

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P26



Docklanders unite in the fight against cancer

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea was held on Thursday, May 25, and Docklanders were seen gathering across Victoria Harbour and doing their part to support those impacted by cancer. *Full story on page 8.*

Shopping centre Docklands Primary School campus set for Term 3, but concerns remain

WORDS BY *David Schout*
EDUCATION

A temporary campus for the at-capacity Docklands Primary School is set to welcome students from July, but concerns remain about the shopping centre space allocated by the state government.

The proposed new classrooms, in repurposed retail space at The District Docklands, will feature desks and chairs for students and teachers, bag storage units and interactive screens.

The Department of Education was forced to find a new home for students after it underestimated enrolment numbers at the local school, which opened in 2021.

It told *Docklands News* that the design and layout of the new space had been done in close discussions with the school.

"The interim campus is on track to open in term three," a Department of Education spokesperson said.

"The new campus will include up to nine additional classrooms, two of which are being designed as flexible spaces, plus additional multi-purpose spaces."

"The design of the new campus was developed in close consultation with the school to ensure the space will be a vibrant addition for the school."

However, parent Mary Masters, who has been an active

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"We need to draw a line in the sand": Council issues default notice to ATET

Controversial floating nightclub ATET is being forced to either turn its music right down or vacate Victoria Harbour after City of Melbourne councillors voted unanimously to default the venue for "significant and consistent" noise breaches.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

At their May 30 council meeting, councillors determined that in light of new information provided by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), which had recently concluded an investigation into the noise of ATET, it had "no choice" but to act upon the breaches.

In reiterating previous comments that the current situation with ATET was "unacceptable", Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the default notice meant the venue would either now have to turn music down to "background levels only" or find another location.

"What we are doing tonight is we will be notifying ATET that they are in breach of the EPA protocols, and if they're in breach of their EPA protocols then they are in breach of their planning permit. And, if they don't have a planning permit, then they also are in breach of their berthing licence as well," Cr Reece said.

"What does background music levels mean? It's the sort of music levels that we see operating in many successful venues across Melbourne and venues which do so without creating mass public disturbance."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that the council would now "work with ATET and the EPA to understand

how that compliance can be attained and maintained, on the advice that we've received from the EPA".

"Our council officers will consider again whether compliance can be achieved with the permit and the licence, and we'll need to be able to see that happen in a reasonable time frame."

"We're very conscious of the ongoing impacts for residents. And, if it's not possible or practical for ATET to meet their compliance obligations, then management can decide to cancel the licence."

Two weeks prior at the May 16 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting at the Community Hub in Docklands, councillors had voted to consider taking the "unprecedented" action to terminate the venue's licence in Victoria Harbour.

The shock move came as the Lord Mayor sprung an urgent item of business following a Docklands neighbourhood update from council officers, stating that the council "needed to draw a line in the sand".

While the council referred the decision to its May 30 ordinary meeting, the urgent motion had been flagged on May 16 as a "signal of intent" to seek approval from Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny for ATET's Crown land licence to be terminated.

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“We need to draw a line in the sand”: Council issues default notice to ATET

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Speaking to *Docklands News* following the May 30 meeting, ATET owner Jake Hughes said, “We’re obviously grateful the council hasn’t made a rash decision to cancel our Crown land licence,” but questioned why this move had been flagged in the first place.

“Our business has suffered from that [move to cancel license],” he said, adding it had caused a great deal of uncertainty to a number of bookings at the venue.

“We had just started recovering from the arson attack,” he said. “It just seemed so unnecessary.”

Mr Hughes described the council’s handling of the situation as “bewildering”.

“It would be nice if the council and the authorities can take some accountability,” he said.

“The EPA information is still very fresh. We don’t really know where that sits. If there’s new evidence that shows we were exceeding [limits] we would have obviously brought this down to achieve compliance.”

“Council approved out acoustic reports and basically told us everything was compliant. Now we’re being told to turn the music down to background levels, which seems like an unnecessary and over the top reaction.”

“It’s obviously far from ideal for us. I don’t think it has to go from one extreme to the other,” adding that he was now uncertain how the changes would impact an international DJ from Italy who was scheduled to play at the venue on June 3.

“Hopefully we can get the EPA report and review the data. In the short-term we’re happy to bring the levels right down, but our priority remains to move location,” he said.

According to the report tabled on May 30, sound monitoring from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) had advised that “noise exceedances were detected in various

directions from the venue and were on both low and higher frequency sounds”.

“From this analysis it is apparent that significant changes would be needed to ATET’s operations in order to effectively reduce and mitigate the music noise impacts, and bring ATET into compliance with the EPA protocols,” the report stated.

Cr Capp said that since ATET launched in October last year the council had received “unprecedented levels of complaints and concerns” from Docklanders, and despite “best efforts to ameliorate the impacts”, it hadn’t been able to come up with any meaningful solutions.

Speaking on May 16, the Lord Mayor said, “I want to stress that this is an exceptional response by council to an exceptional set of circumstances.”

“There are no other nightclubs in Melbourne that are open to the sky, that face thousands of apartments across the water in all directions, and it’s fair to say that neither ours nor the state’s rules or regulations were designed to handle or manage or respond to this type of situation,” Cr Capp said.

She said the council had exhausted “every single option within its control”, including hosting a community forum on the issue in March that saw “enormous involvement” from the local community.

“This is about a commitment to our residents in Docklands that we are listening, that we are responding, and that we will continue to work with you,” she said.

“And, of course, assurances to everyone involved that we continue to look at ways that this situation doesn’t get repeated and that we can improve processes into the future.”

Mr Hughes said that the motion on May 16 “was an absolute blindsiding”.

“We were working with the council, we were attending meetings, we’d been asked to come in to work on alternative locations and solutions



▲ The council hosted a meeting for concerned residents impacted by ATET in March at Marvel Stadium.

and we were highly motivated,” he said.

“We’ve wanted to move and change locations since day one; we were never meant to be in this location and we understand the issues that are arising from being there, so we were at the table and then we felt we were left at the table.”

While acknowledging Mr Hughes for showing up to the meeting, Cr Reece said ATET had broken its “social licence” with the community for the scale upon which it had impacted on the community’s health and wellbeing.

Cr Reece also appeared to express frustration with ATET’s inability to change its business model.

“We have not seen a change in the ATET operating model, which I think many of us as councillors would have liked to have seen,” he said.

“The truth is, there are dozens and dozens of successful on-water hospitality operators in Melbourne, from riverboat cruises to party barges to Arbory Afloat, to Yarra Botanicals, and so on, and so on. And, they have all managed to operate very successful businesses without attracting the community outrage which has occurred with ATET.” ●

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Docklands Neighbourhood House left out of council budget amid new stakeholder group

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has not included funding for the Docklands Pop-Up Neighbourhood House (DNH) in its 2023/24 draft budget, instead looking to establish a new stakeholder group to drive community engagement in Docklands.

The pop-up, which was established at The District Docklands by The Centre in North Melbourne, has operated in Docklands since 2019 thanks to original funding from Development Victoria (DV) and one-off council grants.

While DV’s original funding injection was always understood to be short-term, The Centre has since been lobbying the council to support its ongoing operations by providing long-term funding.

However, following the announcement of its draft budget last month, money for the pop-up was not provided by the council – news not met well by The Centre and other members of the community who have benefited from its presence in Docklands.

Speaking to the council’s draft budget at the May 16 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting at The Hub in Docklands, The Centre’s Ariel Valent said ongoing community development was vital “if Docklands is to thrive”.

“I’m here to talk to you about an item missing from the budget which is Docklands Neighbourhood House,” he said. “I want to make it clear that councillors have not made a decision to not fund Docklands Neighbourhood House, rather, City of Melbourne management has simply not proposed it to be supported.”

“Our goals for the Docklands community are social cohesion and community empowerment. Our approach is bottom up, community driven and local scale. We elevate the quiet voices of

Docklands residents, especially new migrants.” Since its establishment, the pop-up led by its community development officer Jason Butcher, has facilitated a range of regular programs, including playgroups, health and wellbeing classes, fishing sessions, art classes and the popular repair café, among others.

It has also run a host of events including community sports days and a picnic for international students, while it has also supported Docklands’ growing Indian community by facilitating four Hindu celebrations, such as the Holi Festival in 2022.

But Mr Butcher told *Docklands News* that what DNH did went “deeper than the activities and events we host – there are front-line services”.

“During my time at DNH, I have personally tried my best to provide support, referral, and advocacy for community members escaping intimate partner violence and coercion; struggling to navigate and access government services; dealing with rental and landlord issues; and going through anxiety and stress about their visa status, and their progress to permanent residency and citizenship,” adding this was “especially true” during the two years of COVID lockdowns.

“We may not have always been successful, but I will guarantee to you that we’ve worked our absolute guts out doing our best to try to support people,” he said.

Mr Valent said he understood the decision had been driven by a concern that the level of community engagement the pop-up was currently facilitating was “lower than desired”, but that an 18-month-old Neighbourhood House couldn’t be compared to an established one.

“It would be more palatable for local communities if City of Melbourne management had a different plan for community development in Docklands. The local community has the right to know what the council would be doing to

fill the hole left by Docklands Neighbourhood House,” he said.

The council has revealed that it will instead establish the “Docklands Stakeholder Group” – an outcome derived from last year’s Docklands Summit, which it says will provide a forum for information sharing, improving community connection, identifying opportunities to leverage existing grants, and understanding each group’s priorities and potential alignments.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was committed to creating and strengthening community connections between residents, workers, students, and visitors across the city, by providing a “wide ride of neighbourhood initiatives”.

“We want to ensure we’re supporting a wide range of neighbourhood initiatives and delivering the best outcomes for our community,” Cr Capp told *Docklands News*.

“We’ll continue to work with Docklands residents and organisations to explore initiatives and activities that support social inclusion, connection and community empowerment.”

Docklands resident Cr Jamal Hakim added that the stakeholder group would determine the best model of community engagement in Docklands.

“Community-led engagement and community led-ways of supporting community is critical to all of this, and one of the outcomes from the Docklands Summit was the establishment of a working group to determine the best ways of achieving this in Docklands,” he said.

“This group will work on what is the best model for Docklands – for community by community, and I’m looking forward to hearing feedback and nominations for this initiative as part of the current EOI process.”

A spokesperson for the Docklands Representative Group, which partners with DNH on the Docklands Repair Café, said, “We really believe there is an important role for a



▲ Jason Butcher - Docklands Neighbourhood House.

Neighbourhood House to play in Docklands.” “It’s really important for a new suburb that it has organisations that are embedded in the community – we really need other programs and entities that operate at a grassroots level.”

DNH is calling on members of the community who support its campaign to stay open in Docklands to make a submission to the council’s draft budget via the Participate Melbourne website, or sign a petition:



Expressions of interest are also now open for the council’s Docklands Stakeholder Group via the Docklands Neighbourhood Portal: ●

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



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The new Docklands studio teaching the secrets of haute couture designs

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Fashion and accessory designer Vivi Huang has arrived at The District with D cembre Studio (December Studio), bringing with her many years of experience studying haute couture women’s wear in Paris.

D cembre Studio is for craft lovers and fashion enthusiasts and specialises in teaching people the unique technique of French embroidery and artistic cloth flowers.

“This craft technology is mostly used in senior dress, too far away from our daily life, so I set up D cembre Studio because I wanted to use this craft to design and make various accessories or decorative art that can be integrated into our daily life,” Vivi told *Docklands News*.

Vivi was first introduced to these delicate processes when she studied in Paris from 2002 to 2007, and then, upon finishing her studies, she returned to Shanghai where she had the studio, before moving to Docklands in 2019.

It wasn’t until April this year that Vivi said she was “lucky enough to find a suitable venue” in The District where she could “continue to do beautiful things from a new beginning”.

Due to the high prices associated with haute couture pieces, Vivi enjoys teaching people the processes behind the fine craft and encourages everyone to become a designer in the studio.

“We have developed some interesting and professional systematic courses and workshops to teach



individuals and groups, and to share and spread the production process so that everyone can understand,” Vivi said.

“The guests to the studio include students majoring in design, husbands making gifts for their wives, people embroidering souvenirs for their pets, and grooms and brides who are full of expectations for their future life.”

There are various types of bead embroidery and fabric flower courses conducted at the studio, ranging from beginner level to more advanced.

The studio comes with all the tools and materials you will need to complete your own unique work, and Vivi will be there each step of the way to guide you through it.

D cembre Studio is found at 11 Wharf St at The District Docklands. ●

For more information:
decemberhandcraft.com

No Greenline cash in state budget

The City of Melbourne is relying on big state and federal contributions to fund its “city-shaping” Greenline vision, but has again missed out on funds from the Victorian Government.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Plans to build a four-kilometre green trail along the Yarra River by 2028 have hit a snag, after the Victorian Government failed to allocate the City of Melbourne’s Greenline project any funds in the 2023-24 state budget.

The \$300 million project, which Lord Mayor Sally Capp has said would represent Melbourne’s “biggest transformation” since the opening of Federation Square in 2002, requires significant contributions from all levels of government.

Proposing a Northbank trail all the way from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge, the council has floated a three-way funding model of \$100 million each from itself, and its state and federal counterparts. However, to date only \$20 million has been promised by the Commonwealth Government.

Premier Daniel Andrews is yet to come to the table, and the state’s snubbing of Greenline in its May 23 budget was a blow to the project. An expected completion date of 2028 now looks in peril.

The government has not said whether it shared the council’s vision for Greenline, or whether it was a project being actively considered for future funding.

“The budget delivers on every promise made to Victorians at the election while repaying our COVID debt and investing in the jobs and projects that build our state,” a government spokesperson told *Docklands News*.

The City of Melbourne’s own draft budget (released a week prior to the state government’s) revealed a growing deficit and delayed return to surplus, placing questions over its ability to make up any Greenline funding shortfall from the state and federal governments.

The latest council budget included \$97 million for Greenline over the next four years, including \$48.5 million

delivered by the city. It has already allocated \$20 million to Greenline in the current financial year, plus the \$20 million from the grant from the Australian Government, included in the federal budget.

In September last year an economic analysis for Greenline revealed the project would more than pay for itself, delivering more than \$3 of value for every dollar spent according to consultancy group Ernst & Young.

The business case forecasted an increased economic activity of \$740 million over 20 years because of the project, which was expected to create more than 3400 jobs during construction and more than 6400 ongoing jobs by 2042.

Cr Capp said at the time the analysis would be essential to securing crucial funding.

“[It] helps set us all up for success, as we continue to work with key stakeholders on the delivery of Greenline, particularly in relation to our discussions with state and federal governments,” she said.

However there were no state funds currently forthcoming for the four-kilometre trail, and as Victoria’s net debt projections are forecast to grow each year until 2026-27, the state’s appetite to fund the project is in question.

Cr Capp did not comment on the state’s Greenline snub and what it meant for the project’s future, instead focusing on what the council did receive in May.

“We welcome the state budget’s investment in the Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation, plus our live music and events sectors, supporting our brand as a cultural capital,” she told *Docklands News*.

“These investments continue the pace we’ve been setting in Melbourne for the first quarter of 2023, off the back of a strong summer of events and activations.”

“We are acutely aware of the tough conditions our traders and resident continue to endure. Council will continue to work with the state government and our constituents through this period.”

In April the council released new designs for all five precincts along the Greenline trail, including an “ecological restoration” of North Wharf, and further details of the river’s edge outside the World Trade Centre, Crowne Plaza and Seafarers Bridge.

On May 17 it concluded consultation with the community and key stakeholders after gathering information to “further develop ideas” for the project. Works at Birrarung Marr, which represents the first section of the path, won’t begin until late-2023 at the earliest. ●

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Shopping centre Docklands Primary School campus set for Term 3, but concerns remain

Continued from page 1.

part of discussions with the department, said she believed the school community's concerns and suggestions weren't being addressed.

Ms Masters said they had asked for the new temporary campus to feature play space to reduce the number of times each day children were required to move back and forth to the main Docklands Primary School campus, which sits around 200 metres away.

They argued that the new 225-student space would not reach capacity immediately, therefore some of the new campus space with "no natural light" and "internal structural bollards" could instead be adapted.

"The DPS community begged the department to repurpose the unsuitable classrooms into free play space for the children," she said.

"There was a version of the plans that school council endorsed [where] the architects designed a layout with a small sports court and room for free play. This directly responded to the school's concerns for student safety and wellbeing in reducing the number of times per day children will be required to be chaperoned between the two campuses."

However, there was no indication that those plans were being considered.

"The plans that the department is currently progressing with do not address the school's concerns," she said.

"It is disingenuous for them to say that the campus was designed in 'close consultation with the school'. Feedback provided from the school community and school leadership has been ignored or rebuffed."



The Department of Education has signed a five-year lease for the empty retail space, and it has been confirmed that there is an option to extend the agreement beyond 2028.

It is understood the wider school community is not against a temporary campus as a solution to space issues at the main campus, which was already housing more than its 525-student capacity.

School leadership and parents, however, are eager to ensure learning outcomes aren't compromised at the new space.

With around 100 prep students starting each year, Docklands Primary will soon have more than 700 pupils.

The department has previously reiterated the suitability of the new campus, and said an assessment of the site for operational, security and infrastructure needs had found that the location of the additional space was appropriate.

It said the shopping centre campus was required on a temporary basis until additional capacity was generated within the local network of new nearby schools; firstly, a newly opened North Melbourne Primary School campus and the future development of additional primary schools within Fishermans Bend. ●

The surf's up in Victoria Harbour

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
WATERWAYS

Victoria Harbour is full of piers, boats and privatised moorings and its edges are rocky or raised platforms of aged timber.

When architect and researcher Damien Rogers sits by the harbour he is thinking of the surface of the water.

On the day he spoke to *Docklands News* about his research, the water was oily.

He calls this state "still" and says there is just one other state called "moving" when the water is whipped up by a light wind.

"Post-industrial waterways around the world are the same," he said. "If you turn your back or step away you would hardly know that the water is there because it is so enclosed."

The city's background noise dominates the soundscape and it's not even possible to pick up the sound of water lapping against a boat or the edge.

Dr Rogers wants to change perceptions by activating our connection to the water so that we see it as open space and he's done a PhD on the topic at Swinburne University.

A feeling for place is a complex concept studied by architects with terms such as affordance and blue vague that are quite abstract.

Basically, affordance refers to what you can do in an environment, what appears in your mind's eye, and blue vague to an abandoned left over space with potential.



▲ Dr Damien Rogers studying the water.



▲ A wave in Victoria Harbour.

The father of five from Point Cook activated his own connection to Docklands when he worked on Victoria Point, one of the early buildings.

Many architects hold Docklands in awe as a place where imaginations and respect for sight lines counted for something during the development phase.

But, according to online surveys of about 30 locals, people are not that connected to the water, seeing it as a visual backdrop to the buildings.

When Dr Rogers added a wave to the video collages of Docklands, he said it activated the relationships of respondents to the shore with a sense of surprise.

"When they saw waves, this led to questions. It reminded them of another place. Hence, we created a sensory experience of the water that permeates the edge," he said.

He said the problem was that there was no permeable edge at Docklands. "A lot of the time we just add to the water instead of activating it."

Dr Rogers wants to sculpt the water at Victoria Harbour and has studied the heritage waterways in London, where people swim, and in Finland where a wave machine has been installed beneath the water.

"We could have a Festival of the Wave here," he said. "We could activate the water from the bottom up."

Architects like the challenge of speculation and Dr Rogers takes a course at Swinburne where students speculate about Docklands.

He wants to bring in the blue mind of the ocean to improve our health and wellbeing. ●

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PROJECT

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Dynon Road between Dryburgh St and the CityLink inbound exit ramp will be closed in both directions from 8pm Friday 16 June to 5am Thursday 31 August so we can continue strengthening the Dynon Road Bridge.

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Entries are now open for
the City of Melbourne's prestigious Melbourne Awards.

For more than 20 years, the City of Melbourne has celebrated inspirational individuals and organisations who have made a positive and valuable contribution to our city through the Melbourne Awards.

Each year, we are humbled by the extraordinary people and organisations that go above and beyond to make Melbourne such a sustainable, innovative and inclusive city in which to live, work and visit.

This year, we are looking to add more Melburnians to the honour roll.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the Melbourne Awards showcase some of the most driven and compassionate people in our city.

'Melbourne is full of innovators and creative minds, who are leading the charge to shape our city for the better,' the Lord Mayor said.

'Our Melbourne Awards shine a light on the extraordinary work of those who are going above and beyond in their field - improving community wellbeing, driving innovation and creating a more sustainable city.'

This year, organisations will be recognised in eight key areas: Community, Sustainability, Aboriginal Melbourne - ganbu guljin, Arts and Events, Knowledge and Innovation, City Design, LGBTQIA+, and a new category - Access and Inclusion - has been added this year, recognising the great work to make Melbourne more inclusive and accessible for everyone to enjoy.

Alongside the awards, entries for the Melburnian of the Year are now open - and for the first time - a Young Melburnian of the Year will also be crowned.

Among last year's winners were Reground a social enterprise embedded in the circular economy, and Kensington Neighbourhood House, for providing a place where people of all abilities, backgrounds and ages can participate.

Last year, Kuku Yalanji woman Antionette Braybrook was named as the top Melburnian for her work advocating to give a voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experienced family violence.



Entries are open until 23 June.
To apply, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards

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Council delivers record budget, but predicted surplus pushed back

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the rising cost of living was “central” to this year’s budget, as the City of Melbourne remained in the red.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has drafted a record \$850.7 million budget for the 2023-24 financial year, despite posting an increased deficit and pushing back a predicted return to surplus by two years.

As the council’s deficit grows from \$11 million to \$17 million, locals will pay more on their rates from July — in line with a 3.5 per cent cap imposed by the Victorian Government — however pensioners can receive a discount of up to \$253.

Despite being in a “strong position to deliver a surplus in 2023-24” 12 months ago, and similarly predicting a return to surplus in the year prior, the council was again forced to shelve any “back in the black” celebrations.

The total spend was its highest ever, however announcements promoting a “record budget” (as has done in both previous budgets) were also shelved, perhaps reflective of the more sombre economic times.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that the council was “very alive to” rising mortgages, rents and bills that each household faced, which were “a central part of discussions” while putting together the budget.

“Please do know we are very sensitive to how difficult the environment is out there, and it’s been central to our thinking on the budget,” Cr Capp said at the May 16 Future Melbourne Committee meeting — the same day it put out its draft budget.

Councillors noted that with inflation at

around seven to eight per cent and a rise in construction costs as high as 20 per cent, capping of rate increases at just 3.5 per cent made a return to surplus unachievable without compromising local services.

“It is a great effort by the team to be so mindful and prudent,” Cr Capp said.

“We have really done our darndest to be able to continue to deliver on services and projects in the current environment of high inflation and higher construction costs.”

A large percentage of council revenue is raised through rates (in this budget, \$377 million), however the second-highest stream is via fees and charges (\$134 million) which was set to increase by almost \$14 million in 2023-24.

This was due in part to greater activity and visitation across the municipality but also an increase in fees, notably the move to charge drivers for on-street CBD parking until 10pm (rather than 8.30pm) and on Sundays, and the doubling of outdoor dining fees.

From July, Docklands hospitality businesses will pay \$128, up from \$64, per sqm each year for an outdoor dining parklet.

The hike was still well below that imposed on nearby CBD hospitality traders, who will now pay \$556 per sqm (up from \$278) each year.

Headlining the budget was a \$247.5 million infrastructure spend, which included a further \$60 million for the renewal of Queen Victoria Market, \$17 million for the “city-shaping” Greenline project along the Yarra River’s north-bank, and a further \$28 million for the redevelopment of the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

The council included \$4 million towards its much-publicised bike lane rollout including new protected lanes along the entire stretch of Flinders St, a project set to benefit cyclists travelling from Docklands into the CBD.

Flagged as its most challenging bike lane project yet, it has committed to delivering the project by July next year, however that timeline was dependent on state government approvals.

The Lord Mayor said there would be



“extensive, comprehensive consultation” on the Flinders St designs, which were due to be finalised by June 30.

Prior to the addressing the draft budget at the May 16 meeting held at Community Hub at The Dock, a Docklands neighbourhood update from council staff also revealed that 10 planter boxes would be relocated to Harbour Esplanade and New Quay Promenade by the end of June.

As part of “beautification works” a further 10 planter boxes would be installed by the end of 2023, while plans were in place to reinstate the *Light Buoys* public art installation at Yarra’s Edge.

The overall 2023-24 budget invested heavily in events (\$28.2 million), libraries (\$13.4 million), greening and sustainability, business support and creative industries, which includes \$2 million for new public art projects.

The events budget notably included \$1.6 million on Docklands’ Firelight Festival, up from \$1.1 million in 2022-23.

It also included around \$6 million for Christmas festivities and \$5 million each for Moomba and New Year’s Eve, the latter of which attracted almost half a million people earlier this year, generating \$18.7 million in economic activity according to the council.

As it has done post-COVID, the council continued to spend big on cleaning the city’s streets, setting aside an additional \$1.5 million to bolster rubbish removal across the CBD,

Docklands and Southbank.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the “strains of recent years” were apparent in the city’s finances, which had seen it produce a “disciplined” budget.

“I think it’s a budget that’s right for the times. Somebody said to me today ‘oh, this budget seems a little bit business as usual’. Well, I’ll take that as a compliment,” Cr Reece said.

“Like everybody else in Australia we’re not immune to what is going on in the broader economy.”

Cr Rohan Leppert, one of just two serving councillors to have occupied a spot in the Town Hall chambers for more than a decade, said the tough economic times had created a sharper focus.

“We have put more care into this budget than any before — not that we didn’t put care in before, of course — but there’s no shying away from the stark realities of the financial constraints that all local government finds itself in at this point,” he said.

However, the Greens councillor said he was “particularly concerned” about whether the council had enough staff to service a booming population in coming years.

With Melbourne having overtaken Sydney to become Australia’s largest city by population, the council was set to increase the number of average full-time equivalent staff next year by 44 (from 1478 to 1522), however in the following three years, from 2024-2027, it was projected that staff numbers would increase by just 11.

Cr Leppert said this must be “constantly reviewed” to ensure the council was “not restricting the capacity of the organisation to deliver on essential services for a fast-growing municipality”.

Community feedback on the draft budget can be provided via Participate Melbourne until midnight on Thursday, June 8, with the final budget expected to be adopted by councillors on June 27.

To have your say, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au ●

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From Yarra’s Edge to NewQuay, Docklanders unite to fight cancer

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea was held on Thursday, May 25, and Docklanders were seen gathering across Victoria Harbour and doing their part to support those impacted by cancer.

Among those holding events for the annual Cancer Council fundraiser was the team at Berth Restaurant at NewQuay and residents and friends of Yarra Point on Yarra’s Edge.

In what was its 10th Biggest Morning Tea, the team at Berth was determined to make this year’s fundraiser – its first since pre-COVID – its largest yet.

After setting themselves an ambitious goal of reaching \$25,000, Berth’s Lisa Pham, who was in-charge of hosting the event, told *Docklands News* that Berth was proud to announce that it had exceeded its goal.

“Our 10th annual Biggest Morning Tea was the best by far, and we are overwhelmed with all the wonderful support from our team to help execute the event, suppliers for their wonderful donations of food and drinks, and our other donors and local businesses for prizes for a fun-filled day,” Ms Pham said.

“Without them, the event would not have been possible. A special mention to Baden and Mark from Lucas Real Estate, who helped MC and auction on the day, and our guest speakers, Lea, Mary, Nick, and Vanessa who shared their experiences with the dreaded C.”

Around 100 people attended the event, participating in raffles, a ring toss game, an auction, and taking a moment to reflect on close friends and families impacted by cancer through the memory wall.

While a celebratory time to raise money, chat, and enjoy each other’s company over morning tea, the significance of the cause was not lost on everyone who attended, with the team at Berth also looking at how it had been directly impacted.



During the pandemic, two of Berth’s staff members were diagnosed with cancer: Vanessa George in 2019, and Maria Fernanda in 2020. Their journeys and determination has continued to encourage Berth to raise funds.

Across the harbour at Yarra’s Edge, more than 50 people came together for Yarra Point’s Biggest Morning Tea, organised by Docklands resident Petra Harmer-Shrowder.

Before the morning tea even began, the group had successfully achieved its goal to raise \$1000, and this sum grew to \$2772 thanks to further in-person and online donations, as well as a contribution from De’Longhi.

In addition to monetary donations, many businesses also did their part through donating

prizes for the raffle, from a glamour or corporate photoshoot to luxury hampers, gift vouchers for restaurants, personal training, massages, and adventurous experiences.

“There was lots of fun, food and even Tea Trivia games to keep the fun going. Haircare Fashion was present showing the wigs they produce for cancer patients and Laura Hahn of Willpower One was present to show how she assists cancer patient wellness,” Ms Harmer-Shrowder told *Docklands News*.

“We also had one local artist, Karen Sutherland, who painted a beautiful artwork with all the colours of cancer to donate, and so many business owners and families pitched up and not only gave wonderful prizes for the

raffle, but also donated cash.”

The importance of the day is something not lost on Ms Harmer-Shrowder having supported her husband during his nine-year journey with cancer, and she encouraged others to get onboard.

“The importance of the Cancer Council is very close to my heart and I do hope that others will help raise funds now and in the future to assist this common goal,” she said. ●

For more information:
biggestmorningtea.com.au



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Australian Government

Defence

NOTICE OF PROPOSED WORKS

Defence Science and Technology (DSTG) Fishermans Bend Redevelopment Project

The Department of Defence is proposing to progress works at DSTG Fishermans Bend, Victoria. These works are subject to Parliamentary approval.

The purpose of the project is to address existing facilities and engineering services infrastructure that are aged and approaching the end of useful life. The proposed works include new and upgraded engineering services infrastructure, refurbished office accommodation and an upgraded base entry precinct.

The Department of Defence is offering the community the opportunity to attend information sessions about the proposed works with representatives from the Department of Defence available to answer questions.

Community Information Session Details

When: Thursday 15th June 2023
Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Location: Port Melbourne Town Hall - Council Chamber
333 Bay Street, Port Melbourne VIC 3207
(Access via Port Melbourne Library – Spring St Entrance)

If you are unable to attend the information sessions, you can email questions to DSTGFishermansBendRedevelopment@app.com.au
*email account active until 20th June 2023

Docklands’ community landscape

“
Docklands has long been criticised for lacking community spirit and frequently written off as having unengaged and transitory residents.
”

WORDS BY *Docklands Representative Group*
COMMUNITY

But if ATET has an upside, it is that it became a catalyst for community engagement and a lightning rod for more broad-based deficiencies in Docklands, mobilising several community groups – particularly on Facebook (FB).

One such online group of note is **Docklands Victoria 3008. For people who live and work in Docklands**, which was established in December 2015 and now has a membership of more than 1.8k.

Administered by Tony Van Eyk, Nina D’Angelo and Rob Whyte, this group’s stated purpose is “to keep in touch, see what others are up to, socially meeting”.

The new FB kid on the block as of January 2023 with 816 members is **Docklands Residents – a centralised community consultation group**; which says that it is about “collecting like minded Docklands residents in one place”. This FB group was setup by Molly Burdett who came to Docklands in mid-December last year. Helping run this group are administrators Jo Bacon and Sandi Severin.

Docklands also has three registered community associations.

The newest is **Residents of Docklands Inc.** (registered in January 2023) led by Ross Malcolmson. This group lists its focuses as:

- Noise from ATET;
- Postcode change to 3007; and
- State legislation planning permits.

Its chief activity so far has been a GoFund Me campaign for “Docklands Reasonable Noise Controls”, which raised \$4030 of a \$15,000 target.

The longest standing group is the **Docklands Community Association Inc.** (DCA) which was established in February 2004 and run for

many years by Roger Gardner. The last president was John Kakos, who was elected in 2017 but has since moved from Docklands.

This group traditionally undertook an advocacy role, purportedly on behalf of residents but its approach to issues became increasingly divisive, leading to the cancellation of its regular column in *Docklands News* in mid-2016.

The third association is the **Docklands Representative Group Inc.**, registered in February 2021 with a stated purpose of “facilitating and participating in networks and activities to represent and advance the various interests of the people and place of Docklands - residents, workers, community groups and the environment”.

Docklands Residents FB group admin Sandi Severin addressed City of Melbourne councillors at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting in May and contacted *Docklands News* with a litany of queries, ranging from Lord Mayor Sally Capp’s support of ATET, to Development Victoria’s (DV) disregard of residents and questions about the role of the DRG, including its composition.

These questions were put to DRG president, Ben Ball, who said, “we all know that Docklands is not a traditional suburb. Its beauty is in its tapestry of different lifestyles and activities. This means there isn’t just one viewpoint, not even one ‘resident’ viewpoint – and the DRG is about ensuring these different and various perspectives are heard, even if they are conflicting.”

To achieve this, the DRG operates on a network basis – “a network of networks”. By this Ben means that the DRG aims to connect into the various parts of Docklands and also connect out to various groups which impact Docklands. He said this was a model better suited to a multi-faceted place like Docklands.

“You’ve got to have reach – but to do this, you need to be building trust, otherwise you aren’t let in, and you can’t build rapport,” he said.

This principle of connection underpins the composition of the current committee. Ben said, “It’s not enough just live or work here, you must have demonstrated reach into various parts of the many Docklands communities” – and this is a key feature of all committee members, who currently comprise:

- **Ben Ball**, president: seven-year resident of Docklands, owners’ corporation (OC) committee member of The Quays, and through his lived experience of disability and membership of groups (such as People With Disabilities Australia) represents the interests of those who need better accessibility and improved inclusiveness;
- **Aditi Rawal**: resident of Victoria Harbour, steering committee member of Docklands Pop-Up Neighbourhood House (Hindu cultural committee organiser of events such as Holi), community champion for the

neighbourhood batteries initiative, and as a community leader and convenor of Indians in Docklands, brings the perspectives of Docklands’ growing Indian community;

- **Linda Dugan**: Nine-year resident of Docklands, OC committee member and local business owner (operating in District Docklands), winner of 2022 Enablement Award and The Globals 2022 Awards (Seniors Care Trends) and brings dual perspectives of local business and ageing.
- **Katy Send**: resident and owner of two Docklands businesses (conveyancing and data governance), volunteer of local non-for-profit Travellers Aid and as vice-president of the Docklands Primary School Parents & Friends, brings perspectives from school-families with a particular focus upon safety; and
- **Janette Corcoran**: resident and Chair of Victoria Point OC, and as convenor of the Docklands Owners’ Corporation Network (DOCN) brings perspectives of vertical living and its governance challenges.

Underpinning the committee are a range of associates, including representatives from Neighbourhood House, with which the DRG has enjoyed a long-standing connection. This connection serves to ensure the views of those outside the mainstream (new arrivals, those facing financial hardship) are also heard. This associate-model is a key feature of the DRG as it allows fluid interactions and helps the DRG to be adaptable.

Ben said that this approach was better suited to modern dynamics, where volunteering trends show that people prefer to get involved on an issue-by-issue basis rather than give an ongoing commitment, which was the case in the past.

Added to this, the DRG connects outwards by participating in a range of networks – some official, such as Victoria Police’s Neighbourhood Policing Local Safety Committee, and many collegial, such as with CBD residents’ group Residents 3000. The DRG also participates and collaborates in a myriad of forums and consultations, ensuring Docklands voices are heard.

“We turn up. We go to the numerous consultations and presentations, most recently Greenline, which a lot of other groups don’t do. We go there, we form connections, and we build trust,” Ben said.

“It’s fine for others to have online exchanges, but change happens when people directly engage with each other – and participate. Throwing brickbats might feel good in the moment, but it isn’t a particularly effective strategy. We have found it is about trust and connections.”

When asked why this structure and approach was chosen over a more traditional residents’ group model, he said that despite having become

recently incorporated during the pandemic, the DRG had its origins in July 2012 following the partial transfer of planning authority from the Minister of Planning to the City of Melbourne.

Then Places Victoria (now DV) and the City of Melbourne jointly established the Docklands Community Forum for the purpose of sourcing the diversity of viewpoints held by various parts of the Docklands. At the time, the DCA was the traditional residents’ group and it participated in the forum in that capacity.

Regarding current priorities, Ben identified three as being key to Docklands ...

The first is Central Pier and Harbour Esplanade. “How this is redeveloped is absolutely key to the future fabric of Docklands,” he said.

The second is governance, an issue that the DRG raised well before ATET was on the scene. Also included here is governance of vertical villages which is why the DRG has a project “DOCN” focused on OC committees and their governance. The council provided \$15,000 to the DRG in 2022 under the Connected Community Grant program, which has been acquitted, for the purposes of establishing this initiative and running events.

A further \$18,000 has been committed by the council under the Connected Community Grant program to continue the group’s efforts during the current year, much of which has yet to be invested and will go towards the continued infrastructure setup – and possibly an extension of focus.

Our third priority focuses on community strengthening and we operationalise this on a partnership basis. We purposively connect with other groups and help them with their initiatives. This can be by hands-on joining forces, such as with the Repair Café Docklands, or providing auspice for a grant application for a group that isn’t incorporated.

Ben said the key value of, and to the DRG, was connections.

“It’s all about reach and perspectives and credibility – and working together. One group doesn’t have to be all things to all people, but there is much more to be gained if we work collaboratively,” he said.

“Should residents feel the need to establish a new residents’ group of their own, the opportunity to revive the Docklands Community Association is there, and the DRG would only be too happy to assist in this process.”

In the interim, you can reach the DRG committee at any time to discuss any topics or issues relating to the Docklands community by email.●

For more information:
contact@docklands.org.au

Glenn Harvey answers your legal questions

Q. My relationship with my spouse has broken down but how can I afford legal representation ?

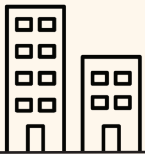
A. There are various options including obtaining legal finance payable at the end of your case when you receive your property settlement.

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PROPERTY & REAL ESTATE

Plans revealed for build-to-rent Victoria Harbour tower

Plans for a residential tower featuring 500 build-to-rent apartments at Victoria Harbour have been lodged with the state government.

WORDS BY *David Schout*

The 24-storey proposal at 907-913 Collins St, next to Buluk Park and opposite Library at the Dock, were submitted in May by developer Lendlease.

The Cox Architecture design features a ground floor comprising private dining rooms, a media room, pet facilities and even podcast studios, with 499 studio, one, two or three-bedroom apartments in the 23 storeys above.

The tower — which would represent Lendlease's latest offering at the five-tower, \$1.5 billion Collins Wharf precinct — would also have a lap pool, outdoor gym and 412 spaces for bike storage.

If approved, future residents would have unencumbered views of both the Yarra River and Victoria Harbour and be part of a growing number of build-to-rent buildings in Docklands.

In recent years the City of Melbourne has vocally supported build-to-rent schemes, including dual build-to-rent towers next to Marvel Stadium that are now under construction, and a 31-storey apartment building at the foot of the Bolte Bridge.

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

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

“We welcome applications for build-to-rent, as we believe that offers a greater diversity of options to people to put a roof over their head and have a home,” the council’s planning chair, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece has said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said in 2021 that the



28- and 30-storey developments on La Trobe St next to the stadium would bring a “much-needed diversity of accommodation to our city”.

Lendlease’s Head of Apartments Dan Dugina told *Docklands News* that this was also central to their thinking on the project.

“Our proposed development aims to deliver a 24-storey build-to-rent tower, with an extensive range of residential amenity and services that is set to meet the needs of a diverse community including young professionals, students and

growing families,” he said.

“Subject to planning approvals, we look forward to expanding on our build-to-rent capability in Australia and continuing to play an important role in boosting the supply of high-quality, long-term rentals in the Australian market.”

The latest Collins Wharf proposal will next go before the City of Melbourne, before Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny makes a final determination on the project. ●



Mirvac partner with Daibiru for 21-storey office tower

Partnership announced for project that represents “integral” final piece in mixed-use Northbank precinct.



Developer Mirvac has announced a “strategic relationship” with Japanese real estate company Daibiru, to deliver a workplace development near the corner of Spencer and Flinders Streets.

The 7 Spencer St development on the Docklands/CBD edge will offer around 46,000 sqm of floor space and, notably, over 10 individual terraces with views out to the Yarra River.

The Northbank site also features Mirvac’s second build-to-rent property in Melbourne, which is set for completion in mid-2024.

“7 Spencer St is the integral final project in

the creation of an exciting new true mixed-experience precinct, bringing together a world-class modern workplace, build-to-rent apartments at LIV Aston, and quality retail and amenity,” Mirvac managing director Campbell Hanan said.

Mr Hanan said it was “delighted” with the partnership: “Building a strategic relationship with a high-calibre investor like Daibiru, is consistent with our funds management strategy to sell down an interest in our assets to strategically aligned, long-term investment partners.” ●

Rare sky home offers unrivalled Docklands views

Boasting one of Docklands’ biggest balconies, an “extremely rare” apartment has been listed at a sought-after Yarra’s Edge location

The 35th-floor sub-penthouse at Tower 5 offers unrivalled views of the CBD, Victoria Harbour and Port Phillip Bay along its sizeable balcony space.

One of just five of its style constructed at the 90 Lorimer Street location, the prestige apartment features a captivating open floor plan and has been given a full and complete high-spec renovation.

Listed at \$2,950,000 to \$3,240,000, key features include grand oak timber veneer flooring, Portsea Grey Marble walls to the main living zone, a built-in home office area and architecturally designed lighting.

To book an inspection for 3502/90 Lorimer Street Docklands, visit barryplant.com.au or call 9936 9999. ●



Undoubted luxury and breathtaking views from Banksia Tower

“
This fifth-floor apartment
offers the very best of
Docklands living from
NewQuay’s Banksia Tower.
”

Boasting uninterrupted views of Victoria Harbour and easy access to Ron Barassi Snr Park, The District Docklands shopping centre and Docklands Primary School and kindergarten, this location offers all the perks of life in our beautiful waterfront precinct.

Described by local Docklands agents Lucas Real Estate as, “the perfect blend of modern luxury and first-class quality”, this state-of-the-art two-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bathroom apartment at 506/2 Glenti Place is immaculate throughout with lavish fixtures and fittings.

Complete with two car parks, this apartment is also conveniently located on Melbourne’s Free Tram Zone, Capital City Trail for walking



and cycling, as well as a short walk from the Port Phillip Ferries terminal and Southern Cross Station.

Banksia Tower provides Dockland’s finest amenities on level 18 with 360-degree panoramic views of the city, Victoria Harbour, and Port Phillip Bay, two lounges, a community kitchen, gymnasium, and entertainer’s deck with hot tubs and barbecue areas from which you can soak up the surrounds and stunning views.

This is the first time this floorplan has come to the market for sale, presenting a rare opportunity with a limited selection of just 108 apartments in the building.

Please contact Lucas Real Estates’ Lynn Lum on 0474 044 293, Thomas Tregonning on 0413 317 304 or James Kim on 0493 683 081 to discuss this property further. ●

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Docklands

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SOLD

402/348 beaconsfield parade, st kilda west | SOLD for \$1,425,000
mark sutherland | 0418 691 585

SOLD

1611N/883 collins st, docklands | SOLD for \$655,000
serena su | 0499 083 362

JUST LISTED

307/8 mccrae st, docklands | \$425,000 - \$450,000
cary thornton | 0437 204 556

JUST LISTED

N2501/241 harbour esp, docklands | \$450,000 - \$495,000
thomas tregonning | 0413 317 304

JUST LISTED

506/2 glenti place, docklands | \$1,100,000 - \$1,200,000
lynn lum | 0474 044 293

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Your City of Melbourne community update

DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY TODAY, SHAPING OUR CITY FOR TOMORROW

City-shaping infrastructure projects, our biggest events calendar and making the city safer, cleaner and fairer are highlights of the City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023-24.



We've planned a full calendar of events so everyone can enjoy an affordable visit to the city.

Our \$850.7 million draft Budget is delivering for our community today, while shaping our city for tomorrow.

In announcing the draft Budget, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it was “designed to overcome the current economic challenges, while realising our community’s aspirations for Melbourne – the nation’s fastest growing capital city”.

“Our draft Budget 2023-24 delivers on our commitment to create a bustling, inclusive and clean city today, while investing in a more affordable, liveable and prosperous future for our community,” the Lord Mayor said.

“We’re getting on with the things that matter most – making our city cleaner and safer, building better facilities and providing vital services, and boosting business with events and support.”

We know Melburnians are feeling the pressure of mortgage and rent stress and rising household bills – and this has been front of mind through the development of this budget.

That’s why we’re doing what we can to limit the amount of increased costs that we pass on to our ratepayers.

By not passing on the full impact of inflation pressures, we will save households and families \$4.2 million.

Rates keep our city running

Our teams work around the clock to deliver essential services – from waste and recycling collections to road works and street cleaning, public health and safety, and keeping our parks and gardens in great shape for everyone to enjoy.

Every Victorian council is facing the challenge of inflation rising faster than – and above – the current Municipal Rate Cap.

After two years of rates relief for residents and businesses and a modest

increase this year, in 2023-24 we will implement the State Government’s 3.5 per cent Municipal Rate Cap.

Rates change every year as property values change. Property valuations are market-driven and determined by the State Government.

We will help ease the burden on pensioners by providing a rates discount of up to \$253.

Any ratepayer can apply for rate relief through the City of Melbourne Rates Financial Hardship Policy.

A cleaner, safer and more caring city



It’s our responsibility to get the basics right, so we’re investing a record \$60.9 million to scrub the city clean, boost safety on our streets, and work closely with our communities to identify and act on the needs of each neighbourhood.

We’re investing \$36.8 million to spruce up our streets and keep the city free from graffiti. This includes funding for our expanded Melbourne Clean Team along with more graffiti removal, street sweeping, and high-pressure cleaning of footpaths, roads and street furniture.

More than \$28 million will be invested to collect waste from residents and businesses, while an additional \$1.5 million will bolster

work to remove rubbish from our streets across the city, Docklands and Southbank.

We’ll invest \$5.7 million to make our city a safer place for all. CCTV cameras will be installed in seven key locations in Carlton, including along Lygon Street and at Argyle Square. The expansion of our Safe City Camera Program will boost safety and reduce antisocial behaviour in response to community feedback.

Almost \$6 million will be spent on critical safety infrastructure and resources, including upgrading lighting in key precincts such as Bourke Street between Exhibition and Spring streets.

We’re working with philanthropic partners and the Victorian Government to improve housing access and affordability through Homes Melbourne. This includes \$12 million towards our landmark Make Room project, which will convert a Council-owned building into safe and supported accommodation.

Our draft Budget also includes more than \$1.1 million to ensure rough sleepers have access to food, healthcare and other support services through partnerships with Melbourne City Mission and the Salvation Army.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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ADVERTISEMENT

Your City of Melbourne community update



The new Food Hall at Queen Victoria Market is due to open soon.

Getting on with city-shaping projects

Melbourne is the fastest-growing capital city in the country. That’s why we’re getting on with delivering a strong pipeline of infrastructure projects to accommodate this growth and bring vital services closer to home.

In 2023–24, we will invest \$247.5 million in infrastructure, supporting up to 1,000 jobs and creating economic stimulus now, while delivering much-needed community services and facilities for the future.

A \$60 million boost for the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal program will ramp up works on a range of projects including new trader and customer facilities, as well as upgrades to the Franklin Street streetscape.

We’ll break ground on our landmark Greenline Project with \$17 million for the first stage of works at Birrarung

Marr, creating an expanded riverside promenade. We’ll also unveil The Greenline Project Master Plan outlining our vision for the city-shaping works.

We’re investing \$28 million to get on with the new Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre, set to open in early 2025. The facility will feature a rejuvenated pool area, full-sized multipurpose courts, health and wellness areas, and a wrap-around café.

A further \$3 million will complete the city’s brand-new Munro library and hub, which is set to transform the precinct with a state-of-the-art, 3,100m2 library, family services and community spaces.

Our investment also includes more than \$12 million for road and footpath maintenance, including \$3.2 million to upgrade footpaths and \$3 million to fix potholes and improve roads.



Our Business Concierge service will continue to support our city’s small businesses.

Backing business and attracting investment

We’re making it easier and more attractive to do business in Melbourne by cutting red tape and streamlining processes. A \$12 million boost to Invest Melbourne will bring new ventures and create jobs for the city.

Small business owners are the heart and soul of our city, so we’re expanding our Business Concierge service to support new and existing city businesses with a \$500,000 investment.

Since January, the Business Concierge team has provided free advice and mentoring to more than 15,500 city businesses – reducing the time it takes for a business to start up in the city and supporting them as they embrace Melbourne’s new rhythm.

Our draft Budget also includes \$1.2 million for precinct associations to create more opportunities for business networking, education and training, and initiatives to encourage visitation and local spending.

We’re making it easier to do business, with \$2.4 million to complete the Digital Permits Project, fast-tracking permit approval timelines and cutting red tape for traders and buskers.

We’ll also continue to back the hospitality and retail sector with \$540,000 to continue efforts to reduce shopfront vacancies.

The Shopfront Activation Program has helped to reduce the city’s shopfront vacancy rate from 31 per cent in November 2021 to 15 per cent. A total of 67 spaces have been activated with pop-up shops, creative offerings and bespoke displays.



We’re committed to making Melbourne the greenest and most sustainable city in the country.

A greener more sustainable city

Our draft Budget includes a \$51 million investment to create new open space, protect parks, charge ahead with Power Melbourne and cut emissions.

We love our parks, gardens and open spaces, they play an important role in making Melbourne more liveable which is why we’re investing \$26.5 million to maintain them.

We’ll spend \$16.5 million to secure new open space across the municipality, including pocket parks for Chapman Street, North Melbourne and Miles and Dodds Street Reserve in Southbank.

Construction will start on the Bedford Street pocket park, adding an extra 2,000m2 of open space in North Melbourne. In partnership with the State Government, the project will deliver play and picnic facilities, 48 trees and safer pedestrian crossings.

We’ll also improve storm water harvesting across the municipality, collecting water from drains and roads to help irrigate and drought-proof the city’s parks and gardens.

With support from the State Government, \$2.3 million will be spent on a stormwater harvesting project to drought-proof Princes Park in Carlton.

We’ll invest \$1.1 million to continue the rollout of our popular Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) collection services into mixed-used residential and commercial buildings.

The program was introduced to more than 23,000 households and apartments across the municipality last year, diverting more than 1,500 tonnes of organic waste from landfill.

We’re also charging ahead with plans to combat climate change and achieve net zero emissions, investing \$1.5 million in our landmark Power Melbourne project.

This year, we’ll install the first neighbourhood battery at Library at the Dock, providing 100 per cent renewable energy to the community.

Biggest ever events calendar

We’re delivering our biggest events calendar with \$28.2 million in festivals, activations and cultural celebrations to bring more people together in the city.

This will cement our status as the nation’s events and culture capital, boost our visitor economy and have flow on benefits for our retail, hospitality and small businesses.

All the city’s favourite events will return bigger and better than ever – Christmas Festival, New Year’s Eve

and Melbourne Fashion Week, along with a special anniversary celebration to mark 70 years of our much-loved Moomba Festival.

All the fun begins on 30 June when Firelight Festival will light up Docklands for a three-night celebration of the winter solstice. Followed by our new Now or Never Festival in August, with immersive experiences of art, ideas, music and technology in a series of free and ticketed events over city streets and venues.



We’re planning a special celebration to mark the 70th anniversary of our much-loved Moomba Festival.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24 can be provided on Participate Melbourne until 11.59pm on Thursday 8 June.

After a special meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Tuesday 20 June to consider community feedback, the final Budget is expected to be endorsed by councillors on Tuesday 27 June.

Have your say at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans



Docklands toy library prepares for changes amid council takeover

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The Melbourne Community Toy Library (MCTL) at The Hub at Docklands will close at the end of June with some of its services to be absorbed by the City of Melbourne from July 17 at Library at the Dock.

The takeover follows MCTL's struggle for permanent funding to be able to support the space at Docklands, with the council adopting the toy library services as part of City of Melbourne's libraries.

"Logistically, it's been very challenging – it's also a space we've had to pay rent," MCTL president Emily Corcoran said.

"We're not a business, we're a small organisation of parents meeting late at night to get things done."

The toy library at The Hub will operate as normal until the end of June, with the space closing between July 1 and July 16 to allow for re-cataloguing and other transition tasks.

Docklands residents will then be able to access toys at Library at the Dock from July 17 through a click and collect service via the City of Melbourne's online library catalogue.

In place of the play sessions, the council will introduce special story time and toy sessions to residents visiting Library at the Dock as a way of "refreshing and reimagining what toy libraries look like in our city".

"Toy libraries are an innovative way to support children's learning and development through play and imagination, and an accessible and cost-effective way for families to access resources," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

One of the main benefits of the council takeover will be that toy library users only need a City of Melbourne libraries' membership rather than the previous paid membership system to utilise toy library services.

"We're working with the local community to welcome current toy library members to our library membership, and to ensure the transition of the Docklands toy library is as smooth as possible," Cr Capp said.

While the council looks to refresh play sessions as part of the transition, community development officer at Docklands Pop-Up Neighbourhood House Jason Butcher expressed some concern with the new model.

"The play sessions were undoubtedly the most useful community program that the toy library had," Mr Butcher said. "There are so many new arrivals and young, migrant families moving into Docklands post-COVID and a lot of them are using these play sessions to build and re-establish the community." ●

Next steps from Docklands Summit

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has provided a long-awaited update on actions generated from the Docklands Summit it held back in September last year.

Some eight months on from the summit, the presentation from council officers at the May 16 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting held in Docklands represented the first update on the council's action items since last year's event at Marvel Stadium.

Among the completed initiatives were a new public toilet at Docklands Park (opposite Kangan Institute) and the floating wetlands trial in Victoria Harbour.



As for short-term deliverables, the council's Sophie Handley told the meeting on May 16 that the summit had provided some of the following "clear actions to pursue", including ...

- Addressing beautification by relocating some planter boxes, "which we already have in stock" around Harbour Esplanade and New Quay, but "we've commissioned some new planter boxes to be put together and installed during the rest of this calendar year".
- Ms Handley said the council had also undertaken a "walking audit of public places to ensure what areas require maintenance and improvements".



- The council has also negotiated to install a temporary pocket park at Yanonung Quay, which Ms Handley said would "really provide a clear focus for activities at Yanonung Quay" (pictured above left).
 - Artwork (pictured above right) will also be reinstalled along Yarra's Edge: "We're also looking to reinstall light buoys that were installed some time ago," Ms Handley said.
- As for medium- and long-term initiatives, the council says it will continue to support the establishment of the Docklands Stakeholder Group, advocate for the redevelopment of Central Pier and Harbour Esplanade, develop a "public realm improvement plan", conduct an analysis of The Hub at Docklands, as well as develop a communications and media strategy "aligned with a family-friendly precinct". ●



"I always make a mistake"

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ARTS & CULTURE

A storyboard is the quickest and simplest way to work through complex ideas even for children.

Youri Choi is a graphic designer trained in Korea and Australia beginning her career.

"Even as an adult you can think back to a good story," she said.

The main characters in her first storyboards are weak, poor and second-rate citizens.

Liam the fox has no dad and no confidence. When his mum tells him to do the shopping, he feels stronger in his dinosaur coat.

Tommie the orphan alley cat lives off scraps provided by strangers but must learn to fend for himself.

"We are living on the bright side," Youri says about our lives, but in these children's stories "I want to focus on the other side".

Children's illustration journey is Youri's first exhibition and she's reaching out to kids in the area to visit Library at the Dock.

Youri wants children to join her on this journey and she will be present on Sunday, June 4 from 2pm to 7pm. ●

CHAMBER UPDATE

Winter in Docklands

The winter events calendar in Docklands is heating up with Firelight Festival returning from June 30 to July 2.

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

Backed by the record-breaking success of last year's event, this year is sure to lift the bar yet again. The festival will transform the area into a captivating wonderland of fire and light, featuring fire pits and flame jets across Docklands streets.

Expect to see African drumming, roving performers, brilliant light installations, and an array of warming food options.

We are encouraging all local hospitality businesses to embrace the festivities and show the public what Docklands has to offer with special offerings to celebrate.

It's events like these that lure crowds to the city, resulting in increased spending that



is showing exciting prospects for businesses, as highlighted in the city's recent economic snapshot.

The data shows significant spikes in spending, ranging from 24 to 44 per cent above the 2019 benchmark on nights featuring performances by renowned artists like the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Harry Styles, both of whom performed at our very own Marvel Stadium.

These impressive results highlight the question: are we supporting businesses in Docklands that can continue the spend in our mixed-use precinct? And with the understanding that the makeup of our local economy is ever evolving post-COVID, should we?

With recent trends revealing changing

commuter patterns, which suggest Tuesday to Thursday are emerging as the busiest mornings and afternoons, while Thursday evenings have become the new Friday night for city workers seeking dining and socialising opportunities, these changes will have a major impact on what was once a precinct heavily influenced by the traditional Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 corporate routine.

The question is, how are we in Docklands responding to these changes? Are we thinking big enough about what Docklands can and should be?

In the recent Future Melbourne Committee meeting in May, the focus was on some clear short- to mid-term actions to pursue. There certainly was some good to come out of it – revamping our surroundings should always be a priority – however, I think it's time we embraced the data-driven new dynamics we are seeing in Docklands. There's so much more to offer if we can band together as a community and align our visions.

Let's hope our bustling events calendar continues to spark important conversations among Docklanders about what that long-term vision looks like. ●

Senator Linda White

YOUR VOICE IN THE AUSTRALIAN SENATE

As a Labor Senator, my office is available to assist you with any Federal Government issues.

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Senator Linda White

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AUSTRALIA

Authorised by Senator Linda White, ALP, Carlton.

Pet's Corner



Docklands' smartest prima donna

Mandu, a delightful 16-month-old pup, has been by her owner Juju's side for nearly a year.

WORDS BY Shervin Nasiri

While she may not be the most talkative canine, Juju believes that Mandu possesses a desire to communicate, but has been trained not to bark. As a result, Mandu has transformed into an affectionate "couch dog".

Mandu's personality shines through in various ways. She exudes a friendly and social demeanor, eagerly greeting most people she encounters.

Her gentle and welcoming nature makes her a favorite among friends and acquaintances.

Her playful nature extends to her interactions

with other dogs. While she enjoys engaging with larger canine companions, Juju has noticed that some playmates in the neighborhood may not have received the same level of training and discipline.

As a result, Mandu has become more cautious in selecting her playmates, ensuring that she engages with well-behaved dogs to avoid any untoward incidents.

Unlike some dogs who have insatiable appetites, Mandu's primary focus lies in seeking attention rather than food. Sometimes, she will delay her dinner until she receives the confirmation and attention she desires.

According to Juju, "she cares more about attention than food".

Juju added that Mandu's ability to retain what she had learned was remarkable. She finds that formal training sessions are no longer necessary as Mandu consistently exhibits well-behaved and obedient behavior.

"Obviously she is very smart," Juju said. ●

STATE MP (UPPER HOUSE)

Rental crisis deepens

“*Young Melburnians excited to live in the centre of our vibrant city are struggling to find a place to rent and are being priced out of our inner suburbs.*”

WORDS BY Evan Mulholland

As a millennial MP, and a former renter of a shoebox apartment in Abbotsford, I empathise with the pain many young Victorians are feeling. Annual rent increases of as much as 17 per cent year-on-year show there is a serious failure in our rental market.

We know the primary driver of this crisis is a crippling shortage of new housing supply in our inner suburbs, and since my election to Parliament last November I've been raising the alarm on this issue.

Victoria is growing, and we should welcome new migrants who are excited make Melbourne their new home and contribute to our economy.

But with a rising population, comes an obligation by government to provide the policy settings to create new housing supply.

This Labor State Budget has decided to take the opposite approach, hiking taxes on new housing investment, which I fear will turn our rental crisis into a catastrophe.

Cost blowouts from the Andrews Government's mismanagement of major projects and the economy and has led them to increase taxes across the board. The latest cash grab is a radical overhaul to land tax, which will only result in young renters paying more.

Now almost every rental property in the state will be subject to land tax, with the tax-free threshold will be cut from \$300,000 to \$50,000 and levying charges of at least \$975 plus on any land worth over \$100,000.

The Treasurer has been forced to admit that this will be \$1300 in extra land tax for the average rental property, a cost which will inevitably end up being borne by renters and those who can least afford it.

To large landholders this new tax is a rounding error, but as the Real Estate Institute of Victoria highlights, two thirds of investors own just one investment property, close to half earn less than \$100,000 a year, and like the rest of us are just trying to save and invest for retirement.

When we have a crisis of housing supply, the worst thing we could do is raise taxes that disincentivise new housing investment and development, yet that is exactly what Labor has done.

I've been vocal about the need for local government to be more constructive when it comes to approving new housing developments, and there is much more to be done across all levels of government.

But when we see a housing catastrophe unfolding before our eyes, it's time to start getting real about the drivers of this disaster. Let's stop trying to tax our way out of every cost-blowout and start providing the economic incentives and investment opportunities that will fix housing supply and drive down rents.

Evan Mulholland is Liberal MP for Northern Metropolitan Region and Shadow Cabinet Secretary. ●



Footscray Road closed citybound

! From late-May to mid-June 2023



Footscray Road citybound between Dock Link Road and Appleton Dock Road will be closed from **8pm Saturday 27 May to 5am Friday 16 June 2023** while work continues at the elevated road above Footscray Road.

Use Dynon Road instead. Drivers should plan ahead and allow for extra travel time.

Traffic changes in the area

Footscray Road westbound will reopen from 26 May with changes to the traffic lanes and the walking and cycling path. Please follow on-road signs and allow extra travel time.

Visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions for more information.

In partnership with:

Keep in mind there are other disruptions during this time.
Find a detailed list at bigbuild.vic.gov.au



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

Join a Winter Discovery Cruise with Port Phillip Ferries

*Discover the history of
the Yarra River on this
new one-hour discovery
cruise.*



Learn about the fascinating history of Melbourne's waterways by joining one of Port Phillip Ferries' new Winter Discovery Cruises. Taking place every Friday during June, the new tours take guests on a one-hour journey from Docklands along the Yarra River. Passengers will cruise under the Bolte Bridge and Westgate Bridge to where the river meets Hobsons Bay, before returning to Docklands.

There will be live commentary along the way, pointing out key landmarks along the Yarra River and sharing details of the rich past of these waterways and Melbourne's industrious port. A delicious Devonshire tea is also included as part of the tour.

Starting at only \$25 per person (groups of 10-plus are \$23.50 pp) these short cruises offer great value and are the ideal outing for social groups or friends looking for something a little different during June.

Port Phillip Ferries modern vessels feature multiple indoor and outdoor seating areas, accessible onboard amenities, and a licenced café. They are also easily accessible for all via our boarding ramps, comfortably accommodating wheelchairs, motorised mobility scooters, and prams.

The Winter Discovery Cruises depart from and return to Docklands. The timetabling has been set up to coincide with ferry services arriving from both Geelong and Portarlington, ensuring passengers arriving from these destinations can also enjoy the tours.

- **When:** Every Friday in June departing Docklands at 11.30am, returning at 12:30pm.
- **Where:** Port Phillip Ferries Docklands Terminal, Harbour Esplanade, Docklands.
- **What's included:** one-hour cruise, plus Devonshire tea, tea or coffee and historical commentary. ●

For more information:
portphillipferries.com.au

Streets ahead

As children from Gowrie Docklands Kinder explore the local community and venture into the CBD, road safety becomes a key feature of their learning.

Strong connections with community are at the heart of daily life at Gowrie Victoria, and each of its six early learning services has a dynamic Out & About program.

The program sees children from Gowrie Docklands Kinder (GDK) and Gowrie at The Harbour head out into the community on a daily basis. They walk to the supermarket for craft and cooking supplies, hold story-time and yarnning circles at Birrarung, on the NewQuay Promenade, and travel on public transport to the CBD.

GDK educational leader Liz Ong said a large part of the program involved building children's abilities to stay safe within the community.

"A lot of the children would be used to having a parent with them out and about," Liz said.

"So, we draw on their existing knowledge and support them to action it within different contexts."

As part of Road Safety Week and an extended road safety inquiry project, the kinder is calling on pedestrians and motorists to be allies and support the presence of kinder children in the community. The project, which is supported by the Traffic Accident Commission and Early Learning Association Australia, aims to increase awareness in the Docklands community that the waterfront (NewQuay Promenade) is a safe learning space for the GDK children.

“Every Wednesday, we visit the promenade at Docklands with a small group to explore water country and sky country, and to share stories and ideas,” Liz said. “But we’re noticing, more and more, that it’s difficult for the children to safely roam about the promenade.”

Liz said an increasing amount of bike and scooter traffic had started to dominate the promenade, despite signs that it was a pedestrian priority area.

“There are so many bikes and scooters whizzing past



with little regard for others, it's becoming unsafe for the children to be there," she said.

The Out & About excursions are highly anticipated among the children at the early learning services and are viewed as a vital part of their learning and development.

"It's so important for children to be active citizens in the community," Liz said. "It builds their sense of connection to the world and an understanding of their place in it. This empowers them to see that their ideas matter, their voice matters, that they are important people within the community too."

If you are interested in supporting this inquiry project, please contact Liz at docklandskinder@gowrievictoria.org.au.

For more information about enrolments at Gowrie Docklands Kinder or Gowrie at The Harbour, head to the website. ●

For more information:
gowrievictoria.org.au/docklands



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HEALTH & WELLBEING



Four easy things you can do right now to start improving your health

Getting healthier isn't a quick fix, as much as we'd love to click our fingers and make it happen.

Slaving over a hot stove to prep meals, dragging your body outside every day to get sweaty, and waving a despairing “goodbye” to guilty pleasure foods aren’t the only paths to a healthier life.

The big changes to diet, exercise, and routine are a key part of things, but getting some quick and easy wins to kickstart a healthier you can help build momentum and motivation to make bigger long-term changes.

Here are four things you can start doing right now to improve your health...

Hydrate, hydrate, and hydrate some more

What you eat has a big impact on your health, but what you *drink* is just as much (if not more) important. Put simply, our bodies need water to survive, and rely on regular water intake for vital functions including:

- Protecting our organs and tissue
- Helping to absorb nutrients
- Regulating our body temperature
- Pushing oxygen around the body
- Helping cell growth and reproduction
- Lubricates joints
- Helping to make hormones and neurotransmitters in the brain
- Keeping our eyes, nose, and mouth moist

Eat slowly

When you're busy, working, or your kids are about to draw on the walls for the millionth time, it's easy to shovel in what you can, when you can at mealtimes. But taking a little extra time to let your body digest food is a quick and simple way to

start improving your health with every bite you take.

Eating slowly and taking pauses during a meal can help with:

- Allowing your brain time to receive the signal that you're full
- Ensuring you're chewing your food properly to help with digestion
- Eating smaller amounts to avoid gorging and weight gain
- Enjoying food more thoroughly and being mindful at meals

Enjoying five minutes of destress time

The number of things that demand our attention at any given time can be astronomical. While we're spinning all our daily plates, it can be easy to let our destress time slip in favour of just “getting things done”.

Carving out five minutes of our time can help us pause, reset, and feel more mentally equipped to tackle life's demands. Five minutes of destress time could involve:

- A quick meditation session or breathing exercises
- Stretching muscles and joints to release tension
- Enjoying some silent time to be alone with your thoughts
- Petting or playing with your animal/s

Checking in with your posture

How is your posture while you're reading this? Are you slouched? Is your neck bent? Is your environment set up in the best way for your posture? How you work, eat, sleep, relax, and do virtually everything will involve your posture, and poor posture can lead to poor health outcomes. ●



Dr Mike Edgley
CHIROPRACTOR
DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU

SENATOR LINDA WHITE



Better future for housing within reach



Australia faces significant housing challenges. Recently, issues of housing and homelessness have dominated our national policy conversation.



WORDS BY Senator Linda White
SENATOR.WHITE@APH.GOV.AU

Finding an affordable and decent place to live is getting harder, whether you're looking to buy, rent, or just spend the night.

Unfairly, it is vulnerable Australians who suffer the most when it comes to insecure and unaffordable housing. The latest Closing the Gap Statement highlighted that First Nations Australians continue to disproportionately experience housing uncertainty and homelessness.

The fastest growing group at risk of homelessness is women over 55. Often these women have had careers, families and what could be described as stable lives, but the precarious nature of their financial circumstances

means they are at a higher risk than others. Shockingly, the 2021 census revealed the number of homeless Australians has increased by 5.2 per cent since 2016.

This is the challenging set of circumstances the government faces as we try to make up for nearly 10 years of wasted opportunities and neglect by the former Coalition government.

No government can solve these problems alone, or in one go. There is no silver bullet. But we can act meaningfully and ambitiously to improve Australia's housing outcomes. And the government is doing this now, cooperating with housing advocates, and states and territories.

Where cooperation and goodwill has been harder to find is where I sit, in the Australian Senate.

The government's Housing Australia Future Fund legislation is a \$10 billion investment in Australia's social and affordable housing stock – the single largest investment from a federal government in more than a decade. It guarantees 30,000 new social and affordable homes in its first five years, and a long term and sustainable funding model. Currently, both the Coalition and the Greens are blocking this vital legislation.

Make no mistake: standing in the way of the most significant housing investment in more than a decade will not solve housing issues in our cities and regions.

But it will stop us getting more homes on the ground more quickly.

In June the Senate will again consider the Housing Australia Future Fund. By then I hope the senators blocking the reform will have listened to the advice of housing and homelessness advocacy groups, state and territory Housing Ministers and those Australians struggling to a keep a roof over their head and pass the legislation.

Australians who dream of a safe and affordable place to live deserve no less. ●

Proudly representing the community in Docklands

LIBERAL VICTORIA

Evan MULHOLLAND MP

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION

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Authorised by Evan Mulholland MP, Member for Northern Metropolitan Region, Unit 10, 2 Graystone Court Epping Vic 3076. Funded from Parliamentary Budget.

OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Think twice and sleep on it before firing off that email complaint to the owners' corporation chairperson

“A Court in Sydney has awarded damages of \$120,000 to the elderly chairperson of an apartment block, after a tenant sent an email to him and the other owners in which she asked him to stop emailing her about locking her mailbox.”

WORDS BY Tom Bacon

The Court heard the chairperson had sent a number of emails to the tenant noting that her mailbox in the building had been left open and requesting that she keep it locked. This included an email on May 24, 2017, in which he said, “As your mailbox has again been open for the last few days it is obvious I have not been able to convince you of the seriousness of this issue”. The court heard there had been reports of gangs stealing mail in the area. Mailboxes in the building were broken into twice, starting in April 2017. The chairperson believed the culprits may have been able to cut a “master key” by examining the lock on the tenant’s unlocked mailbox. In her email on May 25, the tenant said, “Your assertion/s that a single unlocked mailbox has allowed a criminal milieu to stalk the ... [apartment complex] and spend the time necessary to copy barrels/locks in order to then construct a master key is farfetched [sic].” She described the chairperson as having a “fixation on this issue” and suggested that, in light of his “email hobby”, he might consider getting sensitive documents such as banking statements sent via email rather than in the post.

Lawyers for the chairperson said the email defamed him by implying he was a “small-minded busybody who wastes the time of fellow residents on petty items” concerning the building, and that he “unreasonably harassed” and “acted menacingly” by “consistently threatening her by email”. They also alleged the email from the tenant suggested the chairperson was a “malicious person who sent threatening emails to the defendant and copied in other residents” to publicly humiliate her. The Judge found those meanings were conveyed and the tenant had failed to establish a defence to any of them. This included defences of truth and honest opinion. “It would be fair to say that every sentence of the defendant’s email in reply struck a blow at the plaintiff and was intended to ridicule and humiliate him in every way,” the Judge said. She found that the tenant’s evidence was “coloured by exaggerated language, groundless suspicions and hostility”. As a lawyer that practices in owners’ corporation (OC) matters, I am not shocked by this decision, even though the facts of the matter may seem trivial. Defamation law is complicated and convoluted; however it is best practice that one should avoid ever having to get mixed up in a defamation case. Owners and committees in Melbourne should reflect on this judgement. I have seen many emails over the years that have been sent by owners to committee members and vice versa that are far worse in language and imputation. It will only be a matter of time before a similar judgment is made in Victorian OC law. My advice: best to go to bed and see how you feel in the morning before sending that email to the committee at 9.30pm at night. Calmer heads and more carefully chosen words seem to prevail in these circumstances ... ●



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Docklander



A line that doesn't bleed

A fluid line is valued in the arts and there is nothing closer to the hearts of millennials than catching up for a coffee.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Emajane Fisher has moved to Tower 4 at Yarra’s Edge and is making an impact downstairs at the café. People talk about activating your right brain, but it can be difficult. Emajane has given up a 9 to 5 job in public health and begun a career as an artist where spatial experiments count. She uses her entire body in her continuous line murals with the pleasure in the random connections between coffee cups, glasses, and customers. In one portrait the pupils are teacups. “It has a graphic design element to it,” she said of her mural by the stairs to the car park. “It’s hyper-styled but I’m focusing more on imperfection. It’s about the joy of coffee.” The move to Yarra’s Edge was from the inner north. “I became unwell in the office,” Emajane said. “There’s too much perfection in me. I had to release the high standards on myself.” So, she moved in with her mum and began enjoying social as well as artistic life instead of putting such high demands on herself. “There are quite a lot of retirees here,” she said. “It’s kind of fun. They have coffee and sit for three hours.” Yarra’s Edge is also a beautiful setting and although Emajane doesn’t see herself as part

of a trend she accepts that the place is visually inspirational. “It’s so hard to distinguish the visuals from the context. For me as an artist, the visuals are within a context. I love the modern buildings against the water and the architectural space shows flair. It is appealing.” She said Yarra’s Edge had a sense of community and that the move had been good for her soul. “Neighbours talk, coffee groups meet. It feels like a small town.” She talks about her move from the inner north where she studied public and global health to the inner south as healing. “People can be progressive but not afraid of money. As long as you acknowledge privilege there’s no need to be guilty about it.” The pressure on young professionals is different to being an artist working on you own business. “You have to learn to sell yourself as an artist,” she said, and perhaps that’s not a bad thing. Already she’s received mural commissions from private clients in Fitzroy and has a solo exhibition coming up in Brunswick. Proprietor Andrew Ligdopoulos is in favour of supporting local artists but Emajane adds something that has not been seen before in the more literal works on display – a lovely caring line that doesn’t bleed. ●



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DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP



Repair Café Docklands is back!

May saw the return of Docklands' Repair Café in a new place with new partners!

Repair Café Docklands is a joint project by Neighbourhood House, the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) and now the Maker Space (City of Melbourne) – and the organisers couldn't be happier with how the re-opening event went.

"Our new location at Library at the Dock is great for us – locals know where this is and the resources and additional support from the Maker Space really helps make this work," Jason Butcher of Docklands Neighbourhood House said.

Of course, there are learnings, especially about queue control – "but that's a good problem to have", according to Linda Dugan from the DRG, who was the main greeter on the day.

Repairing on the day were three skilled sewers – Rebecca George, Louise Nicdao and Sandi Severin. Their machines and knitting needles barely stopped during the event and calls are out for others who are interested in helping with a "stitch in time"!

Byne Fisher, armed with an array of glues and other "sticky" substances, was also working non-stop, helping locals put back together their wonky items.

This event also saw a new local business, Elephone, participate by running two iPhone workshops. Henry Zhu heard about the Repair Café and was keen to volunteer as their business's philosophy is all about "healing" devices and reducing electronic waste.



Also, John Strachan from Melbourne's Men's Shed came to see how the event operated and ended up staying and helping out with a few repairs.

"Repair Cafés are free meeting places and they're all about repairing things together. We are very keen to see how we might work together at future events" DRG president Ben Ball said.

If people are interested in knowing more about Repair Café Docklands, notifications will be made on the new Repair Café Docklands Facebook page. ●

For more information:
facebook.com/rcdocklands

MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK

Two opportunities for Docklanders ...

Firstly, anniversaries are always fun – 90th anniversaries in particular! Docklands residents and visitors are in for a treat in Victoria Harbour at 12 noon on Sunday, June 25.

The venerable Steam Tug *Wattle* will be independently steaming around Victoria Harbour on its 90th anniversary. There are only two such heritage steam-powered vessels in Australia and thanks to the stalwarts restoring the *Wattle*, we now have a rare steam-powered tug in Docklands.

After such courageous, painstaking and arduous maritime restoration project, what an achievement! Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) congratulates all those concerned. *Wattle* is not yet permitted to take passengers, but we look forward with great enthusiasm to seeing her tootling about Victoria Harbour on June 25.



Secondly, an invitation for you! MMHN is grateful to Heritage Victoria (HV) senior archaeologist Danielle Wilkinson, for her recent presentation on the multiple wrecks on Port Phillip Bay at the City of Melbourne, Waterways Branch.

This splendid presentation whetted our appetite for shipwrecks. MMHN is delighted to announce for a rare opportunity to tour Heritage Victoria's (HV) Artefact Research Centre. HV is responsible for regulating the Victorian *Heritage Act* and the Commonwealth *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act*, which both protect maritime wrecks, objects and infrastructure throughout the inland waters, coastal waters and within the sea off the coast.

The HV Artefact Research Centre (ARC) is a working lab and storage facility where objects recovered by maritime archaeologists are housed along with artefacts recovered from land archaeological sites. The ARC is where researchers, archaeologists and members of the public can come to view and study the objects and add to the history and knowledge of the objects themselves and the wrecks they have come from – the process of heritage curation and conservation of the fragile objects recovered

from the seabed. Heritage curator Bronwyn Woff will conduct the tour, which is free but numbers are limited so we encourage you to register by email info@mmhn.org.au.



Turning now to a more mundane matter. Docklands residents will be aware that litter in our waterways is constantly offensive – and MMHN would argue, poorly managed by the responsible authority Parks Victoria (PV).

But PV is trialling something new in the form of a weird "machine" from Queensland. Even more weird is that PV has named it "Geoff". Geoff is an automatic river cleaner that will be moored on the Yarra River for a six-month trial. MMHN fervently hopes this will indeed be an efficient and effective addition to PV's litter operations.

MMHN has often called upon PV to "lift its game" in disposing with vast seemingly stagnant quantities of floating debris in PV litter traps and left to rot in seemingly the most visible stretches of our waterways.

Litter, according to PV, habitually accumulates in certain highly visible locations. This is no doubt correct but the PV explanation fails to satisfy. PV has the job of dealing with this unsightly mess more efficiently.

Though apparently not exactly rocket science Geoff may indeed help. According to PV it is an "old-fashioned looking water wheel that drives a conveyor belt to collect rubbish. Solar panels also provide power when the [water] current is low. Floating debris is captured by two floating boom arms and guided towards the conveyor belt mouth. The conveyor deposits the rubbish in a bin, which is monitored by cameras (powered by the solar panels) and notifies rangers when it's full".

While MMHN observes that any litter news is good news, we remain concerned that Geoff simply adds the existing (and failing) PV litter traps now operating. We can all see when existing litter traps on our waterways are full day after day. The key issue is removing it more promptly.

After three months in the Yarra, Geoff will tootle over to the Maribyrnong River for a further trial period. ●



Jackie Watts

CHAIR OF MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK

JACKIEWATTS@NETSPACE.NET.AU

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WE LIVE HERE

Suburban councils take the lead

The City of Melbourne is falling behind suburban councils in the race to prevent the city being overrun by short stays.

The City of Port Phillip is the most recent council to show that it hears residents' fears about short stays. The CEO has been instructed to prepare a report on how other councils manage them; with details on how they could be regulated.

This directive was the result of a community petition demanding that the council act to develop and enforce rules on short stay operations in Port Phillip. The investigative report must be presented to the council next month.

Many councils have now introduced basic regulations. **Bass Coast, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula** and most recently **Warrnambool** have implemented registration systems for short stay hosts, charging an annual fee. **Yarra Ranges Council** lobbied the state government to take responsibility for regulating short stays.

The outer suburbs appear to be more advanced on this issue. If the current momentum continues, Port Phillip may become the first inner-city council to step up and regulate short stays.

Outside the municipal sphere, the Victorian Tourism Industry Council and Accommodation Association has been lobbying the government about its concerns around the housing shortage for local workers ...



These concerns are backed up by economic data. In a lecture at the University of Melbourne, Professor Greg Clark, an urban expert based in the UK, argued that every successful city in the world is experiencing a housing shortage. Read here:

Professor Clark, who reportedly has advised more than 300 cities and 50 national governments, said the housing crisis is particularly acute in Australia in comparison with global benchmarks.

In response to the expanding controversy, a Victorian Government representative issued an embarrassing prevarication:

"We have introduced laws to limit disruption caused by unruly short-stay guests in apartments and continue to monitor the wider impacts of the sector."

Victoria's short stay laws are among the feeblest implemented by any jurisdiction anywhere. A review of VCAT cases by one of our intrepid correspondents has revealed that there have been 50 cases against short-stay hosts to date – and not one host has been penalised!

Meanwhile, many residential apartment blocks in Melbourne have been turned into hotels with up to half the apartments in some buildings converted to short stays.

It's hard to take this non-communicative government seriously when all they offer is to "monitor" the impacts, and then continually postpone a review first promised for 2021, now claiming it will be held "by 2027".

Also, when will the City of Melbourne follow the lead of suburban councils and register short-stays? We were asking for this years ago.

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 donate, please visit **welivehere.net**. We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests. ●



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DOCKLANDS NEWS

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DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Hi all, Please find a smattering of stories that made the September 2022 Edition of Dockland News below. Delivery of the hard copy will be completed today. If you prefer to read the newspaper layout a pdf version can be downloaded here and all stories and columns are available on our website. As always, all reader contributions are welcome.

Regards, Sean Car Publisher - Dockland News

QR CODE

HYPERLOCAL NEWS

What's on: June 2023



UNTIL DECEMBER 6
SONGBIRDS
Every Wednesday, 10:30am to 11:15am.
An event for young, budding minds to learn all about the fun that can come with rhythm of language - with songs, rhymes, and stories to engage with. For babies and toddlers up to the age of 18 months.
Library at the Dock



EVERY THURSDAY, 7:45AM TO 8:45AM
TAI CHI AT DOCKLANDS
Tai Chi is a tranquil and graceful way of keeping fit, improving your health, and preventing stress. The riverside classes are the perfect way to start the day, so join in now.
The Hub @ Docklands, 80 Harbour Esplanade

UNTIL NOVEMBER 27
LIBRARY CINEMA (FREE)
Last Monday of every month, 3pm to 5pm.
Come along for contemporary, classic and documentary films on the big screen. Feel free to stay for snacks and a chat afterwards.
Library at The Dock



UNTIL DECEMBER 31
MAKERS MARKET AT THE DISTRICT
Last Sunday of every month, 11am to 4pm.
Enjoy live entertainment and creative, colourful market stalls showcasing art, craft, jewellery, fashion, homewares, gifts, and delicious homemade and homegrown produce.



UNTIL DECEMBER 7
PRESCHOOL STORYTIME
Every Thursday, 10:30am to 11:15am.
Share the wonder of books with your preschooler at this storytime session with stories, songs, rhymes and activities. Ages 3 to 5 years; no bookings necessary.
Library at The Dock



WEDNESDAYS AND WEEKENDS
SOCIAL FISHING CLUB
Sessions will run every Wednesday afternoon and on weekends. Details for specific times can be found on Docklands Neighbourhood House's Facebook, or call The Centre on 9328 1126.
Rods and bait are supplied, so just come along for a good time. All ages welcome.

10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

JUNE 2013 | ISSUE 87 | DOCKLANDS NEWS



Library emerges from dock

Construction of the Docklands Library and Community Centre at Victoria Harbour is progressing, with the framework of the first floor now clearly visible.
The \$13 million library is being delivered through a partnership between Lend Lease, Places Victoria and City of Melbourne and is one of the key elements of the Docklands Community and Place Plan.
The three-storey library is being constructed using cross-laminated timber (CLT) and

reclaimed hardwood. According to a Lend Lease spokesperson, the development is progressing well despite inclement weather.
The spokesperson said installation of the CLT was well underway, with both lift cores now completed.
The spokesperson said work on the level one columns, beams and suspended floors was also underway.
According to the spokesperson, the next step in the library's construction is installation of electrical, mechanical and hydraulic services at level one.
Construction of the Docklands Library and Community Centre is due for completion in late 2013 and is set to open to the public in March 2014. ●

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Quiz



- 1. Which 1986 coming-of-age film is based on Stephen King’s novella *The Body*?
- 2. Psittacines are more commonly known as what animal?
- 3. Of the seven chakras, which one is located at the base of the spine?
- 4. Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece has recently visited which country to build business and education relationships?
- 5. What is the old Roman name for Scotland?
- 6. Docklands is set to play a central role in a new major 17-day festival. What is its name?
- 7. Which famous Melbourne religious identity passed away in April?
- 8. True or false: black bears are not always black?
- 9. Docklands Neighbourhood house has launched weekend sessions for locals to participate in which recreational activity?
- 10. Who played the titular king in both the 1951 Broadway production and 1956 film adaptation of *The King and I*?
- 11. What is the name of the new automatic river cleaner (pictured) promising to clean up the Yarra?
- 12. With an asking price of \$6.5-7 million, 3802/100 Lorimer St (Array Tower) could become Docklands’ most expensive home. Which well-known figure owns the apartment?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS
1. *Stand by Me* 2. Parrots 3. Root chakra 4. China 5. Caledonia 6. Now or Never 7. Father Bob Maguire 8. True 9. Fishing 10. Yui Brynner 11. Geoff 12. Hawthorn FC legend, John Kennedy Jr.

5x5

No. 024

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

C		A		S
	E		R	
A		O		L
	I		E	
S		E		A

SOLUTIONS

CRAGS, ZEBRA, AFOUL, RIDES, STELA

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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Jun, 2023

Sudoku

No. 024

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

		5	7		9	4			2
9			6		7		3		
1								7	5
			5	6					
7					8				6
						3	2		
6	4								9
			3		5		7		1
5				1	3		4	6	

HARD

7	5		9			1			
6					2		4		
			1						
	2			9		7			
				6	8	3			
		4		1				9	
					8				
	4		7						8
		8			9		6	3	

SOLUTIONS

EASY

8	9	7	6	3	1	2	7	9
1	2	7	9	5	4	3	6	8
6	3	5	8	2	7	1	4	9
7	9	2	3	1	6	8	9	4
9	4	1	9	8	2	6	3	7
3	6	8	7	4	9	5	1	2
5	7	6	2	9	3	4	8	1
4	8	3	1	7	5	9	2	6
2	1	9	4	6	8	7	5	3

HARD

3	9	5	6	2	4	8	7	1
8	2	6	1	9	7	5	4	3
7	1	4	8	5	3	6	9	2
9	6	8	7	1	2	4	3	5
4	5	2	3	8	9	7	1	6
1	3	7	4	6	5	9	2	8
6	7	9	5	3	1	2	8	4
5	4	3	2	7	8	1	6	9
2	8	1	9	4	6	3	5	7

Wordfind

Theme: Australia

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

D	H	L	T	H	E	N	C	Q	M	N
A	T	A	L	U	A	A	V	U	A	S
R	R	T	C	M	P	K	I	E	T	Y
W	E	S	D	E	Y	D	C	E	I	D
I	P	A	Y	S	E	O	T	N	L	N
N	R	O	C	S	N	T	O	S	D	E
B	R	C	E	A	O	A	R	L	A	Y
K	U	R	I	B	N	S	I	A	S	A
T	T	D	N	S	W	M	A	N	R	R
Y	N	A	D	E	L	A	I	D	E	R
I	A	R	R	E	B	N	A	C	T	A

ACT

ADELAIDE

BASS

BRADMAN

CANBERRA

CAPE YORK

COASTAL

DARWIN

DESERT

INDIAN OCEAN

MATILDAS

NSW

PERTH

QUEENSLAND

SYDNEY

TASMAN

VICTORIA

YARRA

Secret message: The lucky country

Crossword

No. 024

ACROSS

- 1 Biking (7)
- 5 Keepsake (7)
- 9 Come together (3)
- 10 Chance (11)
- 11 Objects of worship (5)
- 12 Unspoken (6)
- 15 Keenness (6)
- 17 US state (7)
- 18 Merriment (3)
- 19 Section of a book (7)
- 20 Water-surrounded land (6)
- 22 Half conscious state (6)
- 23 Wildlife (5)
- 26 Purchase order (11)
- 27 Help (3)
- 28 Reading or copying machine (7)
- 29 Carefree (7)

DOWN

- 1 Awareness (10)
- 2 Informal (10)
- 3 Golf clubs (5)
- 4 Plaster ingredient (6)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9				10										
11						12								
15				16				17						
						18								
19										20				
24		25												
26														
28														

- 5 Sharpshooter (8)
- 6 Indian Ocean nation (9)
- 7 Metal fastener (4)
- 8 Ornamental quartz (4)
- 13 Knowledge of words (10)
- 14 Female servant (10)
- 16 Exaction (9)
- 18 Limit (8)
- 21 Acme (6)
- 23 Conclusive (5)
- 24 Weapons (4)
- 25 Prefix meaning water (4)

SOLUTION

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

Codeword

No. 024

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

SOLUTIONS

F	I	W	G	X	C	O	S	B	V	T	K
18	22	7	13	3	10	18		18		J	10
11		11		10		19		20		11	
18	13	9	4	24		20	3	4	7	7	10
13		18				14		15		I	
4	16	10	9	4	23	10		15	10	5	10
I				8		13		22		10	
7	10	4	9	17	22		4	24	4	9	12
		8		11		2		4			
1	11	4		I	15	9	10	23	I	8	10
11		15		4		10				4	
I	7	23	10	7	11	10		5	3	19	13
13		4		20		6		11		9	
10	15	8		10	21	10	8	5	13	I	19

9-Letter

No. 024

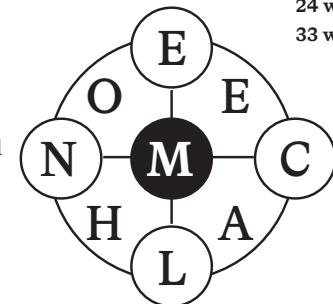
Today’s Focus:

16 words: Good

24 words: Very good

33 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”.



Reference:

Collins Concise

English Dictionary

SOLUTIONS

meal, mean, melon, menace, moan, mocha, mole, name, nome, omen, enemy, helm, holm, home, lame, lemon, loam, mace, macho, mane, manhole, acme, ahem, amen, calm, came, camel, cameo, CHAMBLEON, clam, coma, come,

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