

DOCKLANDS NEWS

docklandsnews.com.au

Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P22



A win for Docklands' master of meditation and mindfulness

Docklander Tomas Jajesnica, aka "Mr Meditate", has received a small business award from Lord Mayor Sally Capp for reaching the milestone of 10 years in business. *Full story on page 10.*

Welcome signs in local economy as more office workers return

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
BUSINESS

Green shoots are appearing in the local economy with latest data from the City of Melbourne confirming more workers are returning to the office in Docklands than ever before since the end of COVID-19 lockdowns.

The council's most recent pedestrian data provided to *Docklands News*, which recorded activity for the month of August, showed increases of more than 120 per cent in some parts of the precinct during commuting hours compared with 2022.

The council's pedestrian counters monitor areas at NewQuay and Bourke Street Bridge, as well as near Victoria Point, which respectively showed increases of 32, 82 and 121 per cent during weekday commuting hours of

5am to 10am, and 3pm to 7pm.

While the data may only represent a small sign that Docklands workers are increasing their hours spent in the office, there has been further indication during September that numbers continue to grow as Melbourne enters the warmer months.

The council's inflation-adjusted spending data from August also showed that spending across Docklands increased 12.3 per cent compared to the year prior, while spending in July was also up 5.5 per cent compared with the same month in 2019.

Encouragingly, 88.2 per cent of all spending in Docklands in August was from visitors (people living outside the City of Melbourne municipality), compared to 88 per cent the year prior, and 90.6 per cent in June 2019.

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Family left with no option but to leave Docklands Primary School due to soaring city rents

A single mother of four, who until earlier this year had her 10-year-old son enrolled at Docklands Primary School, has shared her frustration of being forced to move to the suburbs after the rent on her apartment nearly doubled.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
HOUSING

For more than two years up until July this year, Sophia (not her real name) was living in a Spencer St apartment building with her four children. But like so many tenants across Australia at moment amid the housing crisis, she said she risked homelessness had she not acted swiftly in finding a more affordable place to live.

She told *Docklands News* that after hearing about other tenants having their rents more than doubled in some cases in her building, she began the process of securing another property in February in anticipation of falling victim to a similar rent increase.

Despite having an exemplary rental record and having a good relationship with her landlord, she said she knew she had to act quickly to find another place to live, or risk homelessness for she and her children.

Thankfully, after securing a new rental property in Wantirna South for \$700 per week – \$50 higher than her former three-bedroom apartment – she said herself former home was listed for \$1200 a week.

"I got lucky enough to have se-

cured another property because had I decided to stay and just kind of waited it out to see, we definitely would have gone homeless, there's no question about it," Sophia told *Docklands News*.

"There's just no way I was going to pay \$1200 a week as a single mum with four children, two dependent college students, one two-year-old and one 10-year-old. There's just no way; we don't even know what person can afford that sort of rental."

While Sophia managed to avoid homelessness, she said the move to the suburbs had initially proven particularly challenging for her 10-year-old son, who had formed a "really great connection" with Docklands Primary School.

She said her son, who struggled with mental health challenges, had received great support from the school, which had provided critical counselling services and a range of extra-curricular activities.

"He [my son] was really invested in the school, so it was a really difficult decision to say, 'look, we have no choice,'" Sophia said.

"It [Docklands Primary] was the best. Months after it opened, we

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The deadline for the November edition is October 27.

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Victoria's new "Airbnb tax" only benefits Airbnb, and once again unit owners lose out



The Victorian Labor Government has announced a new 7.5 per cent tax on short-stay accommodation, being the first and only Australian state to do so.



The effect of this announcement is a body blow and a real kick in the guts to those apartment owners and residents who have been advocating for reform and regulation in the short-term accommodation sector.

Let's not mince words here – the new tax does nothing to curb the popularity of Airbnb, nor does it do anything to improve the liveability of neighbours and owners' corporations (OCs) that have a desperate problem with the noise and disruption of amenity that short-term stays bring with them.

The new 7.5 per cent tax will be passed on to guests staying in the accommodation. The tax is modest enough to not be too expensive to dissuade customers. Airbnb know this, as do the hosts. As does the Labor government. It will simply be business as usual.

What it does do is further legitimise and

entrench the practice of short-term letting in Victoria for 365 days of the year.

The City of Melbourne had earlier announced a proposal to curb short-term letting, and to introduce a cap of 180 nights per year. Well, less than two weeks later the Andrews Government (and Airbnb) have swiftly acted to put that proposal in the garbage bin.

Just when public interest groups such as We Live Here had finally managed to persuade the council to suggest some serious reform in the area, and now Airbnb and Daniel Andrews see fit to intervene.

You have to feel for Airbnb at this time. Less than a month ago, the new laws in New York City to curb short-term letting had finally taken effect, leaving a devastating hole in the company's revenue.

They had to act quickly, otherwise Melbourne might follow suit. Cue some frenzied lobbying to shore up support from the Labor Government, and poof – problem solved.

The Victorian Government looks great in announcing this reform – they get good headlines to rave about how "tough" they are on big business, and the feel-good factor of raising money for new social housing will provide a boost in ratings no doubt.

Meanwhile – Airbnb get what they want: stability. They get to know that Melbourne is open for business 365 days of the year.

Not 180 days of the year like it is in Sydney. Not like 180 days of the year, like it is in San Francisco and other parts of California. Not 120 days of the year like it is in Paris, or Barcelona.

Melbourne is the fifth largest market in the world for Airbnb. They can now watch the

revenue roll in for decades to come.

It's a classic win-win for the government, and for Airbnb. The only losers happen to be, well, everyone else.

So, did the Victorian Labor Government get played like a fiddle over this tax, or was it a joint approach?

We'll likely never get answers unless there is an upper house enquiry into how this tax was rushed through in five minutes flat.

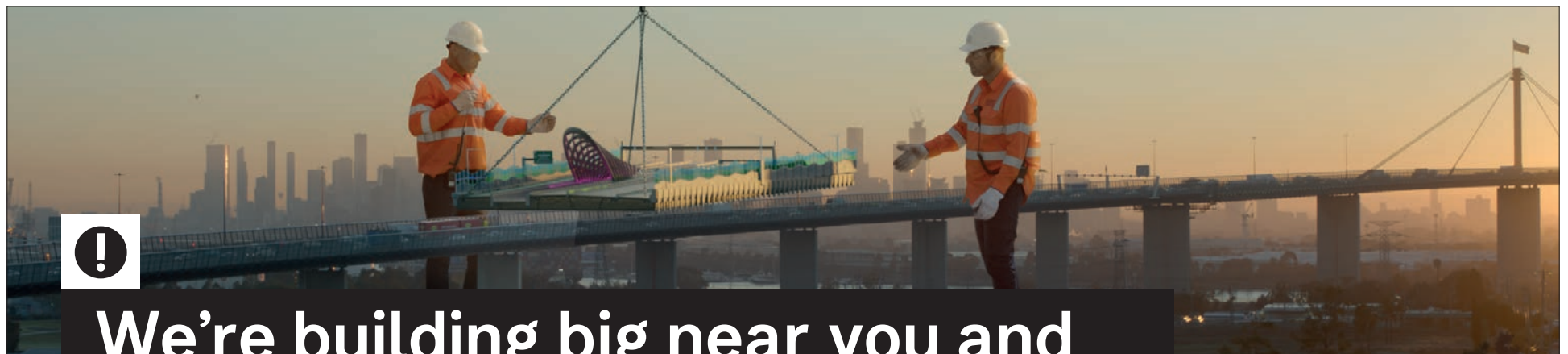
I'm sure there would be great public interest in getting to the bottom of how this happened. I'm not holding my breath though.

A Docklands Representative Group (DRG) spokesperson said, "given it will be an across the board price increase, it is difficult to see that the state government levy will impact the short-stay sector in terms of supply."

"This levy seems primarily about growing a revenue stream for the governments housing strategy, which is fine as far as that goes," the DRG spokesperson said, adding that registration of short-stays, a cap on the number of nights, and legislative changes that empowered owners' corporations to deal with short-stay operators and their guests were urgently required to support the return of apartments to the long-term rental market. ●



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Road disruptions: Roads and lanes closed

La Trobe Street	Until mid-2024	Eastbound lane, between Swanston and Elizabeth streets
Footscray Road	Early Oct to early Dec	Reduced lanes in both directions between Shepherd Bridge and Waterfront Way
Wurundjeri Way and Dudley Street intersection	Early Oct to early Dec	Wurundjeri Way between Dudley and Bourke streets Dudley Street between Footscray Road and Spencer Street



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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Return of the Melbourne Boat Show set to make waves

From tall wooden ships to multi-million-dollar yachts and the latest boating innovation, the 2023 Melbourne Boat Show promises to cater to every boater's dream when it returns to Docklands.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
EVENTS

Berthing at the Docklands waterfront from October 26 to 29, the free event will celebrate everything boating, hosting activities and attractions for the whole family with more than 100 impressive exhibitors to explore.

The Boating Industry Association of Victoria's chief executive Steve Walker said the

show would offer an unparalleled experience on the water's edge.

"We're very excited about the Melbourne Boat Show, the 61st edition of it – it's going to be bigger and better than it was last year," he said with the latest fishing, cruising, ski, wake boarding, pontoon, sailing, jet ski, and bike boats all on show.

"We've expanded the footprint, there will be more exhibitors, there will be a great range of entertainers, stage presenters, educators and a whole lot of family fun."

Attractions include a Nautical Showcase displaying the world's best watercraft, sleek sailboats, and luxury cruising boats, with boat in a bag also on offer, which can be inflated on the water in less than 15 minutes.

At the Supertank live fishing station, attendees can learn to lure a variety of species and if they're hooked, they can get all their fishing gear at Tackle Island.

Visitors can also dive into a sea of fishing gear, and experience expert advice and live demonstrations at the Fishing Fiesta, while

little sailors' activities include a ferry visit to the Heritage and Wooden Boat precinct at North Wharf in what will be a boat show first.

The new attraction will invite people to step aboard the magnificent tall ship *Alma Doepel*, as well as the historic steam tug *Wattle* and the replica topsail schooner, *The Enterprize*.

Adding to the excitement, the show will host workshops and seminars with industry experts sharing their nautical knowledge about safety equipment, boating rules, making weather decisions, and more.

Mr Walker said a "rig rundown" event was also sure to be a drawcard, showcasing a display of Victoria's best 10 specked up after market boats with "all the latest gizmos and gadgets and electronics and fit out".

Last year the event at Docklands attracted more than 30,000 people, which Mr Walker said they were confident of eclipsing as the location was a premier destination.

He said whether people were a novice angler, a seasoned paddler or boatie, the event was not to be missed with prizes up for grabs.

"We've got a great boat show audience with a huge appetite for what we're going to be putting on so we're really looking forward to it. I think it's going to be a great event." ●

For more information:
melbourneinternationalboatshow.com.au



Brendan Rees
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Making waves for breast cancer awareness

“

The Melbourne Pink Phoenix dragon boat team paddles proudly in pink, inspiring breast cancer survivors and the Docklands community alike.

”

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*
HEALTH



The Dragons Abreast Melbourne Pink Phoenix dragon boat team has been paddling for more than a year in Victoria Harbour, creating a safe and fun space for breast cancer survivors and their supporters to get on the water and “get their life back.”

“Just seeing the members who’ve joined over the last year and how much fitter and happier they look just from paddling every week and doing a bit more exercise is great,” the team’s social media coordinator Linda Papworth said.

Ms Papworth was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 at just 31 years old. Although she’d never paddled before or even been a part of a team sport, dragon boating “sounded like something different” to try.

“I didn’t know anyone who had breast cancer, so I didn’t know what to do,” Ms Papworth said.

“A traditional support group of just sitting around and talking to cancer survivors wasn’t something I wanted to do – this is something that takes my mind off everything and allows

me to be around other people who are positive and excited and happy to be learning as well.”

Although dragon boating originates from China, research from Canada found that the sport was particularly beneficial for women recovering from breast cancer as the paddling motion helps reduce the impact of swelling.

Dragons Abreast teams have now formed Australia-wide during the past 25 years, with the idea of not only connecting like-minded people, but also providing an opportunity to improve physical and mental health among breast cancer survivors.

“We really want to show that there is life after breast cancer and there’s still a good life to be had,” Ms Papworth told *Docklands News*.

No experience is needed to join the fleet of pink, with Ms Papworth describing the team as an outlet for breast cancer survivors to “be around other people who understand” and “not feel like you’re alone.”

“Cancer is still a bit of a taboo topic and it’s hard to talk to people about it,” Ms Papworth said.

“If you have a slight twinge or pain or something that’s happened, you’re able to talk about it with someone that understands and they’re not going to shoot you down or not want to hear about it.”

Melbourne Pink Phoenix member Nicole Scott said that joining the team was “the best decision that [she] could have ever made.”

“It’s the most amazing feeling being on the water with not a care in the world, just me and 21 friends and occasionally one seal,” Ms Scott said.

“They are my pink family; a bond that one will never forget.”

Ahead of breast cancer awareness month in October, the Melbourne Pink Phoenix team is offering “come and try” sessions where anyone can paddle for free for the month of October

through the Dragon Pass program.

All equipment and instructions are provided by the team, aiming to “give people an opportunity to try it out for free and experience how good it is.”

“We’d like anyone who’s been touched by breast cancer to consider coming down and having a go - get in the boat and don’t look back.” ●

For more information:
revolutionise.com.au/pinkphoenix



Major closure of Wurundjeri Way and Dudley Street

! In October – December 2023



From 8pm Sunday 8 October until 7am Saturday 2 December 2023, the Wurundjeri Way and Dudley Street intersection will be closed. This is so crews can continue building a new city bypass that will remove traffic from the CBD and better connect the north, city, and the western suburbs.

During this time, Footscray Road will be reduced to one lane in each direction between Shepherd Bridge and Waterfront Way. Use Dynon Road instead.

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melbourne.vic.gov.au/voice

Authorised by Sally Capp in Melbourne on behalf of Melbourne City Council



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Welcome signs in local economy as more office workers return

Continued from page 1.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Daniel Hibberd said while the local economy was still struggling to recover from COVID-19 in many areas, there were some “really positive” signs of trends going in the right direction.

“Spring is definitely bringing people back out to the offices,” Mr Hibberd said. “I think this is the beginning of a trend that will continue in this vein over the next six to 12 months, so we’re really encouraged to see that.”

“Around Marvel Stadium, seeing that we’ve got a few food and coffee venues on Bourke St that have actually started to see lunchtime lines again mid-week, I think that’s really positive – it’s been a long time since you’ve seen that.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it was great to see more workers returning to the office in Docklands aided by the council’s investment in major events in the precinct.

“Melburnians lucky enough to work harbour-side in Docklands are visiting the office at much higher rates than a year ago – as non-stop events, shopping and gold-star hospitality draw office workers back to the city,” Cr Capp said.

“Our investment in Docklands continues to boost the area as a wonderful place to work – from greening the promenade and creating attractive new spaces, to bringing people to the precinct for major events as they clock off for the day, including Now or Never and Firelight Festival.”

Following the lapse of the council’s “night-time economy” committee on June 30, it has since shifted focus to boosting day-time trade through the establishment of a new “city economy advisory committee”.

The Lord Mayor said the committee would “draw on the expertise of business and industry representatives to help us find new ways to bring people into Melbourne across the day”.

The council said it had also provided custom communications materials to the CEOs of city-based companies “featuring the incredible range of activities on offer in the city for inclusion in



I think this is the beginning of a trend that will continue in this vein over the next six to 12 months, so we’re really encouraged to see that.



their internal newsletters and intranets”.

At last year’s Docklands Summit, Kathryn van der Merwe, talent and culture group executive at one of Docklands’ biggest employers ANZ, said bringing office workers back was important as it sought ways to “collaborate and do those things we need them to do when they come into the workspace”.

“We’re not trying to compete with working from home, we’re trying to make it an experience when you come into the workplace feel different ... that’s about coming in together, spending time together in spaces to have shared meals, shared drinks after work,” Ms van der Merwe said at the time.

ANZ’s corporate head office at 833 Collins St is one of nine ANZ offices across Australia, including four in Melbourne.

In an effort to reintroduce convenience elements at 833 Collins St, ANZ has recently added a pop-up 7/11 store that is accessible to its staff and neighbouring office workers, in addition to its three onsite cafes.

An ANZ spokesperson told *Docklands News* that while it has always embraced flexible working arrangements, it said, “increasingly, our



people are demonstrating they want to be in the office, and we continue to focus on making sure the office environment supports this new hybrid world in which we are working.”

“Those team members that can work from home see great benefits basing themselves across the home and office setting. Working alongside colleagues creates a different kind of connection and teamwork than is possible virtually. Working in the office creates opportunities for informal learning and development, and helps establish and maintain interpersonal relationships,” the ANZ spokesperson said.

“We expect our people who can work flexibly to spend 50 per cent of their time in the office.”



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Removal works under way at Central Pier

HERITAGE

The slow process of demolishing the heritage-listed Central Pier has officially begun, with removal works commencing in late September.

The pier’s owner Development Victoria (DV) has engaged Fitzgerald Constructions Australia, a specialist marine contractor, to remove Central Pier from Victoria Harbour.

DV’s acting group head of precincts Anna Hakman said the contractor had completed investigative work on the safest way to remove the pier, paving the way for works to start in September.

“Fitzgeralds have completed investigative work on the safest way to remove the pier, with removal works commencing in late September 2023,” Ms Hakman said.

“Development Victoria will continue to work with Heritage Victoria, the City of Melbourne, the community, and other key stakeholders as this process continues.”

Central Pier was permanently closed in early 2020 due to safety issues, and has continued to deteriorate.

Heritage Victoria approved a permit in October 2022 for DV to remove the unsafe pier structure under the requirements of the *Heritage Act 2017* due to its registration as a place of historical significance to Docklands, and the City of Melbourne.

Last year, DV invited the community to share their visions for Central Pier as part of plans to revitalise the area. All findings from this engagement process are now available online in a Community Engagement Summary Report.

The feedback gained from the community engagement process has been used to inform the development of a Place Principles and Vision document, which will guide the future revitalisation of the area.

DV said the Place Principles and Vision document would be released later this year. ●

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Family left with no option but to leave Docklands Primary School due to soaring city rents

Continued from page 1.

actually moved into that school and he had developed a really great connection with the school itself, despite the fact that he was struggling.

“He had a lot of support in that school. They offered school counselling where he used to see a counsellor every week.”

“He was having piano lessons, he was in soccer – everything was centred around the school, which was wonderful that the school even offered those kinds of things. As well as the psychological support. He really needed those sessions.”

A Docklands Primary School representative said while families didn’t tend to disclose the reasons for relocating their children, it had noticed an increased number of students leaving its school to move out to the suburbs during the past year.

Despite having now settled into a new school and another new community, Sophia and her family’s story is becoming an increasing common one amid Australia’s housing crisis as communities are broken up due to circumstances beyond their control.

She said while general cost-of-living increases were a part of life, in cases whereby rents more than doubled in some instances governments needed to intervene with more support measures for tenants.

“Income goes up, cost of living goes up. The people who own properties also have expenses, and they have to deal with it as well, so if rents don’t increase then we’ll be we’ll just be transferring the crisis from us renters to those owners,” she said.

“But for properties that have doubled without any real valid reason, I’d absolutely be supportive of a rent freeze or something to that effect.”

Victorian Greens MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell, whose party has been calling on the government to introduce rental freezes and caps, said it was “devastating to hear that families are being forced to leave their school and the local Docklands community because of rent rises and huge housing costs”.

“It was a real shame to see that Labor’s recent housing statement did nothing to help renters, and failed to do anything to address skyrocketing rents which are forcing people to leave their communities,” Ms Sandell said.

“The Greens are pushing for an urgent rent freeze and ongoing rent caps to ensure people can keep a roof over their head during this cost-of-living crisis.”

“Unlimited rent increases should be illegal, and I’ll keep pushing for this in Parliament.”

So far, all levels of government have been resistant to proposed rental caps and freezes, with economists arguing that housing supply remains the biggest issue in helping bring rental prices under control. ●

A year on from the Docklands Summit ...

A whole year has already gone by since last September’s all-important “reset” for Docklands, so how are things progressing since?

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Led by the City of Melbourne, key stakeholders from across the precinct were brought together for the Docklands Summit at Marvel Stadium to assess a way forward for a suburb which had been the hardest hit economically from COVID-19 in Australia.

The council still shares responsibility for governing the precinct with Development Victoria (DV), which is expected to remain involved in Docklands for the next decade while remaining development plans with the area’s developers are finalised.

Following the summit, the council released a series of short-, medium-, and longer-term projects in November last year, many of which recognised the need to advocate to and/or partner with DV on areas that remain outside of the council’s control.

But among projects that one might describe as the “low-hanging fruit” were undertaking “immediate beautification and wayfinding improvements” around the precinct, including public benches, public artwork, and additional greening.

This year the council placed some planter boxes around Harbour Esplanade and New Quay, and more are expected to be installed during the course of 2023.

But outside of these efforts, the council was unable to confirm to *Docklands News* whether any further beautification measures were in the pipeline, other than to say it is still working on a “public realm improvement plan”.

While the council’s Sophie Handley said in May that it was looking to reinstall the *Light Buys* artwork along Yarra’s Edge, no plans for additional artwork or greening have yet been actioned or announced.

Other projects included partnering with DV to “deliver physical improvements and a program of small-scaled activations to Yanonung Quay”.

In July, the council managed to secure the “Albert Road Reserve pocket park” from the state government’s Metro Tunnel Creative Program – a decked seating area – which was relocated to Yanonung Quay.

A new stakeholder group for Docklands has also officially been established by the council as a further response to actions arising from the summit, which met for the first time in July as reported in the August edition of *Docklands News*.

The council has also previously committed to partnering with the state government to

create a strategic plan for Docklands reviewing “sub-precinct character and identity”, as well as a “Docklands governance review group”. The council has yet to provide any further updates on these plans.

It also continues to work with DV to review the operational capacity of existing community facilities, including The Hub at Docklands.

Docklands News understands the council is also working on a new marketing campaign to promote the precinct which is expected to be rolled out in the new year.

This campaign stems from a key objective from the summit of ensuring “communications celebrate Docklands and promote events that align with Docklands as a family friendly precinct”.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said she believed the future for Docklands was “bright”.

“Docklands is a unique urban waterfront precinct in the heart of our great city, brimming with opportunities for activation and growth,” Cr Capp said.

“In the next decade, Docklands is set to be home to more than 22,000 people, attract 20 million visitors each year, and welcome 50,000 city workers.”

“We’re continuing to invest in Docklands – from greening the promenade to create attractive new spaces to bring people together to major events like Now or Never, Firelight Festival and New Year’s Eve drawing millions of visitors to support local traders.”

Cr Capp added that working with the state government to support a redeveloped Central Pier remained a key focus in the revitalisation of Docklands.

“A redeveloped Central Pier will become a focal point for Melbourne – a hub for hospitality, entertainment, and retail with the potential to create 3800 jobs and generate more than \$770 million for the local economy,” she said.

“We’ll continue to work with the State Government and a range of other stakeholders to support this significant precinct-shaping project as it comes to life.”

DV’s acting group head of precincts Anna Hakman said it remained committed to the ongoing growth and activation of Docklands.

“We will continue to work with the community and key stakeholders, including the City of Melbourne, to promote this vibrant and diverse precinct and progress the next steps in Docklands’ journey.”

A Docklands Representative Group spokesperson said although there were certain areas of works that had been initiated, “clarity or visibility on the timelines on the priority of work in progress or planned” still needed to be formalised.

“The City of Melbourne has progressed in few commitments such as ‘beautification’ by relocating some planter boxes and the installation of a temporary pocket park at Yanonung Quay. However, there are certain areas that still need traction such as better waste management, community-focussed venues and facilities, reactivation of current and unused spaces and safety.” ●



Now or Never draws big crowds to Docklands

The City of Melbourne’s new knowledge, music and arts festival Now or Never, which ran from August 17 to September 2, has proven to be a big success for the city, attracting more than 35,000 people alone to Docklands.

EVENTS

As part of the inaugural Now or Never festival, a larger-than-life Art Trail curated by renowned art and technology organisation Experimenta, ignited a 1.2-kilometre promenade in Docklands.

The council confirmed that the free, family-friendly installation attracted more than 35,000 visitors over four nights, featuring works from seven leading contemporary artists including Michaela Gleave, Jarra Karalinar Steel and Jon McCormack, as well as works by Universal Everything (UK), Theatre of Thunder, Justine Emard (France) and Georgie Pinn.

“Our inaugural Now or Never festival transformed Victoria Harbour Promenade into a captivating art trail across four marvellous nights, attracting more than 35,000 visitors to the precinct,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“The shimmering Docklands Harbour made for the perfect backdrop for the luminous outdoor gallery, showcasing works from visionary local and international artists.”

“We look forward to seeing what the future holds for Now or Never.” ●

Proudly representing the community in Docklands



Evan MULHOLLAND MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION

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

Power Melbourne rounds out community workshops in Docklands

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

WORDS BY *David Schout & Sean Car*
SUSTAINABILITY

The final workshop with a select group of “Power Melbourne” volunteers, which was held at Community Hub at the Dock on August 31, sought 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 Cities 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.

One community champion, local business owner and former CBD resident Vaibhav Agarwal (pictured right) told *Docklands News*



▲ Cr Rohan Leppert (left) with Power Melbourne’s community champions in Docklands last month.

that the council’s decision to select community members to champion Power Melbourne was a “worthwhile” and “important first step” for the program.

Mr Agarwal, who is the founder of company Lifetime Renewable Energy, already has extensive knowledge in the sector, which he said had proven valuable in mentoring other



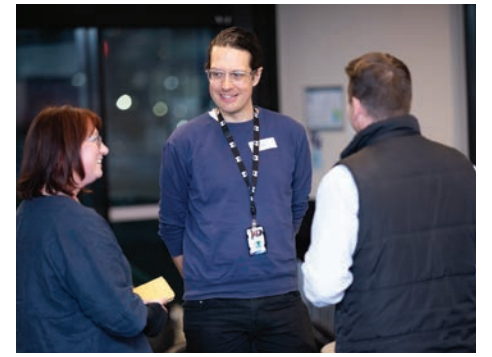
“champions” and educating the community.

“It [becoming a community champion] was a no brainer for me,” Mr Agarwal said. “This is what I do day in, day out, is talking to people [about renewable energy].”

“The idea of being a champion is about my voice getting heard in the community. When we talk about communities, the biggest challenge that I can see or have faced is basically the knowledge or understanding of renewables,” he said.

“The basic goal for many people is about how it can help them financially. So, the bigger and the better version of it is how they can contribute towards the environment, towards the calamity that what we are facing in the changes we are seeing in the climate. But basically, that’s not their priority goal.”

“The priority goal for many is more focused



on how they can be benefited through the financial side of it, but it all requires education, proper nurturing, and proper conversations. It may take some time, but again we need to get started from somewhere and I believe this is a start.”

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

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US ice hockey comes to Docklands, and youngsters meet their idols

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SPORT

Young ice hockey enthusiasts have been left awe-struck after meeting their idols from the National Hockey League (NHL) in Docklands in a first-time visit Down Under.

The historic occasion saw players from the Los Angeles Kings and Arizona Coyotes drop into the O'Brien Icehouse where they met excited youngsters from the Docklands Ice Wolves junior team.

The powerhouse teams were in town for their much-anticipated pre-season clash before sold-out crowds at Rod Laver Arena on the weekend of September 23 to 24, drawing more than 13,000 fans.

Ahead of the big games, players donned their respective jerseys as they stepped onto the ice rink at the O'Brien Icehouse on September 22 where they were greeted by kids eager to get their hands on autographs and gain invaluable advice from the best in the world.

At Rod Laver Arena, the atmosphere was electric with the O'Brien Group Australia noting it was a "great success and such amazing exposure to the game of ice hockey to Australia and world-wide".

"Feedback from the two teams was raving on the arena and the quality of the ice," the O'Brien Group said.

"The fan engagement was huge outside RLA too, lots of fans young and old. New and old fans too."

The fast-paced excitement was the first time the NHL had made the trip to the southern hemisphere, leaving a lasting impression and no doubt inspiring generations to come.

In the end, the Coyotes defeated the Kings 5-3, while the Kings won the second match, 3-2 in front of loud, cheering fans.

"Clearly everyone was ecstatic to see the NHL in Oz," the O'Brien Group said. ●

Mr Meditate wins small business award from council



Long-time Docklands resident and meditation guru Tomas Jajesnica has been recognised in the City of Melbourne's small business awards.



WORDS BY *Sean Car & Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

In September, Mr Jajesnica's business Mr Meditate celebrated its 10th year in operation and earned an honour in this year's Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards as a result.

The Victoria Point resident has lived in Docklands for 15 years and it's been during this time that his journey away from working in the legal sector into corporate meditation has manifested, and now has 10 people employed in his team.

Located in Harbour Esplanade, Mr Meditate specialises in corporate meditation for helping improve mental health and performance, as well as helping to stimulate innovation in the workplace.

Offering meditation services ranging from experiential workshops to one-on-one training and coaching, Mr Meditate has worked with some of Australia's biggest employers including NAB, Mercedes Benz, Salesforce, MYOB, and PwC.

Speaking of his honour, Mr Jajesnica said, "I feel validated, encouraged and supported".

Mr Jajesnica said he got into meditation "because I wanted to be happy in this life".

He initially worked in the legal profession in a business development capacity, but added, "When I learnt they [law firms] became the most depressed in 2012, an epiphany came to do something else."

He said having an impact on people's lives continued to drive him, in which he summed up as "eudaimonia".

"Hedonistic happiness is where you go make more money and 'what I can from the world?' But eudaimonia is 'what can you contribute to the world?'"

"When I see people really suffering from the common traits of brain fog, exhaustion and sleep deprivation, and when I hear that they've progressed that gives me a really good warm feeling that I've contributed to the planet."

But he conceded, "progress is more important than perfection". One way of personally achieving this he said was taking a "mini retirement every five years".



▲ *Tomas Jajesnica hosts a corporate meditation for NAB.*



▲ *With Lord Mayor Sally Capp.*

"It's not an escape as such because often people view meditation as an escape into some lush, tranquil forest. I don't promote that," he said, but rather finding a balance "amid the circle we have called life".

"I highly recommend it. I do as my heart desires." He said this usually involved travelling, and in one instance, he didn't have a phone for nine months while in South America and San Francisco.

"It's so liberating! No one could disturb me. If I wanted to ask for directions and if you need to get somewhere I will just ask someone else."

Mr Jajesnica is one to always push the boundaries, admitting he took two months off work every year.

"Last time I decided to Uber [drive]. It was a social experiment asking people about how they deal with life's ups and downs, and I've got a vast array of responses," he said, which he could use as examples in future conferences.

"It was supposed to be for two months, but I loved it so much, I kept doing it," he said after finishing the Uber stint in May.

He also discovered that "the new rich are the time rich".

"Essentially, it's how you utilise those 24 hours every day. If you're stressed and so forth, you're not very rich. If you're loving what you're doing and have purpose (then you are time rich)." ●

For more information:
mrmmeditate.com



▲ *An artist's impression of a proposed office and retail tower in Fishermans Bend.*

Key Fishermans Bend site up for sale

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PROPERTY

A key parcel of land within the growing Fishermans Bend precinct corridor is up for sale, just 18 months after developers received approval to build a \$150 million tower.

The site at 13-33 Hartley St was initially slated for a 50-storey mixed-used building proposing to house 370 apartments, as well as office and retail spaces, a podium, pool, lobby, library, and an outdoor terrace.

The City of Melbourne endorsed the plans in February with a permit granted to demolish the existing buildings on-site to make way for the 164-metre tower.

Located next to the Westgate Fwy and Yarra River, the proposal also set aside land for a public park and a new road as part of the future vision of Fishermans Bend – Australia's largest urban renewal project.

While the reasons behind the decision to sell remain undisclosed, the permit for a 50-storey tower would be on offer for the next buyer.

Gorman Allard Shelton is managing the sale of the 6714-square-metre site with expressions of interest having closed on September 7.

"The property is being offered for sale individually or in one-line with adjoining 95-97 Lorimer St, Docklands," Gorman Allard Shelton said.

At the time the proposed tower was approved, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said council planners had worked with the applicant over several years.

Two per cent of the dwellings [or seven apartments] was also to be gifted by the developer to a housing provider as social housing.

Gorman Allard Shelton was contacted for comment. ●

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

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Forty randomly selected locals to make up City of Melbourne “people’s panel” on affordable housing

The City of Melbourne says “now is the time” to create an Australian-first community panel on the complex issue of affordable housing.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HOUSING

A panel of 40 randomly selected local residents could shape City of Melbourne policies on affordable housing as part of a new “people’s panel”.

The move would see members, recruited by an independent recruitment consultant and set to be representative of the municipality, take part in three all-day sessions and provide recommendations that the council would implement “to the maximum extent possible”.

The “Affordable Housing People’s Panel” would consider ideas and deliberate under a “clear and appropriate remit”, which would ask: “How can the City of Melbourne and the community deliver more affordable housing effectively?”

Endorsed by councillors at the September 5 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, the panel will meet for the first time in late October before a final report is produced in December.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the move, to tackle the “diabolically tricky issue of affordable housing and how government responds to it”, was an Australian-first.

“Around Australia we’ve seen citizens juries

and people’s panels held on a variety of tricky issues such as drug reform policy and infrastructure policy. But we’ve never had a people’s panel held in this country on affordable housing,” he said at the meeting.

The council has assembled people’s panels before; in 2014 to help develop a 10-year financial plan for the city, and in 2018 to look at the Queen Victoria Market redevelopment.

A report by council officers argued urgent action was required.

“The current shortage of affordable housing is not the result of a single decision, rather the consequence of long-term underinvestment in the development and maintenance of affordable and social housing,” the report stated.

“Responding to this housing crisis ... requires innovative solutions and collective action and support from all levels of society.”

The council defines affordable housing as “high quality rental properties for very low-, low- or moderate-income households, that cost no more than 30 per cent of the household’s gross income”. In 2019 it estimated there was a shortfall of 6000 affordable homes across the municipality, however that figure was set to grow to 23,200 by 2036.

An engagement plan for the upcoming panel noted that NIMBYism (not in my backyard) at times held back affordable housing policy.

“There is strong support at all levels of government to partner with developers and the community housing sector to deliver solutions for our community ... the community agrees as well, with broad support for affordable housing projects within the city.”

“However, this support reduces when communities consider affordable housing options

in their own neighbourhoods.”

Cr Reece said people’s panels were important tools in working through and helping people understand incompatible views.

“People’s panels are really good at helping working through challenging trade-offs in a particular area of policy making in a society. If you think about the affordable housing debate, you see that there are these trade-offs everywhere. For example, people want their own home to go up in value as much as possible. But they want the [future] houses of their children to fall to an affordable price. Those two things aren’t necessarily consistent so how do you work through that trade-off?”

Cr Olivia Ball said it was time to cast a wider net of viewpoints.

“Deliberative democracy processes are often used and most useful for wicked problems such as this. We want the peoples’ input, we want to think more broadly and more laterally on this very important question. The time and resources we will put into this is a reflection of the priority for this council.”

As a local government the City of Melbourne do not play a major role in housing policy, however part of the panel’s role includes providing recommendations for what they should be advocating for to the state and federal governments.

The decision to create the panel is being seen as a win by advocates of deliberative democracy, a school of thought that claims political decisions should be the product of fair and reasonable discussion and debate among citizens.

One proponent, Dr Stan Capp – president of CBD residents’ group EastEnders – has for several years argued the City of Melbourne needed to better engage the community in

decision-making.

Dr Capp (no relation to Lord Mayor Sally Capp), a former CEO of Southern Health, completed a doctoral thesis in 2001 on public healthcare in which a key focus was on community engagement.

He has previously been critical of a council-established people’s panel for the Queen Victoria Market (QVM), which involved non-impartial parties such as traders, which he argued was “poorly structured and had predictably disappointing outcomes”.

However, he was “extremely positive” about the Affordable Housing People’s Panel and congratulated those involved in establishing it.

“The paper being presented sets out the issues well and correctly identifies the importance of the question and remit, the need for independent randomly selected panellists and a commitment by the council to include recommendations to the maximum extent possible in future decision making,” he said.

As part of the panel process, the council also committed to identifying where it can’t incorporate a recommendation by the 40-strong group and “clearly explain why”.

Dr Capp said this was “good practice”, adding, “[The panel] will demonstrate a ‘proof of concept’ of an approach that the City of Melbourne should embed in its decision making on matters of significant complexity.”

“The use of this strategy in dealing with the complex issue of affordable housing is an excellent opportunity to utilise this model of deliberative democracy and a well-designed evaluation tool should be adopted to make sure that any learnings are identified and will inform future panels.” ●

Jane Austen comes to Docklands

WORDS BY *Edmund Coleman*
ARTS & CULTURE

“PLAY UP!” is the rallying cheer for this year’s Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Coming to Library at the Dock as part of the festival is a comedic, minimalist reimaging of Jane Austen’s *Sense & Sensibility*.

Written by Jane Austen Literacy Foundation Ambassador Dr Daniel Widdowson, *Sense and Sensibility with 8 Actors & a Door* is billed as a “unique, fast-paced and comically energetic interpretation” of the classic novel.

In the play, which aims to convey the story of *Sense and Sensibility* in 60 minutes, the actors are dressed in simple blacks and utilise only one prop: a door.

Dr Widdowson described to *Docklands News* how the show fit in to the experimental Fringe cannon.

“We’ve got a unique approach where we’re using a lot of physicality and there’s a lot of

humour in the way the actors interact with each other and the way we use the door,” Dr Widdowson said.

“There are some absolutely absurd situations in the story, and we push into all the quirks and all the humour.”

For Sophie Booth, who plays lead role Marianne Dashwood, it is her first play after a long history in musical theatre.

“Marianne’s a favourite character of mine,” Ms Booth told *Docklands News*. “She really thinks with her heart first and her head later. I can relate to that in some way.”

“I feel like [with plays] you’re a bit more exposed because you have to really feel all the different emotions and especially being Marianne as well – she’s a bit all over the place.”

Melbourne Fringe creative director and CEO Simon Abrahams describes this year’s festival as an opportunity for show-goers to open themselves up to new experiences.

“Melbourne Fringe is quite unique, actually,” Simon Abrahams said. “Globally, in the world



of Fringe festivals, we’re not a giant. We are a place for incredible art making.”

Mr Abrahams told *Docklands News* that “what makes Melbourne Fringe unique is [that] we’ve got artists at the absolute top of their game, making extraordinary work alongside fresh artists trying new things, all on the one bill together.”

The festival, of which more than 80 per cent of events are homegrown in Victoria and made up of 55 per cent LGBTQIA+ artists, celebrates diversity and the vibrancy of being different.

Melbourne Fringe runs throughout October and multiple locations in the city.

Sense & Sensibility with 8 Actors and & a Door runs from October 11 to 13. ●

For more information:
melbournefringe.com.au

SAVE THE NICHOLAS BUILDING

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

Join the campaign to save the Nicholas Building: Sign the open letter at SaveTheNicholasBuilding.com or scan this QR code.



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CELEBRATING OUR CITY'S HERITAGE FOR THE FUTURE

Recognising and celebrating the social and architectural heritage that defines our streets and neighbourhoods is an essential part of our planning work as Melbourne continues to grow and change.

We're currently reviewing the heritage of our municipality to better understand its physical, social and cultural value, and to find out what distinguishes it from other municipalities in Melbourne.

Early next year, we'll begin consultation on our draft heritage strategy which will guide our work for the next 10 years.

We will engage with the community about the challenges and opportunities that heritage can help address, after we release our discussion paper.

To stay up to date, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritage-strategy



WHAT DOES HERITAGE MEAN TO YOU?

Places of cultural significance often provide a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and neighbourhoods, to the past and lived experiences. They can also help to build our future.

Think about which heritage places are important to you, and imagine which sites Melburnians might cherish into the future.

Share your memories, images and love letters for all things that celebrate Melbourne's heritage at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritage-strategy or tag #TimelessMelbourne on social media channels.



The collection features Moomba and Olympic memorabilia along with contemporary Aboriginal artwork



TREASURES TELL THE EVOLVING HISTORY OF MELBOURNE

A wander around the fourth floor of Melbourne Town Hall is like entering a portal to the past.

From the first brick ever laid in the city, anti-Vietnam War posters, and a tea set made for Queen Elizabeth II to photo albums filled with black and white photos of potholes, and the keys to the city, the City of Melbourne Arts and Heritage Collection is a veritable treasure trove of the eclectic and authentic.

With more than 13,000 items on display, the collection is a tangible reminder of the stories, people and events that have shaped our city - and our psyche.

Members of the public can take a walk back through memory lane with the 16-room collection now open for guided tours three days a week.

The items are a celebration of all that is synonymous with the city, with Eddie Butler-Bowdon, Arts and Heritage Collection Program Manager, declaring it "the best capital city collection in the country".

There's Lord Mayors' chairs, ceremonial robes, reliquary, the Melbourne Coat of Arms, Melbourne 1956 Olympics mementos, and shelf upon shelf of civic gifts and miscellaneous Melbourne memorabilia.

It's hard to play favourites, but for Eddie, a commemorative Moomba-branded bottle of 1980s sparkling Spumante is high on the list.

"It would've been awful but it really captures a moment in time," he said.

Alongside the bubbles is a slew of Moomba keepsakes, parade float decorations, portraits of Moomba monarchs resplendent in their crowns and photos of Moomba Masters champions.

Amongst the glamour and the gawdy is an extensive collection of civil engineering records including municipal plans and maps, street signs and parking meters.

The collection is ever-evolving and increasingly reflects the inclusiveness of our city.

With both artworks and heritage items, it reflects Melbourne's proud multiculturalism while also celebrating the traditional custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung peoples.

While the artworks by contemporary Aboriginal artists are some of the more recent additions to the collection, they celebrate the oldest continuing culture in the world, spanning more than 60,000 years.

An emu feather skirt by Yorta Yorta artist Lyn Thorpe and a plate-steel maquette of a traditional eel trap provide a rich insight into the traditions and culture of the First Peoples of the land.

Eddie said the once-in-a-lifetime relocation of the collection from Little Bourke Street to Melbourne Town Hall means all items are now housed in a purpose-built temperature and humidity-controlled environment to preserve the pieces and their quality.

The relocation has also made way for our landmark Make Room project, with 50 studio apartments to be built for our most vulnerable community members at the Little Bourke Street site.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said she was pleased the collection had returned to its spiritual home at Town Hall and was now open for the community to enjoy.

"This is a collection you can't see anywhere else," she said.

"The collection tour will take people on a journey through historical events and moments in our history, beautifully captured by some of our most famous artists and photographers."

You can explore it all during a one-hour tour every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne.



Josh Muir, Dootigala before Batmania #1, 2022

Book online at whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Six things we love about Melbourne's heritage buildings



Want to makeover your heritage property? Before you get to work, find out what makes your historic building so special, and if you're eligible for a heritage grant.

Beautiful heritage buildings help make our city a great place to live, work and visit, so we have contributed \$300,000 to a multi-year heritage funding program to help people keep them looking tip-top.

A little restoration work can go a long way to transform your building and keep it in great condition for years to come. But do you know your tuck-pointing from your parapets?

Here are six common heritage features to look out for on Melbourne streets.

Tuck-pointing

When two colours of mortar are used to give the impression of very fine brickwork joints. As well as looking beautiful, tuck-pointing can extend the life of a wall.

Polychromatic brickwork

When bricks of different colours are arranged in a pattern to highlight architectural features. Paint may need to be removed to reveal the beauty of this stunning brickwork, which originated in the 1860s.

Decorative keystones

The wedge-shaped stone piece at the apex of a masonry arch, such as a door or window. For decoration, keystones (also known as capstones) are often made larger than what is structurally required.

Parapets

An extension of a wall beyond the edge of a roof, such as a guardrail, terrace, balcony or walkway. A parapet was originally used to defend buildings from attack.

Decorative cornices

The decorative trim where a wall meets a roof or ceiling. Cornices originated in Greek and Roman

architecture and can be found on the inside and outside of buildings.

Pediments

A decorative gable, usually positioned above a doorway or window and triangular in shape. Pediments are most often found in classical and neoclassical architecture.

If you own a heritage building in the City of Melbourne, located within a heritage overlay, you can apply for funding year-round.

The works you have in mind must be visible from the public realm.

We've also launched a special funding stream for landmark properties, and those that belong to or are leased by not-for-profit, charity or community groups.

For information on heritage grants or for a copy of the Heritage Owners Guide and the Heritage Design Guide, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritage

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JOURNEY THROUGH TIME: A GUIDE TO LOCAL HERITAGE IN MELBOURNE

When you think about local heritage, some will reflect on significant places and buildings, while others might linger in open spaces to close their eyes and imagine times past.

Melbourne's heritage is a rich tapestry of Aboriginal and much later colonial and post-colonial stories.

We can look for heritage in all sorts of places, traditions and objects. Even culture itself. It speaks to buildings, landscapes, public parks and gardens, trees, infrastructure, monuments, public art, community groups and more.

Heritage places may even encompass street art, laneway cafes and the hum of numerous small businesses and artists' enterprises, nestled away in the Nicholas Building and other favourite city buildings.

Deepen your understanding of local Aboriginal heritage

Did you know that a blue saltwater lagoon once stretched out across what would later become West Melbourne and Docklands? Or that the high ground now known as Parliament Hill has been a site of law and lore-making for millennia?

Learn about places of Aboriginal cultural significance through our Mapping Aboriginal Melbourne project. It's a powerful truth-telling tool that reveals Aboriginal peoples' deep connection to this country. Learn more at aboriginal-map.melbourne.vic.gov.au

You can also take a self-guided walk from Fitzroy Gardens to Docklands to learn more about Aboriginal heritage and culture, including scarred trees, historical meeting places and monuments, or book a tour with an experienced guide from the Koorie Heritage Trust at Federation Square.

Get to know the history of your neighbourhood

Reflect on the communities that shaped your local neighbourhood, from Carlton's Italianate Royal Exhibition Building, which opened in 1880, to the maritime heritage of Docklands, and the cobblestones of Kensington's Newmarket saleyards and the Younghusband woolstore.



At the City of Melbourne, we have completed contemporary heritage reviews for many neighbourhoods to help prevent buildings, natural spaces and streetscapes for future generations. Reading these is a great way to learn more about the history and heritage of your local area.

Walk your way around local heritage sites

We offer a range of curated walks and itineraries to help you get to know Melbourne's iconic sites, cultural heritage and hidden gems.

Whether you want to learn about sites of spiritual, cultural and political significance on an Aboriginal Melbourne walk or check out the gothic revival facades, art deco jewels and neoclassical monoliths on a Classic icons and architecture walk, there's something for everyone on one of more than 10 self-guided walks. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/walks

Work, dine and play in historic surrounds



Explore four floors of food, drink, music and art at a mega venue lovingly woven into the fabric of a heritage building on the corner of Lonsdale Street and Drewery Lane. HER Melbourne has breathed new life into a Federation warehouse built in the early 1900s.

Over on the corner of Queen and Collins streets, pause to gaze up at a Melbourne Award-winning feat of urban design. Drab cubicles and flickering fluoresces begone - Queen and Collins is a next-gen workplace with neo-gothic flair.

Patrons at theatres including the Princess, Regent, Comedy and Her Majesty's enjoy the splendid facades and ornate interiors alongside world-class entertainment. The Arts Centre spire became an iconic feature of the city's skyline since its construction in 1984.

Wander through heritage parks and gardens

The Royal Botanic Gardens were established in 1846, on a site selected by Lieutenant Governor Charles La Trobe. In the past 170 years, staff at the gardens have collected and planted thousands of plants from all over the world, representing 12,000 species.

Explore the gardens on an Aboriginal Heritage Walk and learn about Traditional Owners use of plants as a source of food, tools and medicine and the ongoing connection to Country.

Pause in the peace of the Parliament Gardens and reflect on the statues of Sir Douglas and Lady Gladys Nicholls, which honours a couple who strongly advocated for Aboriginal self-determination and reconciliation.

We're working with Traditional Owners to celebrate Aboriginal connection to Country in our Greenline Project along the north bank of the Birrarung. Five interconnected precincts will make up the Greenline Project - Birrarung Marr, The Falls, River Park, Martime and Salt Water Wharf, each named to reflect its cultural and historical significance.



The Mission to Seafarers



Melbourne Town Hall

Spot landmark buildings from the gold rush

Victoria experienced unparalleled prosperity after the gold rush of the 1850s. Many buildings that are still standing today were built with funds that flowed from the riches of the diggings.

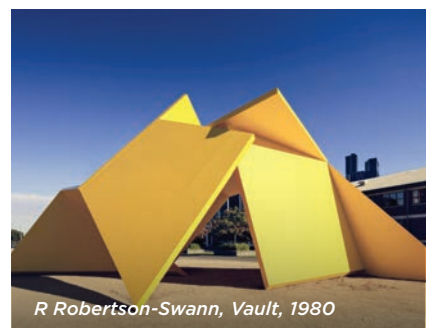
Notable buildings of the century include State Library of Victoria (its famous domed reading room was completed in 1913), Melbourne Town Hall - once the city's premier concert venue, and the Gothic Revival-style ANZ bank building at the corner of Collins and Queens streets.

Marvel at post-war and edgy modern architecture

American-style skyscrapers such as Orica House emerged in Melbourne from the 1950s, and the Hoddle Grid Heritage review protected and celebrated our best post war commercial buildings.

Learn more about post-war architecture on a self-guided walk. Visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritagewalks

The shards of Federation Square's buildings, ACCA's sharp edges, the abstract yellow Vault artwork and a quirky office for Monaco's consul-general in a tiny city laneway are destined to be conversation pieces among Melburnians for years to come.



R Robertson-Swann, Vault, 1980

To learn more about our city's heritage visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritage

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Council endorses retrofit plan to tackle city's emissions

“

Older commercial buildings are the focus of a new City of Melbourne plan to reduce the city's carbon emissions by more than 60 per cent.

”

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PLANNING

At the September 19 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors voted eight to one in favour of the “Retrofit Melbourne” plan, which will see the council roll out a range of measures aimed at decarbonising more than 80 commercial buildings each year by 2040.

The plan will largely focus on more than 1500 “mid-tier” commercial buildings, those defined as being generally built pre-2000 with lower levels of energy efficiency than premium or A-grade buildings, and are the biggest contributors to the city's emissions. The City of Melbourne has a greater share of mid-tier buildings than any other capital city.

The plan recognises the “significant barriers” of retrofitting mid-tier buildings, such as difficulty in accessing capital and information, limited networking among mid-tier owners and tenants, and a limited capacity of industry professionals.

Commercial buildings are responsible for 60 per cent of the city's greenhouse gas emissions, while residential towers account for six per cent of emissions. The plan includes a range of initiatives aimed at transitioning more commercial towers to electrification powered by 100 per cent renewable energy in order for Melbourne to become a zero-carbon city by 2040.

The council will now work with a range of stakeholders including industry and other levels of government to implement 11 key initiatives under four work streams: “advocacy”, “information and support”, “enabling mechanisms” and “investigating options for regulation”. Among these initiatives are:

- Incentivising periodic reporting of a building's NABERS rating.
- Establishing a better buildings fund.
- Creating a zero carbon buildings portal.
- Facilitating a zero carbon buildings advisory group.
- Convening zero carbon building retrofit teams.
- Hosting thought leadership events.
- Delivering zero carbon precincts.
- Developing zero carbon building leases – agreement between landlords and tenants to jointly commit to ensuring their building is zero carbon ready.
- Establishing a carbon risk tool.
- Incentivising building performance through rates.
- Introducing an emissions cap through local law.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said Retrofit Melbourne was “a necessary plan to lower emissions, drive down energy bills and make our buildings more sustainable.”

“Existing buildings contribute 66 per cent of our current carbon emissions. To become a zero-carbon city

by 2040, more than 80 commercial buildings need to be decarbonised each year,” Cr Capp said.

“It's crucial we act now – working alongside industry, government and academic partners to future-proof our city for generations to come.”

“We need to get the balance right – protecting our older buildings which give Melbourne its character, while accelerating our collective journey towards zero net emissions.”

“Buildings that are decarbonised are more attractive to tenants and also increase capital value over time – unlocking enormous potential to revitalise underutilised commercial buildings in the city, supporting a thriving city experience and economy.”

The council's sustainable building portfolio lead Cr Elizabeth Doidge said the plan was a “radical” one needed to “tackle our emissions and transform our city.”

“The City of Melbourne is the first city in Australia tackling this issue with real action,” Cr Doidge said.

“Retrofit Melbourne will deliver an innovative framework – driving collaboration between industry and government partners to fast-track the city's zero carbon transition.”

While the plan was overwhelmingly endorsed by councillors on September 19, the one councillor to vote against it – Roshena Campbell – argued that the introduction of an emissions cap would create “an uneven playing field” for smaller property owners.

“There's no doubt that we do need to do work to support the retrofitting of these buildings, but I can't support one of the regulatory measures,” Cr Campbell said.

“One of the advantages the report identifies is the fact that this measure [emissions cap] will raise revenue and I think we should be very, very cautious about imposing that financial burden on our building owners right now.”

“Although the big players might welcome it as they're looking to retrofit anyway, the reality is there are property owners who will not be able to afford this. They will either be forced to sell or be forced to bear a burden that, particularly now in these economic conditions, will be a very heavy one indeed.”

But Cr Doidge responded to Cr Campbell's concerns by saying the council hadn't yet determined what an emissions cap would look like.

“We're not actually voting to implement an emissions cap tonight. We're basically voting to investigate what an emissions cap would look like if it would work, and how it would work. “The result of that might be that an emissions cap doesn't necessarily have a financial penalty, it may actually mean that those buildings producing over a certain cap, receive financial incentives and supports to retrofit.”

Cr Dr Olivia Ball said the council had an obligation to move swiftly in decarbonising the city amid a rapidly changing climate.

“My fellow Cr Campbell spoke of the disadvantage to Melbourne property owners and imposing financial burdens on them and her hesitations in doing so. But how would these financial burdens compare, or disadvantages compare with extreme weather events that are definitely going to occur and are occurring already?” Cr Dr Ball said.

“Today is a total fire ban in NSW and we have high bushfire risk in September. It is extremely alarming.”

“We have to consider investments in retrofitting as investments in our future investments in a safe climate, in attempting to reclaim a liveable climate for us and our children and their children. This is happening now. We must move as swiftly as possible.” ●

BUSINESS

Income solutions for today's investor

In a world that is always changing, investors are constantly searching for high-quality, consistent income solutions.



WORDS BY *Daryl Hill*
AUTHORISED REP. OF LA TROBE FINANCIAL

La Trobe Financial's performance record in times of volatility has proven popular with investors for more than seven decades.

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It has an incredible track record of performance, including zero investor losses since it commenced as an investment offering in October 2002. It has won *Money* magazine's award for “Best Credit Fund – Mortgages” for the past 14 years.

The company prides itself on transparency, being externally audited, and having received numerous Australian and international awards. La Trobe Financial also offers a personalised service to make investing easier. Investors range from household name global banks, Australian banks, international pension funds and local managers right through to everyday Australians.

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generating products I am your local dedicated authorised representative based in the Docklands, available to provide you with direct personal service.

For more information, please call 0408 566 524 or email darylhill@dwhillar.com.au

*The rate of return on your investment is current at September 1, 2023. The rate of return is reviewed and determined monthly and may increase or decrease each month. The applicable distribution for any given month is paid at the start of the following month. The rate of return is not guaranteed and is determined by the future revenue of the Credit Fund and may be lower than expected.

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BUSINESS



Melbourne Marriott Hotel Docklands dining experiences like no other

Guests are invited to enjoy four distinct culinary experiences that greatly contribute to the fabric of Melbourne's food scene at Melbourne Marriott Hotel Docklands.

Destined to become one of the Docklands' signature dining venues, **Archer's** is a refined restaurant space serving exquisite Australian cuisine with fresh produce from local farms. Nestled within a vaulted cellar-esque ceiling, the interior is reminiscent of Melbourne's historic bridges and train stations.

Sophisticated yet approachable, Archer's executive chef, Ryan Flaherty delivers honest

modern-Australian fare, respecting time-honoured cooking techniques while showcasing incredible local produce. Telling tales that connect plate with provenance, Archer's has a particular focus on connection.

Indulge in pan-seared Baby Snapper Fillet, served with a Confit Fennel Salad and Chargrilled Lemon, Ricotta Gnocchi with velvety sweet Pumpkin Puree, or delicate Mayura Station Wagyu Beef, shaved paper thin and topped with freshly grated Parmesan and 10-year Aged Balsamic Vinegar tableside. Toast your evening with a glass of Louis Roederer Champagne, a selection premium local and international wines, or your perfect pour Martini served exactly how you like.

Ada's in the hotel lobby expresses the style and multi-functionality of a Marriott Hotels' Greatroom, a space where guests can work, socialise or simply relax with light snacks, soft

drinks and cocktails. The sophisticated lobby bar menu and beverage list are inspired by, and pay homage to yesteryear, with a modern twist. Guests can also enjoy locally roasted coffee from ST ALI.

Sunset House is one of the few west-facing bars in Melbourne looking out to dazzling sunsets and sweeping views across Melbourne. Adjacent to the rooftop pool, this standout new addition to Melbourne's sophisticated bar and restaurant scene will sit atop the building delivering an eclectic mix of casual dining and entertainment.

About Melbourne Marriott Hotel Docklands

When it comes to five-star hotels in Melbourne, Marriott Docklands is one of a kind.

Defined by its curvaceous façade, design-led interiors, revered dining and sparkling city and water views, everything about this inner-city

oasis is refreshingly different.

Known for its sparkling rooftop infinity pool, the property features 189 sophisticated guest rooms overlooking Melbourne, Docklands and Port Phillip Bay, cocktail bar Ada's, fine dining restaurant Archer's, poolside rooftop bar Sunset House and an **M Club** executive lounge.

Find Marriott Docklands on Facebook (facebook.com/marriottmelbournedocklands) and Instagram [@marriottmelbournedocklands](https://instagram.com/marriottmelbournedocklands)

New to the menu at Melbourne Quarter

For Docklanders looking for a new plant-based favourite, look no further than Fishbowl at Melbourne Quarter.

You'll find their Docklands store perched on Collins St, at the top of Batman's Hill, and now, at Fishbowl, you'll also find a brand-new range of vegan lunch delights.

The vegan menu features four brand new salad bowls: the Shroomami, the Miso Eggplant, Tofu Boys and the Shroom.

Fishbowl specialises in made-to-order salads with a Japanese twist and sought to become a platform that could empower people to make healthier decisions by turning salads into a lifestyle.

Along with making lunch choices healthier, they have just launched a new range of affordable bowls aimed at combating the cost-of-living crisis.

Street Food By Fishbowl is the latest edition to their menu which sees popular bowls start at just \$11.90, offering exceptional value in a high inflation environment.

All customers have to do is choose their protein, either Tom Yum Chicken, Five-Spice Beef, Miso Salmon, Lemon Chicken or Mushroom, and the team at Fishbowl will add their rice, slaw and umami cashew crunch. ●

For more information:
fishbowl.com.au



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SHIVANI & ANUJ, DOCKLANDS RESIDENTS
We are yet to decide how we will vote.



SUNNY, DOCKLANDS RESIDENT
I will be voting "YES" in the referendum



PAUL, DOCKLANDS RESIDENT
I will be voting "NO" in the Referendum. I don't know enough about it.



JYE, DOCKLANDS WORKER
Unfortunately, I haven't registered to vote.

Faces of Docklands

Question:

How will you be voting at the referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament on October 14?

Pet's Corner



The "flying" Dachshund

“

Lucci, a three-year-old Miniature Dachshund, was a furry friend found in lockdown.

”

WORDS BY Edmund Coleman

When Wen, a Docklands resident and Lucci's owner, was first shown pictures of Lucci, she "fell in love immediately".

Wen flew Lucci from Tasmania to Melbourne, and the pair have been a beautiful team since.

Wen said she had always loved short-legged dogs, and meeting Lucci was a dream come true.

"She's very shy, and she doesn't bark that much," Wen smiled as she gave Lucci an affectionate tummy-rub.

"It was a little difficult at the start to toilet train Lucci during the [lockdown]," Wen laughed.

But now Lucci is fully toilet trained, and although a little shy, loves to walk through the Docklands and wander about Ron Barassi Snr Park in the sun.

"She also loves sleeping," Wen said. "When I'm doing work at home, she's always watching me."

Docklands News reached out to Lucci for comment (and a little pat), but all we received was the wag of a tail. ●

Meow about that: a collaboration for friends of four legs and two

It's not the collaboration Docklanders knew they wanted, but it certainly is one they are going to need.

WORDS BY Jack Hayes
BUSINESS

In a joining of two fantastic local brands, Victoria Harbour Pharmacy will now stock PetWell healthy treats and supplements for cats and dogs.

These locally owned Docklands businesses have joined forces to provide top-notch nutrition for the loved pets of the community, cat-ering to a large population of devoted pet owners who prioritise the wellbeing of their four-legged friends.

Fiona Barry, retail manager of Victoria Harbour Pharmacy, understands the significance of proper pet nutrition.

"As a dog owner myself, I understand the importance of good nutrition for pets, and our customers recognise the goodness in the PetWell products and the value they bring to our pets' health," she said.

"They have been incredibly popular with our customers. And we love the idea of supporting local businesses like PetWell."

The partnership between Victoria Harbour Pharmacy and PetWell is not just a business transaction but a testament to the tight-knit community spirit that thrives in Docklands.

With a substantial number of pet owners in the area who prioritise their pets' health and wellness, the introduction of PetWell's high-quality products aligns perfectly with the community's values.

Co-owner of PetWell and Docklands resident, Ayda Hornak, expressed their excitement about this new avenue, saying, "We are really surprised to see the uptake of PetWell products in the pharmacy; this is a channel we are looking to expand."

"Traditionally, products like ours are primarily available in specialty pet stores. However, pharmacies are a natural choice due to the wellness aspect that PetWell products offer," Ayda said.



PetWell's range of health treats and supplements for cats and dogs is crafted with utmost care and is known for its exceptional quality and effectiveness.

By partnering with Victoria Harbour Pharmacy, PetWell aims to provide easy access to these products, ensuring that the beloved pets of the Docklands receive the best care and nutrition available. ●

For more information:
petwell.au

Docklander

Never Look Desperate in Docklands



Author and lecturer Dr Rachel Matthews marvels at Dockland's shifting light at sunset, the diversity of community, and the peaceful communion of urban renewal and open space.



WORDS BY Edmund Coleman

Dr Matthews recently published her third novel, *Never Look Desperate*, to glowing reviews from critics across the country. *Never Look Desperate* is a tragicomedy that weds humour and absurdity with vulnerability, and traverses the experience of grief, recovery, and finding new love on Tinder with deft wit and brutal honesty.

Dr Matthews explained to *Docklands News* that she writes for marginalised people, those who are largely forgotten in the cannon of literature.

"I love to write about subjects that people don't want to talk about," Dr Matthews said. "I think often people [who] don't have a voice are connected to the subjects that we just would rather ignore because it's too hard. It's too confronting."

The novel follows three central protagonists: Bernard, who grapples with the death of his wife and father during Melbourne's lockdowns; Bernard's mother, Goldie, and the pair's stressed bond; and Minh, who meets Bernard on a dating app in a fog of middle-aged isolation.

As a writer, Dr Matthews feeds off the environment she lives in for artistic inspiration and says the beating rhythm of urban environments fuels her creative flow.

"I think everything's always a construct of what we see and understand, but imagination to me is always fuelled by real people and real



ideas and real events."

Many of these people and ideas Dr Matthews finds in the Docklands.

"One of the reasons I moved to the Docklands was because I love being close to the urban environment because I love the diversity of people."

"I love the atmosphere of different cultures, different lives. I've met people who've come to the Docklands because they're starting a new life, or they've had to sell their farm. Sometimes sad stories, but I've also met people who live alone, who like to be at the Docklands because they feel that they meet people a lot more."

Dr Matthews, who grew up in Shepparton, also adores the immediate sense of community in the Docklands and plans to run writing workshops at Library at the Dock in the coming months.

While Dr Matthews has received tremendous professional reviews, the author explains that the most touching response to her novel came from a reader online, who wrote to say, "thank you".

"Thank you, for allowing me to feel hurt," the message wrote, to which Dr Matthews said, "[The reader] was saying 'I'm a woman in mid-life and I'm dating again. Thank you, for representing me.'"



"I hope my book can help people feel less alone, feel represented, and also that the terrible narrow ideas that love and intimacy are only worthy in the early years of life is really challenged and contested. [Love and intimacy] are life-long needs for all of us." ●

For more information:
rachelmatthewsauthor.com

CHAMBER UPDATE



Docklands abuzz with spring activities

WORDS BY Daniel Hibberd

PRESIDENT - DOCKLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

As we all know Marvel Stadium is undergoing a world-class renovation, and the results to date are nothing short of thrilling, we can't wait to see more!

The brand-new concept of Stadium Golf has been a hit these past few weeks and with this success expect to see an even bigger and better version next year.

Stadium Golf ran from September 14 to 24 at Marvel stadium, giving people the unique chance to show off their skills by driving golf balls onto the pitch.

Golfers teed off from multiple locations around the stadium, including corporate boxes and the player entrance, with 18 strokes over nine holes set out on the famous green below.

TaylorMade supplied premium golfing equipment, while Resimax offering a \$10,000 reward to the first person to score a hole-in-one on its sponsored hole.

While footy fans will be saddened about the AFL season finishing, they will be treated to a small dose of Beatlemania with rock royalty Sir Paul McCartney who will perform at Marvel stadium from October 21 to 22 as part of his Australia tour – his first visit since 2017.

In other exciting news, NewQuay promenade will again be hosting the Melbourne Boat Show from October 26 to 29 and based off the success of last year this is one not to be missed.

There is surely no better location for an amazing event of this nature so sail down and soak it all in while strolling along the waterways ... and don't forget to snap up some delicious snacks with special offerings from our local food and beverage providers.

Last year, the boat show was a huge boost for the local economy, and we expect another successful event with more attractions and activities. ●

CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Docklands community Hub is a free online space to connect with fellow Docklands locals, stay in the know, post requests for help, share skills and local knowledge, ask for recommendations, discover local services, classes, retailers, events and more

DOCKLANDS NEWS



If you're a local resident or business you can join up here

MAKING MOVES



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

Docklands boasts a legacy of unique businesses and innovation. Yet, with ongoing challenges, local enterprises must enhance their marketing strategies. By targeting and delighting the existing local community, we can amplify our reach.

WORDS BY *Mo Hamdouna*
MOWORKS.COM.AU

Dive into part two of our six tips to effectively tap into the local market. Looking for part one? Head back to September's issue of *Docklands News* to check it out.

4. Create content with a local spin

Creating content that solves your customer's pain points and that is evergreen will always be relevant for your business. Good content can turn a cold prospect into a loyal customer, but it needs to be audience-focused rather than generic. Going for a local approach allows you to increase your visibility with a specific target market while also enforcing the image of a trustworthy local business that's "one of them".

5. Attract local visitors through Google Ads

I've always said, if you want sales, you need to advertise. Google Ads is just that.

Google Ads has a handy geotargeting functionality that increases your visibility in a particular area. While you're waiting for your SEO to pick up, Google Ads are a fast way to get on the first page for local searches in your area.

6. Make offers and deals that are time-sensitive

Creating a sense of urgency with potential customers can help lead them into your sales funnel sooner. To do this, make sure to put a timestamp on your deals and offers. Incentives, such as indicating a discount if they buy by a certain date, can help nudge them over the edge and close the deal.

Bonus tip: optimise your Google My Business listing

It's easy to forget about your Google My Business listing, but it's one of the first things people look at. It's crucial to have your contact information up to date, including phone number, email, and opening hours. If you're down to do it all, regular posting and updated pictures are always a plus.

Embracing these tips will not only strengthen your local presence but also foster a community where businesses and residents collaboratively shape the future of Docklands. Get in touch with us to keep making moves and taking bold steps towards your business growth. ●

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Eating your way to radiant skin: the nutritional secrets you need

Picture this: a vibrant, luminous complexion that radiates health and vitality from within. It's not a product of expensive skincare regimes or magic potions; it results from a well-nourished body.

WORDS BY *Lauren Le Fevre*
DIETICIAN - DOCKLANDS HEALTH

Your skin, the body's largest organ, is a canvas that reflects your inner wellbeing, and the brushstrokes of nutrition play a pivotal role in painting a picture of radiant health.

In this exploration, we embark on a fascinating journey into the captivating world where food becomes the elixir for a complexion that exudes youthfulness and glow. As we delve into the intricate connection between nutrition and skin health, you'll uncover the delightful secrets in your kitchen, waiting to transform your skin into a radiant masterpiece.

Essential nutrients for glowing skin: the beauty of vitamins and minerals

Dive into the world of skin-loving nutrients like vitamins A, C, and E, and minerals like zinc and selenium and how they contribute to a healthier, radiant complexion:

- **Vitamin A:** Found in sweet potatoes, carrots, and spinach.
- **Vitamin C:** Abundant in citrus fruits like oranges, grapefruits, strawberries, and bell peppers.
- **Vitamin E:** Present in nuts (like almonds and hazelnuts), seeds, and spinach.
- **Zinc:** Available in foods like oysters, lean meats, and chickpeas.
- **Selenium:** Found in Brazil nuts, turkey, and whole grains.

Hydrating foods: your skin's best friend

Imagine your skin as a garden and hydration as the life-giving rain.

These moisture-rich foods help keep your skin hydrated, plump, and free from dryness:

- **Cucumbers:** composed of more than 95 per cent water, they're hydrating and refreshing.

EATING YOUR WAY TO RADIANT SKIN THE NUTRITIONAL SECRETS YOU NEED



- **Watermelon:** as the name suggests, watermelon is incredibly hydrating, perfect for quenching the skin's thirst.
- **Leafy Greens:** lettuce, spinach, and kale have high water content, keeping your skin hydrated and glowing.

Vitamin C: the skin brightener you need

Vitamin C is your skin's brightening superhero. It boosts collagen production for firmer skin and promotes an even skin tone.

These foods are rich in vitamin C:

- **Oranges:** bursting with vitamin C, oranges boost collagen production for firmer skin.
- **Strawberries:** these sweet berries are a vitamin C powerhouse.
- **Bell Peppers:** rich in vitamin C, bell peppers enhance the skin's radiance.

Omega-3 fatty acids: the secret to smooth skin

Omega-3 fatty acids are the building blocks of healthy cell membranes, contributing to a smoother skin texture.

Discover these omega-3-rich foods:

- **Fatty fish:** salmon, mackerel, and trout are loaded with omega-3s.
- **Flaxseeds:** sprinkle ground flaxseeds on your yogurt or salads for omega-3s.
- **Walnuts:** a tasty source of these beneficial fats.

Antioxidants: skin's shield against aging

Antioxidants are your skin's knights in shining armour, defending against free radicals

that accelerate aging. Include these antioxidant-packed foods in your diet:

• **Berries:** blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries are antioxidant-packed.

• **Spinach:** loaded with vitamins and antioxidants, spinach promotes skin health.

• **Dark Chocolate:** choose dark chocolate with a high cocoa content for a sweet antioxidant treat.

Superfoods for super skin: nourishing your complexion

Superfoods are nutritional powerhouses that offer a wide range of benefits for your skin:

• **Avocados:** packed with healthy fats, avocados hydrate and nourish your skin.

• **Kale:** a leafy green superfood loaded with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.

• **Almonds:** these nuts are rich in vitamin E and healthy fats, promoting skin vitality.

Incorporating these nutrient-rich foods into your diet gives your skin the essential building blocks for a radiant complexion. But remember, it's not just about what you eat; it's also about how you live. Adequate sleep, effective stress management, and sun protection are integral to maintaining youthful, radiant skin.

As you embark on this journey to better skin through nutrition, consider it a holistic approach to self-care. Embrace the power of superfoods and nutrient-rich ingredients as you craft meals that delight your taste buds and enhance your natural glow.

And don't forget the art of self-care, where a well-rounded skincare routine complements your dietary efforts. ●

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Maritime Art Prize this October

The Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) annual Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition is on again in October.

WORDS BY *Neil James*
CEO

The exhibition opens to the public from 12pm daily from October 20 through to October 26 at the Mission to Seafarers building at 717 Flinders St in Docklands. More than 70 both modern and traditional paintings will be on display.

The Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition was established in 2002 and is Australia's leading maritime art prize promoting excellence in maritime and seafaring subjects in art. The annual event is a major fundraising initiative of the Mission to Seafarers Victoria and will celebrate its 21st anniversary in 2023.



Artists respond to the theme "The Relationship of Humanity to the Sea" for their share of \$25,000 in prize money. Awards are presented in four categories – Maritime Art Award, Best in Traditional Maritime Art, Runner-Up, and Emerging Artist.

The generosity of our sponsors, who provide the prize money and other in-kind contributions, and the artists who pay an entrance fee and a commission on all works that are sold,

ensures the continued success and wide popularity of the Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition and in turn, supports the work of the MtSV to support seafarers. ●

For more information:
missiontoseafarers.com.au

RESILIENT Docklands

The City of Melbourne is currently working on a four-year initiative on community disaster resilience known as Prepare Melbourne. The stated aim is to engage and prepare residents and communities to enhance their resilience to hazards, disasters and the health impacts of climate change.

WORDS BY *Ben Ball*
PRESIDENT

With regard to what is meant by “resilience”, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a resilient city has the ability to absorb, recover and prepare for future shocks (economic, environmental, social and institutional). It recommends a focus on three aspects:

- Climate resilience, which refers to the ability to contend with extreme weather events;
- Energy resilience is about ensuring safe access to affordable and stable power; and
- Water resilience, which involves a holistic approach to ensuring affordable and safe water supply and also the mitigation of water-related shocks and stresses, ranging from drought to flooding, storm surges, pollution and sea level rise.

Unsurprisingly, all three – climate, energy, and water – have great significance for Docklands.

In terms of climate, weather forecasters warn of severe and extended heat this summer. One impact for Docklanders is for those with floor-to-ceiling, single-pane glass, and regrettably, far too many apartments have single glazing.

As retrofitting double glazing is expensive, residents without adequate insulation will “feel the burn” during these severe heat events, with their only recourse being to pump up the air-conditioning.

This highlights our second area of vulnerability – energy. The Docklands Representative Group (DRG) has previously highlighted the energy consumption challenges of our high-rise residential sector and the lack of understanding of our circumstances by policy makers.

The third area of resilience – water – is also a concern for Docklanders due to our exposure to flooding,

with multiple local sites identified in recent modelling, including Harbour Esplanade.

In order to build a city’s resilience, the OECD advises giving attention to four areas, namely the economy, society, governance and environment, with specific action required for each category.

In terms of the City of Melbourne’s resilience initiative, Community Resilience Assessment workshops have been held in Southbank, Kensington, and Carlton. The next round will include Docklands.

The concern for the DRG is the focus of these sessions, which seem to limit community contribution to gauging awareness about what residents would do in a crisis. For example, the key feedback from Southbank participants pertained to “building relationships” (i.e. know your floor meet-ups and local community events) and “building-manger communication with residents” (e.g. evacuation protocols).

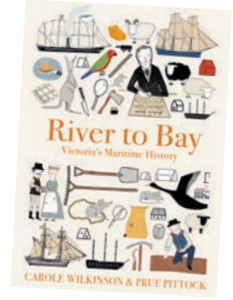
Surprisingly, there seems little focus upon mitigation. Absent are responses pertaining to building structural capability to help lessen or modify climate, energy, or water challenges (or disasters). Rather, the sessions seem focus on assessing resident’s awareness on what to do, where to go and opinions as to whether they could seek help from neighbours.

While undoubtedly greater awareness and a more connected community are important factors in withstanding and recovering from disasters, it is arguably more critical to build capacity to circumvent, mitigate or better prepare for dealing with emergencies. In a nutshell, community involvement should not be confined to building better escape routes.

Members of the DRG will be participating in the forthcoming resilience workshop and will raise questions regarding structural approaches to building a more resilient Docklands. ●

A busy month for boating and maritime enthusiasts

Many in the community may not recognise that they have a rich maritime heritage of significant social, cultural, and economic value – past, present and future.



The most powerful weapon in the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network’s (MMHN) armoury is advocacy directed at engagement with government at all levels, relevant agencies, institutions, maritime industry, and related commercial sectors in order save our maritime heritage assets, too many of which have been squandered in the past.

The Docklands community is only too aware of the prime example of Central Pier being squandered. MMHN has made many submissions to Development Victoria (DV) outlining the well-researched case for a project designed to compensate the community and act as a focal point to activate Victoria Harbour.

Our website examines this under the heading “Opportunities”. On August 23, DV released a summary of lengthy community consultations on its website called *Revitalisation of Central Pier & Adjacent Waterfront*. Groan!

It is frustrating to learn that DV plans further consultations. So, given that demolition works are likely to take yet another two years, the degenerating wreck of the heritage-listed pier will continue as a blight on Victoria Harbour visible from all around the Docklands Precinct for far too long.

MMHN can only hope that DV’s eventual replacement infrastructure will provide the Docklands community with infrastructure of appropriate imagination, quality and form as warranted in this unique marine location.

A more cheerful note – an invitation

We all need to remember that Australia is an island nation with a rich maritime heritage of great significance and that Australia will remain dependent on the maritime sector in future. Mindful that young people are indeed our future, MMHN will host the first ...

MMHN Children’s Maritime Heritage Festival in Docklands 2023

Do come along for all or part of the free program presented below – and bring any budding maritime enthusiasts along with you.

- **Launch of Victoria’s first Children’s Maritime Heritage Book (ages 8-12)** entitled, *River to Bay – Victoria’s Maritime History*: **Thursday, October 19 from 4.30pm to 6.30pm** at Docklands Library Theatre Space to be officially launched by the former Premier, The Hon. Ted Baillieu, chair of the Australian Heritage Council. Hear from well-known author Carole Wilkinson about capturing this fascinating historical tale, and gifted illustrator Prue Pittock speaking about the illustrations which illuminate the text together with award-winning Wild Dog Publishing CEO Maryann Ballantyne. This is a free event but please RSVP to info@MMHN.org.au

- **Annual Children’s Maritime Art Exhibition. The District Shopping Centre, Docklands: Monday, October 23 until Sunday, October 29.** Free Public Exhibition convened by Offshore and Specialist Ships Australia (OSSA) and MMHN on view at any time. Inspired by their unique harbourside neighbourhood and its maritime environment, this Docklands Primary School students exhibition will showcase their maritime art, completed in their own time during September term break. They have all joined the long and rich tradition of maritime art. You are invited to see what our young maritime artists see around them.
- **Children’s Maritime Heritage Festival Medley Program: Thursday, October 26 from 4.30pm to 7.30 pm.** Docklands Library Theatre Space. An entertaining program of short presentations by maritime enthusiasts including talks, sea shanties, films, etc., all about our maritime heritage including of heritage ships and shipwrecks specialist ships, the work of local seafarers and a special maritime history quiz.
- **Melbourne Boat Show: Thursday, October 26 until Sunday, October 29 from 10am to 7pm, 2023.** This year the Melbourne Boat Show includes the Heritage and Wooden Boat Precinct on North Wharf. Take the heritage ferry *Grower* leaving from NewQuay across Victoria Harbour to explore North Wharf Heritage and Wooden Boat Precinct.
- **Children’s Maritime Art Awards on Centre Stage of Boat Show at NewQuay, Docklands: Sunday, October 29 at 3pm.** Renowned maritime artist Brigid Thomas will visit the art exhibition and select two notable artworks from each grade level at Docklands Primary School to receive a Special Recognition Award. These student maritime artists will be invited onto the Boat Show’s centre stage to receive their awards and will also win a tour of the heritage vessel steam tug *Wattle* at a later date. The award ceremony convened by OSSA, MMHN and the Boating Industry Association (Vic). This is a free public event – all are welcome. ●



Jackie Watts
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WE LIVE HERE

Cash without the cure



Victoria's proposed tax on short-stays will generate cash for the state government while ignoring internationally recognised solutions to tackle problems with the industry.



Major cities and jurisdictions, including London, Paris, Barcelona and even New South Wales, are all trying to regulate the behemoth industry that is having a devastating effect on housing affordability.

This month New York strengthened its laws to rein in the out-of-control short-stay industry. Under the new rules, rentals less than 30 days are only allowed if the operators are registered with the city. Operators must sign a commitment to being physically present throughout the rental, sharing the home with their guests. Plus, there is a limit of two guests per booking.

Valuable lessons from cities like New York are being disregarded in Victoria, and Melbourne will continue to suffer.

The proposed Victorian tax on short-term rentals will be factored into the accommodation price and the guests will pick up the tab.

Short-stay operators already enjoy the loophole that allows the entire industry to avoid paying virtually any GST, and this new state tax only partly impacts that advantage.

If this tax is the only regulatory policy to be implemented at the state level, short-stay issues will continue unabated. The tax appears to legitimise the industry while leaving it unregulated. The government has missed the opportunity to gather intelligence on operators because the tax will be collected from the platforms like Airbnb, while operators will remain uncounted and unknown, carrying on regardless.

The only beneficiaries of the new tax will be Airbnb and other short-stay platforms; because the policy gives the impression that something is being done. Together, state government and the major short-stay platforms now have a policy outcome that will continue to ensure that Victoria is one of the most heavily saturated short-stay markets in the world.

Where did the short-stay tax idea originate? We know rising interest rates have been eroding the state's stamp duty bonanza, and the Commonwealth Games cancellation costs will be excruciating. Perhaps the state government just needed what the largest platform claims to offer hosts: "an extra bit of income" on the side?

We Live Here has just started liaising again with the government after a two-year hiatus. It is indeed disappointing that the issues we have been raising seem to have been discounted.

Eight years and we're still waiting

After eight years of inaction the Victorian Government has announced a policy that will only generate income for the state coffers, without solving systemic short-stay problems.

What else has the government done since 2015? It made one dismal attempt to look like



it was taking action on short-stay parties, with a Bill that has had zero effect and, the last time we checked, zero tribunal orders in favour of residents.

- Our policy is waiting to be heard and acted upon:
- A state-wide registration system for short-stay operators.
- Allow owners' corporations to make rules on short-stays.
- An annual day cap.
- Realistic and enforceable penalties.

All these basic requirements are being brushed aside while the government merely imposes a tax that might help balance its books.

Campaign donations

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



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DOCKLANDS NEWS

What's on: October 2023



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

MELBOURNE BOAT SHOW

The Melbourne Boat Show, Victoria's premier boating event, is on this October on the waterfront at Docklands. Explore the world of Boats, Boating and the Boating Lifestyle!

Free. NewQuay Prom + Harbour Esp



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 12PM - 5PM

HALLOZEEN ZINE FAIR

Welcome to the 9th annual Spooky Zine Fair. This year, Hallozeen is back at The Mission to Seafarers! Come along to shop some of the spookiest zines created by local zinesters, including this year's featured artist, Arkham Jack.

Mission to Seafarers Victoria, 717 Flinders St

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

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10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

OCTOBER 2013 | ISSUE 91 |



Bunjil tipped to stay in Docklands

Lendlease wants Bunjil to remain part of the Batman's Hill precinct after it is developed.



Lendlease secured development rights for the 2.5-hectare site in August, prompting concerns about what would happen to the statue.

Speaking at the Docklands Community Forum on September 25, Places Victoria's senior development manager Ronan Mellan said Lendlease's preference was for the sculpture to remain on the median strip but be moved five metres south.

Mr Mellan said he had been inundated with enquiry from around Australia from places and organisations wanting the sculpture.

Lendlease's project director Brian Herlihy said: "We're currently consulting with stakeholders including the artist Bruce Armstrong, Places Victoria and others to determine the most appropriate location for the eagle."

"One of the options being explored is to keep the eagle within the median strip of Wurundjeri Way."

"Any relocation will respect the eagle sculpture appropriately, so the community can enjoy this significant landmark."

Places Victoria owns the sculpture and Mr Mellan said the authority would assess the visual impacts of relocation on the median strip to determine if this was appropriate.

He said Places Victoria expected a strong response on the Bunjil sculpture during the community consultation process, which is running this month.

Public information sessions on the Batman's Hill project will be held on Monday, October 28 and Tuesday, October 29 between 6pm and 8pm. The sessions will be held at the Lifestyle Working building at 838 Collins St, Docklands.

Attendees will be able to meet with members of the Lend Lease project and find out more about what is being proposed for the site. ●

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