, scan, scanty, scarf, scary, scar, sour, tranquy

港区运动会节日期间拉开序幕

Docklands港区将举办社区圣诞庆祝活动 and 运动会，欢迎所有以港区为家的当地居民参加，共同庆祝。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

这个以社区为中心的活动将于12月10日星期六开始，是由港区众多团体共同组织发起的，重点是团结当地社区居民一起庆祝活动。

港区商会执行官 Shane Wylie 表示，虽然这只是第一次举办的活动，但“代表了共同合作的新时代”。

Wylie先生说：“我们在五年战略计划中认识到，一个机构是无法承担港区所需的活动，而合作伙伴关系是扩大活动规模的关键。”

“如果没有邻里之家(Neighborhood House)、港区商场(The District Docklands)和港区体育俱乐部(Docklands Sports Club)的大力帮助，就不可能有这次的社区圣诞节活动和运动会，我们感谢他们的热情参与。”

钓鱼、板球、乒乓球和足球已经列入人们可以参加的运动会项目，对于其他不喜欢尝试运动的人来说，这个运动会也将是一个结识其他当地人的机会，听听音乐，共享免费烧烤。

虽然这一天的大部分时间将在Ron Barassi Se-



nior公园举行，但港区商场将为人们提供一个有趣的乒乓球运动空间，还有一些活动将在NewQuay海滨大道上举行。

根据港区邻里之家社区发展官员Jason Butcher的说法，社交钓鱼俱乐部最近已经成为邻里之家的一个突破性计划，特别是港区的小学生也已经“爱上了钓鱼”。

这也是为什么他对钓鱼作为社区运动会的一部分感到如此兴奋。

Butcher先生说：“在邻里之家，我们有一位传奇的当地志愿者在附近钓鱼，我们将在 NewQuay Promenade 和 Barassi 公园及其周边地区开展钓鱼活动。”



体验北欧圣诞节

港区的一家可持续护肤及家庭香水商店 WØRKS，将给当地居民带来北欧圣诞节的体验。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

这是该区域第一家具有斯堪的纳维亚(Scandinavian)风格的商店，由Christoffer Kjærgård 和 Suze Raymond 夫妇创建，他们希望将融合他们的价值观，创造出一些独特而新颖的东西。

Raymond 女士说：“Christoffer是丹麦人，当他移民来澳大利亚时，一直在寻找一些小而美设计的家居元素，但找不到很多斯堪的纳维亚风格的，而我成了素食主义者，对有机和可持续发展非常感兴趣。”

“我们没有产品开发的背景，但我们想一起做些什么，把我们的价值观融合在一起，这就是我们最终呈现的东西。”

WØRKS 现在是一个以醒目别致的斯堪的纳维亚设计知名品牌，着重于有机物品和可持续发展，现在正以热烈的节日气氛迎接它在 Docklands港区的第一个圣诞节。作为墨尔本市政圣诞节资助

项目的成功获得者，WØRKS 将从12月13日起将其店面改造成北欧圣诞节。

Raymond 女士说：“这次资助项目的关键标准之一是颂扬其他国家的传统，同时也在寻找可持续的举措，我们认为，这太完美了。”

“有太多的塑料装饰品、闪光物和金属箔片，这对环境非常不利，所以我们为这次活动提出了一个建议，从美学角度来看，这是一个北欧圣诞节主题，我们将专注于100%无塑料圣诞节。”

Raymond女士在丹麦体验了几次圣诞节的魔力，受到这种启发，她说他们会带来多棵活的圣诞树，自然排列展现，以创造一个美丽的“斯堪的纳维亚风格圣诞森林”景象。

WØRKS店位于港区Collins街897号，从上午11点开始营业，并将为这次的小型圣诞活动提供深夜购物特价，为全年画上圆满的句号。

worksliving.com.au

全国首次特殊划船赛

维多利亚龙舟俱乐部有史以来第一次全员出动，为澳大利亚与龙并肩组织(Dragons Abreast Australia)网络及其成员举办澳洲第一次全国性乳腺癌患者划船赛。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

继几个月前Docklands港区墨尔本与龙并肩粉色凤凰(Dragons Abreast Melbourne Pink Phoenix)组织成立之后，粉色划船赛(Pink Paddle Power Regatta) 将于12月3日星期六在港区举行。

虽然划船赛过去曾由澳大利亚与龙并肩组织举办过，但这次即将举行的赛事将标志着首次由维州体育机构承办，来自澳大利亚和新西兰各地的团队都将参加。

本次粉色划船赛宣传官 Linda Papworth告诉本报：“我们非常感激维多利亚龙舟俱乐部将为我们所有人举办一场特别的划船赛，这真是太棒了，而且到时将有数百名乳腺癌幸存者前来参加。”

“如果当地社区能够加入，帮助我们发一些声音，制造一点轰动效应，那就太好了。我们都经历了



很多艰辛，只要能踏上船，划出水面，我们都会是胜利者。”

虽然有一些完整的团队将前来参加有趣的“非竞争性”活动，但澳大利亚与龙并肩组织也将帮助协调可能需要一些额外桨手的团队，因此有一些船只由复合团队组成。

这项活动将在周五晚上为参与者正式拉开帷幕，周六划船赛开幕式将在充满活力、热闹的鼓声中开始。

澳大利亚乳腺癌网络(BCNA)首席执行官Kirsten Pilatti将出席上午9:30的开幕式，随后将由墨尔本中华青年会表演传统中国舞狮。

港区新舞蹈工作室

Mbassy 舞蹈工作室最近刚在 Docklands港区的Collins 街成立，但已经开始期待在节日期间，通过舞蹈表演来庆祝圣诞节。传播圣诞快乐

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

舞蹈工作室成功获得了墨尔本市政圣诞集体项目的资助，使之有机会举办两项独特的活动，市政的该项目旨在为节日增添新的亮点。

Mbassy舞蹈创始人总监Minx Hafon是一个有14年舞蹈教练的经历，他熟知跳舞的积极益处，并期待去帮助当地人，让他们了解任何人都可以跳舞。

Minx 说：“人们来跳舞有很多原因。跳舞会得到社交互动，尤其是与不同的舞伴



和不同的人建立联系，还有就是体力锻炼方面，跳舞会释放内啡肽，使人身心舒畅。”

“有些人说跳舞比理疗好，这种情况也很常见。”

Minx 将 Salsa 舞描述为“就是花式走路”，希望市内和周边的人们能够充分利用市区的Salsa免费初学者舞蹈课程，学习 Salsa 舞和 Bachata舞。

这些课程的日期为12月6日至22日，每周二和周四下午5:30至7:00在Collins Landing进行，这是新舞蹈工作室将社区聚集在一起，分享对拉丁文化的热爱。

为了圆满完成12月的庆祝活动，Mbassy 舞蹈工作室还将举办一场古巴圣诞派对，其中包括南美烧烤，随后是尽情的舞蹈和社交活动。

Mbassy舞蹈工作室地址在Collins街915号。

thembassy.com.au

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