

# DOCKLANDS NEWS

docklandsnews.com.au

Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P24



*Edition of Docklands News*

**A** COMMUNITY, PAGE 02  
 Welcome to our 200th edition



**B** PLANNING, PAGE 05  
 Creating a destination in Docklands



**C** SUSTAINABILITY, PAGE 11  
 Dock 5 unveils electric vehicle charging project



**D** DOCKLANDER, PAGE 17  
 An urban mushroom farm at Yarra's Edge



**SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY  
 BY SUPPORTING THEIR LOCAL DOCKLANDS NEWS**

**MARKET  
 LANE**  
 The District Docklands

# TRIELLE

by mirvac



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

A RIVERFRONT OASIS WITH BLISSFUL  
AMENITY JUST AN ELEVATOR RIDE AWAY

25 METRE LAP POOL, SAUNA & SPA, DAY SPA TREATMENT ROOMS, COLD-PAIL CONTRAST TREATMENT,  
HOT MAGNESIUM POOL, YOGA & PILATES ROOM, BIOPHILIC GYM, TRANQUILITY PODS

LUXURY'S NEW PINNACLE  
NOW SELLING AT YARRA'S EDGE



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

JANET WALKER  
0466 440 863  
janetwalker@mirvac.com

JACK LANE  
0465 508 083  
jack.lane@mirvac.com

[TRIELLE.MIRVAC.COM](http://TRIELLE.MIRVAC.COM)



TRIELLE DISPLAY GALLERIA  
16 Point Park Crescent, Docklands

# DOCKLANDS NEWS

docklandsnews.com.au

Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P24



Docklands' littlest athletes  
Photo by Hanna Komissarova

Grades 3 to 6 Docklands Primary School students are reported to have had "so much fun" during their recent Athletics Day at Ron Barassi Snr Park. Read student Aletheia's (Grade 5/6A) report on page 15.

## Housing crisis prompts council action on short-stays

*The City of Melbourne is the latest Victorian local council to look to do what it can to mitigate the growing number of short-stay apartments in its municipality.*

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
HOUSING

At the time of publishing, councillors were due to decide whether to proceed with a consultation process to inform the development of new local laws designed to encourage the flipping of short-term accommodation into long-term rentals at its August 29 council meeting.

The City of Melbourne is home to one of the biggest short-term rental markets in Australia, with more than 4100 active short-term rental listings representing around 14 per cent of the city's residential properties.

The overwhelming majority of these properties (84 per cent) are

located in the CBD, Docklands, Southbank and Carlton.

With the motion expected to be endorsed by councillors on August 29, the council says it will consult extensively with the community and key stakeholders, including short-term rental owners and operators, on any new policy options for the sector. Any new regulation would not be introduced until February 2024.

Options under consideration include a registration fee and a cap on the number of days a property is available for short-term rental – options Lord Mayor Sally Capp represented an "important step to address the housing crisis and increase the

*Continued on page 11.*

## REAL ESTATE SERVICES BY MIRVAC YOUR EXCLUSIVE YARRA'S EDGE ON-SITE AGENTS



Real Estate Services by Mirvac offer a total leasing, property management and re-sales solution dealing exclusively with Mirvac property. Contact us for all your property needs at Yarra's Edge.



62 River Esplanade, Yarra's Edge | 03 9645 1199 | resbymirvac.com





▲ L-R: Shane Scanlan and Sean Car in 2019.

## Welcome to the 200<sup>th</sup> edition of *Docklands News*

*A double-century of editions and more than 20 years of service to Melbourne’s beautiful and ever-evolving waterfront community – an achievement well worth celebrating we think!*

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
PUBLISHER

This newspaper has certainly come a long way since its first official edition of *Docklands Community News*, as it was then known, back in 2003. But the roots of this wonderful community asset go much deeper than that.

While the planning and governance challenges here have been well-documented (none more so than by us!), those at the helm of driving urban renewal in the early days must be commended for keeping placemaking at the heart of the Docklands project.

The Docklands Authority, which has today morphed into Development Victoria, started this newspaper and all previous forms of community news that preceded it, including *INFORMATION* in 1997 and *The Harbour View* in 1999.

In an early edition of the *Docklands Community News*, this newspaper’s founder – the late Peter Crowley

– outlined a clear mission statement, carefully crafted by a committee of community volunteers, which in essence still rings true today: “The *Docklands Community News* seeks to strengthen the Docklands community through the provision of relevant community-based information in a regular newsletter.”

In the words of a key figure who was around since the newspaper’s inception, the late Shane “Scoop” Scanlan, who sadly passed away in 2021 shortly after retiring in 2019, “that sentiment continues to drive our editorial decision-making.”

From originally helping piece the early editions together, to eventually claiming the rights to it and laying the critical foundations for its evolution into the *Docklands News* we know today, we have Shane to thank for so much.

I know how proud he would be to see this publication reach its 200<sup>th</sup> edition – one that wouldn’t be complete without the image of him cargo-cycling newspapers around Docklands in his trademark Akubra immortalised in its special illustrated front cover. For this, we thank a dear friend of the newspaper Michael Lindell, with help from our designer Amy Frost.

There are too many people to credit, so I’ll just say a general but heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who has supported *Docklands News* from then to now, from our community, the advertisers who make it possible and my wonderful team, both past and present.

As Shane said following our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2013, “Our ambition is to continue to serve the Docklands community”, and that, we will keep doing. ●

## Celebrating the voice of postcode 3008

*I’m a proud former resident of Docklands, having lived there between 2018 and 2021.*

WORDS BY *Sally Capp*  
LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE



My two sons moved in with me and my husband during the pandemic, and I have incredibly fond memories of spending lockdown with those closest to me.

I also can’t believe this stunning waterfront area of Melbourne is not more widely appreciated. It’s peaceful, beautiful and you’re just minutes from the best food and entertainment in the world.

I have a feeling this waterfront suburb will see a huge population boom in coming years.

*Docklands News* is a key part of the identity of Docklands and its residents. During the past 20 years, the publication has cemented itself as a trusted news source covering breaking news, politics, education, health and so much more.

Now publishing its 200<sup>th</sup> edition, I reflect on the role the paper plays, and continues to play, in Docklands.

*Docklands News* was established in 2003 and has grown with the community. From a commercial docking port to a residential and business hub, there have been challenges that come with the creation of a new precinct. We’re continuing to learn how we can best leverage this impressive waterfront area. We see continued investment in hotels, businesses, and residential

developments, signalling long-term confidence in this neighbourhood.

Our recent Now or Never Art Trail saw thousands flock to Docklands, while our Firelight Festival and New Year’s Eve display continue to delight residents and visitors of all ages.

Through it all, *Docklands News* has covered the stories that matter to the community. From new businesses to community hubs like the Library at the Dock, *Docklands News* has helped the City of Melbourne share important stories.

It’s hard to believe it’s been 20 years since the first edition of *Docklands News* was published. It reminds us how far we have come with Docklands since the precinct was first created.

During my journey as Lord Mayor, I’ve enjoyed sharing City of Melbourne stories with Shane, Sean, David, Rhonda, Jack, and Brendan, to name a few, all who must be congratulated on reaching this milestone and for the hard work they put in each day (and for sometimes having to ask the difficult questions).

Congratulations to the team and may this be the first of many more milestones to come. ●



**Your Docklands, CBD and Southbank high-rise conveyancing specialist since 2011**

Suite 1223 Aquavista Tower,  
401 Docklands Drive, Docklands 3008

03 8640 9002

[www.anchorconveyancing.com.au](http://www.anchorconveyancing.com.au)

[info@anchorconveyancing.com.au](mailto:info@anchorconveyancing.com.au)

**Property transactions are too expensive to leave advice to the last minute**

# LUCAS REAL ESTATE ACHIEVES 20-YEAR MILESTONE AND EXTENDS PRESENCE TO YARRA'S EDGE



Lucas Real Estate proudly celebrates two decades of excellence as an independent, family-owned agency at the forefront of the Docklands real estate market. Now, with an exceptional track record in the Docklands area and inner-city Melbourne, the agency is excited to announce its expansion into the Yarra's Edge market.

The agency is well-loved by its strong base of both local and international clients. Helmed by directors Baden Lucas and Dylan Emmett, the agency has a proven sales track record and services an extensive portfolio of rental properties; countless individuals in the area have reaped the benefits of the agency's expertise over the past 20 years.

Celebrating 20 years in September, the agency has gone from strength to strength. Glen Lucas founded Lucas Real Estate in 2003 and quickly identified the need for an independent agency offering high-quality service in leasing and re-selling apartments for stakeholders. Shortly after its conception, the fast-growing team continued to expand, and the Lucas Group now employs over 30 local team members. Glen's founding principles remain today - act with integrity, achieve great results and have fun.

"20 years on, it's such a sensational achievement to see the group thriving in all areas of the business," says company founder Glen Lucas. "2023 is a momentous occasion for the agency, marking two decades of successful business operations. While the scale of our business has changed from those early days, the company values has remained the same; service delivered with integrity, and successful outcomes achieved together".

The progress into Yarra's Edge comes from the agency's deep affection and familiarity with the area - it is a highly desirable location offering high-end, contemporary apartments, breathtaking views of the city and river, ideally situated a short stroll to Melbourne's CBD across the Webb Bridge. It has consistently been a popular choice for those seeking a luxurious lifestyle and strong potential for property value growth, making it attractive predominantly to owner occupiers, but also to investors.

Agency director Baden Lucas is well connected to the community in Yarra's Edge and is firmly established in the real estate market there, having lived in Yarra's Edge for over 17 years. He's watched Yarra's Edge evolve into one of the most sought after inner-city marketplaces, and due to his intimacy with the area, he fully understands the appeal and loves the strong sense of community the thriving waterfront "village" offers.

Baden says, "Yarra's Edge has a real sense of community and family, which aligns very strongly with our agency. What I find remarkable is that so many residents move into Yarra's Edge and really embrace the social element of the area. We have found that these characteristics exist within the Lucas team; many new friendships and relationships are formed upon the foundation of hard work and fun. It's probably a little bit like 'coming home', too. Being in Yarra's Edge just feels right."

**The advantage of being able to work with the largest and most specialised agency in Docklands will give owners, rental providers, buyers, and renters the most choice when making a move.**

The Lucas team are area specialists, and because of the agency's history in Yarra's Edge, they have a concentrated and enviable knowledge of the market, which is invaluable for clients. The key to Lucas' success is their local expertise and a people-first approach.

Director Dylan Emmett says, "Through engagement with locals, hard work, and sound advice, we simplify the decision-making process for property owners. We really spend time evaluating and selecting the right occupants for rental providers. Our role is to ensure owners make the best and easiest choices for their next move".

The Lucas vision is to serve the suburb's residents and become a valuable part of the community, and with roots firmly planted in the area, they eagerly anticipate nurturing and witnessing its growth. They want to see Yarra's Edge flourish and continue to be an aspirational marketplace.

Media Enquiries 9091 1400 | [lucasre.com.au](https://lucasre.com.au)

## LUCAS

**CONTACT**  
Suite 208, 198 Harbour Esplanade  
docklandsnews.com.au  
Tel: 8689 7980

**EDITOR**  
Sean Car

**PUBLISHER**  
Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
ABN: 57 623 558 725

**ADVERTISING**  
Hyper-local print works for advertisers in our digital world because local people are interested in local news. To sell to the Docklands community, contact Jack Hayes on 0401 031 236 or jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au

Reader contributions are welcome. Send letters, articles and images to: admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au

The deadline for the October edition is September 25.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Follow us on Twitter  
@Docklands\_News

Like us on Facebook  
Docklands News

Follow us on Instagram  
@docklands\_news

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the publisher.

hyperlocalnews.com.au  
admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au



# The Voice: “our chance to change the path that we are on”



*For Sheena Watt, Victorian Upper House MP for the North Metropolitan Region, enshrining constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a Voice to Parliament is “not just about being recognised, it’s about being heard.”*



WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
COMMUNITY

As Victoria’s only Aboriginal Member of Parliament, Ms Watt knows the responsibility she shoulders; it is something she has lived with her entire life.

“I came to Parliament having worked in Aboriginal affairs for 20 years and I knew there were really good ideas out there,” Ms Watt told *Docklands News*. “I know there are passionate people wanting to make a change in the lives of Aboriginal people, I know they are anxious for change, and I know they know there is a better path ahead.”

“When you’re only three per cent of the population, it is really hard to be heard by everyone else on what it is important to you and what changes need to happen to affect positive change in your life and your community’s lives.”



Still with a date yet to be set, sometime in October is all that is known, in the nation’s first referendum since 1999, Australians are being called upon to answer “Yes” or “No”.

The question:

“A proposed law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?”

The path to this referendum comes from the largest consensus of First Nations peoples on a proposal for substantive recognition in Australian history, culminating in 2017’s Uluru Statement from the Heart.

“What the leaders in Uluru wanted is for Aboriginal leaders to be listened to on the issues that affect us each and every day, and that the Voice can never be taken away,” Ms Watt said.

“A voice to parliament is about future proofing Aboriginal affairs against that change. It’s about whoever it is that sits in Canberra must listen to the voice of First Nations people.”

“Ever since the Apology we have had the *Closing the Gap Report*, and in the hope that by shining a light on infant mortality, educational attainment, or life expectancy, we would be able to improve things.”

“But the improvements are just too slow, and the equality we seek is too far off. I know that we need something bigger and bolder to change

the path that we are on.”

According to the *Closing The Gap Report 2020*, only two of the report’s proposed targets are currently on track. Targets still not on track include the gap between child mortality rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children widening from 2008 to 2018; little to no change in employment rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, and this country’s First Peoples still live an average of eight years less than non-Indigenous Australians.

Ms Watt has seen how damaging that gap can be to herself and her people firsthand.

She has lived with the racism of low expectations from people who were meant to inspire and guide her.

Now, she says, it’s her time to dismantle that notion and inspire a new generation of Australians.

“What I know is that we need real and practical change in our community and for far too long, our first nations people have been calling out to be heard on issues that affect them by governments of the day,” Ms Watt said.

“Referendums are serious business. We ask the Australian people so rarely to change our constitution. But we are asking for a change to the rulebook of our nation and what we are saying this time around is that we want it to be a reflection of our modern values and a modern nation,” she said.

“If you believe in this and it is something that is deeply felt by you, your friends, family, or colleagues, then take the time to have the conversation about why it is important to you. I know this is a big thing to do, to change our constitution, but it is not insurmountable, and it will take everybody stepping up in every way they can for it to be ultimately successful.” ●

**For more information:**  
[sheenawatt.com.au](http://sheenawatt.com.au)

**STAR WARS**  
THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK  
**IN CONCERT**  
PRESENTED BY  
**Melbourne Symphony Orchestra**  
5 OCTOBER / 7.30PM BEST AVAILABILITY  
6 OCTOBER / 7.30PM SELLING FAST  
7 OCTOBER / 1PM SELLING FAST  
8 OCTOBER / 2PM FINAL SHOW ADDED  
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, HAMER HALL

Emirates  
Principal Partner  
Australian Government  
Australia Council for the Arts  
CREATIVE VICTORIA  
CLASSIC  
Disney CONCERTS  
Presentation licensed by

Presented in association with 20th Century Fox, Lucasfilm Ltd. and Warner/Chappell Music.  
© 2023 & TM LUCASFILM LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED © Disney

**BOOK NOW**  
**MSO.COM.AU**

# Creating a “destination” in Docklands

*As one of Australia’s largest urban renewal and regeneration projects, Docklands stacks up against major renewal projects across the country – and indeed the world.*

WORDS BY *Niall Cunningham*  
GROUP HEAD PRECINCTS, DEVELOPMENT VICTORIA



It’s easy to forget that not so long-ago Docklands was an “industrial wasteland” of disused industrial warehouses and dock areas, and home to Melbourne’s illegal rave scene.

Fast forward just three decades and Docklands has become a thriving employment precinct, a sports and leisure destination and a place thousands of Melburnians are proud to call home.

In the late ‘90s government kickstarted development in Docklands, investing in infrastructure to attract the private sector, as well as support residents and workers.

During the following 30 years, more than \$15 billion of private investment has contributed to the revitalisation of the Docklands precinct bringing homes, hotels, corporate businesses, and entertainment venues such as Marvel Stadium.

And the numbers continue to stack up – today Docklands has more than 17,000 residents, more than 73,000 workers, attracts millions of visitors to the precinct every year and is home to some of Australia’s largest companies including ANZ, Medibank Private, Myer and NAB.

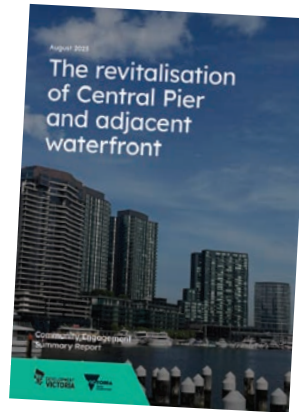
There are more than 10,000 apartments completed or under construction and visitors have the choice of 1600 hotel rooms and serviced apartments.

These numbers easily show the benefits to Victoria’s economy from the government investment and vision for the future, through to the private sector and the ongoing oversight by Development Victoria.

Once derelict and neglected, it now has a school, a library, a community hub, parks, playgrounds and sports courts.

Importantly, it also has a sense of community and a sense of place within the broader Melbourne context.

And, while it’s true to say that the COVID pandemic presented challenges, the opportunities the precinct brings for continued regeneration are significant and we should not lose our passion for this unique part of Melbourne’s history and future.



At Development Victoria, our immediate and long-term focus in Docklands is to continue to work with the community and others to progress the revitalisation of Central Pier and the adjoining waterfront.

In late 2022, we asked community what they thought was important in the future and almost 300 people provided their views through online and in-person workshops, as well as an online survey.

What was clear is that the shared long-term vision is for Harbour Esplanade and Central Pier to become a world-class waterfront destination that reconnects the city to its harbour, attracting people from all over to experience and enjoy Docklands.

People consistently told us that we should

create something “uniquely Docklands” and ensure we recognise the area’s potential as a cultural heart for Melbourne.

People also told us there was also the need to create a vibrant destination that embraces the water, a welcoming space, somewhere that is easy to get to and move around, a showcase of environmental sustainability and the rich history of the waterfront and the pier.

The role of First Nations people, (as represented by the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation) is critical through the revitalisation. We will celebrate the heritage of rich Indigenous culture that prevailed for tens of thousands of years in the place now referred to as Docklands.

From here, we will release a Place Principles and Vision Strategy in coming months which will reflect the feedback from community and the input from experts in tourism, heritage, place making, sustainability and design. This strategy will guide us through the redevelopment to create a special place we can all celebrate.

It will not, by any means, be the last word for Central Pier and the waterfront. We will continue to talk to community and gather views as we work through options, design, and delivery.

Docklands is ultimately a project for people, with the revitalisation of Central Pier and the waterfront the next important step in bringing this place to life for generations to come.

You can read the Central Pier Engagement Summary report on Development Victoria’s website: [development.vic.gov.au/projects/central-pier](https://development.vic.gov.au/projects/central-pier) or scan the QR code below: ●



For more information:



**COLLINS SQUARE**

**All Day Dining at Collins Square**

Home to a range of cafes, restaurants and bars, serving everything from simple breakfasts, wholesome lunches to tapas paired with your favourite after work tittle; everything you need is in one place.

**Monday – Friday**  
7:00am – 7:00pm\*

727 Collins Street, Melbourne

[collinssquare.com.au](https://collinssquare.com.au)

\*Individual retailers’ trading hours vary



# I'm voting

# Yes

**Sheena Watt**  
Labor MP for Northern Metropolitan

C04, 23 Black Street, Brunswick VIC 3056

P: 03 7008 6588

E: [sheena.watt@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:sheena.watt@parliament.vic.gov.au)

 [Sheena-Watt](#)

 [SheenaWattMP](#)

 [SheenaWattMP](#)

 [SheenaWattMP](#)



# Locals, stakeholders endorse CBD end of Greenline, less convinced about Docklands side

*Hundreds of residents and stakeholders have strongly endorsed designs for the eastern “city” end of the City of Melbourne’s flagship Greenline project but have expressed less certainty about the western “Docklands” side.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS



▲ Those surveyed were more positive about Greenline designs at the city end (left, at Birrarung Marr) compared to the Docklands end (right, at North Wharf).

Results from the council’s latest engagement process on Greenline, a four-kilometre green trail set run along the Yarra River’s north bank from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge, revealed a divide between the project’s two sides.

A two-pronged survey that canvassed the thoughts of the public (residents, workers, visitors) and stakeholders (including business and community groups) revealed a strong endorsement for designs on the CBD side.

Asked whether they would spend time in the proposed spaces (depicted by designers), more than 80 per cent of the 500-plus public respondents said they were “likely” or “very likely” to visit areas at Birrarung Marr and Batman Park.

Three-quarters of those surveyed also responded positively to the proposed designs for areas at Banana Alley vaults and Sandridge Bridge.

“Batman Park is very tired and bit sketchy now so this couldn’t come soon enough,” one respondent said.

“Sandridge Bridge and Banana Alley currently has a dilapidated urban feel, greening it will be a great improvement,” another added.

This was reiterated in stakeholder responses, with more than half more likely than not to spend time in the three precincts in the eastern half of Greenline (Birrarung Marr, Falls and River Park).

However, those surveyed were less sure about the two precincts at the Docklands end, dubbed Maritime and Salt Water Wharf.

Less than 60 per cent of public respondents said they were likely to spend time in the newly designed spaces directly opposite South Wharf — including space outside Crowne Plaza and the Mission to Seafarers — and further west at North Wharf.

Criticism focused on a lack of greenery and proposed tree canopy.

“These are the least exciting to me, and I wouldn’t spend much time here. The Crowne Plaza seems a bit sterile with all of those hard edges and lack of canopy and greenery,” one respondent said.

“This is a very harsh environment that does not appeal. More trees and greenery are needed. Plants in rectangular boxes are not as appealing as a natural planting,” another responded.

There was also concern about the lack of proposed economic activation.

“I feel this side of the river is more commercial and less tempting,” one said.

“Crowne Plaza image reminds me of

Docklands, which usually has less people around compared with in the image above — why would people come here? Or how is this connected and convenient to access from other areas?”

The criticism of the westernmost Greenline precinct was even greater from stakeholders, who stated that the remote location made it tougher to attract visitors compared with the city end.

Councillors unanimously endorsed the draft Greenline master plan at the August 15 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it represented a “significant milestone” which delivered an “overarching framework” for the project.

“I think at master plan stage when we start to see this vision turn into reality, it’s important with a project of this scale being delivered across these time horizons that we feel confidence, that what we see in the master plan will turn into detailed designs and those detailed designs will be delivered on the north bank of the Yarra, and that’s why this is such an important milestone,” Cr Capp said.

The council has already committed \$97 million to the \$300 million Greenline project, however a proposed three-way equal funding model (of \$100 million each) partnering with the state and federal governments has, to date, yielded just \$20 million from the Commonwealth while the Victorian Government was yet to commit any funding.

The Lord Mayor, however, remained positive. “As we see these phases role out we know that momentum will continue to be positive. This project has generated the highest of interest and enthusiasm from stakeholders which is a great testament to its success.”

Melburnians are now invited to provide feedback on the proposed plans (open until September 13) which will inform the final master plan to be released later this year.

Cr Rohan Leppert said that while more detailed plans for each of the five precincts were still to come, the coming months was important.

“The exhibition period is a genuine opportunity for the public to have their say,” he said.

“I want to continue this public conversation and understand how anyone and everyone, in all the diversity of opinion, is now interpreting the concepts that we’re putting to them, because we don’t have the detailed designs yet — that will come piece by piece. So, I want the imagination of Melburnians to be shared so that we can understand not just what one idea of the Greenline is, but how this is being received generally. That’s really important information.”

Works at Birrarung Marr, which represents the first section of trail, are due to commence before July next year. ●



*David Schout*  
JOURNALIST  
DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

**Do it bigger, when you're backed by BOQ**

**Up to 85% LVR\*** **30 Year Loan Terms\***

Available on new Business Term Loans up to \$3m.

**Talk to us about your business today or visit [boq.com.au/businessterm](http://boq.com.au/businessterm)**

**BOQ Docklands**  
Josephine Tan, Owner-Manager 0408 336 838  
Belinda Wynn, Branch Manager 0408 288 282  
03 9248 0188 [docklands@boq.com.au](mailto:docklands@boq.com.au)  
[facebook.com/boqdocklandsmelb](https://facebook.com/boqdocklandsmelb) [boq.com.au](http://boq.com.au)

Terms and conditions and eligibility criteria apply. \* Small and Medium Business, security type and loan purpose eligibility criteria applies (“SME eligibility criteria”). Where the SME eligibility criteria is not met the maximum Loan-to-Value ratio is 70% (non-residential and mixed security) or 80% (residential security), and the maximum loan term is 15 years (non-residential and mixed security) or 25 years (residential security). Not available on Self-Managed Super Fund (SMSF) loans Credit provided by Bank of Queensland Limited ABN 32 009 656 740 AFSL and Australian Credit Licence no. 244616 (BOQ). Conditions, criteria and fees apply. BOQ’s standard credit assessment criteria apply. You should obtain and read the relevant T&Cs and Guide to Fees and Charges that apply to this product before making any decision about whether to acquire or continue to hold it, available at your local BOQ branch or at [boq.com.au](http://boq.com.au)

**FIRST / MAB**

**FIRST.**

Escala NewQuay

**HOMES, DEALS, ADVICE. THE NEW PLACE FOR FIRST HOME BUYERS.**

**FIRSTMAB.COM.AU**

WHEN  
CHEESE IS  
PERFECT



## CHAMPION CHEESE SHOP NAMED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

**RIPE Cheese, at Queen Victoria Market, is a treasure trove for cheese connoisseurs, offering everything from prosciutto-wrapped treats from Bruny Island to gooey truffle toasties.**

Hakim Halim is the “big cheese” behind this award-winning business. But he is quick to deflect all the glory to the cheesemakers themselves.

“I am most passionate about sharing the stories and produce of all the Australian artisanal cheesemakers to everyone,” Hakim said.

“Without them, RIPE will just be like any other generic cheese shop, deli and supermarket. They have done all the hard work in creating the best dairy products, and so credit goes to all our Australian producers.”

Hakim started his life in Melbourne as an international student 13 years ago.

He worked his way through various companies and experienced many hardships, including racial discrimination, before building his successful business.

“I thought being part of the corporate rat race was what I wanted. But once I started building a business with a purpose bigger than myself, everything made sense and I found joy,” Hakim said.

“That joy has pushed and motivated me to overcome any obstacles that we face, and work tirelessly to achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves.

“It’s incredible to be recognised in the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards, and I’m so humbled because I never could have imagined to be in this position when I first got here.”

Over his time in business, Hakim has seen the Australian cheese industry blossom. And he’s right there at the forefront of this growth, showcasing and advocating for local cheesemakers on the world stage.

“We see ourselves as the catalyst that brings Australian produce to the world. Last year, for example, we brought our cheese masterclasses to Singapore – who knows where to next?” Hakim said.

“We want to showcase Australian cheese and its producers through more advocacy, outreach, education and government lobbying. At the same time, creating more opportunities for future cheese experts through mentorship and scholarship programs.”

### **Hakim’s top tips for doing business in Melbourne**

Are you planning to start or grow a business in Melbourne? Hakim has this advice for your onward journey.

“Melbourne has a very competitive business market with lots of different

concepts and brands, and discerning customers,” Hakim said.

“It is of the utmost importance to have a clear and genuine unique selling proposition that can be understood and appreciated for many years to come. Melburnians hate gimmicks!”

### **About the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards**

Independent small businesses, and the dedicated Melburnians who run them, are the soul of our city.

Each year we say thank you to those making a significant contribution to the city’s culture, prosperity and liveability through the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards.

Alongside the overall winner, we also recognise Melbourne’s most innovative businesses. This year, Docklands-based startup Gaia Project Australia took out the Small Business Innovation Award.

While sending lettuce to space might sound like sci-fi, the Gaia team is planning for interplanetary growth, while changing the face of local agriculture to address climate change and food security.



To learn more, search for Gaia at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### **Celebrating long-standing businesses**

As part of the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards, we also celebrate businesses that have reached impressive milestones of 10+, 20+ and 40+ years.

For more information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards)

# New audio warning for illegal footpath riders in e-scooter crackdown

“

*New “in-app communication” trial on Swanston and Elizabeth streets sees e-scooters telling off their non-compliant riders.*

”

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
TRANSPORT

A fleet of camera-equipped e-scooters has been rolled out in Melbourne, with new technology giving riders an audio warning for tandem riding and illegal travel on footpaths.

The 25 scooters from operator Lime feature “advanced camera capabilities” and will tell non-compliant riders to cease footpath travel, which is illegal in Victoria.

The “in-app communication” trial, now under way on Swanston and Elizabeth streets and in Jolimont, will also direct riders to park in designated zones to avoid footpath clutter in busy areas.

Early reports suggest the trial had reduced complaints by 55 per cent.

Unlike most other states and territories where electric scooter users can ride on footpaths, travel in Victoria is restricted to streets and bike/shared paths.

The City of Melbourne wants to crack down on those doing the wrong thing, to prevent incidents with pedestrians.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp praised operators

Lime and Neuron, but said she still received high levels of complaints about riding and parking on pavements.

“[They] have been very responsive to discussions with us. But there are a range of issues with how e-scooters are used. A lot of that comes down to human behaviour, which is the hardest thing to moderate, change and control,” Cr Capp said at the August 15 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, where councillors endorsed the trial.

“We do believe that the way the technology works means that there’s more we can do to ensure safety, and a big part of the safety is compliance. We want to be proactive in this.”

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, who owns a private e-scooter, said that prior to the meeting the council had received “a lot of complaints”, and that bad behaviour on scooters was particularly evident “late in the evening”.

“I reckon they’re a lot of fun. I’d like to see them continue in Melbourne, but we’ve got to crack down on the hoon element and work better than what it is at the moment,” he told 3AW.

In addition to the new audio warning on e-scooters, other technologies were being developed, including AI systems that prevent riders from “ending” a trip unless they provide a photograph of their e-scooter correctly parked.

Improved “dual band” GPS systems were also being developed, which the council has suggested could be looked upon favourably in future procurement processes.

Most providers currently use single frequency band technology to locate devices and create “no-riding” and “no-parking” zones.

And while this worked well in large locations such as Fitzroy Gardens or the Shrine of Remembrance, it is not accurate enough to prevent riding on a footpath while allowing riding on an adjacent street.

Operator Beam has said it would deploy 200 e-scooters in the City of Melton that can only travel at four km/h on footpaths, which would prove a significant deterrent.

A report from council officers suggested



providers who could not deliver accurate geofencing technology in future would be left behind.

“In any future agreements with e-scooter operators, officers would include requirements to take advantage of up-to-date technology as part of the procurement process,” the report said.

“Management would also seek to ensure that agreements are flexible and able to incorporate new technology as it develops and to exclude operators which cannot deliver appropriate technologies.”

Dangerous e-scooter use on footpaths continues to be a key complaint among CBD residents, workers and visitors.

However, there is also concern about poor parking practices that obstructs access, particularly for elderly and disabled pedestrians.

Cr Rohan Leppert said e-scooters’ impacts on accessibility were considerable, and the issue was something that required urgent attention.

“I am constantly reminded ... that if we can’t find a way to regulate or provide the adequate incentives through a contract to prevent footpath travel and parking in an inappropriate spot, then we’re preventing a class of people from participating in public life,” he said. “And that’s older Melburnians and Melburnians with

access issues, those who require aid with mobility. So, we have to get it right.”

A report from council management has advocated for expanded designated e-scooter parking areas, something it says is supported by Lime and Neuron.

This would include, in busy areas of high scooter use, “readily identifiable” parking zones spaced approximately 150 metres apart and large enough for five or more scooters.

The zones would be located on both kerbside spaces and footpaths, and riders would be directed to park by line marking and the app itself.

Council officers were currently identifying locations to trial the marked e-scooter parking zones.

“Many cities around the world are moving from free-floating e-scooter parking to designated parking, often clustered with other micro mobility vehicles [like] bicycles,” the report stated.

At the August 15 meeting, councillors requested management work with Lime and Neuron to “expedite the rollout of designated parking zones”, emphasising the need to find a solution soon.

The Victorian Government’s shared e-scooter trial – which involves the municipalities of Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip – began in February 2022. In March this year the trial was extended by six months and expanded to include private e-scooters.

The latest City of Melbourne report said it “appears likely that e-scooters will be permanently legalised in early October 2023”.

According to the council, Melburnians “have embraced the e-scooter trial”, surpassing five million rides since February last year, with almost 6000 trips a day, one of the highest rates in the world.

Both Lime and Neuron have argued that Melbourne’s shared e-scooters currently has a “higher-than-optimal rate of use per day” and said the fleet should be expanded from the current 750 per operator. ●

LIVE LA DOLCE VITA

ST. ALI

ITALIAN  
FILM  
FESTIVAL

2023

Presented by  
**PALACE**

BOOK  
NOW

21 SEP - 18 OCT

PALACE CINEMAS / THE KINO

ItalianFilmFestival.com.au

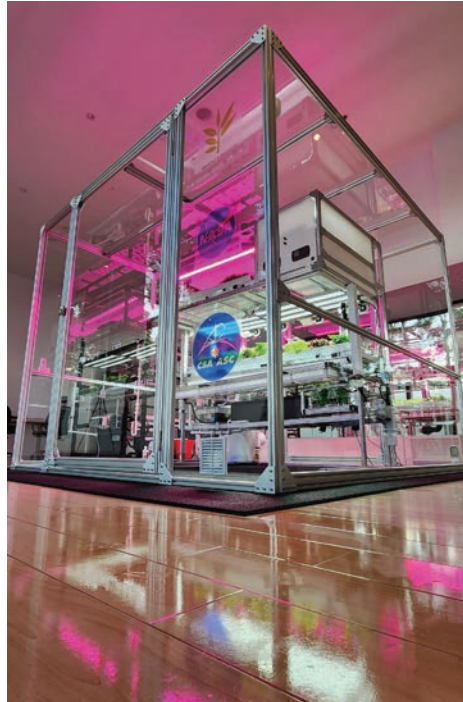
# Revolutionary AI-powered farming technology in the heart of Docklands

“

*GAIA Project Australia is changing the way that we think about farming, with founder and CEO Nadun Hennayaka creating innovative indoor farming solutions that could help eliminate food security problems worldwide.*

”

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*  
SUSTAINABILITY



Formed between 2016 and 2017, Mr Hennayaka's corporate IT and engineering background led to the creation of the GAIA start-up that now calls Docklands home.

The project focuses on renewable energy, waste management and indoor farming through AI-generated crop cultivation in the AgTech sector.

“Every square centimetre that you don't use [in traditional farming] becomes wasted space – we built a modular cultivation system that follows the plants' growth cycle,” Mr Hennayaka told *Docklands News*.

With this technology, the GAIA team has built an indoor farming prototype that is able to expand and change as crops grow, with a focus on growing leafy greens and herbs to combat global food problems in a way that minimises environmental impact.

According to Mr Hennayaka, a traditional farm can only grow 12 to 15 heads of lettuce per square metre, while a greenhouse can only produce 25 heads. GAIA's current technology can produce 50 heads of lettuce per square metre.

“Everybody talks about sustainability, but the elephant in the room that no-one talks about is how we can adapt our technology for it – this is where we come in,” Mr Hennayaka said.

As well as aiming to find food solutions on Earth, the “space arm” of the GAIA project has also been working on a prototype that lives in Docklands to grow produce on long-duration space shuttle flights.

GAIA partnered with NASA in 2021 on the Deep Space Food Challenge to do just that in upcoming missions to Mars.

Mr Hennayaka said that they hoped to build a

new prototype for NASA in the next 12 months.

“There's a lot going on so far, but we try to do as much as we can because before we go to Mars, we need to fix problems over here,” Mr Hennayaka said.

One of the ways GAIA aims to improve food security on Earth is through “building commercial greenhouse projects” which they hope to be available in Victoria in the first half of 2024.

“People's homes is something that we're looking at,” Mr Hennayaka said.

“We can't fix the entire world food problem, but we can certainly help to fix around 20 to 30 per cent which is still a great number globally.”

Mr Hennayaka said that the GAIA project base in Docklands was the ideal location to house their technology while also introducing potential investors to the area.

“We looked around Melbourne, but I think Docklands was always the nice, quiet area [where] we wanted to put our roots down.”

Invest Melbourne, an initiative of the City of Melbourne to attract new business to the municipality, has also “collaborated” with GAIA during the past years to help connect the start-up to international partners. Mr Hennayaka said that the dialogue with the council was “something [we] can always benefit from.” ●

**For more information:**  
[gaiaprojectaustralia.com.au](http://gaiaprojectaustralia.com.au)

**DOCKLANDS HEALTH**

**SERVICES AVAILABLE:**

- ▶ Physiotherapy
- ▶ Chiropractic
- ▶ Massage
- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Nutrition
- ▶ Bowen Therapy
- ▶ Pilates
- ▶ Kinesiology
- ▶ Exercise Rehabilitation

Shop 4/860 Collins St, Docklands, 3008  
(03) 9088 3228 [www.docklandshealth.com.au](http://www.docklandshealth.com.au)

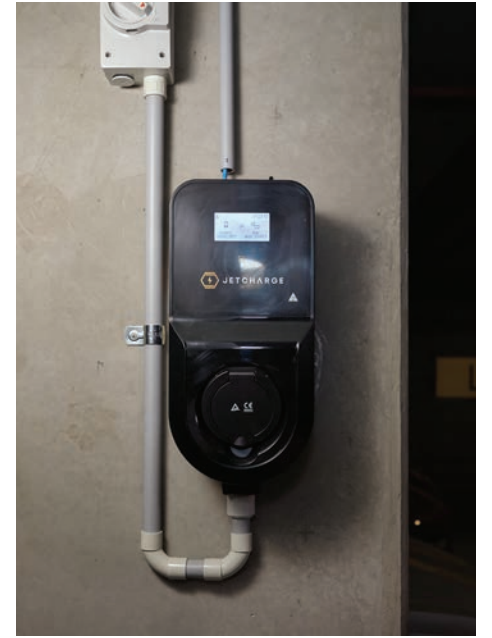
**BOOK ONLINE**  
[DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU](http://DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU)

**BAR | COURTYARD | BEER GARDEN**

**WE'RE OPEN**

**Daily from 12 noon**  
EVENTS | FUNCTIONS | EXHIBITIONS

**717 Flinders St, Docklands**  
[info@missiontoseafarers.com.au](mailto:info@missiontoseafarers.com.au)  
Caring for Seafarers in Victorian Ports since 1857



## Dock 5 unveils electric vehicle charging project

*Residents at Dock 5 can now join the electric vehicle (EV) revolution with confidence following the completion of a state-of-the-art charging project in its building – the first of its kind in Docklands.*

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



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp speaks at the opening.

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp joined residents on August 23 to officially open the project, which marks a significant step forward in sustainability not only for the Dock 5

community, but as an example for other apartment buildings in Docklands to follow.

With construction of Dock 5 completed in 2006 well before the emergence of EV technology, the challenge of retrofitting EV charging

facilities to existing buildings has been well documented in recent years.

A report released earlier this year by peak property body Strata Community Association (SCA) outlined the unique issues that strata buildings face in Australia, highlighting current emissions reduction targets and net-zero commitments wouldn't be possible without the integration of "the one in five" Australian residents who live in strata complexes.

While the National Construction Code now requires that new buildings must be "EV ready" as of October 1, 2022, almost all older buildings in Australia have not been built with the level of electrical infrastructure sufficient to support additional load for EV charging.

"Unique in its breadth" and "highly innovative", the Dock 5 OC has been able to implement an EV charging system available to all residents, which it said stood apart for its "innovative active load management".

"This cutting-edge technology ensures that the building's total power capabilities are never exceeded," a statement from Dock 5 building management said.

"Through seamless interaction between individual EV chargers and a central load management computer, power to the EV chargers can be dynamically adjusted when the building approaches its maximum electrical power demand."

"This ensures that all residents can charge their electric vehicles efficiently without compromising on other electrical needs."

The project has been delivered in collaboration with Wattrix, JetCharge, ChargeFox and Focused Facilities Management.

Speaking at the opening, Lord Mayor congratulated Dock 5 for its far-reaching project and its alignment with the City of Melbourne's commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 and boost jobs. ●

## Housing crisis prompts council action on short-stays

*Continued from page 1.*

number of homes available to our residents, students and key workers".

"We are in a housing crisis," Cr Capp said. "Every home that becomes available matters. That's why we're looking to encourage property owners to move into the long-term rental market."

"As Australia's fastest growing city, we are considering all options that will deliver more housing – and the quickest way to do that is to utilise housing that is already in place."

"Based on benchmarking from other capital cities and municipalities, an annual registration fee for short-term rental properties may be set at \$350,

and a short-term rental cap may be set at 180 days."

If successful, the City of Melbourne would join the Bass Coast and Warnambool Shires, as well as Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Councils to introduce such measures as an annual registration fee.

Other metropolitan councils including City of Port Phillip and City of Yarra are also currently investigating options to deal with short-stays.

A Docklands Representative Group (DRG) spokesperson told *Docklands News* that "while it was pleasing to see action finally" from the council on short-stays, it was "somewhat disappointing that their

motivation is only upon increasing available housing rather than the wellbeing of impacted residents".

"In terms of the proposed actions, the DRG believes the registration component is key and must be more than a simple listing."

"Registration needs to check if the operator has the required insurance, that they have processes and procedures in place including 24-hour responsible contact and that they have informed relevant bodies, including the owners' corporation (if they are operating in an apartment)."

"Of course, action is still required at state government level which empowers owners and residents to a

have a real say in how their residences are able to be used."

As reported by sibling publication *Southbank News* in August, the state government is currently considering a \$5 tourism levy on short-stay accommodation, but the Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) and some local business groups have argued the proposal would be a major impediment to the sector's post-pandemic recovery, while doing little to solve the housing crisis.

New South Wales already implements a 180-night cap on properties being used as short-term accommodation in Sydney and a number of tourist regional areas, while

governments around the world have already introduced nightly caps, registrations or other licensing.

With housing primarily the responsibility of state and federal governments, a meeting of National Cabinet was held in Brisbane on August 16 where a new ambitious target of 1.2 million new homes over five years from July 1, 2024 was set.

The housing crisis has prompted what could result in the biggest planning reforms in Victoria in decades in order to pave the way for more homes to be built across the state, with the Property Council pushing the government to bypass local councils to fast-track planning approvals. ●

## HUDDLE UP! JUNIOR THE HUB @ DOCKLANDS

FREE multi-sport program for 5-12 year olds

Delivered every Tuesday from 4-5pm, Huddle Up! Junior focuses on teaching fundamental sports skills, enhancing physical activity, promoting social connections and fostering a sense of belonging.



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER



ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

## DOING BUSINESS IN MELBOURNE

Whether you run a bespoke bakery, are looking to scale-up your startup or even have grand plans to open your first flagship store, Melbourne is the best place to do business.

Home to 13,829 businesses, 527,738 jobs and with an annual economic output of \$212.3 billion, Melbourne tops the list as the nation's best city to start and run a business.

With our diverse economy, liveability, and rich talent pool, our city is fertile ground for startups, small to medium enterprises and global headquarters.

And at the City of Melbourne we recognise our business owners are the heart and soul of the city and the engine room of our economy.

Through initiatives such as Invest Melbourne and our Business Concierge, we're making it easier to do business by cutting red tape and attracting new investment to drive innovation and create jobs.

Find out more about how we can support you and your business, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/business](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/business)



### SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

Start or expand your business in Melbourne with our Small Business Grants. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available to small businesses wanting to build on our city's reputation for innovation and creativity. Applications close 25 September. Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessgrants](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessgrants)

### BUSINESS EVENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Got a bright idea for a conference, expo, workshop or networking event within the City of Melbourne? Apply for a grant of up to \$10,000 to bring your idea to life. Applications close 25 September. Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/businessesevents](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/businessesevents)

## Making magic happen for city businesses



Lisa Guest and the Business Concierge team are ready to provide customised service to small business owners

### Meet the business concierge who's working behind the scenes to bring dreams to life for city businesses.

Every time Lisa Guest takes a call from someone with a question about running a business in the city, she looks for the magic in the moment.

"Behind every question, I know there's something delicate and important in our hands," Lisa said. She's a case manager with our Business Concierge Service.

"No matter how big or small the idea, here's a person who believes in their dream, and we get to help those ideas come to fruition."

Lisa and her colleagues are tasked with helping businesses connect the dots as they open, run and flourish in the municipality.

"Often when I'm speaking with a prospective business, I remind myself that it's more than a question about opening a cafe. Behind every idea, there's often a family. Maybe it's the family's life savings," she said.

Since January 2022, the Business Concierge team has provided free advice and mentoring to more than

15,500 city businesses – reducing the time it takes for a business to start up in the city and supporting them as they embrace Melbourne's new rhythm.

### Woman of the world

Born to "hippy parents" in Argentina in a time of political unrest, Lisa was six when her family moved to Brazil. She grew up there and studied journalism.

Restless, she packed a bag and headed for Australia to learn English, surf and travel. She stayed in Perth for 23 years, meeting her husband and raising two children.

When her kids moved to Melbourne to study and broaden their horizons, she soon followed, and landed with City of Melbourne as a public health officer.

That's how she began to fall in love with the city, and got to know its small businesses by roaming the laneways to offer support throughout the pandemic.

Now she keeps her imagination and networks firing as part of our Business Concierge Service which offers a one-stop shop for business support.

Case managers help businesses navigate government processes and find the right services. They also share

trends, identify site locations and investment opportunities.

"We work with cafes and retailers, but also pop-ups and activations," Lisa said.

"We support startups, social enterprises – many are migrant women and that is very humbling.

"I have the chance to make a meaningful impact by supporting fellow migrants as they navigate the hurdles of starting a new life."

She calls opportunities like these "pinch-me moments".

"I'm not just in Melbourne, I'm in the thick of it. One day I'm on the phone with a business, hearing a big idea and it could be the next big thing," Lisa said.

"The next day I'm volunteering on the busking panel to decide who can perform in the Bourke Street Mall, hearing a keyboard player whose music just flows and transports you."

The Business Concierge Service will ramp up its work to support new and existing city businesses over the coming year, with a \$500,000 investment in the Budget 2023-24.

Got a big idea for a business? Unclear about a permit? For one-on-one advice, call our dedicated Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business), or submit your query online at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/business](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/business)

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2022-23, the Business Concierge helped establish 51 businesses, resulting in 605 expedited jobs, \$28 million in capital expenditure and an estimated \$55 million in gross local product brought into the economy earlier than would have otherwise been the case.

## FRESH IDEAS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD TRADE WITH NEW FUNDING



Melbourne Chinatown Business Association President Christina Zhao

### Iconic local retail and hospitality businesses across Melbourne are getting a boost thanks to new funding through the City of Melbourne's Business Precinct Program.

The Business Precinct Program provides annual financial support to recognised precinct trader associations representing important consumer-relevant areas of the municipality.

We are supporting 10 precinct associations with more than \$850,000 in funding for 2023-24.

The funding is designed to support traders as they attract visitors to beloved retail and hospitality venues across 10 busy precincts in the municipality.

The funded precincts are: Carlton Inc., City Precinct, Collins Street Precinct Group, Docklands Chamber of Commerce, Greek

Precinct Association, Kensington Business Association, Melbourne Chinatown Business Association, Melbourne City North Business Association, North & West Melbourne Precinct Association and the Yarra River Business Association.

Associations funded under the Business Precinct Program undertake activities to boost the trader area on behalf of their members. They also build a robust membership with local street traders to strengthen community.

Precinct associations also create opportunities for local businesses to get to know one another and exchange information, run networking events and community festivals, and build regular communications with members.

Find out more about our Business Precinct Associations at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/precincts](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/precincts)

## ECONOMY SNAPSHOT SHOWS CONFIDENCE AND GROWTH

More Melbourne businesses are revamping their premises, with new data revealing permit approvals for upgrades have nearly doubled in the past year.

Our latest Melbourne Economy Snapshot shows more than 50 businesses applied to upgrade their premises in May – up almost 90 per cent on the 27 applications at the same time last year, and trending towards pre-pandemic levels.

The snapshot also shows reinvigorated confidence in Melbourne's tourism sector, with more than 10,000 additional hotel rooms becoming available in the past four years.

Activity in the city has steadily increased throughout 2023, with the snapshot revealing the colder winter months have not deterred visitation, with a 24 per cent increase in night-time activity across the city during key June events.

The Melbourne Economy Snapshot aims to equip city traders with data and insights to better inform business decisions. Subscribe to our Business in Melbourne e-newsletter to receive the quarterly snapshot at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/business](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/business)

ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update



# EXPERTS TRANSFORMING MELBOURNE'S BUSINESS LANDSCAPE

Melbourne as a leading tech city. It facilitates connections for new tech companies in the industry verticals, where Melbourne is a recognised leader.

**Scott Tanner**

*Expertise in banking and financial services, real estate, digital transformation, and corporate governance*



Our vision is to attract the headquarters of great businesses and future industries. We want to tackle and solve new global challenges and create new opportunities in a loop of learning, innovation and leadership.

Invest Melbourne can identify gaps and reinforce our strengths in attracting and retaining global industry leaders. We help industry and individuals create an exciting and dynamic environment where industry and individuals can achieve their full potential.

**Rachel Watson**

*Expertise in renewable energy generation*



Melbourne is already a key hub for energy companies in Australia, and renewable energy companies in particular.

Invest Melbourne is uniquely placed to foster business activity in the renewable energy sector, which will further enhance Melbourne's reputation as a green city of the future.

**Dr Julie Wells**

*Expertise in the tertiary education, policy and partnership development*



Melbourne is rich in educational, sporting, scientific and cultural institutions. I'd like to see that wealth leveraged and enjoyed by everyone.

My vision is for Melbourne to be a global hub for inclusive innovation – artistic, social, scientific – where everyone can participate and benefit.

Invest Melbourne has a great part to play as a facilitator, enabler and partner with industry, business and government to grow investment and jobs right here.

Read more about the Invest Melbourne Advisory Board, and find out how Invest Melbourne is cementing the city's reputation as a global investment destination at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au/economy](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au/economy)

Ever wondered who's behind the magic of turning Melbourne business ideas into reality? Meet the Invest Melbourne Advisory Board – the team that's dreaming up ways to help entrepreneurs start, grow and go global.

Invest Melbourne helps unlock business potential for many innovative and successful companies seeking to invest here in Melbourne. Are you among them? Harness this prosperity, connect with the right people at the right time, and achieve business success.

**Amanda Coombs, chair**

*Expertise in financial services and innovation*



We draw on our experience in finance, technology, innovation, energy, life sciences, logistics, property and education. The aim is to develop a pipeline of opportunities that will create jobs and ensure Melbourne is an easy place to do business.

We want Melburnians to be proud of their city and enjoy working and living here. There's great momentum for reimagining what Melbourne can be for businesses that are looking to land or expand in the city.

**Andrew Carter**

*Expertise in med tech, pharmaceuticals and commercialisation*



Invest Melbourne is a bold facilitator of ideas that prioritise long-term wellbeing over profit. Our vision is for a city that seamlessly blends work, leisure and life experiences. A place where getting together with colleagues, family and friends is desirable and easy.

Melbourne is a city that prioritises people and offers a mix of safe spaces. We acknowledge our past and improve our natural assets, and promote commuting options that are environmentally sustainable.

**David Chen**

*Expertise in shipping, technology and general business leadership*



My goal is to foster a business environment that champions sustainable supply chain solutions and puts Melbourne at the forefront of global logistic innovations.

Melbourne is a city where culture, technology, and sustainable logistics coalesce, ensuring efficient, eco-friendly business operations.

**Amy Foo**

*Expertise in technology and digital innovation*



I'm passionate about the tech industry, and seeing more cultural diversity and women in tech. By facilitating the right investment frameworks and policies, Invest Melbourne is creating sustainable economic growth.

As a global leader, we attract business, innovation and talent, and foster a vibrant city culture. That leads to good business and job opportunities for Melburnians.

**Ian McCall**

*Expertise in information and communications technology, digital innovation*



Melbourne is already a leading city in the globally connected technology community, home to a vibrant startup community, headquarters to home-grown technology giants and hosting a strong representation of global-leading tech companies.

Given the increasingly central role of technology in every sector of the economy, Invest Melbourne plans to amplify global recognition of

## Investment in business is paying off for the city

Invest Melbourne, the City of Melbourne's investment body, is eclipsing its job creation and economic targets, further cementing our reputation as a world-leading destination to start and grow a business.

In 2022-23, the number of jobs created and capital expenditure

generated were 220 and 215 per cent above our targets respectively.

Invest Melbourne supported a pipeline of some 70 major projects which are set to create more than 1,650 jobs and contribute \$430 million in capital expenditure to the city.

Invest Melbourne's support is forecast to generate a \$500 million

estimated increase in gross local product (GLP) for the city through new jobs, the establishment of new businesses and headquarters, and capital expenditure.

Sixty per cent of the projects supported by Invest Melbourne were in the hospitality and retail sectors, with our Business Concierge service

providing assistance to manage permits and licensing applications, as well as general business advice.

Invest Melbourne is working across more than 140 projects – which could create or fast-track an estimated 8,000 new full-time jobs across the city and generate around \$1.3 billion in capital expenditure.

### KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne News* at

[news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**Connect with us**

[/cityofmelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmelbourne)  
[@cityofmelbourne](https://www.instagram.com/cityofmelbourne)  
[@cityofmelbourne](https://www.twitter.com/cityofmelbourne)



# “Not improving at all”: Slowdown continues on accessible tram upgrades

“Deferred La Trobe St works are the latest delay to making tram stops accessible for those with restricted mobility.”



WORDS BY *David Schout*  
TRANSPORT

The Victorian Government continues to fall way behind deadlines for accessible tram stops in the CBD and inner suburbs, according to disability advocates.

The “extraordinary oversight” meant promised improvements will arrive decades late, and result in keeping a marginalised community “invisible”, they say.

Most tram trips in Melbourne remain inaccessible for those with restricted mobility, with just three in 10 stops in the city deemed “accessible”.

A requirement for public transport in all states and territories to be fully accessible by the end of 2022 has already been missed, and according to a 2020 Auditor General report it could take until 2066 to upgrade the entire Victorian network.

Disability Resources Centre projects manager Ally Scott said the current predicament revealed a devastating truth.

“Most of the community working on this now will not live to see that date,” she told *Docklands News*.

Ms Scott said works to improve the tram network had ground to a halt.

“It’s currently not improving at all. Right now, there’s been a complete stop on all upgrade works as we’re aware.”

The Department of Transport’s 2021-22 Annual Report revealed that just two Victorian tram stops were upgraded to include level access.

In the last year, upgrades to six stops on La Trobe St — a prominent tram corridor for Docklanders which services routes 30, 35 and 86 — were promised by the government.

These weren’t delivered, nor mentioned in the following 2023-24 budget released in May.

Docklands Representative Group president Ben Ball, who uses a wheelchair, said this was “frustrating”.

“The stops, especially the one outside Marvel Stadium, has been promised a long time ago because that’s the stop that’s advertised to ‘get off here’ for certain events,” he said.

“But that’s not the accessible stop, which is around the corner on Harbour Esplanade.”

“The other issue that’s compounded with that is when trams end up having an incident in the CBD, and they try and play catchup and run 86a trams (which don’t feature low floors), they’ll use that as the stopping point. So, if you’re a wheelchair user or you’ve got a pram, they’ll try and force you to get off there, which you can’t.”

Mr Ball said for Docklanders, those living in Victoria Harbour were at a slight advantage with two tram routes — routes 11 and 48 — departing from there to travel along Collins St, which is well serviced by accessible stops.

However even then, he said route 48 often featured less low-floor trams to board.

“You can watch all these older class trams go by you, until an E-class turns up,” Mr Ball said.

The government confirmed with *Docklands News* that planning and design work was under



▲ An example of an inaccessible tram in Melbourne (Image: Twitter @DRCadocacy)



▲ Tram stops on La Trobe St remain inaccessible for those in a wheelchair.

way for the six La Trobe St stops.

“It’s our priority to make sure our public transport network is accessible, and we are delivering projects that are making a real difference across the state,” the spokesperson said.

However, Ms Scott argued the rate at which both stops and trams themselves were being upgraded meant this was simply not true.

“Accessibility is about having low-floor trams meeting level-access stops, so it’s also about upgrading the rolling stock. Although we were promised in the (2021-22) budget 100 low-floor trams, they’re actually being delivered at the same rate as prior to that commitment ... it’s not an escalation of that work at all, it doesn’t represent a greater commitment to introducing more low-floor trams. So, really there’s no prioritising of it at all.”

Advocates say public transport accessibility is not simply an issue for those with a wheelchair, but includes the older population, people using prams and those with energy management conditions.

“There’s a huge community that need that

kind of service that works for everyone. So, it’s very frustrating that the government is committing a huge sum to the Big Build project, none of which covers maintaining the existing public transport,” Ms Scott said.

Local residents in a wheelchair have previously told *Docklands News* that it was not uncommon to wait for more than 10 trams to pass until an accessible low-floor vehicle arrived, turning what would be a short trip for most into an arduous journey.

“What that means is that people don’t use public transport. You’re not going to use public transport if you have to wait for an hour. You’re not going to use public transport if you feel unsafe. It just means that people aren’t getting out. There’s a real problem that this community are just invisible.”

Ms Scott said this further marginalised a community that in most cases required the low-cost transport option available to everyone else.

“There’s a huge intersection between disability and poverty. Very often these are people who can’t afford to run cars, they’re not people who can afford to get wheelchair-accessible cabs. They’re really dependent on public transport. It’s an extraordinary oversight by the current government.” ●

## Energising young minds: multi-sport program for junior Docklanders

COMMUNITY

“Huddle Up! Junior”, a multi-sport program designed for young people aged between 5 and 12 in the City of Melbourne, offers a range of engaging activities at The Hub @ Docklands.

Led by The Huddle, the community arm of the North Melbourne Football Club, in collaboration with other external sporting organisations, this program offers one-hour sessions over four weeks, focusing on teaching fundamental sports skills, enhancing physical activity, promoting social connections, and fostering a sense of belonging within the community.

One of the program’s key objectives is to provide opportunities for young people to engage in safe and social activities after school.

By offering a structured and supportive environment, Huddle Up! Junior provides participants with the chance to actively participate, learn new skills, and interact with their friends, fostering a positive after-school experience.

This program attempts to remove barriers that can sometimes appear for young people trying to participate in sport.

Beyond skill development, the program is a catalyst for building connections and forging relationships among young people of all ages. Inside and outside the program, lasting social interactions are formed.

Many participants continue their engagement with The Huddle through their other programs, including the exciting Multi-Sport Super Clinics during Huddle Holidays.

Since launching in Docklands at the beginning of 2023, the program has had 45 registrations and 113 attendances, with an average of 10 young people per session. These young people also represent 12 different cultural backgrounds, fostering an inclusive environment that encourages cross-cultural connections, understanding, and acceptance.

This year, one of the standout factors has been the program’s collaboration with North Melbourne Football Club players, who have



joined sessions throughout the year. Participants and their families also received free tickets and took part in the Guard of Honour, lining up on the field to welcome the North Melbourne players. For some, it was their very first AFL match.

Huddle Up! Junior Docklands runs every Tuesday from 4pm to 5pm at The Hub @ Docklands. To register scan the QR code: ●

Registrations:



**Say Yes to an Indigenous Voice to Parliament**

Authorised by L. White, Australian Labor Party, 82 Lygon St Carlton VIC 3053

**Senator Linda White**  
SENATOR FOR VICTORIA

**Labor**

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

**DENTIST**

**docklands DENTAL STUDIO**  
a different dental experience

**BOOK NOW ONLINE**  
docklandsdentalstudio.com.au

Dental Practice ACCREDITED

Now Accepting zip Money

**Zoom! Teeth Whitening**  
Now Available

**invisalign\*** Start from just \$12 a day  
The Clear Alternative to Braces

**Our Dentists:**

**Dr Pia Oparkcharoen**    **Dr Cindy Liang**  
**Dr Aisling Cromie**

Services:  
Check-ups (exam, scale and clean, X-Ray); children’s dentistry; teeth whitening; dental implants; root canal treatment; crown, bridge, veneer; dentures.

Mon-Fri 8:30-5pm (Thurs until 6pm) Sat: 9am-1pm  
57 Merchant St, Docklands (opposite Victoria Harbour Medical Centre)  
www.docklandsdentalstudio.com.au - ph 9021 9487 mob 0488 799 487



# “Policy by stealth”: Former Deputy Lord Mayor accuses council of edging out city helipad

*The writing is on the wall for Yarra River helipad, which has operated for more than 50 years.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS



Former City of Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor Clem Newton-Brown has accused the City of Melbourne of creating a “policy by stealth” that sought to push out the city’s Yarra River helipad.

Mr Newton-Brown, who served as Town Hall deputy from 1999 to 2001, said the council’s cooling towards the Batman Park helipad “doesn’t make sense”.

On August 15 councillors unanimously endorsed a master plan for the Greenline project, a four-kilometre Northbank trail from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge, which noted that the helipad “impacted the park experience”.

It follows previous findings, including from the 2019 Yarra River-Birrarung Strategy, which were similarly critical of the helipad as having “adverse impacts on the experience and amenity of this important green space”.

Crucially, the master plan also committed to exploring new options for the former screen house building, which the council currently leases to helicopter charter Microflite.

Mr Newton-Brown, now CEO for aviation consultant Skyportz, said it had become clear the council was looking to push the helipad away from Batman Park.

“The policy has been created by default. It’s essentially snuck into other policies such as the Yarra-Birrarung Strategy, the Transport Strategy,” he told councillors at the August 15 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“There has never been an actual consultation with the industry, with the existing operator, with potential future operators of that site ... there’s an existing operator there that employs 40 people and 20 aircraft.”

“They take 20,000 tourists a year out to regional Victoria ... it’s an icon of Melbourne and certainly the events that happen in Melbourne wouldn’t be the same without the promotions that helicopters provide for the Grand Prix, Spring Racing Carnival etc.”

He urged councillors to call for a review of the helipad’s future that sought input from both sides.

“There’s a bit of a disconnect there. It would be good for council officers to do a report, bring in state government, bring in the players, bring in the people who are impacted by this policy by stealth, I suppose, to remove that.”

However, Cr Rohan Leppert argued recent policy findings were clear.

“[They are] inconsistent with the growth of the helipad into an electronic aircraft hub of any type. I think it’s procedurally fair for us to continue to design policy in the interests of the public,” he said.

“Of course, the policy doesn’t seek to extinguish any existing use or development right. What happens after those rights expire is an entirely different matter.”

Cr Leppert rebuffed a suggestion that a move to edge out the helipad had “snuck in”.

“I’m surprised to hear the criticism about procedural fairness. I think this process has been as transparent as it could be.” ●

# Portarlington ferry to continue sailing from Docklands

TRANSPORT

The Victorian Government has announced that it will extend its support for the Portarlington to Docklands ferry service in “a boost for tourism and local commuters”.

Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll announced on August 9 that the government had extended funding for the popular travel route to the Bellarine Peninsula for another 12 months.

This means regular work commuters can continue accessing the weekday services to the city, taking more cars off the road and offering an alternative to road or rail travel for people visiting or living in the Bellarine Peninsula.

The government will invest \$2.55 million to extend its support for the Portarlington to Docklands ferry.

Launched in May 2017, in the past 12 months the service has returned to its pre-COVID peak, attracting almost 110,000 users, with a high of more than 15,000 passengers in January 2023.

The funding extension follows the completion of a new terminal for the ferry’s operator Port Phillip Ferries, as well as upgrades by the City of Melbourne to Yanonung Quay, which Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece has previously predicted to become Australia’s busiest commuter port by 2030. ●

# Athletics Day, 2023

WORDS BY *Aletheia*  
GRADE 5/6A - DOCKLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Grades 3 to 6 students at Docklands Primary School all loved our recent Athletics Day! It was so much fun.

During Athletics Day, 2023, there were six events including 100m race, 200m race, hurdles, shotput, discus and high jump. It also included smaller events, such as tug-of-war, javelin throws, sack races and an obstacle course.

These events were divided into age and gender groups, girls and boys (aged eight to nine, 10 to 11 and 12 to 13). I gathered opinions of the older age groups on the day, asking them if they enjoyed the events at athletics.

The first age group I asked were the 10 to 11 girls. I didn’t get time to ask all of the people involved in the day, so this is by majority.

Overall, the most liked event was the 100m, with only one person disliking this out of 12. The second most liked event was high jump. The most liked event for the 12 to 13 girls was 100m sprint, followed by 200m. The 10 to 11 and 12 to 13 boys enjoyed high jump, 100m and hurdles.

As the end of the day was reached, the house relays started! The Grade 2s came to watch and cheer on the Grade 3 to 6 students. Each house sprinted so quickly and tried their best, but



in the end, Barty House was the first house to cross the finish line!

As well as winning the relay, Barty House also won the day overall, finishing on the most points with Goodes House coming second. Barty got around 100 more points than Goodes,



what a milestone!

It was a great day had by all. We are very thankful to the amazing PE teachers, Ms McConnell and Mr Cooper for their organisation, all of the teachers and the parent volunteers for making the day one to remember. ●



Suite 1518, 401 Docklands Drive,  
DOCKLANDS VIC 3008

Tel: (03) 9329 3500  
Mob: 0447 449 779  
W: www.rothlaw.com.au

At Rothwell Lawyers we deliver exceptional legal advice, and always focus on achieving the best outcome for our clients.

- AREAS OF PRACTICE**
- Business Structuring
  - Family Law
  - Commercial Law Issues
  - Insolvency Advice
  - Conveyancing
  - IVOs
  - Debt Recovery and Alternative Dispute Resolution
  - Wills, Estates and Probate



Dance with us at  
The District Docklands!

Street Latin & Urban dance classes  
for adults of all levels



Plus yoga, events & parties,  
wedding dance and more!





**DHANYA, COMMUNITY WORKER**  
I like my hot drinks and sitting at restaurants next to the patio heater.



**ANU, NON FOR PROFIT WORKER**  
I love the weather in winter and going to the snow. The scenery is nice in snowy areas. I also enjoy cycling and walking a lot more in winter than I do in summer.



**SUNNY, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER**  
In the real estate sector spring is the busiest time of the year. So, we like the steadiness of winter because it gives us time and space to be creative and innovative before it gets busy in spring.



**WAYNE, VIDEOGRAPHER**  
I love the fashion. I really enjoy being able to wear my Timberlands and edgy jackets which I can't really do during summer.

# Faces of Docklands

**Question:**

*As we head into spring in Docklands, what will you miss about winter?*

## AI for girls: *Active Interfaces* features as part of *Now or Never*

*Algorithms and their mathematical systems drive the economy and now they are even part of arts festivals.*

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
ARTS & CULTURE

Marika Schwarz is a research fellow at Monash University's Sensilabs with a feel for data.

She has been sitting in the local library for two weeks with a sewing machine and a mirror. Her aim is to show girls that maths doesn't have to be soul-destroying. It can bring comfort and even emotional pleasure.

"I think you won't solve a problem by ignoring it," she said. "It [AI] won't go away. You can find playful and enjoying ways to use

technology on your own terms."

At the heart of the display for the *Now and Never* festival are devices aimed at showing that AI need not be controlling.

Marika is creating squares for a quilt, but she doesn't have to sit at the sewing machine to embroider them.

The machine is controlled by an algorithm called perlon noise she has turned into stitch patterns and manipulated on her laptop.

"You won't find any rules in this," she said of a pattern that had started as a star and been disrupted by noise. "It's all coincidental."

Marika can sit thinking about creating beautiful patterns based on data without having to use a treadle or even move around the fabric.

"My mother taught me embroidery," she said, but her career has moved into data and got her to the point of being paid to undertake research into how patterns can be generated.

Anyone who has created their own patterns



for knitting and embroidery will enjoy a conversation with Marika.

When asked about boredom being a huge factor in repetitive knitting patterns, she called it "random noise". Those who are doubtful about the normalising impact of AI, can have their emotional state read by a mirror that subverts facial recognition technology.

"*Mirror Rituals* challenges the paradigm in data science that sees human emotion as quantifiable," a blurb by the artist claims. "The mirror perceives your emotional state by reading your facial expression and responds with text."

If you stare into the mirror, it writes a little poem that appears on the surface. For Marika, it wrote: "you were composed of beads of sunlight."

*Active Interfaces* is a creative attempt to get girls involved in algorithms and give them some entertainment as well as mastery.

*Active Interfaces*, Library at the Dock, until September 2. ●

**For more information:**  
[nowornever.vic.gov.au](http://nowornever.vic.gov.au)



Melbourne Debt Collectors

Call or email us today on (03) 9329 4455 or  
[admin@melbdebt.com.au](mailto:admin@melbdebt.com.au).

Your Debts Are Our Business

**Payment on collection only**

**Review of your terms and conditions for free when you use our services**

Suite 1518, 401 Docklands Drive,  
DOCKLANDS VIC 3008

**Tel:** (03) 9329 4455  
**Mob:** 0447 449 779

**THE NEW-LOOK 2023 DOCKLANDS DIRECTORY**

For where to shop, eat, stay and play, head to [docklandsdirectory.com.au](http://docklandsdirectory.com.au)

To list your business or for advertising enquiries, Contact: [jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au)

# Docklander

## Urban mushroom farming from a Yarra's Edge apartment

*While the compact nature of apartment living can often attract innovation, it's not often you would have heard of the practice of mushroom farming in such a setting.*

WORDS BY *Sean Car*

They may have only been Docklanders for a short time, but European couple Hughes Martin and Klodjana Uku have already made a big impact by bringing their shared passion for nature and sustainability to the community.

The pair moved to Docklands from Belgium seven months ago for work, with the Albanian-born Klodjana, who was raised in Italy, employed locally by payment services company Worldline (ANZ Worldline).

While she and the Belgian-born Hughes both have a background working in the financial sector, together they share an interest in food and the environment, with Hughes having recently changed careers from banking to landscape gardening.

And, in their spare time at home in their Yarra's Edge apartment, they've been busy establishing and nurturing what Hughes calls an "urban farm" dedicated to growing fresh mushrooms.

The beginnings of their urban farming initiative, named "Fung'Hughes", can be traced back to Belgium before they moved to Australia when Hughes began developing a fascination with mushrooms and the methods for growing them.

"I first heard somewhere that you could actually grow mushrooms in dark and humid places, and then I started looking on the internet; YouTube's algorithm puts me in touch with those nice mycologist channels and then I really got hooked," Hughes told *Docklands News*. "So, we wanted to try here on a bigger scale than what we used to do in Belgium."

And since moving into Docklands, they've wasted no time in turning their passion into a business by establishing all the components necessary to grow high-quality oyster mushrooms, from fructification chambers to "growing tents" on their balcony.

Grown out of organic and local substrate using a completely low-tech and low-energy farming process, Hughes said their mission was to change perceptions of farming and share the message of sustainable food production in an urban environment.

"For people who really enjoy eating mushrooms it's really amazing and it helps the environment afterwards because when you put the substrate that you grow your mushrooms on in garden beds it provides more nutrition for the soil," he said.

"But also when you eat mushrooms there are amazing health benefits. For example, there



are mushrooms that are grown specifically for certain illnesses for helping boost immunity."

"We are both foodies as well, and we really like to eat mushrooms. When you really start researching mushrooms you understand how they're amazing organisms for everything regarding the environment."

With limited space comes a limited capacity to sell too many mushrooms, but Hughes said with sustainability being at the heart of everything they did, they only sold what they could produce.

And the lucky beneficiaries, according to Hughes, had been their neighbours in Yarra's Edge to whom they've spread the word to by dropping flyers in letterboxes – a service he said had been well received.

"We have in our building a lovely lady that already ordered [mushrooms] four times. I think she just loves them!" he said.

"The people that bought from us really love them. Everybody that has tasted our mushrooms seem to really have liked them."

While Klodjana's work commitments mean the couple will soon have to move to Sydney,



Hughes said they had connected with the Docklands Community Garden in an effort to ensure their mushroom legacy lived on in Docklands.

By donating their mushroom waste to their garden, Hughes said he hoped other locals might take up on opportunities to connect with the Docklands Community Garden and learn how to grow mushrooms themselves. ●

**For more information:**  
[instagram.com/funghughes](https://www.instagram.com/funghughes)

## Victoria Point gardens recognised globally as a peace park

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY

Victoria Point's new and expanded native gardens next to Marvel Stadium has, remarkably, garnered international attention, with the urban forest being named a global peace park.

The transformation of the gardens, which was only unveiled on July 23, saw them built and filled with trees and plants with the aim of creating a welcoming green space for residents and visitors alike.

The City of Melbourne, under the Urban Forest Fund, worked with the Victoria Point Owners' Corporation to make the \$1.2 million project possible, which included a contribution from the Development Victoria.

Incredibly, the stunning gardens have now been designated as a global peace park by the International Institute for Peace through Tourism Australia (IIPT), a not-for-profit organisation, in conjunction with Skäl International, a tourism network organisation.

The prestigious nomination for Victoria Point meant it now joined the ranks of other renowned parks and iconic sites around the world that have been instrumental in promoting peace and harmony under the Global Peace Parks initiative.

These included Victoria Falls in Africa; the Bethany Beyond the Jordan, near the Dead Sea; Uganda Martyrs Catholic Shrine, one of the largest Christian pilgrimage destinations in Africa; and the Harrisburg Peace Promenade in the US.



The initiative also aims to create common ground for the community to come together in celebration of their nation's people, land, and heritage, and the common future of all humankind.

Victoria Point's gardens, which span 2000 square metres and feature the sculpture of AFLW legend Tayla

Harris, were awarded the recognition during a ceremony held on Sunday August 27, after members of Skäl International had attended a conference in Melbourne.

An interium commemorative plaque was unveiled at the gardens, with attendees including City of Melbourne councillor Jamal Hakim, Skäl International Melbourne president Tara Strickland, and IIPT Australia president Gail Parsonage.

Also present was Victoria Point owners' corporation (OC) chair Dr Janette Corcoran, who has led the gardens project since it was conceived in 2017.

Dr Corcoran expressed her joy and gratitude for the gardens' dedication, which she hoped would be the start of something great for Docklands.

"Docklands is still focused upon

visitation, so the tourism industry plays a critical role in that," she said, adding "this is a really great initiative to be a part of".

"What's really good for us is that we're now connecting with a whole different sector ... if we can engage with people in the sector that are really forward looking it helps us rather than trying to do the same old things."

Cr Hakim said the achievement was "not just the creation of a park, but a commitment to nurturing connections and building bridges that span beyond our city, right here in Docklands".

"In a world often divided, projects like these remind us that fostering understanding and celebrating diversity are key drivers of lasting peace," he said. ●



Do you want to make a positive investment into the lives of young people who are overcoming adversity?



Drive for Life-L2P is a driver training and mentoring program for young people aged between 16-21 without access to either a vehicle, a supervising driver, or both. The program removes the barriers to gaining a licence and provides a pathway towards positive role models, developing independent life skills and improved employment prospects.

To find out more about Drive for Life or being a Volunteer Mentor, scan the QR code below or contact us via:

Phone: 0477 408 533

Email: [driveforlifel2p@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:driveforlifel2p@salvationarmy.org.au)



## Men arrested in Docklands after teenager held hostage in CBD apartment

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
CRIME

Six men have been arrested in raids across Docklands and the CBD after a teenager was allegedly kidnapped with attempts made to extort money from him.

Victoria Police said the victim, a 19-year-old Chinese national man, had raised the alarm with a female friend via Chinese messaging app WeChat, saying he was being held hostage by armed men in a CBD apartment.

The 21-year-old woman, also a Chinese national, contacted police on August 16 after receiving the news, in which police allege the men had demanded \$200,000 from the teenager.

Police pounced on an apartment about 1.20am on August 17 where they found the man "without incident".

Three men, all Chinese nationals, were later arrested after search warrants were executed at residential properties in the CBD and Docklands.

All three were interviewed, with a 23-year-old man and a 22-year-old man charged with false imprisonment, attempted armed robbery, common law assault, unlawful assault, extortion, and blackmail.

They faced Melbourne Magistrates' Court on August 18 and were bailed to appear again on November 9.

A 21-year-old man was released pending further enquiries.

Detectives arrested three more men aged 23, 25, and 27 in Docklands on August 21.

All three Chinese nationals were interviewed in relation to the alleged kidnapping and released pending further enquiries while police investigate.

Earlier this year Victoria Police issued a public warning about several scams that were predominantly targeting Mandarin-speaking Chinese students.

"These scams often involve fake information being provided to victims in order to extort money from them," police said.

"Victims are often threatened by people falsely claiming to be Chinese government officials or police and asking for large sums of money to be transferred in order to prevent the victim being charged or deported."

Anyone with information about scams is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au) ●

DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

## Docklands Community Forum on safety and policing

“

*On Wednesday evening, August 9, the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) hosted a community forum on local policing in Docklands.*

”

In attendance were our Neighbourhood Policing coordinator Senior Constable James Vass; City of Melbourne director of City Safety, Security and Amenity, Dean Robertson (pictured above) and two representatives from Liquor Control Victoria.

The purpose of this forum was to offer the community an opportunity to engage with those responsible for safety in Docklands.

Attending on the evening were a small group of concerned and invested Docklands residents who raised various issues of concern.

While many of these issues were not new, this forum provided the opportunity to let the authorities know how necessary their actions are to our quality of life in our homes and suburb.

In particular (and not in order), these were some of the issues raised as of most significant importance:

- Safety of pedestrians with the increase of e-bikes and e-scooters along Harbour Esplanade (east footpath) and NewQuay.
- Lazy and/or illegal parking of e-bikes and e-scooters at the end of a ride e.g., blocking driveways, entrance doorways and footpaths.
- The unruly behaviour of some Marvel Stadium patrons – mostly post-game or event



- Theft and/or damage by tailgating into private car parks – theft from cars and storage cages, motorbikes, bicycles, and letterbox mail and parcels.
- Loud and unruly behaviour of some of the party boats and private boats. This issue was largely unnoticed while ATET was operating.
- Several incidents of loud, abusive, and overly intoxicated patrons exiting late-night venues with seemingly little or no regard for nearby residents.

Feedback from attendees was that they felt their concerns were understood by Victoria Police and the City of Melbourne, but that regular conversations should be held.

President of DRG Ben Ball said it was pleasing that several direct actions came of the evening, such as the tasking of bike patrols on Harbour Esplanade and NewQuay Promenade to promote more responsible micro vehicle operation.

A second forum on safety will be held later this year. ●

**For more information:**  
[docklands.org.au](http://docklands.org.au)

## Power Melbourne rounds out community workshops in Docklands

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
SUSTAINABILITY

A community battery scheme to bring renewable energy to apartment buildings has finished a series of workshops with local leaders.

The final workshop with a select group of "Power Melbourne" volunteers, to be held at Community Hub at the Dock on August 31, looks to further understand how neighbourhood batteries can work in an inner-urban context.

The initiative aims to give everyone (not just homeowners) access to affordable renewable energy through a series of mid-scale batteries, with the first three set to be installed at Library at the Dock in Docklands, Boyd Community Hub in Southbank and Council House in the CBD in 2024.

Most apartment dwellers, and by extension Docklanders, are locked out of renewable energy options like rooftop solar.

However, Power Melbourne hopes to eventually solve this by storing cheap, renewable energy in a network of batteries throughout the city.

In April, project partners the City of Melbourne, Port Phillip and Yarra selected 25 "community champions" from a broad range of backgrounds to represent their communities and operate as sounding boards on the initiative.

Since this time, the volunteers have taken part in training to understand more about neighbourhood batteries and share details of the initiative within their personal and professional networks.

Feedback volunteers share from their community conversations will be integrated into the findings of the project, according to the City of Melbourne.

"Our landmark Power Melbourne project will help to transition city businesses and residents to renewables – creating more efficient, affordable and green energy," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"We know access to affordable clean energy sources is vital, and we're continuing to work with our community champions to better understand the needs of each neighbourhood."

Power Melbourne is part of a wider push to have the entire City of Melbourne municipality powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

For more information: [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne) ●

## Students shine as vocational training boosted in Docklands

WORDS BY *Edmund Coleman*  
EDUCATION

After migrating from Afghanistan, Ali Akber Rezaie worked in a meat factory before a friend introduced him to automotive body repair. In August, Ali won bronze in "Autobody Repair" at WorldSkills Australia's 2023 National Championships.

Ali studies at Kangan Institute's Automotive Centre of Excellence in Docklands and described the National Championships as "the greatest experience I've ever had".

"It was only three days, but the experience was far beyond my expectations," Ali said.

Other medallists include Tom Saxon (Silver) and Josh Darmody-Schembri (Bronze) in the Motorcycle Mechanics division, and Dylan Hoskin (Silver) in Automotive Refinishing.

Kangan Institute's marine mechanical technology apprentice Joachim Lopez-Valoa has also been named Victorian School-based Apprentice of the Year, who is also pursuing training in Docklands.

The students' success coincided with National Skills Week from August 21 to 27, which aims to raise the status of practical and vocational qualifications and training.

The Chair of National Skills Week, Brian Wexham, spoke about a need to "debunk the perception that Vocational Education and Training (VET) is a secondary option rather



▲ Kangan's Ali Akber Rezaie.



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp (second from left) at Monash College.

than a first choice."

Mr Wexham highlighted the fallacy that VET "is somehow less prestigious or valuable than a university qualification," saying "there is a need to disseminate career information to students and the wider public providing a more comprehensive understanding" of occupations that required a vocational training.

During the past year 60 per cent of total employment growth has been in occupations that require a vocational qualification while 36 per cent has been in university qualified

professions.

National Skills Week comes with the theme of "What are you looking for?" and aims to celebrate the diversity of career pathways available, including New Energy and Women in Non-traditional apprenticeship programs.

Ron Maxwell, CEO of VERTO, a sponsor of National Skills Week, said, "while there is a common misconception that apprenticeships are for those who don't make it into university, the reality couldn't be further from the truth. Apprenticeships offer a wide range of career

options that can see you earning more than university graduates on qualification."

According to Jobs and Skills Australia, occupations in highest national demand range from Registered Nurses and Child Carers, to Chefs, Electricians and Gardeners.

In conjunction with National Skills Week, Lord Mayor Sally Capp was in Docklands on August 25 to launch "Future Skills" at Monash College, a newly established division of the prestigious institution aimed at providing students with skills and qualifications designed to meet industry challenges and future workforce needs.

The college, opened on Collins St in Docklands last year, says that it will offer students, corporates and the community vocational skills-based programs focusing on IT, cyber security, leadership and business, and courses to bolster the health and care industry.

Monash College's executive director Future Skills Jane Trewin said, "the establishment of the 'Monash College Future Skills' is in response to industry demand for micro-credentials and digital skills." ●

**For more information:**  
[nationalskillsweek.com.au](http://nationalskillsweek.com.au)

# The agency putting community first

*In the Yarra's Edge precinct of Docklands, Real Estate Services by Mirvac has made community its focus, becoming integral to daily life in this stunning waterfront location.*

REAL ESTATE

With a high-visibility office on the boardwalk, managing director Matthew Matthews has built a team of nine property managers and sales agents who deal exclusively with Mirvac properties.

For renters, the RES by Mirvac customer-centric business model comes as a new and refreshing experience. The agency's speedy response to requests for maintenance and repairs delivers an equal benefit to landlords whose investment property is occupied by renters who value being treated with respect.

To Matthew Matthews, it's an approach that fulfils one of the pillars of the Mirvac Difference - caring for customers long after the sale is complete.

"Yarra's Edge is an extraordinarily tight-knit community, and we feel very much part of the fabric of life," Mr Matthews said.

"Mirvac established RES by Mirvac in 2014 to ensure their customers could enjoy an end-to-end service and that ethos extends to the way we treat our renters."

"Our business model is based on mutual respect, and we come to work each day wanting to make a positive difference in people's lives."

The day-to-day operations of the RES by Mirvac team are led by office manager Leanne Telford who has successfully introduced efficiencies through technology and data-based systems while also building a culture that values relationships with the Yarra's Edge community.

Water bowls outside the office reveal how deeply embedded the RES by Mirvac team is at Yarra's Edge. Residents out walking their dog will regularly stop by to let their pup take a break and have a friendly chat with the team, most of whom are as dog-obsessed as the locals.

RES by Mirvac has been the main sponsor for the Walk for PetWellness since inception, raising funds to support the animal charity Second Chance Animal Rescue.

The launch of the bi-monthly *Your Yarra's Edge Magazine* last year was conceived as a



▲ The team at RES By Mirvac, Yarra's Edge.

way to bring the community together after the isolation of COVID.

"There are so many interesting characters who live among us here at Yarra's Edge and we feel privileged to be part of this incredible community," Mr Matthews said.

"In return we have built up a high level of customer loyalty, people who look to us for all their property needs." ●

**For more information:**  
[resbymirvac.com](http://resbymirvac.com)

# Building business with your bank

*Since taking the leap into business in 2009, Yong Bin Im, owner and operator of specialty Korean supermarket and grocery stores, KT Mart, has had a dedicated team in his corner supporting him.*

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

Since migrating to Australia from Korea, Mr Im's parents have formed the cornerstone of the family businesses success, which has seen KT Mart grow to four locations across Melbourne.

Alongside the Im family since those early days, providing sound financial and business support with merchant facilities, has been Josephine Tan, owner manager of Bank of Queensland (BOQ) Docklands, and her branch manager, Belinda Wynn.

"We have helped them purchase homes, we have helped them purchase warehouses, we have helped them with their personal finances and loans ... they feel more like friends than they do like clients," Ms Tan said.

"With their new location on Elizabeth St, we provided a \$1.5 million equipment finance loan



▲ From left: BOQ Docklands' Belinda Wynn, Chul Son Im, Yong Bin Im and Josephine Tan.

for the store's fit-out. It helped purchase things like fridges, shelves, and freezers."

"It has been amazing to see Yong's success, and I can feel the city is getting back to what it was. New shops and restaurants are popping up everywhere, and we are happy to be there for our customers to support them in this business rejuvenation."

BOQ's Business Term Loan provides owners with 30-year loan terms and up to 85 per cent loan-value-ratio.

Mr Im, whose whole family employs the services of BOQ Docklands, told *Docklands News* that without Ms Tan and Ms Wynn, they would not have enjoyed the success they shared today.

"We have been with them a very long time.

Without their help, we wouldn't have been able to open this store," Mr Im said.

"When Belinda became relationship manager of the branch, she helped me with our finance. She has been amazing throughout this whole time. I have no doubt, without their help, we wouldn't have been able to succeed, and we wouldn't be able to open so many shops."

Mr Im said the response since opening their new location at 544 Elizabeth St earlier this year had been overwhelming.

KT Mart boasts a large range of exclusively sourced groceries, beer, liquor, and homewares imported directly from Korea.

"We are one of the only Korean specialty supermarkets in Melbourne. A lot of our produce is sourced directly from Korea," Mr Im said.

"We mainly focus on Korean groceries, but also stock Japanese and Chinese goods. Our most popular items are things you don't normally get from traditional supermarkets like kimchi, specialty packet noodles, and ready-packed Korean BBQ ingredients."

To find your nearest KT Mart store, visit [ktmartmall.com.au](http://ktmartmall.com.au). To speak with a member of the BOQ Docklands team, call 9248 0188. ●

**For more information:**  
[boq.com.au/business/loan-and-finance](http://boq.com.au/business/loan-and-finance)

# New café and gelato bar open at The District

*Calling out to locals and bringing them together. That is inspiration behind Vuvu Telo, Docklands' newest café at The District's Market Lane.*

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

Docklanders can expect the usual array of café essentials like great coffee, pastries, baked goods, alongside a range of unique South African inspired delicacies including a dish



described "as the most delicious dish you can ever eat."

Sindy Smith and her family are the team behind Vuvu Telo. She told *Docklands News* the response from "locals has been promising," sensing they were looking for "something unique, different and delicious."

"We come from a family with restaurants in South Africa and

Mozambique, and that is where the influence comes from," Ms Smith said. "We grew up in the industry and when we saw there was an opening at The District, we just thought absolutely."

"We want to bring our African heritage and carnival vibes to the District and create delicious menus and food available to everyone."

"Bunny Chow is a dish unique to South Africa and has become incredibly popular. It is one of the most renowned dishes that has come out of the country, and if you ask anyone there, they'll say it is the most delicious dish you can ever eat."

Also on the menu you'll find charcuterie boards, grazing platters, freshly baked gourmet rolls and

toasted sandwiches that include an interesting mix of ingredients like balsamic, blueberry, goats cheese and spinach or the Hawaiian with pineapple, streaky bacon and mozzarella.

Joining Vuvu Telo as new neighbours at The District is C9 Chocolate and Gelato.

C9 Chocolate and Gelato offers premium-quality house-made gelato, desserts, and treats for every chocolate lover. For those craving something sweet, the C9 dessert bar is a must-try.

"It's never about a dessert for us, it's our first love and our biggest passion," owner Marzieh Rezaei said. "We make gelato like no one else and make sure each one of our client's taste buds feels satisfied."

"Not only do we want to provide high-quality products but also wish to be the best gelato and dessert shop in Australia. We make absolutely no compromises on quality or quantity. Therefore, our ice creams, gelatos, and desserts are worth buying."

Also at The District is "Movies on Us" promo: spend \$50 or more at participating cafes and restaurants from 5pm to 9pm on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday nights in September and October and receive a bonus Hoyts voucher worth \$26.50. ●

**For more information:**  
[thedistrictdocklands.com.au](http://thedistrictdocklands.com.au)

STATE MP



# Melburnians are struggling to afford food and rent

*“I can’t buy fruits, vegetables or even toilet paper.”*

“My rent has risen \$400 a month.”

“I haven’t seen a dentist for years and have constant pain in my mouth.”

“I have spent all of my savings on food and rent and now I’m facing homelessness.”

These are just some of the stories that came out of a recent cost-of-living survey, from residents in Melbourne’s inner city. The cost-of-living continues to soar, and Melburnians are really struggling just to make ends meet.

People shouldn’t have to choose between buying food or going to the dentist and keeping a roof over their head. That’s why the Greens and I are pushing the Labor Government to tackle the cost-of-living crisis.

Unfortunately, the Victorian Labor Government isn’t taking the urgent actions needed to address this crisis and in some ways they’re even making things worse.

The state government’s budget had absolutely nothing in it for renters or public and affordable housing, and they increased the price of public transport fares to \$10 a day!

One of the biggest strains for people is soaring rent prices. A recent report showed 82 per cent of renters are experiencing rental stress. So, we’ve been fighting hard for a cap

on the amount that rents can be increased each year. Rent caps already exist in the ACT and other countries like Spain, where they’ve been able to keep inflation low because of these targeted policy measures.

But at the National Cabinet recently, the Labor Government locked in unlimited rent increases, and refused to set a cap on rents or take any other meaningful action to reduce the pressure for renters.

We need urgent action to address the problems people are facing. I don’t want to see more Victorians forced into homelessness. I’ll keep fighting for a society where everyone can afford the things, they need to live a good life.

Right now, we’re running a survey to hear from people in our community on how the cost-of-living crisis is affecting them, and their thoughts on the sort of change that will make a real difference for everyday Victorians.

If you’d like to share your thoughts, please head to: [vicgreensmps.typeform.com/costof-living](http://vicgreensmps.typeform.com/costof-living) ●



*Ellen Sandell*  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE  
[OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM](mailto:OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM)

CHAMBER UPDATE

# Spring brings even more in Docklands

*As the weather finally gets warmer and we begin to feel spring in the air the events just keep coming.*

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

Docklands hosted the site of the launch of the City of Melbourne’s new Now or Never Festival last weekend.

We had the absolute pleasure of showcasing the Melbourne-grown, larger-than-life Art Trail which was a truly spectacular site to be seen along 1.2 kilometres along Victoria Harbour. Seven large-scale installations were on display and included live-data projections, knots and crosses and fog and smoke bubbles.

It was an amazing sight to behold as visitors were mesmerised and captivated. We hope that this is the start of more AI and light projection

projects and promotions to be featured in Docklands.

If you’re like me and an old-school *Friends* fan, from September 1 to November 26, you can step inside the world of *Friends* at The District Docklands.

This is a must for all die-hard *Friends* fans to experience the sets and iconic photo ops with props and costumes. This is just one of many upcoming events happening at this exciting location so visit The District Docklands online for all the booking details.

We are also eagerly awaiting the return of the 2023 Melbourne International Boat Show for the second year.

This year it will run from Thursday, October 26 to Sunday, October 29. This is the largest event for the local marine industry which attracts thousands of keen boaters, water sport enthusiasts, fishing aficionados and visitors both nationally and internationally.

And, of course, with plenty of entertainment and refreshments from our Docklands businesses to enjoy. Catch you there!

[docklandsc.com.au](http://docklandsc.com.au) ●

SENATOR LINDA WHITE

# Voice debate requires respect on all sides

*The referendum later this year to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament will be a big moment for our nation.*

WORDS BY *Senator Linda White*  
[SENATOR.WHITE@APH.GOV.AU](mailto:SENATOR.WHITE@APH.GOV.AU)



Whether you vote “yes”, “no” or you are still making up your mind, the Voice is an important national issue that a lot of people feel passionate about.

Australia is a democratic country, and so we should be able to put forward our opinions and try to persuade others of our point of view.

But as the referendum gets closer it is also crucial that the conversations we have are respectful and sensible and grounded in good faith.

Like most Australians, I believe that just because you might disagree with someone’s point of view, it doesn’t give you the right to attack or harass them.

That’s why I was disturbed to hear from YES Campaign volunteers I know based in Lilydale that a recent YES Campaign meeting was hijacked by people yelling racist abuse and showing Nazi symbols.

Volunteers at the meeting were understandably shaken and horrified by the behaviour, which saw masked people shouting offensive abuse about Indigenous Australians.

There is no place for this sort of behaviour in discussions about the Voice. At a minimum,

people who want to make up their mind about the referendum should be able to attend public meetings to get the information they need without fear of being attacked or harassed by the extreme right-wing.

I have written in this newspaper before that I will be saying yes to the referendum later this year. It’s clear that our current strategies to close the gap for Indigenous Australians aren’t working, so we have to do something different.

After spending a lot trying to improve the lives of First Nations Australians, the Voice will help government practically improve the lives of First Nations Australians in areas like health, housing, education, and employment.

But in every conversation I have with Victorians about the Voice, I will make sure that I am being respectful, sensible and fair in putting forward my point of view.

This is the least we can do to make sure that the referendum debate stays focused on constructive discussions about respect, hope and reconciliation.

If you have any questions about the Voice to Parliament referendum, please feel free to get in touch with my office on 03 9639 2798. ●

MAKING MOVES

# Six tips to boost your Docklands business with local marketing – part one

*Docklands has long been known for its wonderful local enterprises and innovative spirit.*



WORDS BY *Mo Hamdouna*  
[MOWORKS.COM.AU](http://MOWORKS.COM.AU)

However, things are still challenging for our neighbourhood businesses as they need to up their marketing game to support transforming Docklands into the thriving destination we all want it to be.

“Rather than solely focusing on drawing new people to our businesses, we’re shifting the aim to captivate local residents who already spend their time in the area,” Aiman Hamdouna, co-founder & CEO of Hatch Quarter, said. “Let their positive experiences be our best advertisement.”

Here’s the first instalment of our six-step guide to mastering local marketing and engaging the local audience.

### Docking on the digital map for local SEO

Businesses in Docklands should prioritise local SEO (search engine optimisation) as more people turn to online searches to find local experiences. The goal will be to make sure that Docklands firms are prominently visible when potential clients seek relevant services in the region, from optimising for “near me” searches to obtaining favourable internet reviews.

### Marketing that is ethical and sustainable

Environmental impact has always been a priority for Docklands. Businesses will need to include sustainable practices in their marketing plans in the upcoming decade to demonstrate their dedication to the planet and moral business practices.

### Local reviews from local customers

As cautious online users, the first thing people notice is often the reviews given on the Google My Business listing. A positive review or testimonial can demonstrate to local customers that you are a business they can trust. Investing time into creating a strategy or capturing customers’ thoughts at POS is a great way to boost your reviews!

The significance of marketing agencies with a forward-thinking perspective becomes clear as we negotiate this digital change. When seeking additional marketing help, choosing a team that is prepared to lead businesses through this digital renaissance is crucial.

In essence, there is opportunity in marketing to your fellow Docklands locals.

Come back next month for part two with our three other key tips, as well as a bonus one! ●

# Action on the Control Tower

*Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) is happy to report Development Victoria (DV) action finally on the rapidly degenerating Shipping Control Tower on North Wharf. Hopefully, Docklands residents will be happy about this too.*

MMHN has long been advocating for DV to begin remedial stabilisation works to halt the degeneration of this significant maritime infrastructure. DV has finally started the process, albeit in a heavily bureaucratic manner (and not a moment too soon!)

DV has issued the “North Wharf Shipping Control Tower – Remediation Works Contractor – Forward Notice”.

DV is seeking to engage a suitable construction contractor to deliver the remediation works to the North Wharf Shipping Control Tower in Docklands. Works will include, but not limited to:

- **Structure Remedial Works** – re-render external Shipping Control Tower, concrete repair, replacement of all external windows
- **Building Services Remedial Works** – make safe electrical, test lightning protection system to ensure compliance.

The construction works are forecast to commence in December 2023 pending contractor availability. We note that compulsory site inspection will occur in August 2023. For more information: [docklandsnews.com.au/control-towers-condition-scrutinised/](https://docklandsnews.com.au/control-towers-condition-scrutinised/)

Turning now away from MMHN and Docklands precinct happiness (happiness has become a popular topic), the United Nations publishes an annual World Happiness Report, once again scoring Finland in the top spot.

Countries such as Scotland, New Zealand and Germany already include wellbeing measures in their budgets. Our Australian Treasurer has recently issued the *Measuring What Matters Report* to track our wellbeing.

But, what about the happiness of seafarers?

We should certainly care about seafarers. After all, seafarers are responsible for transporting more than 90 per cent of the world's goods and fuels. This became especially evident to us all during COVID. The global supply chain is still not operating at optimum efficiency.



The workload for seafarers has been relentless since the outbreak of COVID and is clearly taking its toll.

The Mission to Seafarers launched the Seafarers Happiness Index in 2015, providing everyone working at sea the chance to share how they feel, and talk about the good and bad

about their life at sea today.

Published in July 2023, the Mission to Seafarers Index reveals the effects of COVID on the welfare of international seafarers and their families. The report makes it clear that the seafarer community is grappling with a mental health crisis.

The report shows the continuing decline of happiness at sea, largely due to the inability of seafarers to sign off and return home. Heavy workloads, virus fears and a perceived lack of COVID precautions on board vessels are exacerbating the decline in satisfaction.

Vessels are sailing with smaller crews, there is increased sickness on board and a pressure to keep hygiene standards at almost hospital-like levels. The demands of meeting these standards while also maintaining social distancing are relentless and seafarers are struggling to adhere to new guidance. Indications are that globally seafarers “are in the midst of a welfare crisis”.

Read the report here: <https://www.mission-toseafarers.org/news/latest-seafarers-happiness-index-report-reveals-seafarer-welfare-crisis-at-tipping-point> (QR CODE)

Data for the Seafarers Happiness Index is collected via a 10-question survey. The questions asked aims to collect the thoughts and feelings of seafarers on their lives at sea, focusing on a range of different issues. Areas that are covered include mental health, physical wellbeing, general working life and family contact.

#### What can we individuals do?

Given that people living in the Docklands precinct are likely to have a heightened awareness about the less than easy daily lives of seafarers, Docklanders may like to make contact with Melbourne's two seafarers services organisations:

**Stella Maris**, Little Collins St in the CBD. Stella Maris is looking for volunteer ship visitors and bus drivers! Can you volunteer a few hours of a day or evening per week? If so, please contact the centre manager Lee-Anne on 03 9629 7494. [stellamaris.org.au](https://stellamaris.org.au)

**Mission to Seafarers**, Flinders St, Docklands. There are so many opportunities for volunteers to assist the team at the Mission to Seafarers on a wide range of tasks – just four hours a week can make a real difference. If you like to drive, hop into one of their 11-seater shuttle buses and pick up seafarers from docks. Email [info@missiontoseafarers.com.au](mailto:info@missiontoseafarers.com.au) ●



Jackie Watts

CHAIR OF MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK

[JACKIEWATTS@NETSPACE.NET.AU](mailto:jackiewatts@netspace.net.au)

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

# How emotions can change with the weather

“

*Do you love the cosy feel of winter or the warmth of the sun? Or maybe you enjoy cooler days and find relief from the heat?*

”

No matter your favourite season, the weather has a big effect on your mood – more than you might think. It can make you want to help others, be social, or even go on a date.

#### Feeling the heat: how it affects you

Sunny days often bring good times like hanging out with friends or enjoying outdoor

activities. But did you know that higher temperatures can sometimes make people more aggressive? Research shows that when it's hot, there can be more fights, arguments, and even road rage. This is even worse on humid days.

#### Chilling out: how the cold changes mood

When the seasons shift, some people feel down due to something called Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). It's like a cloud of sadness that comes with colder weather. With SAD, you might feel less happy, have low energy, and not enjoy things you used to love. This happens because there's less sunlight, which affects hormones like melatonin and serotonin.

SAD can show up in different ways:

- You might lose interest in things you usually enjoy.
- You could end up sleeping more because you feel tired.
- Feeling both slow and restless at the same time.
- It's harder to focus and concentrate.
- You might have more negative thoughts.

#### Exercise: a bright spot in changing moods

In times of changing weather, exercise can be like a ray of sunshine. It can help improve your mood when the weather tries to bring you down. When skilled hands work on your body, it triggers relaxation that can lead to good things:

- **More happy hormones:** exercise can make your brain produce more serotonin; the chemical that makes you feel happy. This can fight off the sad feelings that colder weather might bring.
- **Less stress:** when your muscles are worked, it makes you feel relaxed and less stressed.
- **Feeling better:** exercise can make your overall mood better by reducing the stress hormone called cortisol. This can help you feel less sad during gloomy days.
- **Mind and body together:** exercise helps your mind and body work together in harmony. This can keep your emotions more stable.
- **Taking care of you:** choosing exercise is like saying yes to self-care. When you take

care of yourself, you're better prepared to handle whatever the weather throws your way.

So, whether it's sunshine or snowflakes outside, remember that exercise can be your friend. It's a way to find calm and balance when the weather messes with your feelings.

Finally, if you want to cheat a little, you can get all the benefits above from therapies such as massage, chiropractic and physiotherapy. ●



Dr Mike Edgley

CHIROPRACTOR

[DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU](https://docklandshealth.com.au)

WE LIVE HERE

# Short stays “out of control”

*The woeful inadequacy of the state’s short-stay legislation remains in the spotlight, with heightened tension in municipalities throughout the state.*

City and rural councils are being faced with mounting resident complaints of noise, parties, nudity, assault, and property damage.

The intensity is increasing as party-lovers emerge from their pandemic-induced hibernation, as if making up for lost time. And with zero consequences, the behaviour is worsening.

The short-stay industry is a huge commercial business for many operators. Data collected by insideairbnb.com shows that 50 operators control 543 listings in Port Phillip. These 50 businesses are each managing up to \$20 million in property assets. All up, there is potentially a monumental \$1 billion in short-stay assets in Port Phillip – a big business by any measure.

The fallout from the continual social disruption has led to a groundswell of support and media coverage for a local resident advocate in the city. The advocate has shocking evidence of short-stay visitors assaulting residents with threatening language, including homophobic slurs, in common areas.

The short-stay chaos in Victoria is an abject disgrace and must be stopped.

### Short-stay metastasis – state-wide

Short-stay impacts are being felt the breadth of the state – Warrnambool, Bass Coast, Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula and Port Phillip. The alpine town of Bright is beleaguered by almost as many short-stay properties as the NSW tourist hotspot, Byron Bay.

These councils have taken direct action or expressed their frustration with the lack of action by the state government. As the third tier of government, councils are reluctantly stepping into the breach and enacting fundamental reforms to stem the contagion.

With an election on the horizon, now is the time for the

Victorian Labor Party to formulate its policy in response to the shocking housing crisis. If the policies continue to be ineffective, the party risks losing ground across the state.

### Industry welcomes micro-tax

For multinational corporations domiciled in putative tax havens, a new tax is fine and dandy – if somebody else pays it.

The state government’s proposed \$5 micro-tax on short-stay guests has elicited fawning praise from industry leaders. Revealingly, other operators in the short-stay industry are bemoaning the token one or two per cent that this proposed tax represents.

At least we are hopeful, now that we see the first timid moves from the state government indicating that they may be aware of rising community anger.

### What’s next?

The Victorian community has been suffering eight years of government inertia.

In 2015 the government promised to address only the party issue and even for that modest aspiration it has failed dismally. The so-called “Airbnb party” Act has proven ineffective. Of the 50 cases brought before VCAT, none have been successful. The problem has persisted and indeed worsened. Victoria needs:

- a state-wide registration system;
- the government to allow owners’ corporations to make rules on shorts stays;
- the government to implement an annual day cap; and
- realistic and enforceable penalties.

Stop procrastinating. All these basic requirements are needed NOW. ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton  
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET



OWNERS’ CORPORATION LAW

# When an owners’ corporation needs to access someone’s apartment

*Lot owners and tenants need to be aware that an owners’ corporation (OC) has a lawful right to serve a notice to gain entry to private apartments, in order to carry out repairs, maintenance and other remedial works.*

WORDS BY Tom Bacon  
STRATA TITLE LAWYERS

The notice in writing must provide at least seven days’ notice to the owner, and if the lot is tenanted, then the notice must go to both landlord and tenant.

Once properly served, the lot owner or tenant must grant entry to the OC and its agents, contractors and servants.

In addition to these very wide powers, an OC may also gain access without providing seven days’ notice, in an emergency, in circumstances where there is a water leak, or an interruption to a service such as electricity, gas, electricity, telephone, water, drainage and the like.

If a lot owner or tenant refuses entry or permission to enter, then the OC may apply to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT)

for a formal order of access.

If an access order is granted, VCAT may also award damages to the OC if the resident’s failure to provide access caused them to incur costs or exacerbated damage to other lots and the common property.

It does not seem to matter if the OC is requiring access to the apartment for one hour, one day or one month.

In a recent case determined in VCAT, an OC in Docklands was granted access by order to enter a unit to erect swing stages to allow for façade repairs.

The lot owner had earlier refused access by seeking to impose unreasonable conditions of entry to their apartment, such as requiring the OC to pay compensation of \$100 per day, and to only enter the apartment during certain hours, and to only have a right of access for a finite duration of time (30 days max).

VCAT awarded the OC \$13,000 in damages, finding that it had incurred more costs in the remedial repairs project by virtue of the delays in not getting access to the apartment, and because it had to complete the remedial repairs in two different stages by coming back to the site at a later time.

VCAT also has a general discretion to award legal costs in special circumstances too.

Therefore, lot owners and tenants need to be very cognisant of their rights and responsibilities when they receive these types of notices from their OC manager or building manager. ●

**THE MOST EXCLUSIVE ESCORT AGENCY**

# Paramour

OF COLLINS STREET

CITY CENTRE  
Melbourne’s exclusive entertainment service.  
Highly recommended for our interstate and overseas visitors

- Dinner Companions
- Social Escorts
- Sensual Ladies

VIP

Paramour’s  
**GRAND RE-OPENING**

Be with the best girls in Melbourne give us a call to pre-organise for opening day due to overwhelming demand

**CITY CENTRE GIRLS**

**9654 6011**

rsvp@paramour.com.au

CBD - 5 MINUTES TO YOUR DOOR  
たくさんの美しい女性  
日本語を話します

# Wish your inbox was more local?

Scan the QR to sign up to our Newsletter

**DOCKLANDS NEWS**



# What's on: September 2023



MONDAY 28 AUGUST – FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

### LEGACY WEEK 2023

Giant teddy bears, ADF and volunteers will be out on the streets of the rattling tins and selling badges to collect crucial funds for the families of our veterans as part of Legacy. For more information or to donate, visit [legacy.com.au/donate](http://legacy.com.au/donate)



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.



**Best Volunteer Opportunity EVER!**

Share your love of sailing to make a real difference!



Making Waves

Monday and Tuesday  
**MAKING WAVES VOLUNTEERS WANTED**  
We're looking for committed/dedicated volunteers to help run our sailing programs for children with disabilities or experiencing social challenges on large racing yachts.  
[makingwavesfoundation.com.au/volunteer](http://makingwavesfoundation.com.au/volunteer)



SEPTEMBER + OCTOBER  
**'MOVIES ON US' AT THE DISTRICT**  
When you spend \$50 or more at participating cafes and restaurants from 5pm to 9pm on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday nights in September and October – you receive a bonus Hoyts voucher worth \$26.50.  
[www.thedistrictdocklands.com.au](http://www.thedistrictdocklands.com.au)

10 YEARS ON

## Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

SEPTEMBER 2013 | ISSUE 90 |

DOCKLANDS NEWS

## Some wheely good news

“

*The first of the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel cabins was installed last month, prompting hope that news of an opening date might not be far away.*

”



“With the installation process now under way we can begin finalising our opening timeline and launch activity,” a Melbourne Star spokesperson said.

“We will be making a series of announcements including details of our launch programme and the exciting new features that are being incorporated into the Melbourne Star in coming months.”

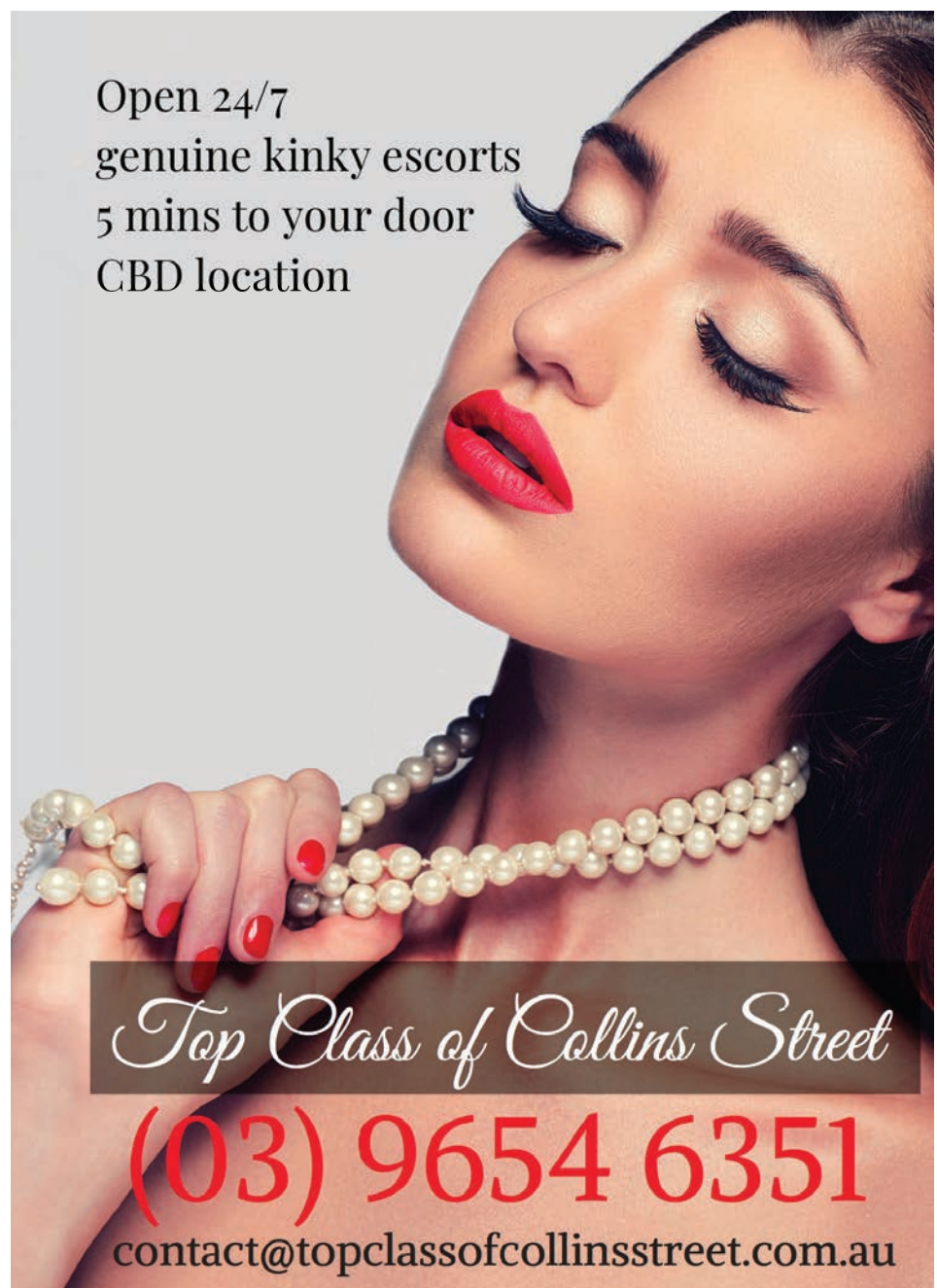
Upon opening the wheel will feature 21 fully enclosed glass cabins, accommodating up to 20 people each.

Each cabin is 5.7 metres long, four metres wide and weighs approximately 13 tonnes.

When *Docklands News* went to press four of the cabins had been installed. At 120 metres high the wheel is around the same height as a 40-storey building.

Visitors to the wheel will experience 360-degree views stretching up to 40 kilometres away, allowing them to see across Docklands, the CBD and Port Phillip Bay and as far away as Mount Macedon, Arthur's Seat and the Dandenong Ranges. ●

Open 24/7  
genuine kinky escorts  
5 mins to your door  
CBD location



*Top Class of Collins Street*  
**(03) 9654 6351**  
[contact@topclassofcollinsstreet.com.au](mailto:contact@topclassofcollinsstreet.com.au)



# Business Directory

## Accounting



Maximising your profits by  
minimising your tax

PH 9603 0066  
www.rubiixbusinessaccountants.com.au

## Fitness



Street Latin & Urban dance classes for adults of all levels  
Plus Yoga, Events & Parties, Wedding Dance & more!

## Pharmacy



Hours: Mon to Fri 8am-8pm & Sat 9am-1pm  
 ☒ Pharmacy ☒ Giftware  
 ☒ Magazines & Papers ☒ Tattoos  
 ☒ Same day dry cleaning

66 Merchant St, Docklands (opposite Safeway)  
 Ph: 03 9629 9922 Fax: 03 9629 9933  
 Email: vicharbourpharmacy@nunet.com.au

Fast-paced yet considerate,  
nuanced yet distinct.

Redefining the Melbourne buying and selling experience.

88 Lorimer Street, Docklands 3008  
 falsomelbourne.com.au  
 t. 03 9052 4665

**falso melbourne**

## Childcare



Ph: 9670 0880  
 admin@giraffedocklands.com.au  
 www.giraffedocklands.com.au



All trainers are University Degree qualified and we come to you!

www.justintimeworkplacehealth.com  
 www.justintimept.com

## Politician




FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

142 Johnston Street, Fitzroy  
 (03) 9417 0772  
 adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au

TRIELLE.MIRVAC.COM



## Community



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

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

## Health & Beauty



SERVICES:  
 ▶ Physiotherapy ▶ Massage ▶ Psychology  
 ▶ Chiropractic ▶ Pilates ▶ Podiatry

HOURS  
 Mon-Fri 8am-7pm | Sat 8am-12pm

4/860 Collins St, Docklands, 3008  
 (03) 9088 3228 www.docklandshealth.com.au

Proudly representing the community in Docklands



Evan MULHOLLAND MP  
 MEMBER FOR NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION

evan.mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au

## Shopping



collinssquare.com.au/whats-on

## Dental



NOW OPEN SATURDAYS  
 Mon-Fri 8:30-5pm  
 (Tue, Thu until 6pm)  
 Sat: 8:30-1pm

57 Merchant St, Docklands  
 T (03) 9021 9487 | mob 0488 799 487  
 (opposite Victoria Harbour Medical Centre)  
 www.docklandsdentalstudio.com.au

www.victoriaharbourmedicalcentre.com.au



Victoria Harbour Medical Centre Telephone 9629 1414  
 2-3/850 Collins Street Docklands 3008 After Hours 13 74 25  
 Entry via Merchant St Fax 9629 4265  
 Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 9am-12 noon



STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

(03) 9328 4637 office@ellensandell.com  
 146 Peel Street North Melbourne VIC 3051



35 Collins St, Melbourne collinsplace.com.au

## Legal Advice



Working with individuals, families & business.

Tel: 9614 5122 Fax: 9614 2964  
 www.pearcewebster.com.au



At Rothwell Lawyers we deliver exceptional legal advice, and always focus on achieving the best outcome for our clients.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Business Structuring
- Commercial Law Issues
- Conveyancing
- Debt Recovery and Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Family Law
- Insolvency Advice
- I/VOs
- Wills, Estates and Probate

## Real Estate



818 Bourke Street, Docklands VIC 3008  
 T: 03 9001 1333

SALES Glenn Donnelly m: 0419 998 235  
 LEASING Lina D'Ambrosio m: 0430 929 851

www.cityresidentialbourkestreet.com.au  
 SELLING | LEASING | PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

For the best fresh produce, gourmet food and specialty shopping, you can't beat Queen Vic Market.

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Saturday & Sunday with plenty of affordable parking.

QVM.COM.AU

## Escorts




Mature Sophisticated Affectionate Discreet Genuine Affordable Escorts  
 paramour.com.au

96503295  
 5 mins to your door!

## Financial




BOQ Docklands  
 Josephine Tan, Owner-Manager 0408 336 838  
 Belinda Wynn, Branch Manager 0408 288 282  
 9248 0188 docklands@boq.com.au  
 facebook.com/boqdocklands mel boq.com.au



WE KNOW VERTICAL LIVING BETTER THAN ANYONE.  
 THAT'S YOUR ADVANTAGE.

9091 1400 | lucasre.com.au

## Transport

# DOCKLANDS NEWS

Talk to Docklands News owner Sean Car  
 T 0433 1920 484 E sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au  
 about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.

# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

# LUCAS

With incredible pride Lucas is celebrating two decades of success! Lucas proudly stands as a family-owned agency renowned in Docklands and inner-city Melbourne. Proudly lead by Baden Lucas and Dylan Emmett, the Lucas name is synonymous with Docklands being the first choice for buyers, sellers, rental provides and tenants alike.

“20 years on, it’s such a sensational achievement to see the group thriving in all areas of the business,” says company founder Glen Lucas. “2023 is a momentous occasion for the agency, marking two decades of successful business operations. While the scale of our business has changed from those early days, the company values has remained the same; service delivered with integrity, and successful outcomes achieved together”.

As we commemorate this remarkable achievement, the Lucas family extends its heartfelt gratitude to our loyal clients, dedicated staff, and supportive community. Your trust has been the cornerstone of our success, and we look forward to continuing this journey for many years to come.



**baden lucas**  
director  
0418 888 751



**dylan emmett**  
director  
0402 465 779



**lynn lum**  
sales executive  
0474 044 293



**cary thornton**  
senior sales executive  
0437 204 556



**serena su**  
sales executive  
0499 083 362



**thomas tregonning**  
senior sales executive  
0413 317 304



**mia chen**  
senior sales executive  
0413 096 455



**mark sutherland**  
sales manager  
0418 691 585



**brooke busuttil**  
sales executive  
0413 590 202



**ricky li**  
sales executive  
0487 888 873



**cherie tomkins**  
sales executive  
0490 816 760



**eva christodoulou**  
business development  
0438 431 345

1303/50 lorimer st, docklands | 2 bed 2 bath 2 car  
baden lucas | 0418 888 751 mia chen | 0413 096 455

1001/90 lorimer st, docklands | 4 bed 2.5 bath 2 car + storage  
baden lucas | 0418 888 751 mia chen | 0413 096 455

702/90 lorimer st, docklands | 2 bed 2 bath 2 car + storage  
baden lucas | 0418 888 751 thomas tregonning | 0413 317 304

305/20 convention centre pl, south wharf | SOLD for \$1,050,000  
thomas tregonning | 0413 317 304

901/320 plummer st, port melbourne | SOLD for \$1,037,500  
brooke busuttil | 0413 590 202

62/9 waterside pl, docklands | SOLD for \$2,000,000  
serena su | 0499 083 362

9091 1400 | lucasre.com.au