

DOCKLANDS NEWS

docklandsnews.com.au

Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P22



Welcome, Tayla
Photo by Maria Vasileva

Wet weather failed to dampen spirits on July 23 as the Victoria Point owners' corporation unveiled its new garden next to Marvel Stadium complete with a new permanent resident - AFLW legend Tayla Harris. *Full story on page 9.*

Hopes rescue buyer may snap up Melbourne Star Observation Wheel

A new potential buyer has emerged in the sale of the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel, raising hopes it may be brought back to its former glory.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PROPERTY

Administrator Grant Thornton confirmed it was "currently working with a party" in relation to the 120-metre wheel, which closed nearly two years ago after its former operating company MB Star Properties Pty Ltd went into liquidation.

Grant Thornton partner and financial advisory head Andrew Hewitt said in July that the anonymous party, which he could not reveal at this stage whether it was an Australian or an overseas-based investor, had begun "a due diligence process to assess the operational issues in respect of the wheel".

"Upon completion of this they will determine whether they wish to progress to a purchase of the assets," he said.

The wheel opened in 2008 and cost an estimated \$100 million to build, but a price guide of what administrators hope to sell the giant landmark for is being kept confidential.

While Grant Thornton's engagement with the party has offered a glimmer of hope that the iconic wheel may turn again, the news will be greeted with cautious optimism

Continued on page 7.

Docklands emerging as a build-to-rent capital, but expert says it won't help housing crisis

Two more build-to-rent projects were announced in July, however an expert warns that any relief they provide to Australia's housing crisis is negligible.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

Two large-scale "build-to-rent" projects in Docklands were announced by developers in July, as the local area firms as a hotspot for Australia's burgeoning property model.

Developer AsheMorgan unveiled plans for a 900-apartment build-to-rent (BTR) project next-door to Docklands Primary School, before Lendlease — alongside Japan's Daiwa House Group — announced they were partnering on a \$650m BTR project at Melbourne Quarter, opposite Southern Cross Station.

It follows Lendlease's unveiling of plans earlier this year of a 24-storey Victoria Harbour tower also designated as BTR — a residential development in which dwellings are retained by the developer and leased out rather than sold.

It's a scheme said to benefit tenants by offering more security, included amenities and flexible leases.

One of the precinct's first BTR projects — dual 28- and 30-storey towers at 685-691 Latrobe Street, adjacent to Marvel Stadium — was on its way to completion.

AsheMorgan's project, dubbed "District Living", was set to be one of Australia's largest BTR developments, which they said would "cater to young families within the Docklands Primary catchment".

It was set to feature private outdoor spaces, which would include a dog park.



▲ Ashe Morgan's proposal for The District.

Development director Mat Stoddart said Melbourne faced an undersupply of housing over the coming four years, with research suggesting there would be an undersupply of around 10,000 residences in 2026 alone.

"Couple this with a tight rental market and over 67 per cent of the population in Docklands already rented, it is an area ripe for a well-designed BTR development," he said.

"More than 50 per cent of residents within Docklands are aged between 20 and 40 and almost 60 per cent are working as professionals or managers, making them the primary target market for BTR."

"Armed with this knowledge, we have delved into understanding more deeply how people want to live, which has led us to be much more generous and considerate in our design approach for these apartments, with a portion specifically designed with families in mind."

Continued on page 11.

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B New parklet for Yanonung Quay



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Stakeholder group marks another new beginning for Docklands

A new stakeholder group for Docklands has officially been established by the City of Melbourne as a further response to actions arising from last year's Docklands Summit, but will it help drive urgently needed change in our community?

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COMMUNITY

The Docklands Stakeholder Group met for the first time on Monday, July 3 and is made up of representatives from different parts of the community, including Docklands Primary School, resident groups, and small businesses ...

- Adam Bright – principal, Docklands Primary School
- Tim Chan – small business, youth
- Jenny De Loryn – Yarra's Edge Action Group
- Gautam Gupta – Saras Care
- Helen Hedding – Docklands Residents
- Daniel Hibberd – president, Docklands Chamber of Commerce
- Nicole Johnston – Victoria Harbour Dog Park Friends
- Peter Lardner – Aquil Promenade owners' corporation
- Amanda McCarter – Victoria Point owners' corporation
- Aditee Rawal – Docklands Representative Group
- Ekaterina Send – Docklands Safety Project / Docklands Primary School Parents & Friends
- Peter Van Duyn – WayPoint Foundation, *Alma Doepel*

"Establishing a Docklands Stakeholder Group was a key action from last year's Docklands Summit – an important event for our city, offering an opportunity to reset the conversation around the precinct," Lord Mayor Sally Capp told *Docklands News*.

"The group will provide a forum for residents, workers, businesses and others in Docklands to share ideas and identify opportunities to work together – for example, how a local community group could work with a small business close by."

The council said the working group sought, among other aims, to:

- Provide a forum for information sharing
- Improve community connection
- Identify opportunities to leverage existing grants
- Understand each group's priorities and alignments

It added that insights generated by the stakeholder group would be shared with the broader community via the online Docklands Neighbourhood Portal, as well as through the council's Neighbourhood Partner for Docklands, Fadi Qunqar.

The formation of the group not only follows on from the Docklands Summit, but also the end to Docklands Neighbourhood House after the council elected not to commit any funding to the organisation and instead focus its efforts on the new stakeholder group.

While any move to drive engagement and connection among local stakeholders is welcomed in Docklands, the community will be all too wary of the prospect of history repeating itself.

In 2012, the council established the Docklands Community Forum under very similar aims and principles. The initiative generated some positive outcomes, including advocating for the new primary school and the establishment of the Docklands Representative Group.

However, the overriding success of the initiative can perhaps, in part, be summed up by the fact that in 2022, there was a need for a "reset"

via the Docklands Summit at all, and now, the ensuing Docklands Stakeholder Group, of which the Docklands Representative Group is now a member.

But the council said the Community Forum Group was established for the residents, workers, and businesses of Docklands, while the new Stakeholder Group brought together existing groups to identify opportunities to work collaboratively to improve the precinct.

A cohesive Docklands community is critical for driving positive outcomes for the area, as well as developing a sense of identity that is so crucial for establishing connection, and a sense of place for residents, workers, and visitors.

On that basis, the new stakeholder group is only to be applauded and embraced by the community – support will be paramount to its success, and it's a logical initiative that sets us up for a brighter future.

However, broader governance of our precinct remains the elephant in the room, and until this is addressed, the transformative change we all want for Docklands may continue to elude us.

Let's hope the new stakeholder group can help champion and drive the change we want to see. *Docklands News* wishes it every success. ●

For more information:
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/docklands-neighbourhood-portal



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EDITOR
SEAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

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Think Pink Living Centre celebrates the reopening of The Living Centre

After three years of closure due to the pandemic, Think Pink Foundation celebrated the reopening of its Living Centre on July 26, with principal partners, sponsors, donors, and key stakeholders in attendance.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY



The joyful affair was one of “infectious enthusiasm”, not only serving to commemorate the reopening, but also the reconnection of the many people involved in supporting the facility.

With many of its clients being immuno-compromised, the Living Centre had to close to the public in 2020 and the team was forced to pivot and redesign all of its services, activities, and programs to suit online formats.

While this allowed the foundation to reach not only clients and families in Melbourne but also in country Victoria and around Australia, the team at the Living Centre was overjoyed to celebrate the reopening and the resumption of services delivered “face-to-face”.

In thanking the 90-plus contributors standing in the room, Think Pink Foundation director, patron, and founder of the Living Centre, Irene Hendel OAM said, “I am proud, honoured, and delighted that we are gathered here today to share this important occasion and milestone.”

“Our mission is to enable a better journey through breast cancer for those affected by a diagnosis, and we are extremely fortunate that we have been able to survive the pandemic. This has only been possible through the support of the four pillars on which we stand; our partners, our donors, our volunteers, and our staff,” she said.

Since first opening in 2010 at its original St Kilda Rd site, the Living Centre has received tremendous ongoing support from Mirvac and Freemasons Victoria, each of which have provided more than \$1.1 million in financial support to the centre and foundation.

While taking a moment to thank and celebrate both businesses’ contributions, Mrs Hendel alongside her husband, the foundation’s director David Hendel, also announced a new partnership with family-owned catering business Soul Origin.

It’s through the support of the Living Centre’s four pillars that Think Pink Foundation has been able to support more than 750 new clients and continue to run its free-of-charge centre, but it still relies heavily on community contributions to thrive.

The Yarra’s Edge facility exists solely to support patients, their families and carers, who can seek professional and caring holistic support at any stage of their journey with breast cancer.

With the reopening, many new and old services will resume in-person. Among these are free wig fittings, lymphoedema massages, aromatherapy, regular Zumba sessions, and a soon-to-be-established Family Portrait Photography Program whereby a qualified photography student will meet with clients to take high-quality family portrait images.

“Here at the Living Centre our focus is on wellness rather than illness, and our mission is to enable a better journey through breast cancer for those affected by a diagnosis,” Mrs Hendel said.

The exciting news that the Living Centre has

also welcomed two new staff members onboard was also announced at the reopening; breast care nurse consultant Jamie Kelly and Think Pink office manager, Natalie Sova.

Reflecting on the reopening as a “heart-warming occasion” Ms Sova said she, “cannot help but feel immensely privileged to be a part of a team that has made a significant difference in the lives of numerous women and their families during a difficult time.”

“We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of Think Pink Living Centre, and we invite everyone to join us in our endeavour to create a brighter and more compassionate future for those in need,” she added.

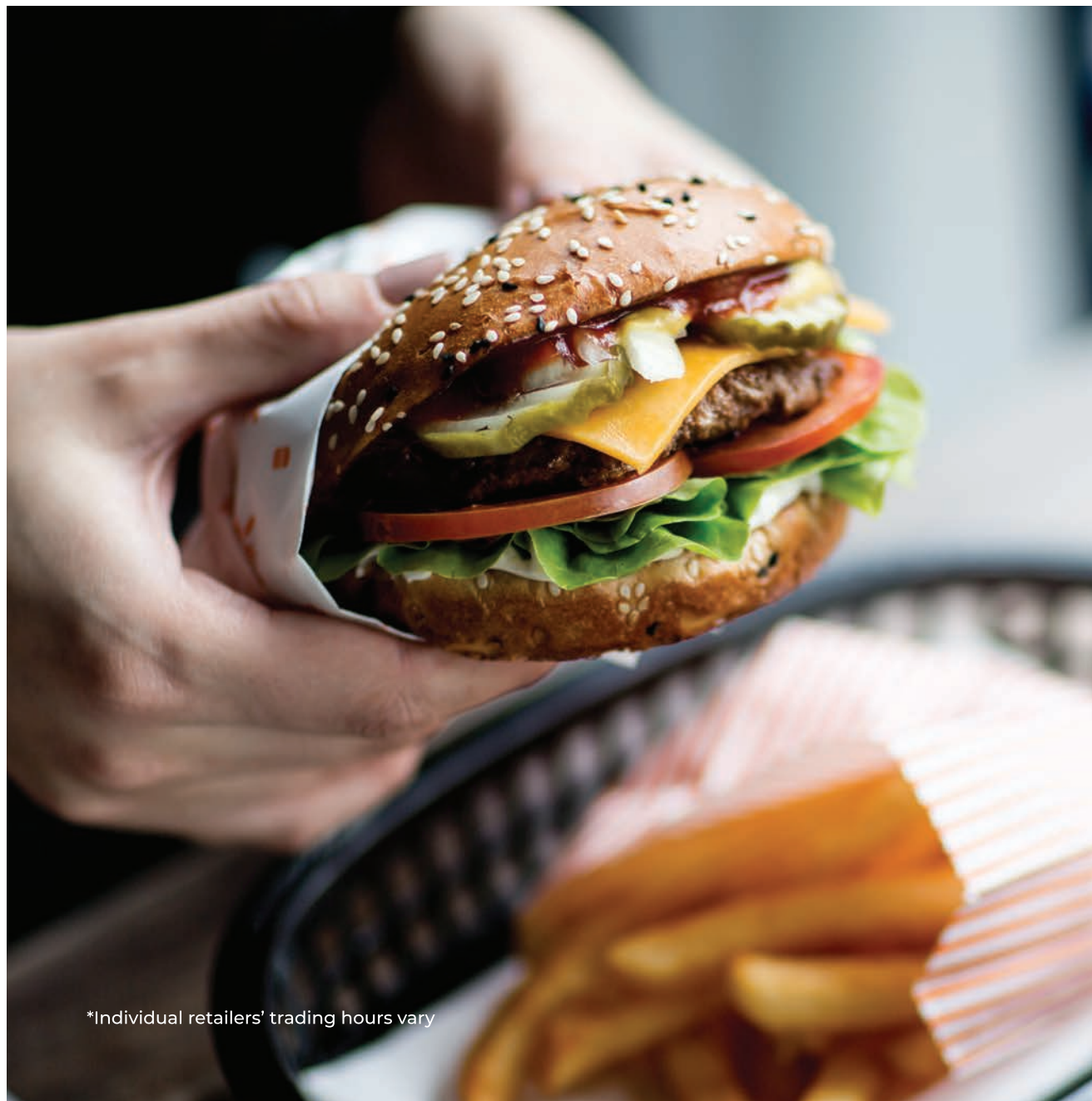
As the new on-site breast care nurse consultant for all the clients, Ms Kelly also reflected on the “excellent opportunity” for everyone to reconnect again.


“A truly memorable moment for me was meeting the Think Pink clients in person after virtual interactions on Zoom. Witnessing the positive impact we have had on their breast cancer journey reaffirms the very essence of Think Pink’s mission, and it reinforces my profound passion for my role within this organisation,” she said.

“With hearts full of gratitude, we extend our deepest appreciation to everyone that attended. Together, we will continue to foster an environment of celebration and support at The Living Centre, ensuring that Think Pink remains a beacon of hope for those navigating the breast cancer journey.”

Think Pink Living Centre is located in the Ground Floor of the Forge Building at 75-81 South Wharf Drive, Docklands. ●

For more information:
thinkpink.org.au/the-living-centre



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Docklands Health presents *Women's Health: Highlighting Hormones*

Women's Health Week is approaching on September 4 to 8. After a successful inaugural event last year, Docklands Health is proud to present our second women's health event.

WORDS BY Sarah Chellew

Women's Health: Highlighting Hormones will be held at Library at the Dock at 4pm on Monday, September 4. Come and join us for a gathering of esteemed women's health experts sharing their knowledge and insights on the impact of hormones on women's health.

Our speakers will be talking mental health, healthy ageing, pelvic floor and pregnancy, menopause, energy and vitality, with a special emphasis on hormones this year. We have put together a remarkable lineup of women's health professionals, general practitioners and authors who have contributed significantly to literature surrounding healthy living and aging, both physically and mentally.

Professor Cassandra Szoeki (NHMRC principal fellow, director of Melbourne University's Healthy Ageing Program, and author of *Secrets of Women's Healthy Ageing*) will be giving an in-depth presentation on the impact of hormones on women's health and healthy ageing at this upcoming event.

As the driving force behind Australia's renowned "Women's Healthy Ageing Project", she has spent more than 30 years collecting longitudinal and observational data to gain a comprehensive understanding of health

throughout a woman's lifetime. With chronic disease being the leading cause of death in Australia, Cassandra endeavours to promote healthy ageing and prevent such diseases by raising awareness about modifiable risk factors specific to women's health. The study emphasises the impact of hormone therapy, diet, sleep, and exercise on various aspects of women's physiology and cognition, thus shedding light on the key factors influencing women's overall wellbeing.

Professor Jayashri Kulkarni (Professor

of psychology at Monash University's Department of Psychology, and founder and director of Monash Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre (MAPrc)) has dedicated 25 years to enhancing the quality of care for women with mental illnesses.

Her efforts include developing personalised treatments that address women's biological, social, and psychological needs. An expert in Women's Mental Health, Jayashri organised the 3rd International Congress on this topic. Together with the MAPrc team, she strives

to advance mental health care by creating novel treatments, expanding knowledge, and improving service delivery. By incorporating the latest findings in neuroscience, Jayashri aims to develop innovative therapies for severe mental illnesses.

Joining them is Lauren Le Fevre, an Accredited Practising Dietitian and clinical lead in diabetes at Austin Health. Lauren will be sharing essential information about nutrition and health and offering practical tips and tricks to help incorporate healthy choices into daily life.

Additionally, Dr Melinda Wassell (chiropractor) and Maryam Dadvar (physiotherapist), along with other Docklands general practitioners, will be addressing health checks, pain management, and women's health issues in the workplace.

During the panel component of the event, attendees will have the opportunity to actively participate in discussions and ask questions. This interactive element will provide a great opportunity to connect with the impressive women in our community and gain knowledge about resources that can empower individuals to lead healthier lives.

To make the most out of this event, come prepared with your questions. Docklands Health looks forward to welcoming you to this exciting gathering of women's health experts, where you can gain valuable insights and make positive changes for your wellbeing.

The best part is that tickets are just \$5. •



For more information:
docklandshealth.com.au/whw



Dynon Road closed in both directions

! From mid-June to late-August



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

Thanks for your patience

We're widening the bridge at Dynon Road over the rail lines to build new connections to the city as part of the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au for more information, including detour routes and closure times. Please note that dates and times are subject to change.

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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

New pocket park installed at Yanonung Quay

A new parklet donated to the City of Melbourne by the state government's Metro Tunnel Creative Program has been installed at Yanonung Quay in Docklands to help "deliver immediate beautification".

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Maria Vasileva*
COMMUNITY

The council said the initiative was in direct response to one of the key actions culminating from last year's Docklands Summit, which called for fast solutions to green and beautify Docklands, particularly surrounding Victoria Harbour.

As part of the project, the components of a pocket park have been relocated from the Albert Road Reserve in South Melbourne to Yanonung Quay, while 10 underutilised planter boxes were brought from elsewhere in the city to Harbour Esplanade and New Quay Promenade.

"The Docklands Summit was an important event for our city, offering a chance to reset the conversation and discuss ideas to revitalise the precinct," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"We're listening to the local community and delivering on our commitment to beautify Yanonung Quay [and so] attracting more visitors to Docklands to support local businesses."

"This pocket park provides additional landscaping and seating for visitors – whether you're waiting for the ferry and enjoying water-side views or stopping by for a coffee to admire the quirky *Cow Up a Tree* artwork."

Located along Harbour Esplanade, Yanonung Quay is a recently upgraded wharf home to the Port Phillip Ferries passenger terminal and café.



Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece has previously predicted that the wharf could become "a world-famous location" in Melbourne as well as Australia's busiest commuter port by 2030 when Melbourne is predicted to overtake Sydney as the nation's largest city.

The council's environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said it was "fantastic to see the continued transformation of Docklands with the reinvigoration of Yanonung Quay".

"We know the Docklands community want more green and open space to enjoy. That's why we've worked with the Metro Tunnel creative program to rehome their award-winning Albert Road Reserve pocket park to Yanonung Quay," he said.

Update on Central Pier imminent

Meanwhile next to Yanonung Quay, the community continues to await updates on the future of Central Pier from its owner Development Victoria.

Having been shut down amid safety concerns in 2019, the pier, which was once a major events capital for Melbourne supporting 1300 jobs, has remained closed while legal, heritage and demolition issues are resolved.

Development Victoria staged a community engagement process in late 2022 but has yet to release its findings as part of the next stage in helping determine the pier's future.

Docklands News understands that the community's feedback is expected to be released for further consultation this month as part of a report which will help outline next steps for the pier's renewal.

Long-awaited demolition works by contractor Fitzgerald Construction Australia are now under way, with the delicate process of preserving the pier's heritage assets meaning the process could take up to two years to complete. ●



Police appeal following assault at tram stop

CRIME

Police are searching for a man following an alleged sexual assault at a Docklands tram stop on June 26.

Transit Crime Investigation Unit detectives are investigating after being told an unknown man was seen loitering around the D15 tram stop on Collins St at around 2.50pm.

"It is believed the man approached a 17-year-old girl and took a photo with her before inappropriately hugging and touching her," a police spokesperson said.

"After the unwanted contact, the girl boarded the next available bus, while the man remained at the tram stop before walking west on Collins St towards Capital Hill Drive."

Investigators have released a computer-generated image and still images of a man they believe may be able to assist their enquiries.

He is perceived to be of Indian or Sub-Continental appearance and is about 160cms tall with a black moustache and short black hair.

He was seen wearing a white business shirt with black dots, dark blue or black trousers, a Louis Vuitton belt, and black shoes.

He was also carrying a black backpack and wearing a gold banded watch with a white face.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or crimestoppersvic.com.au ●

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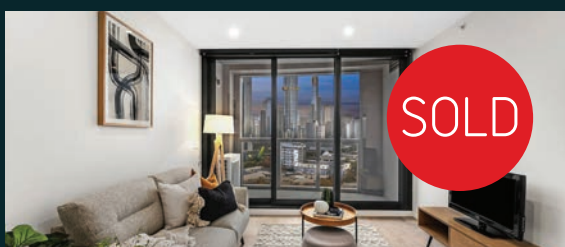
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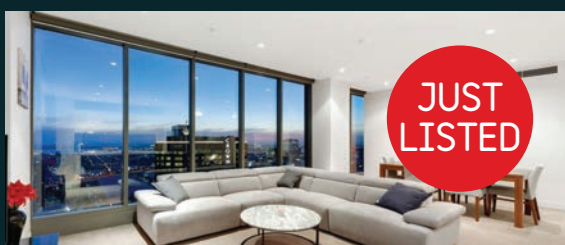
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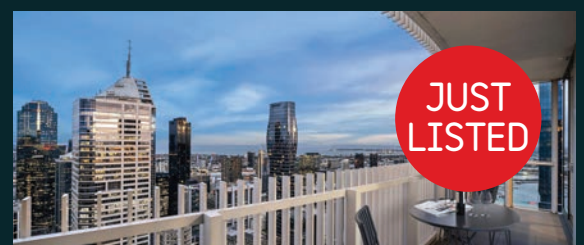
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Simpler parking in the CBD

The City of Melbourne is making kerbside parking simpler and fairer in the CBD by introducing cheaper rates for off-peak times, waiving fees for 15-minute parking sessions by using the EasyPark app and unlocking hundreds more spaces.

Work is underway to review and revise parking in every CBD street to install simpler signs and make sure loading zones and accessible (disability) spaces are in the right locations.

We're also introducing clear spaces in every street for passenger drop-off and pick-up, to reflect the changing ways people enter and exit the city.

All you need to do is check the signs to understand the parking conditions.

These CBD parking improvements will be complete early next year.

We'll soon be improving parking in other neighbourhoods across the municipality and will engage businesses and the community to understand what is needed so we get the balance right.

The changes are not 'set and forget', as we'll follow up to make sure the new parking conditions are working well.

This approach optimises public kerbside parking, which makes up only 5 per cent of all parking in the municipality. The remaining 95 per cent of parking is managed off-street in residential, private and public car parks.

We'll also continue working with off-street parking operators to make it easier to find and access the 68,000 public off-street parking spaces – so drivers can make the best choice for their time in the city.

Our new CBD parking plan was informed by the experience of about 1,000 parking users and does not propose any increase to the current maximum \$7 hourly parking rate.

Simpler signage and conditions will reduce confusion and could result in a 10 per cent decrease in parking fines.

To learn more about simpler CBD parking, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/simplerparking

WHAT'S CHANGED?

- Simpler parking signs to reduce driver confusion
- Consistent 2-hour parking limits every day from 7am to 10pm, including Sunday
- Fairer, data-led pricing, with a new off-peak rate of \$4 per hour after 7pm weekdays and all weekend
- Introduction of off-peak rates on Sunday
- Free parking to support short stops of up to 15 minutes (when using the EasyPark app)
- Optimising underused spaces and converting loading zones to 2-hour parking after 4pm – making hundreds more parking spaces available in the evenings
- Consistent loading zone time limits for drivers to make deliveries, as well as disability parking and dedicated pick-up and drop-off spaces that are easier to find and use

IN BRIEF

GET THE FACTS ON THE VOICE

Learn about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament and the upcoming referendum. We're committed to truth-telling and supporting respectful conversations. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/voice

CHILDCARE CENTRES VIRTUAL TOUR

Find a childcare centre that suits your child and family's needs by taking a virtual tour. Go to melbourne.vic.gov.au and search Lady Huntingfield Early Learning and Family Services and North Melbourne Children's Centre to take a tour and learn more about our childcare options. Both our centres are accepting registrations for children aged from 0 to 5 years.

COMMUNITY MEALS SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Our Community Meals Subsidy Program provides funding to not-for-profits in the City of Melbourne to create connections for older people through food. A subsidy of \$6 per meal is available to eligible organisations. Applications close Thursday 31 August at 5pm. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/communitymeals for more.

DIGITAL PERMITS

Applications for busking permits and other business permits are now online, making it easier for you to do business with the City of Melbourne. Smart tech gives you 24-hour access to apply for permits, get copies of permits and invoices, and ask for changes. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/permitsupport for more.

BOOST COVID PROTECTION

With the arrival of winter and waned immunity in the community, together we can take steps to protect ourselves and each other from COVID by getting a 2023 booster dose from a doctor or pharmacist. You can also collect free rapid antigen tests – visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/freecovidtests for details.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Be the first to know what's happening in your local neighbourhood and across the City of Melbourne. Subscribe for regular updates, direct to your inbox. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/subscribe to sign up.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PORTALS

Say hello to your friendly neighbourhood partner and share ideas to make your community the best it can be. From historic Carlton to the glistening harbour at Docklands, each City of Melbourne neighbourhood needs different services and support. Reach out to your neighbourhood partner at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods

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Hopes rescue buyer may snap up Melbourne Star Observation Wheel

Continued from page 1.

as no solid buyer had been forthcoming, with various prospective buyers having shown “different aspirations” and entering into non-disclosure agreements since January last year.

As previously reported by *Docklands News*, Mr Hewitt said there was much to be navigated in any prospective sale, which would be a “significant investment for whichever party decided to deal with it”.

The observation wheel closed due to the impacts of COVID and “pre-existing challenges of operating amid increased high-rise development and changes in the Docklands area, making it impossible to sustain the business,” according to MB Star Properties.

Last year leading architect firm Bates Smart



pitched a bold plan for the observation wheel be moved to the Yarra River’s edge within a proposed seven-hectare park, which would be created by burying the railyards on the northern bank between Flinders Street Station and Southern Cross Station. ●

The Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition makes its return

ARTS & CULTURE

The Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) has officially announced the return of its annual Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition, with entries now open for artists’ submissions.

This year’s return theme is “The Relationship of Humanity to the Sea” and, following last year’s impressive line-up, exhibition organisers have promised that this year will be a celebration of artistic excellence and maritime heritage.

Artists from all backgrounds and of all levels of experience can submit their entries up until September 8, and go into the running to win a share of the \$25,000 prize pool.

Entries will be awarded based on four categories: \$15,000 for the prestigious Maritime Art award; \$5000 for Best in Traditional Maritime Art award; \$2000 for Runner-Up award; \$1000 for the Emerging Artist award; and \$2000 for

the People’s Choice award, determined by the public.

Selecting the winning artists will be a distinguished panel of judges, including Geelong Gallery director and CEO Jason Smith, arts industry leader Jane Scott, and renowned author and artistic director at Heide Museum of Modern Art Lesley Harding.

The Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition will run from October 20 to 26, during which the public is invited to marvel at the remarkable works displayed, and possibly find a piece to purchase and make their own.

Visit the exhibition at The Mission to Seafarers at 717 Flinders St, Docklands. ●

For more information:
missiontoseafarers.com.au



Bouncing into town: MK proves a hit

“

Mirror Kangaroo is “hopping” to make some new friends in the neighbourhood, with his dazzling outfit proving a hit with new fans in Docklands.

”

MK, as he likes to go by, will be popping up across the city at many landmarks to take photos, and have some fun.

His parents, would like to remain anonymous, have been working within the entertainment and events industry in London for the past 15 years, across TV, film, and live performance, and “can’t wait to bring their unique brand of interactive concepts to Australia”.

If you see MK around the city, tag #**mirrorkangaroo** and follow @**mirrorkangaroo** on Instagram and TikTok to see all the mischief. ●

Got something quirky or unusual to share? Email it to admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au to be featured in next month’s the *Quirky Corner!*

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Large crowds fire up Docklands ahead of new Now or Never festival

More than 100,000 people flocked to Docklands last month for what was yet another successful Firelight Festival, as the precinct now prepares to play a central role in the City of Melbourne's new Now or Never festival starting on August 17.

ADVERTORIAL BY *Sean Car*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Hanna Komissarova*
EVENTS

The annual winter Firelight Festival staged by the council saw huge crowds attend across three nights from June 30 to July 2, with the council confirming attendance was consistent with last year's record-breaking event.

According to the council, Saturday night saw the biggest crowds with more than 35,000 in attendance.

The free festival featured more than 125 different artists and performers and more than 30 food vendors, representing an estimated \$8.3 million boost to the local economy.

With the the City of Melbourne investing \$1.6 million for this year's festival "to deliver the biggest and brightest event yet" and support more than 400 jobs, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said Firelight continued to prove "an overwhelming success".

"Winter is a magical and marvellous time in Melbourne, and our free events calendar is one the many ways we're encouraging Melburnians and visitors to join in on the fun," Cr Capp said.

"Firelight Festival continues to be an overwhelming success - lighting up our harbourside precinct with a dazzling line-up of free entertainment and warming winter eats."



"This year's event attracted tens of thousands of Melburnians and visitors to the Docklands precinct, supporting 400 jobs and boosting business for local traders."

The Lord Mayor said the council was now looking forward to seeing more crowds descend on Docklands as part of its new festival, Now or Never.

"Later this month, we debut our newest festival, Now or Never, a 17-day program of cutting-edge art, design and workshops that

will highlight some of Melbourne's iconic landmarks in never-before-seen ways, with 200,000-plus attendees expected," Cr Capp said.

Among the major events to take place along Victoria Harbour Promenade as part of the festival include *Holon: Jon McCormack* - an installation made from more than 100 "electric organisms" connecting "technology with humanity" from August 17 to September 2.

Also running for the length of the festival in

Docklands will be *Infinity: Universal Everything* - a never-ending video artwork depicting an endless procession of unique personalities born from code. ●

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

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Turning grey into green: new Victoria Point garden unclocked

At one outdoor ceremony where one might argue the rain was welcomed, more than 80 gathered in wet conditions on July 23 for the long-awaited opening of Victoria Point's new garden.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COMMUNITY

Despite the inclement weather, Victoria Point owners' corporation (OC) chair Dr Janette Corcoran, who has led the project since it was first conceived back in 2017, confirmed spirits weren't dampened with "the rain is good for the garden" being the mantra on the day.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp was among those who braved the cold to witness the exciting unveiling of this green transformation of more than 2800 sqm of concrete along the Marvel Stadium concourse.

The \$1.2 million project to transform the Victoria Point garden was conceived through the City of Melbourne's Urban Forest Fund grants program, established in 2017 to accelerate greening across the municipality.

Supported by the council and Development Victoria, the garden was designed by ASPECT Studios with more than 5000 new plants and 38 new trees curated and supplied by Billy's Nursery.

But the hero piece of the project is the iconic sculpture of AFLW legend Tayla Harris, which



will now permanently reside at the forefront of the new garden in an appropriate location alongside the stadium.

While the sculpture was "unclocked" in front of attendants on July 23, Dr Corcoran said a proper unveiling would be staged at a later date complete with a plaque, as well as Harris and the artist behind the sculpture Terrance Plowright in attendance.

Dr Corcoran told *Docklands News* that residents of Victoria Point were delighted to be able to finally share the space with the community, and paid tribute to the many stakeholders who had collaborated to make the project a reality.

The Lord Mayor echoed this same sentiment, saying projects such as Victoria Point's "beautify

our city, create spaces for our community to come together, and give visitors to our city even more reason to explore."

"Victoria Podium Point has undergone a remarkable transformation from grey to green, with green cover doubling through an additional 2220 sqm of garden beds and 630 sqm of tree canopy cover," Cr Capp said.

"Since its inception, the Urban Forest Fund grant program has created jobs for Melburnians and generated almost five times the economic return on investment, providing a boost for city businesses."

"The refresh has also improved lighting in the area, boosting safety for people making their way home after the footy." ●



Locals lash authority over graffiti on Charles Grimes Bridge

Protective barriers along Charles Grimes Bridge have become a notorious hotspot for graffiti over the years and locals peering over the road every day from Yarra's Edge have slammed the slow response by the responsible authority in keeping the area clean.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
SAFETY & SECURITY

VicRoads (Department of Transport and Planning), the authority responsible for managing the bridge, has come under fire from local residents who say their continuous reporting of graffiti continues to go unnoticed.

Lorimer St resident and building manager David Morgan said he alone reported recent graffiti to VicRoads in February as well as a further three times since.

"No action to clear the graffiti has been taken since the matter was initially reported more than four months ago," he said.

"The graffiti is unsightly to residents in the Yarra's Edge area and also to visitors and tourists who use the bridge as a thoroughfare to the CBD."

In response to a series of questions posed by *Docklands News*, a spokesperson for the



Department of Transport and Planning said it prioritised the removal of any graffiti that was offensive, racist or that put other road users at risk.

"Vandalism and graffiti remain an ongoing

challenge and we understand it can be frustrating for the community," the spokesperson said.

"We encourage anyone who witnesses vandalism on our roads or public transport network to report it to police."

However, the spokesperson did not indicate when current graffiti was expected to be removed, or its average response times to cleaning the bridge.

While the City of Melbourne is not the responsible authority for the bridge, a spokesperson said it had also raised graffiti issues with VicRoads as a service request.

The council has invested a considerable number of resources into keeping the city clean in recent years, with its current budget alone including more than \$36 million for street cleaning and graffiti removal. ●

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Drones drop from the sky during light show

An investigation is under way into a technical glitch that sent hundreds of drones plunging into Victoria Harbour during a light show at Marvel Stadium on July 14.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A team of divers spent hours in the Yarra River retrieving the drones, which were operated by the Australian Traffic Network for the Matildas' practice soccer match with France ahead of the FIFA Women's World Cup.

The incident occurred during what was supposed to be a 10-minute light show when the drones suddenly plummeted into the water as a result of a technical error.

According to a media release ahead of the event, 500 drones were used in the display that contained a series of messages and images in support of the Matildas.

Visit Victoria confirmed the incident was under investigation by the Australian Traffic Network (ATN), which has been contacted for comment.

It is not known exactly what caused the technical fault, however, no injuries were reported.

A Civil Aviation Safety Authority spokesperson said the regulator was aware and confirmed it had approved the drone display "with operating conditions in place to ensure the safety of the public".



▲ Drones are retrieved from the Yarra River.

Image: courtesy of 7 News Melbourne.

"We are talking to the operator to understand what happened," the spokesperson said.

Yarra Riverkeeper Charlotte Sterrett of the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, which advocates for the river's health, said she was shocked, noting hundreds of lithium batteries inside the drones had posed a significant risk to the water's ecosystem.

"The lifeblood of our city – the Yarra, Birrarung River – deserves our care and respect, not to be trashed. Was this known hazard assessed as part of a risk management plan?" she said.

"We know lithium batteries contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals, including lithium, cobalt, nickel, and other hazardous substances. When a lithium battery enters a river, it can leak or release these harmful materials into the water, leading to pollution."

Ms Sterrett said toxic chemicals released from the batteries can poison fish and other aquatic species, disrupt the balance of the ecosystem, and potentially lead to long-term ecological damage.

"While not all drones are the same, we estimate that a drone battery is equivalent to



▲ The drone show just prior to dropping into the harbour.

around 50 double A batteries. With 350 drones in the water, that's the equivalent of around 17,500 batteries. This is significant," she said.

"It is vital that every single drone is recovered and that over-water shows do not take place over water until we know what went wrong and have a plan to prevent this from happening again."

Victoria Police said Water Police were at Victoria Harbour and assisted Parks Victoria with marine traffic on the night, but confirmed police were not called to respond to the incident regarding the drones, nor were they investigating.

According to 7News, divers reported visibility in the water being limited to an arm's length with cords tied around each drone before they were pulled out like "crab nets".

The City of Melbourne was contacted if it was involved in approving the display or but referred enquiries to Visit Victoria and the Australian Traffic Network. ●

ATET's "compliance ignored" as council shuts venue down amid "unprecedented level" of complaints

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Docklands' controversial floating events space ATET has officially closed its doors after the City of Melbourne terminated its licence despite the operator contending he had followed "every rule".

ATET founder Jake Hughes said the venue was notified on May 26 of two noise breaches, which had occurred in March and April, but that he wasn't provided with a copy of the report conducted by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) detailing the breaches until June 9.

He said that despite not being able to rectify the issues at the time without the report, which he claimed that EPA "had sat on for 10 weeks", ATET had immediately responded by adjusting its installed noise limiter to ensure the venue was compliant.

"The minute we found out there was a noise breach, we stopped and

fixed the issue immediately, but council still wants to kill us off," Mr Hughes said.

"They don't care about their own rules, and they just stopped talking to us."

The council made the shock decision to cancel ATET's permit on June 23 after facing a relentless wave of noise complaints from residents, and the operator's failure to comply with environmental regulations set by the EPA.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council had worked closely with the operator over several months to "identify solutions" but to no avail.

"Unfortunately, as we haven't seen any adjustments from the operators to either their business model or to the structure that they're using to be able to address those continued issues with compliance, with the noise regulations, and this has led to the cancellation of the licence," Cr Capp told reporters this week.

She said the cancellation of ATET's

licence was "regrettable" and "sad" but maintained "it is important that we respond to the health issues and impacts on local residents and that's why we've taken this action".

Cr Capp said ATET had "generated an unprecedented level of complaints and concerns from local residents" with the council "really doing everything we possibly can to support them as they have tried to comply with EPA noise regulations".

The move to shut the venue comes less than a month after councillors voted to issue a notice of default on the venue's planning permit after an EPA report deemed its noise levels were consistently excessive.

In response, Mr Hughes said they had immediately made necessary adjustments.

"We have done everything the council has ever asked us to do and even offered to go further. They don't care about their own rules, and they just stopped talking to us," he said.

Following the news of its licence

cancellation, ATET has launched an online petition in a bid to save the venue, which has garnered 6000 signatures in less than 24 hours.

Mr Hughes is understood to have poured a reported \$2 million into the business, in what he also hoped to "bring life back to the city".

"Our family has put everything we have into this business and the council can't be allowed to suddenly kill that off with the stroke of a pen," he said.

"What message does it send to business owners in Melbourne if you follow every rule and get shut down anyway?"

"Right now, the council is closing a business that is compliant with their licence. How is this lawful? What's the point of having licensing requirements if the council is willing to ignore compliance?"

Cr Capp said the council understood how "significant this decision is", which is why they "worked so closely with the operators throughout

this period to identify solutions".

"Unfortunately, we haven't seen an adjustment that gives an indication of ongoing compliance with those noise regulations," she said.

Cr Capp conceded she was initially excited when the business launched late last year, but added "that unprecedented high levels of complaints, the demonstration of impacts on residents, their amenity and health have come through over those months and we do need to respond".

Asked whether ATET could move to another location, Cr Capp said "all of those options have been considered".

"The operator suggested a number of solutions such as closing their venue and changing their business model but at this point, we haven't seen any of those things eventuate, and it has led to the cancellation of the licence."

Docklands News understands ATET's operators remain open to finding a resolution with the council by overhauling its business model. ●



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E-scooters and the City of Melbourne



So, where do we currently stand on the use of e-scooters in our city?



WORDS BY *Stan Capp & Tom McNair*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The feedback that is received from many of our residents is that e-scooters are the most prevalent cause of distress when walking our streets. Let me quote from a resident of Docklands, Tom McNair who stated ...

“My wife, grand-daughter and I were inches from a potentially fatal impact by an e-scooter riding at high speed on the northern footpath along Siddeley St at 9.30pm on Thursday, June 15 as we rounded the eastern corner of the former Police Headquarters in Flinders St. We felt the wind of the rider and machine as he flew past, not even slowing or stopping to see if we were injured, let alone to apologise. We screamed!”

“A one-off? If you ask other street users then perhaps not. You will invariably find stories of near-misses and evidence that actual injuries and verbal interactions are increasingly common.”

Clearly, there is a problem with riders chronically ignoring basic safety rules with poor helmet use, double riding, use of footpaths often at speed, riding in opposite directions on one-way streets, and, of course, random parking that obstructs access, particularly for elderly and disabled pedestrians.

My personal experience of reporting an incident with an aggressive e-scooter rider who with his co-rider narrowly missed me was to be told by Victoria Police to advise the City of Melbourne as the police had no resources to pursue any lines of enquiry. I think this is a very reasonable position and our police have many other higher priority things to do that already stretch their resources.

The obvious conclusion is that our issues with e-scooters will continue until the rules are made clear, riders are educated, and enforcement can be expected.

At a minimum, all e-scooters should be subject to geo-fencing that prohibits their use on footpaths in the same way that other areas are currently restricted e.g., the Bourke Street Mall, Carlton Gardens, etc. This is good technology that should be mandated.

Discrete areas need to be established where all e-scooters must be returned to, with appropriate penalties applied to non-compliant users.

Authority needs to be given to a workforce to fill the void unable to be met by our police that has powers to fine riders who put at risk their own personal safety and that of the public. If riders break the law, there should be a reasonable expectation that they will be prosecuted. The co-operation of the commercial operators would facilitate the identification of the rider at any designated time and date.

No surprise to me that a vote in Paris rejected the use of e-scooters and I would be pretty confident that a popular vote in Melbourne would produce a similar outcome. Maybe that's why no-one in authority has pursued it. In the meantime, the ubiquitous e-scooter will have to be managed throughout this “trial” period.

Following his experience, Tom McNair has crystallised all these thoughts and more in his following recommendations. He states that the commercial e-scooter trial should be discontinued and not allowed to resume until:

- The e-scooter cannot be operated until the hirer has electronically agreed to use the e-vehicle in accordance with the rules governing its use, each time the scooter is hired.
 - Each e-scooter employs technology that prevents it being used on footpaths.
 - Each e-scooter is equipped with a safety-helmet and with technology that prevents the e-scooter being used without the helmet firstly being disengaged from an electronic clip and which can then detect when that helmet is no longer in close proximity to the vehicle – i.e., the rider must have the helmet belonging to the bike on his or her head and not discard it before the ride starts or is in progress.
 - The e-scooter must be equipped with technology that ensures that the ride only ends when it is parked correctly in a designated parking zone with the helmet belonging to the vehicle re-attached to the vehicle.
 - The e-scooter must be equipped with the technology that detects when more than one person is using the vehicle and disables the vehicle until a single rider is operating the machine, preventing pillion riding.
 - The e-scooter must be equipped with technology that restricts the speed of the vehicle to 20kmph on permitted city streets and designated bike paths and restricts its speed to 10kph on designated shared paths and public spaces where they are allowed to operate.
 - E-scooters must be fixed with lights and horns (not bells which hearing impaired cannot hear).
 - E-scooters must be fixed with technology that prevents their use in parkland or other designated public places (such as Federation Square).
 - The operators of the e-scooters must provide e-training in the safe use of the vehicle and the rules governing the use of the vehicle before a new user can enable the machine, with unsafe usage detected. Technology must be provided which limits the speed of vehicles to 10kmph until every hirer has completed 10 hours of safe and rule-compliant use. Technology must require that the hirer electronically agrees to abide by the terms and conditions of use before a ride can commence.
 - Commercial operators of e-scooters must be required to provide e-scooter parking stations around the city in which they are allowed to operate, and a hire must start and end at a designated e-vehicle park. Each park must have signage explaining the rules for use and safe use of e-scooters and bikes. The commercial operators must be required to provide parking of their e-scooter fleets off footpaths and public places.
 - The council and the commercial e-scooter operators must provide financial resources to fund employment and equipment of traffic officers or protective officers for the enforcement of rules for e-vehicle use and enforce consequences for non-compliance with meaningful penalties and fines.
 - The parameters of the required technology are set out above. Commercial operators that are unable to comply must be excluded from City of Melbourne and other participating cities.
 - All cities and towns that allow commercial e-scooters providers must set and maintain the same operating requirements.
- Tom also supports the same standards be applied to commercial e-bikes.
Certainly, some food for thought. ●



▲ A render of developer Ashe Morgan's build-to-rent proposal for The District Docklands.

Docklands emerging as a build-to-rent capital, but expert says it won't help housing crisis

Continued from page 1.

The plans were before Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny and if approved, was scheduled to begin construction in the second half of 2024.

The Lendlease/Daiwa development would similarly offer a “tenure-secure alternative to the traditional apartment rental market”, with 797 residences in a mix of studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments spanning 45 levels.

BTR has been promoted by some as a way to help Australia's housing crisis and provide both steady income for investors and a next-best option to ownership for renters.

However, Robert Pradolin, former general manager at Frasers Property Australia and now founder of Housing All Australians, said while any form of supply should be welcomed, the model was almost exclusively targeted at higher income earners.

“People sometimes have this misconception that build-to-rent is affordable housing. It is definitely not,” he told *Docklands News*.

“All forms of supply are a positive contribution to our housing crisis. But the build-to-rent sector is a fairly niche market, it is not affordable housing – unless as part of negotiations the [relevant local] council has negotiated an affordable housing element in the build-to-rent option. Any addition to supply will help put a downward pressure on pricing, but it is not a solution to Australia's housing crisis, especially affordable housing.”

Research by Oxford Economics Australia released in June revealed that the pipeline of BTR across Australia “continues to swell”, with Melbourne possessing 41 per cent of projects to come, “clustered heavily



▲ A render of the Lendlease BTR project.

on the CBD fringe”.

It predicted BTR would overtake all other property asset classes for new development by 2030.

Mr Pradolin predicted this would create an excess of housing stock, but that would not be a bad thing.

“This is always a bit of a race; everyone is trying to target the same target market which is the high income earner. And I think probably at some point, there's going to be an oversupply in that sector. But again, that's not a bad thing because then rents will come down.”

While the BTR pipeline might be booming compared to its low base, he said it remained too small a player to impact the here-and-now.

“You've got to see build-to-rent in the context of the entire housing continuum – it is just a niche market. Because the build-to-sell [market] has fallen off a cliff for a whole range of reasons, the only sector that seems to get some traction is the build-to-rent market.”

“Developers are quite simple people, they tend to follow the crowd a bit even though they do some research. I think it's the only game in town at the moment, other than affordable housing, but affordable housing isn't viable without a subsidy. So, it's a bit of a tricky spot for a whole range of developers.” ●

This year, all Australians will be invited to make history by saying ‘yes’ in a compulsory referendum to alter Australia's Constitution by enshrining an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

The Constitution is the founding legal document of our nation, providing the basic rules for the government of Australia. The Constitution is our nation's birth certificate.

Over many years we have spent a lot trying to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians, but we haven't got better results.

If the referendum succeeds, the Voice to Parliament means Indigenous Australians will be consulted and give advice to Government

to design better solutions for issues that affect them.

This will lead to better outcomes for Indigenous Australians in health, employment, and education – because we know when Government listens to people, we get results.

For most of us, saying ‘yes’ won't change much. But for Indigenous Australians the Voice will bring about tangible change. There is nothing to lose, but so much to be gained.

L. White

Senator Linda White
SENATOR FOR VICTORIA



Say yes!



Authorised by L. White, Australian Labor Party, 62 Lygon St Carlton VIC 3053

Voting in the referendum is compulsory. Not voting may result in a fine.



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Your City of Melbourne community update

RESTORING OUR CITY'S HERITAGE WHILE SHAPING OUR ICONIC MARKET EXPERIENCE FOR TOMORROW

The Gurrova Place project is the biggest mixed-use development in Council's history. Artist impression, subject to approvals and consultation



Artist impression, subject to approvals and consultation

Market Square will be a key feature of the Gurrova Place development

It's one of Melbourne's most famous destinations attracting some 10 million visitors each year.

It's home to more than 650 small traders and family-owned and operated businesses.

It is the longest-surviving marketplace of its size and diversity in Australia.

It's a critical part of Melbourne's early development, and continues to play a central role in the city's cultural, business and social life.

Through the renewal of the Queen Victoria Market and surrounding precinct, the City of Melbourne is restoring the market's heritage while delivering modern facilities to make the market work better for traders, customers and visitors, and revitalising this growing part of the city.

Almost 40 per cent of the renewal program is now complete, with works continuing across the precinct.

It's not just a project about a market. It is a once in a lifetime, city-shaping urban renewal project that will deliver for the fastest-growing part of our city.

Queen Victoria Market will always remain a fresh food open air market and will retain its unique atmosphere, heritage and affordability.

In this special feature we take a look at the projects we've delivered and the ones to come that will ensure the future of our city's 145-year-old magnificent market for generations to come.

To keep up-to-date with works, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/qvmrenewal

MARKET TRANSFORMATION PART OF HISTORIC \$1.7 BILLION PARTNERSHIP

Melbourne's beloved Queen Victoria Market is set to undergo a \$1.7 billion transformation.

The City of Melbourne will partner with Lendlease to transform the market precinct in what is the biggest mixed-use development in our history - attracting more customers and boosting business for traders.

Gurrova Place will be developed by Lendlease, following our landmark divestment of the Southern Precinct - generating more than \$1 billion in economic activity and creating more than 4,000 new jobs.

The once-in-a-generation project will enhance the traditional market experience Melburnians and visitors know and love - with iconic laneways and arcades to explore, a uniquely Melbourne retail offering, and new spaces to bring people together.

Gurrova Place will include build-to-rent apartments and 15 per cent affordable housing, student accommodation and a landmark office space across three buildings - all connected to the market by the soon-to-be revamped Franklin Street stores.

A new underground car park will provide 220 spaces for market customers, and 300 spaces on weekends. This is in addition to the 500 spaces already open in the Munro development - ensuring there will be no loss of parking.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the divestment of the Southern Precinct will transform the city's north with a vibrant new precinct bursting with uniquely Melbourne experiences "creating an enduring legacy for the Queen Victoria Market for generations to come".

"Gurrova Place will enrich the traditional market offerings Melburnians and visitors know and love - attracting thousands of new residents, workers and visitors and boosting business for traders," the Lord Mayor said.

"This globally-iconic precinct will be a place to celebrate - with spaces for events, world-class retail and new laneways and arcades to complement the beloved market experience."

In consultation with Traditional Owners, Gurrova Place will pay tribute to the site's history. Gurrova means place of exchange or interchange, reflecting the purpose of the market.

The development has been designed by world-leading architects, and will set a new benchmark for sustainability - creating a precinct rich in biodiversity, while targeting Carbon Neutral Precinct Certification and 5 and 6 Star Green Star ratings.

Lendlease Managing Director Development Tom Mackellar said construction of Gurrova Place "begins the next chapter in the evolution of Queen Victoria Market".

"Lendlease looks forward to working alongside the City of Melbourne, Scape and all project partners, and the community to deliver a reimagined precinct that preserves the heart and soul of this Melbourne landmark while ensuring it continues to thrive," he said.

Gurrova Place will complement a range of projects we have already delivered in the precinct.

The divestment of the Southern Precinct follows an agreement with the State Government in 2014 to transfer the site to us to be sold, with all funds reinvested in the market's renewal.

Construction is expected to start next year with projects to be delivered in stages.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

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Your City of Melbourne community update



Artist impression, subject to approvals and consultation

**HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR PLANS
TO TRANSFORM FRANKLIN STREET**

We're proposing to create a new link between the heart of the CBD and the Queen Victoria Market along Franklin Street, paving the way for the landmark Gurrova Place development.

Along with a new Market Square and plans for a multi-purpose civic building, the transformation of Franklin Street will continue our investment in the Queen Victoria Market precinct.

Early works on the first stage of this project are set to start later this year on William Street, which will begin the works to realign Franklin Street to unlock Gurrova Place.

We want to hear your feedback about the project which will provide more open space for the growing community and improve safety and accessibility for all road users.

The Franklin Street transformation project proposes:

- 1250m² of open space for residents, workers and visitors to enjoy.

- Turning four lanes of traffic into two, maintaining access for motorists in both directions.
- Better connections for people moving between the CBD and Queen Victoria Market.
- More trees and plants, providing 40 per cent more coverage and helping create a cooler environment.
- Improved safety for the community with new pedestrian crossings, lighting and reduced traffic flow.
- Stormwater flooding management with draining upgrades and water sensitive urban design solutions.

The transformation of Franklin Street is part of the \$100 million Transport and Amenity Program – a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the State Government.

Community members can have their say on the Franklin Street draft concept design until 23 August at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au



An artist's impression of a revitalised Franklin Street

NEW FOOD HALL

Construction of the market's exciting new dining experience is nearing completion.

Set to open later this year, the new Food Hall will offer customers a contemporary place to eat, meet and enjoy the market atmosphere.



QUEEN STREET PLAZA

Through the renewal program we created a new pedestrian-friendly plaza in Queen Street, between the toilet block and F to M sheds, with more trees, more shade and more seating for customers to stop and enjoy the unique market atmosphere.

Completed in 2019, together with the visitor hub and additional retail locations in String Bean Alley, the plaza welcomes visitors entering from the south and draw customers into the heart of the market.

MORE SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

Traders and customers told us that making Queen Victoria Market more sustainable is important.

Solar power, stormwater harvesting and an on-site organic waste recycling facility are just a few of the projects proposed for the renewed market precinct.

We've already powered up more than 1,550 solar panels to cut carbon emissions and reduce the market's electricity bill.

At the project's completion, the market will be powered by 3,765m² of solar panels.



HERITAGE SHED RESTORATION

We're investing more than \$30 million to restore the market's culturally and historically significant open air sheds, securing them as the unique backdrop of the market experience.

Ten of the 12 sheds have been restored since 2020. This year, the heritage shed restoration program moves to the final stage in Sheds H and I, with works to repair and strengthen structural elements, painting, new insulated roofing to improve the temperature under the sheds, and upgrade of common area services.

MUNRO DEVELOPMENT



Right on the doorstep of Queen Victoria Market, at the corner of Queen and Therry streets, will be the city's largest new library and community hub.

Works to fit out the new space have begun and are due to be completed later this year.

The development will include a library and community hub, family services, 2500 m² of new open space and laneways, new hospitality and retail stores.

Affordable housing apartments and 500 underground car parks for market customers opened in December 2021 and boutique hotel and apartments for long-term rental were completed in November 2022.

SAFETY PART OF STREETScape WORKS

As the Munro development nears completion, the final stage of works involved upgrading the streetscape, including the roadway, in front of the development along Therry Street and Queen Street.

As a key gateway into the market, the upgrade of the streetscape will greatly improve safety, create a more welcoming and pedestrian-friendly street with wider footpaths, more greenery, lighting and shade for customers to stop and enjoy the market atmosphere.

IMPROVING MARKET FACILITIES

Planning and heritage permits have been approved for two new purpose-built facilities in Queen Victoria Market.

Construction of the Trader Shed and Northern Shed will deliver essential services for traders and upgraded facilities for all market workers, shoppers and visitors.

STRING BEAN ALLEY

Twenty-six independent traders in bespoke shipping containers now call String Bean Alley home and provide a uniquely Melbourne shopping experience in the heart of the market.

String Bean Alley and the new pedestrian plaza on Queen Street are part of a series of key market improvements identified in the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Master Plan. These projects directly address feedback from customers and traders and as well as recommendations from the People's Panel.

MBassy Dance Studio unveils new Docklands location and *Mambomania* event series

The vibrant pulse of dance in Docklands grows even stronger as The MBassy Dance Studio opens its doors to a brand-new location at The District Docklands, 440 Docklands Drive.

WORDS BY *Minx Hafon*

This move is a remarkable expansion for the studio, offering an array of services catering to dance enthusiasts of all levels and introducing an electrifying event series *Mambomania* to ignite the dance floor with an unmatched fusion of art and movement.

With its grand relocation to The District Docklands' entertainment precinct, The MBassy Dance Studio has positioned itself at the heart of the community, inviting everyone to experience the joy of dance and the power of artistic expression.

The studio's spacious and modern facilities promise an enhanced learning environment, fostering creativity and camaraderie among its diverse clientele.

The MBassy is not just your average dance studio! Here, the world of dance unfolds before you, with an impressive repertoire of adult dance classes in Street Latin and contemporary urban styles. From the fiery rhythms of Salsa and Bachata to the infectious vibes of Reggaeton, Twerk, and Heels, there's a dance style for everyone to explore. Plus, there's a regular array of events and parties enriching the Docklands nightlife.



In addition to the dance classes, The MBassy also offers Vinyasa Flow yoga sessions that focus on balance, flexibility, and inner peace, providing a holistic approach to wellbeing.

For those stepping into a new chapter of their lives, the studio's wedding dance lessons and entertainment services ensure couples create magical moments on the dance floor during their special day.

The MBassy Dance Studio's commitment to excellence shines through its team of world-class instructors, ensuring that every student's

journey is met with encouragement, inspiration, and personalised attention.

Introducing *Mambomania* – where art and dance collide

As part of the grand opening celebration at The District Docklands, The MBassy unveils its groundbreaking event series, *Mambomania*.

Prepare to be captivated by this innovative experience where art and dance seamlessly blend under vibrant interactive light projections, creating an event like no other!

Mambomania will run for eight consecutive weeks, with each event held every Friday, from August 11 to September 29 and is supported through the Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund – a \$200 million partnership between the Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne.

The journey begins at 7pm when the studio's new doors open to an immersive art show featuring live painting by a selection of Melbourne's fine artists. The canvas becomes the dance floor as guests partake in the captivating salsa class, led by expert instructors from The MBassy Dance.

As the clock strikes 9pm, the energy reaches a crescendo during the Salsa Social Dance Party. Dance enthusiasts will groove to the sensational beats spun by DJ Rayan, while the surroundings come alive with mesmerising light projections created by Jem Bray from the very art displayed, turning each attendee into an integral part of the artistic wonder.

Fortnightly art showcases

Every fortnight, *Mambomania* will feature a different artist and signature cocktail, including One Eighty Collective, Jem, Candela Colours, and Projection TekNik.

Guests will also have the exclusive opportunity to purchase the art on display, allowing them to bring home a piece of the magic they experienced during *Mambomania*.

Each ticket includes entry, a complimentary locally sourced signature cocktail, participation in the salsa dance class, and access to the salsa party until 1am. ●

For more information:
thembassy.com.au

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Docklander

The heart and soul behind Good Cycles

“
In the heart of Docklands sits a brightly patterned free-standing shed which is home to Good Cycles Hub.

”

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Instead of being just a typical bike repair shop, Good Cycles is a not-for-profit social enterprise with a mission to bring about great change in the lives of disadvantaged youth.

“Our main job as a social enterprise is to help young people who face barriers to employment, and we try to create jobs of the future for them,” Good Cycles brand and marketing advisor Adam Lana said.

“We feel bike mechanic is a job of the future and we determine this by it being a job that creates meaningful employment which helps the community, and one that can help the environment along the way.”

Speaking with *Docklands News*, Adam explained that Good Cycles had a youth employment program for people between the ages of 18 and 29, where they could get coaching support and on-the-job training.

“The support from coaches is to help the youth to see what pathways they may want to take in the future,” Adam said.

“If we can fulfil a pathway within Good Cycles then great, or [alternatively] a success story for us is also for someone to leave Good Cycles with another job.”

The idea to use bicycles as vehicles for positive change came about in 2013, by founders Loretta Curtin and Luke Wright, and today the enterprise continues to thrive at the hands of its determined and passionate staff members.

Among the enterprise’s current 150 employees are mechanic Byron Richardson, and retail stock supervisor and mechanic Abby Pruijboom, both of whom can be found at the Docklands shop.

Before finding work with Good Cycles more than a year ago Byron had been working as a bike mechanic elsewhere, but it is the opportunities that can be found in Good Cycles that makes the shop so “special” and “enjoyable”.

“I find this place actually creates the opportunity to upskill employees, whereas in other places there can be limited opportunities to be upskilled on certain levels of knowledge and tasks,” Byron said.

“I find this place gives a lot of time to allow staff to learn under seniors and create opportunities to upskill so you can end up running your own shop in some instances.”

“A lot of people can stay at a lower level of development in other places, whereas this place finds or creates the time for its employees to discuss things.”

This purpose to equip workers with the knowledge and skills they need to progress is something that is made a priority, and Abby can attest to this.

Coming to Good Cycles through the youth employment program, Abby went from trainee to full-time mechanic, before settling into her current position of retail stock supervisor.

“It’s kind of cool that I have gone from the bottom to all the way up,” she said.



“I think what makes Good Cycles so special is the wanting to help anyone, and this whole atmosphere we have of showing people how to look after their bikes instead of yelling at people for not looking after their bikes. We show



people exactly what is wrong with their bike and why it is important to fix the problems or do general maintenance.”

While things have been a bit calmer at the store since the pandemic and during the cooler months, Adam, Byron and Abby are keen to remind residents and visitors of Docklands to get in now with their bike repairs before the busy summer period.

“Come in here to support Good Cycles and its strong social conscience, have professional mechanics repair your bike at a standard rate, become a member for discounts, and support young people,” Adam said.

Ahead of summer, the Good Cycles Hub team

is also looking forward to having a stronger representation down at the water’s edge, and to focus on having both a supporting head mechanic and a trainee in the space.

Good Cycles Hub at Docklands is open from 8am till 4pm, from Tuesday to Friday. ●



Kaylah-Joelle Baker
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BUSINESS

Making Friends at The District

Another Australian first is coming to The District Docklands this spring with the grand opening of The Friends Experience.

From September 1, you'll be able to explore set recreations like Monica and Rachel's apartment, the iconic Friends fountain, the famous "PIVOT!" scene, the legendary Central Perk and more.

You'll also find a wide array of props and costumes from the show, bringing you one step closer to your favourite characters.

Director of precincts at The District Docklands told *Docklands News*, "We're excited to be welcoming The Friends Experience to The District."

"The District is building a reputation as Melbourne's entertainment district as the precinct brings together a diverse and dynamic offering of more than 10 immersive experiences and attractions."

"The addition of The Friends Experience just adds another new and exciting reason to visit The District," he said.

The Friends Experience runs from September 1 to November 28. ●



New to Market Lane at The District

East West Marketplace is now open at The District's Market Lane precinct located on Waterfront Way.

East West Marketplace boasts a large variety of traditional and affordable Asian goods, including Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Malaysian and Chinese groceries.

Its range of products, from fresh produce to seasonings, is proving a hit with locals, fetching East West Marketplace a Google Review score of 4.7 stars.

"I love this supermarket. Huge variety and very affordable prices. The store is fresh, bright and clean, and the staff are all lovely," one customer said.

To find out more on East West Marketplace visit the store. They are open 7 days a week from 10am – 7pm Monday – Thursday, Saturdays and Sundays and 10am – 9pm on Fridays. ●

For more information:
friendstheexperience.com.au

FEDERAL MP

Strong communities look after each other

It's in the tough times that our community shows what it's really about.

Right now, we're in a cost-of-living crisis. We've just come through the pandemic. And, by the looks of the weather reports, this summer could be one of the hottest on record.

But whatever is thrown at us here, our community sticks together. We innovate, create, we celebrate, and we build community.

We face serious challenges ahead, and we have to stick together to look after one another.

Currently, we're facing a housing crisis. Listed rents have gone up more than 20 per cent across the city, and real wages have gone backwards.



More and more people are finding it hard to keep a roof over their head. It's dreadful waiting on the next letter from

the real estate agent, or the next meeting of the Governor of the Reserve Bank to find out whether you can afford to live in your home.

It's really disappointing that the government has the power to act on these things, but they're choosing not to.

During the past few weeks, the government has announced it has secured a budget surplus. What good is a budget surplus to people who can't find a place to live?

The Greens are fighting back. In Victoria, we're trying to stop the state government selling off public housing, and in Canberra, we're pushing the government to freeze rents and mortgages, and limit future rent increases, and to directly invest a lot more in public and social housing.

Our pressure is paying off. In the last

sitting week, the Greens secured \$2b in direct investment for social and affordable housing from Labor.

Having secured this, we now must keep fighting to ensure everyone can get and keep a roof over their head.

In a country as wealthy as ours, everyone should be able to find a safe and affordable place to rest their head at the end of the day. ●



Adam Bandt
FEDERAL MP FOR MELBOURNE AND LEADER OF THE GREENS
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Joining the electric vehicle bandwagon



In 2022, the sale of electric vehicles (EVs) in Australia accounted for only 3.8 per cent of total sales. However, that number is tipped to soar over the coming years.



The International Energy Agency recently released its 2023 global report and predicts that sales of electric vehicles globally will reach 35 per cent of all sales by 2030.

One of the main factors holding Australia back from a larger uptake is due to a lack of available infrastructure.

However, owners' corporations (OCs) can play a leading role in rectifying that particular issue. Apartment building car parks (as well as commercial building and shopping centre car parks) are perfectly suited for adaptation to EV charging outlets.

Some buildings can opt to install a handful



of EV charging outlets in visitor parking spaces for common use (and implement a billing system) while other buildings could adopt the functionality of having an EV charger installed in each parking space, with the ability to have the electricity connected to their own individual meters and billed at the end of each quarter.

Those buildings that already have an embedded energy network are well placed to implement a full-building upgrade.

The upgrades to the carpark are not without

additional complications, however. There is a small additional risk of fire due to the presence of EV lithium batteries and on-site lithium battery storage units.

OCs also need to be aware of the hazards involved in the parking and charging of the EVs on common property, and because of this increased risk, it may be the case that an upgraded sprinkler system or water supply system would be required to be installed to certain areas of the carpark.

All of this can be adequately addressed by a specialised consultancy or project manager that can assist with these investigations and build into the overall costs of the project.

While most new buildings now provide some EV charging capacity, older buildings should start to engage owners to include the upgrade in forward budgeting and planning. If that means planning for a shared EV station located on common property, a suitably qualified expert should be engaged to determine the appropriateness and type of station and the electricity load capacity of the building.

OCs should also consider where the appropriate locations for the EV charger stations in the carpark would be, how the costs will be passed on to users, how to manage the daily operation of the EV charger stations (maximum time limits) and the cost of maintenance and repair.

Certainly, we are well placed in Australia to take advantage of a high uptake in EV sales, especially with high energy costs and high petrol/car maintenance costs. As always, the buildings that continue to innovate and keep pace with technology will hold the most value. ●



Tom Bacon

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MAKING MOVES

Communicate your sustainable efforts effectively and win market

With one of the largest concentrations of green buildings in Australia, Docklands has gained a well-deserved reputation for its unwavering commitment to environmental responsibility.

WORDS BY *Mo Hamdouna*
MOWORKS.COM.AU

As this vibrant waterfront community strives to become a world leader in sustainable practices, businesses here have a unique opportunity to not only embrace sustainability but also leverage it as a powerful tool to attract

and retain customers.

While many businesses have recognised the need to go green and have implemented changes accordingly, the question remains; do the customers know?

If you make sustainable changes but are not doing anything to communicate it to the public, consider it now.

So, how do I communicate my efforts to the market? Many businesses are now looking into creative agencies to help them deliver their message and efforts to the public effectively. How?

Firstly, build a comprehensive sustainable marketing strategy. You can start by defining your sustainability vision and goals. Make sure your goals are SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. Then, choose suitable communication channels and platforms to reach your target audience. Then, craft your sustainability message and tone

- make sure it resonates with your audience.

Another critical point is that you must be transparent and raise awareness while supporting your claims clearly to avoid being labelled as greenwashing. How to avoid greenwashing? Make accurate and truthful claims and use evidence to back up your claims. You also need to include any relevant information and explain any condition or qualification you have on your claims.

Avoid broad and unqualified claims! Also, make sure you use clear and easy-to-understand language and visual elements that don't get people confused. Also, be direct and open about your sustainability transition.

The final one, emphasise your sustainability efforts. Be clear and concise when communicating your sustainability achievements and efforts. Showcase your progress using numbers and statistics. You can, for example, show your water or energy savings, how much waste



you have reduced, and how much carbon you have offset. Be sure to explain how your social impact efforts positively impact your business, your community, and the environment.

Ready to grow? Keep making moves and taking bold steps towards your business growth. ●

SAVE THE NICHOLAS BUILDING

Melbourne's iconic Nicholas Building is at risk of being turned into luxury apartments, a hotel, or a soulless commercial space, pushing out the hundreds of creatives who work there.

Join the campaign to save the Nicholas Building: Sign the open letter at [SaveTheNicholasBuilding.com](https://www.savethenicholasbuilding.com) or scan this QR code.



ELLEN SANDELL
GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

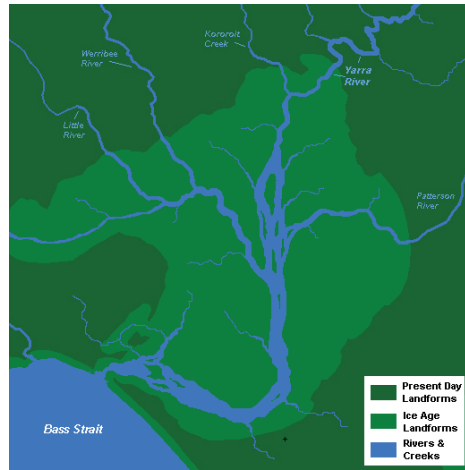
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Waterways are a constant presence in the daily life of Docklands



Understanding the history of the waterways of Docklands is very rewarding. What we see now is indeed impressive and unique in Melbourne but the “back-story” of what you see now of today’s waterways warrants attention.



▲ The course of the lower Yarra River around 10,000 years ago, after the end of the last Ice Age, prior to the creation of Port Phillip. (Wikipedia, Public Domain)



MMHN celebrates and admires our maritime heritage. We recognise the ingenuity and engineering know-how evident in form of the waterways we see today. Nineteenth-century engineers Coode and Brady largely tamed the troublesome flooding and intermittent swamps near the CBD.

To gain a better understanding of the waterways’ “back-story”, Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) highly recommends a visit to the excellent free exhibition currently at the Old Treasury Building. The exhibition is entitled *Yarra- Stories of Melbourne’s River*. See oldtreasurybuilding.org.au

The wonderful historical images presented clearly remind us that indeed “Melbourne’s Yarra River looks placid most of the time, but it is a river with a turbulent past”. The images also provide a glimpse into just how important the river has been in the evolution of Melbourne as the major port in the south.

The “back-story” is less well known but equally fascinating. The Yarra River is described as an “ancient watercourse” which “evolved slowly in response to major climate events. Its silt-laden course once meandered through large areas of wetland to meet Port Phillip Bay just below the site of today’s CBD – the end of a 242 km journey from the Great Dividing Range”.

In years of high rainfall, the Yarra burst its banks and spread out over the landscape near Melbourne, filling the wetlands before reaching the sea.

The Birrarung-Yarra River flowed across what we now see as the vast Port Phillip Bay, but which was formerly a wide grassy plain that was a good hunting ground for emu and kangaroo. This plain, a shallow basin, dried out over thousands of years. Speculation is that a sand blockage occurred closing what we know call The Heads. This blockage, coupled with high evaporation rates, led to the creation of the plain inland from the sea. Channels made by the rivers running through the dry plain to the sea are still evident on the sea floor of the bay today.

A core profile collected by drilling into the seabed today reveals the layers of sediment. Then, around 8000 years ago, rising sea levels, the sea broke through the great plain creating Port Phillip Bay and the Yarra estuary. Tides flooding upstream up the river as far as the rocky ledge (see the image) carved out a natural turning basin below the rocky ledge which assisted early shipping turn around to sail downstream into the bay. The Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people have many different stories about how their country, including the bay, was formed:



Now Melbourne’s large and sheltered Port Phillip covers some 930 square kilometres, a 35 times greater area than Sydney Harbour.

MMHN celebrates and admires our maritime heritage. We recognise the ingenuity and engineering know-how evident in form of the waterways we see today. Nineteenth-century engineers Coode and Brady largely tamed the troublesome flooding and intermittent swamps near the CBD.

They straightened the course of the river to more efficiently enable the growth of maritime trade, which underpinned Melbourne’s prosperity. They cleverly excavated them to so remarkably increase wharf areas in Victoria Harbour. Such changes were not positive for the Indigenous community nor the environment.

Change in our waterways is a constant. What changes are evident? Climate change or council policies? Mindful of these “back-stories” It is interesting to reflect on the current efforts and substantial investment by the City of Melbourne to restore the Birrarung-Yarra River and its estuary. The question arises – which “back-story” is the most authentic or legitimate? How far back should we go? ●



Jackie Watts
CHAIR OF MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK
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DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

Docklands Community Forum on Safety

The next Docklands Community Forum is on Wednesday, August 9 from 6.30pm to 8pm at the Library at the Dock Performance Space.

WORDS BY *Ben Ball - President*

Our Victoria Police neighbourhood policing coordinator Senior Constable James Vass will speak briefly on how police have handled recent issues in Docklands, followed by a Q&A session to hear from the community about their issues and concerns. Register now: docklands.org.au

Repair Café Docklands

The next Repair Café Docklands will be on Sunday, August 27 from 1pm to 3pm at Library at the Dock.

The Repair Café doesn’t charge for repairs. It is offered in the spirit of the gift economy where we hope to share what we know and can do with our community.

If the purchase of repair parts or materials is required, and they are available, you may be asked to pay for them.

The Repair Café taps into the incredible wealth of skills and knowledge in our community to

help build capacity, support connections, and reduce landfill and household spending. Most of all, the Café provides a space to celebrate our community strengths, a space owned and operated by our community. Of course, donations to help cover other expenses, like miscellaneous supplies, are always appreciated.

Repairers wanted!

Do you like to fix and tinker with things? Repairers fix broken household items that were destined for landfill so they can continue to be used. Where possible, repairers

will demonstrate how the broken item can be repaired and in doing so, share some basic repair skills. We seek volunteers to act as repair experts during the Repair Café sessions.

We are especially looking for people with experience with clothing/textiles, bicycles, and furniture/wooden objects who like sharing their skills with their neighbours.

If you can help, please complete the expression of interest form on our website or email us at contact@docklands.org.au

For more Information: docklands.org.au/repair-cafe

Power Melbourne project

The City of Melbourne has initiated the “Power Melbourne” project for battery storage and renewable electricity project.

The purpose is to deliver cheaper power for small businesses and residents while reducing emissions and contributing to a more sustainable future. It is part of the municipality’s efforts to accelerate reductions in emissions and waste.

This project will install a battery network across the city, focusing on the City of Melbourne’s existing infrastructure. Library at The Dock has been identified as one of the locations where one of the first Power Melbourne batteries will be installed.

In round two of the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative (NBI), it’s likely to see work on the first battery for the network beginning later this year.

To promote this important project, the City of Melbourne has selected neighbourhood battery community champions whose role will be to support and utilise their existing networks and channels to bring the community on the journey and build their knowledge around neighbourhood batteries’ purpose and potential benefits.

Docklands Representative Group (DRG) member Aditi Rawal is one of the selected community champions. ●

Parking woes

The latest solution in search of a problem from the City of Melbourne quietly kicked off in July, with a new Sunday and late-night parking ticket regime for Melbourne's CBD.

WORDS BY *Evan Mulholland*

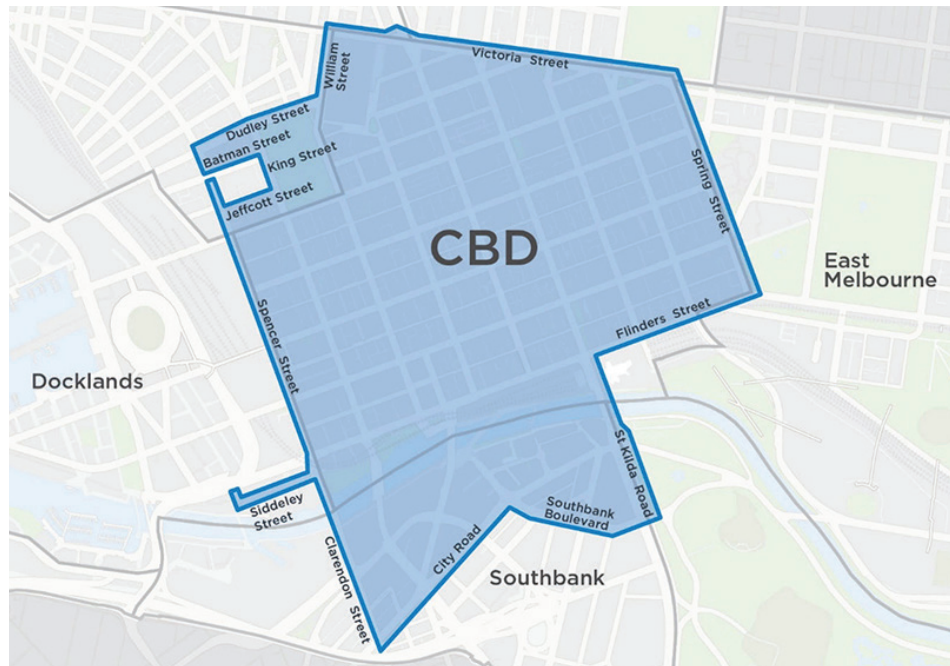
If you haven't heard of it, you're not alone. Lord Mayor Sally Capp has been remarkably mute on spruiking her own policy to date.

I figured, since she appeared to be media shy, I should share an overview of what's being rolled out.

Starting out in the south-east corner of the Hoddle Grid this month, before expanding across the whole of the CBD and sections of Southbank, all parking will be metered in Melbourne's CBD from 7am until 10pm, seven days a week. For the first time, parking will now be charged on Sundays. Whether you've parked with the sun or the stars in the sky, chances are the meter will be running.

The council says it's all in the name of "clarity". But I'm not convinced there's much clarity coming from the Lord Mayor as to why we need to charge visitors to the CBD to park on near-empty streets at 9pm on a Sunday?

Find me a business that agrees with this plan, and I'll tip that West Coast brings home the Premiership flag.



Melbourne's CBD is the heart of Victoria's public transport system, home to five metro train stations, and the largest tram network in the world. But the council needs to accept, as has every other major city around the world, that cars are a necessary part of cities.

The continual ideological obsession by the City of Melbourne to demonise the use of cars, without a serious alternative, points to uncomfortable motivations. We need to call this policy

out for what it is – a cash grab.

The council boasts that 95 per cent of public car spaces in the CBD are off-street, including many operated by the council themselves. If they were serious about reducing on-street parking in the CBD, why is the City of Melbourne charging \$12/hr in its own off-street carparks, like Council House on Collins St, whether it be 9am on a Monday or 9pm on a Sunday?

Perhaps there would be an argument for the

Lord Mayor to squeeze some extra dollars out of visitors to the city if there was clear plan to ensure those funds were being returned to residents and businesses by improved services and amenities that make life here more liveable, and a friendlier place to do business.

Sadly, there's not much evidence of this. The City of Melbourne's priorities appear elsewhere. As revealed by this newspaper's sister publication last month, the council appears to be one of the only government authorities in the country refusing to drop new contracts with the beleaguered PwC. In the year to May, the City of Melbourne has shelled out \$369,000 to PwC.

Why are we using ratepayer funds to sure-up the troubled balance sheet of a company accused of serious misuse of confidential government information and subject to a police investigation?

PwC has been banned by Federal Treasury, the Reserve Bank and a number of other federal government departments. Daniel Andrews and Sally Capp remain the odd ones out dishing out contracts. How does that assist CBD residents and businesses, who are being slugged with new parking fees in a cost-of-living crisis?

When the City of Melbourne is running a deficit of \$17 million a year and has pushed back its projected return to surplus by another two years, the last thing we should be doing is enacting policies that turn business and visitors away. It's time for the council to admit this embattled plan is a failure and go back to the drawing board on what really is in the interests of residents and businesses. ●

One year in parliament

I firmly believe you are never too old to learn new things.

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



I have tried to stick to this philosophy my whole life, both during my first year in parliament and before, taking every opportunity I can to learn more about our country and how we can improve it.

Given the Albanese Government's first year has been focused on delivering a better future for Australians with policies like cheaper child-care, energy bill relief and making medicines cheaper, so far, I have found this outlook to be helpful in my role.

Restoring integrity to politics was a key election commitment of the Albanese Government. I was privileged to lead the parliamentary committee into the new National-Anti Corruption

Commission (NACC), playing my role in bringing all sides of the parliament together to agree to establish a powerful, independent integrity commission for Australia. The new NACC started work on July 1.

As the government's representative on the Council of the National Library of Australia, I was lucky enough to take part in establishing Australia's first National Cultural Policy in a decade, including securing ongoing funding for Trove. This is because promoting Australian art and culture is something the Albanese Government takes seriously.

I was also proud to be part of the parliamentary inquiry into the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum. I learned that the Voice is a modest and practical way to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians, and the referendum later this year to change the Constitution to enshrine a Voice is an opportunity we should grab with both hands.

The Senate isn't all about Parliament House. Recently, I have been travelling Australia inquiring into regional banking services, hearing stories of banks abandoning our regional communities through branch closures.

In the last year I have also crisscrossed Victoria – from Wodonga and Kilsyth to Catani and Tatura – visiting schools, factories, farms, and festivals, meeting the people who make up our great state and listening to what is important to them.

I love that every day in this job is different. Each day I learn new things and meet new people and get to contribute to making Australia a better place. It is truly a privilege to be your representative in the Australian Senate.

If you want to learn more about my role and how parliament works my office is happy to provide a free information booklet on government, the Senate and democracy in Australia. Just give us a call on 03 9639 2798. ●

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Evan MULHOLLAND MP
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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.

WE LIVE HERE

Renaissance of reason



The We Live Here Forum on housing affordability and short-term rentals showed that there are solutions to the crisis, and that people with different perspectives can work together to achieve results.



Solicitor Tom Bacon from Strata Title Lawyers moderated a lively community discussion with MPs Ellen Sandell (Melbourne), and Gabrielle De Vietri (Richmond), and Deputy Mayor of the City of Yarra Edward Crossland, and resident activists from St Kilda and the Yarra Valley. Backed by publicly available data, the nexus between short-stays and the housing crisis was proven.

MLCs Sheena Watt and Evan Mullholland were unable to attend, as were all Melbourne City Councillors. We Live Here has accepted an invitation to meet with Evan Mulholland, and we will resume our regular meetings with the Consumer Affairs office, now part of the Government Services cluster.

The panellists put forward constructive action plans, and with the current complexion of the state parliament upper house, we feel the future is positive.

Our Yarra Valley resident activist also showed how statistical information can be



used to support genuine solutions to the housing crisis.

Our resident activist from St Kilda reported on milestone achievements this year: the Municipal Association of Victoria adopted a policy of regulating short stays, and the association will advocate the government for uniform change across the state. At least four councils have already introduced self-funding registration schemes.

The resident's analysis also showed that of 50 "short-stay" cases brought before VCAT by aggrieved residents, none had orders issued against the short-stay operator.

Tom Bacon offered explanations: either the short-stay legislation was incompetently drafted, or it was designed to fail.

Let's fix this, and fast. Registration of short-term rentals can deliver immediate results. If your MP is unaware of the issue, please write to them. Write to your city councillors too.

Cladding chaos continues – for some

Some apartment owners are still in limbo, with flammable cladding deemed not dangerous enough for state government support, and too dangerous for the council, banks and insurers.

Owners in some major buildings are facing

financial devastation, unable to sell their apartments because of an outstanding building order to remove flammable cladding and rejection by lenders.

Flammable cladding was installed in thousands of buildings, with governments around the world blithely allowing the practice under the principle of "self-regulation".

The Victorian Government is as guilty as others. This disaster was allowed to occur, and our government assumed limited responsibility. The emergency fund set up under Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) had a headline budget of \$600 million.

The CSV money pot must be empty by now and we still have buildings suffering in cladding purgatory.

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, visit our website. ●



For more information:
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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

HYPERLOCAL NEWS

What's on: August 2023



SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

WHISKY DINNER SERIES

After a sell-out event in May, Archer's Whisky Dinner series is back. Enjoy an intimate dinner under the vaulted ceiling of Archer's in collaboration with distinguished local Victorian distilleries.

15 Waterfront Way



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

WHISKY DINNER SERIES

Indulge in an intimate dinner under the vaulted ceiling of Archer's in collaboration with distinguished local Victorian distilleries.

Secure your tickets now:

15 Waterfront Way



UNTIL NOVEMBER 27
LIBRARY CINEMA (FREE)
 Last Monday of every month, 3pm to 5pm. August 28: Quartet.
 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.



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10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

AUGUST 2013 | ISSUE 89 |

DOCKLANDS NEWS

Mirvac to start on Docklands commercial development



The developer, which thus far has focused on residential towers along Yarra's Edge, will start work on a new office building in Bourke St this month.



The building, at 699 Bourke St, is set to become AGL's new Melbourne headquarters and will sit on an elevated platform above Southern Cross Station. The gas and electricity company has agreed to an initial 10-year lease to occupy 15,000 sqm of the 19,000 sqm available.

According to Mirvac senior development manager Brett Howlett, early site works started in July, with construction due to start this month. The unique location of the site requires an innovative construction program. Cranes will be mounted on a protective gantry and will lift items from the median strip below on Wurundjeri Way. The gantry will protect cars travelling along Wurundjeri way.



Mr Howlett said construction of the building was expected to take around 18 months. The 6300 sqm platform that the building will sit on also has a planning permit for second building at 664 Collins St.

Mr Howlett said Mirvac was currently "sourcing future opportunities" for the site and that work on this development would be subject to securing an anchor tenant. He said the building was in the market for a tenant of up to 30,000 sqm.

The platform site was originally purchased for \$30 million by Mirvac in 2007 in a joint venture with Australian Super, with plans to complete 664 Collins St before mid-2010. Mr Howlett said the development had been delayed by the global financial crisis, which had meant most corporations weren't looking for new offices. ●

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 about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.



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