

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Diwali at Docklands draws huge crowds

More than 12,000 people flocked to Marvel Stadium's brand-new Town Square precinct for Diwali celebrations on Saturday, November 11.

EVENTS

Event organisers were ecstatic with the response to the first major Diwali event of its kind held in Docklands, and what was the first community event staged at Marvel Stadium's redeveloped entrance between gates one and three.

Event organiser and CEO of local charity SarasCare Gautam Gupta said the festival was a major success for Docklands, and that organisers were already gearing up for the 2024 edition where they hoped to attract more than 25,000 people.

More photos on page 8.

New Development Victoria Minister shy on Docklands

The Minister for the newly created portfolio for Development Victoria Colin Brooks has snubbed an invite to share his vision for Docklands.

WORDS BY *Sean Car & Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

Docklands News contacted the office of Mr Brooks in November in the hope to conduct an interview to find out what his new portfolio would entail and what fresh perspectives he

would bring to Docklands.

Unfortunately, that request was surprisingly knocked back despite the Minister publicly expressing enthusiasm for taking up the newly created role in October, which was assigned under Premier Jacinta Allan's new-look Victorian cabinet.

Instead, *Docklands News* was asked to send any enquiries via email to Mr Brooks' office, which it did.

However, in a reply email Mr Brooks did not respond to a series of questions. Instead, Mr Brooks said, "Development Victoria is responsible for managing the government's urban renewal of Docklands, through strong partnerships with the community, private partners and the City of Melbourne".

He also noted that Docklands was home to 17,500 residents and 73,000 workers – information that is otherwise publicly available at Development Victoria's and/or the City of Melbourne's websites.

When asked about his thoughts on the revitalisation of Central Pier and Harbour Esplanade, Mr Brooks said, "We're also listening to community on how best to revitalise Central Pier and the surrounding area into the future."

The state government is developing a strategy to revitalise Central Pier and the adjacent waterfront following its permanent closure in 2020. The 100-year-old heritage structure is a significant landmark in Docklands with its redevelopment crucial to the future of the precinct after it was hit hard by the pandemic.

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

Other questions ignored by Mr Brooks included whether the government would place more resources into supporting the revitalisation of Docklands, and what he wanted his legacy to look like as the new Minister for Development Victoria.

Residents and business owners have continuously expressed their desire to understand the government's vision for Docklands and how it would impact the future of the area. For now, those questions remain unanswered. ●

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“Hot”, “exposed” and “no shade”: residents criticise Harbour Esplanade

Docklanders have lamented the lack of sun protection and deplored overall heat levels on a prominent waterfront area.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ENVIRONMENT

Harbour Esplanade has been described as “hot” and “exposed” by locals, who have criticised the lack of facilities in Docklands that provide respite from the sun.

New above-ground tree planters would not provide respite for some time, according to surveyed Docklanders.

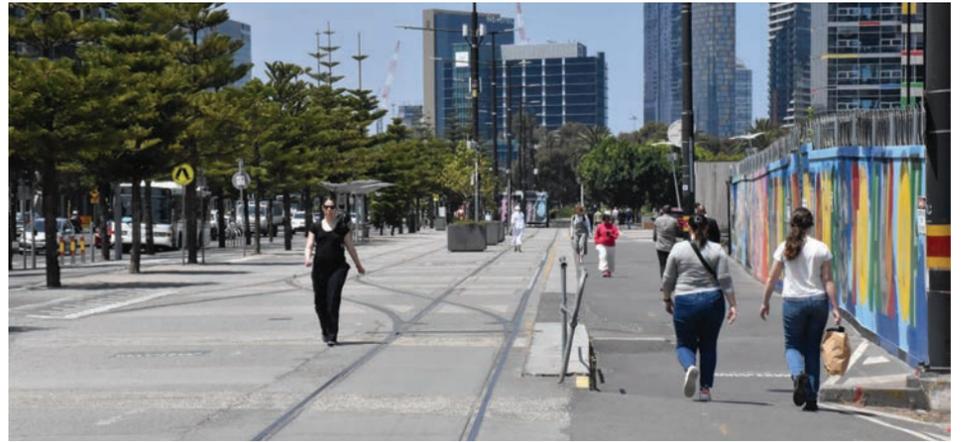
As part of community consultation for the City of Melbourne’s Heat Safe City Principles, and in an effort to understand concerns about extreme heat, earlier this year the council conducted face-to-face engagement across the municipality, including families with young children in Docklands.

According to a council document, feedback centred around a lack of community facilities in Docklands providing respite from the sun, and that the location of the Community Hub and Library was difficult to walk to from the other side of the harbour.

Online surveys that followed asked users to drop a pin on a map to identify “hot spots”, and locals were similarly critical.

“The entire foreshore of the Harbour Esplanade facing Victoria Harbour at Docklands is very hot and offers no real shade other than the odd small tree,” one respondent wrote.

“The distance between them is massive. Even so, the immediate water’s edge area for tourists offers no respite from the heat with, amazingly,



no seating options either.”

Another added: “Walking between West Melbourne and Docklands is very exposed and gets very hot at times. The new trees are a welcome addition and might help in a few years, but the walk across the bridge and along Harbour Esplanade is so exposed and hot.”

Others criticised prominent spots nearby. “All around Marvel Stadium,” another respondent wrote. “So much concrete and no or very little greenery.”

Since the survey, new green space has been created outside the stadium, and five new garden beds were finished at Victoria Point in July.

The City of Melbourne was currently in the process of installing 16 above-ground tree planters along Harbour Esplanade, between the existing Norfolk Island pines and the water’s edge.

The council said it was limited on the amount of permanent greening it could install on the water’s edge, with the site’s mixed use, underground infrastructure, and availability of soil for planting all considerable obstacles.

It was also limited in greening La Trobe

Street bridge, due to the weight loading of heavy concrete planters.

Development Victoria told *Docklands News* that the provision of shade and amenities in the local area was a council responsibility.

The Docklands “Urban Forest Precinct Plan” is due for renewal in 2024, and the City of Melbourne is set to host a workshop where members of the community can share their ideas for the area.

“Melbourne is world-renowned for its urban greenery, from our parks and gardens to our striking tree-lined streets and green rooftops,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“We’re increasing our canopy cover to almost 40 per cent to provide more shaded and cooler areas for the Docklands community.”

“We’ve also planted more than 3500 trees in Docklands alone over the past 10 years, including an extra 134 trees this season.”

The council recently partnered with RMIT University to test alternative opportunities to cool the city, the findings of which will inform its next steps in addressing hotspots identified by the community. ●

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City of Melbourne elections: who's staying, who's going?

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

It sounds a bit cliché to proclaim, “the next term of council could be the most important ever for the City of Melbourne”. After all, every new term of local government is as important as the last.

But it's not every council term during which one can say a once-in-a-generation pandemic occurred, causing Melbourne to be the victim of the world's longest lockdowns.

Remember the last council elections in 2020? Seems like a lifetime ago now, doesn't it? It was an election campaign dominated by virtual-only campaigning and “Meet the Candidates” events.

As we head into 2024, and find ourselves in what is already the final year of the current term at the City of Melbourne, councillor hopefuls will be relieved that we won't be seeing a mass return to Zoom.

While three years doesn't sound like a particularly long time, it is in politics when one considers the impacts the prolonged lockdowns have had on the city, with cost-of-living and housing crises hot on the pandemic's heels.

“
The word one could most aptly use to describe the current council term is “recovery”. All the focus has been placed on getting Melbourne back on its feet and helping it rediscover its mojo.
”

Given these immense challenges, compounded by consecutive budget deficits and a high-inflationary environment, it's hard to give the current group of councillors, led by the city's champion flag-bearer Lord Mayor Sally Capp, anything less than a safe pass mark.

Considering the widespread devastation and what appear to be generational changes to working patterns in the CBD, the fact the city has emerged as well as it has so quickly is a testament to the council's efforts.

But while some pre-pandemic trends have returned, and in some cases, increased, across the city, there are still so many areas of concern. One only has to look at the many pockets of the CBD during the week, Docklands generally and a disparately patronised Lygon St, to see that we still have a long way to go to “getting the buzz back”.

That's why one could reasonably argue that the next council term is, in fact, THE most important in ensuring the thriving Melbourne we all once knew not only returns but continues to find new ways of reinventing itself.

So, what could a new council look like?

It's hard to see Lord Mayor Sally Capp not running for a second term and she'll be tough to beat. While in the past she's hinted at being a one-term councillor following her initial by-election win in the wake of Robert Doyle's sudden departure, there is plenty of unfinished business.

Namely, her signature Greenline project will be central to her motivations for running again.

The project, which seeks to revitalise the entire stretch of the north bank of the Yarra/Birrarung, still has a long way to go in terms of securing the necessary funding from Commonwealth and state governments. The council is even considering selling Citywide to help tip in some cash, so her leadership will be required to help see it through.

There's always the question of who will run against her for Lord Mayor, but whether anyone will present a serious challenge is another.

Many are expecting former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood to put his hat in the ring again, while *Docklands News* understands a prominent group of Melbourne business identities are already preparing to mount a challenge to overthrow Sally ... more on this in the new year!

Assuming Sally goes again, one expects Nick Reece will run alongside her as Deputy Lord Mayor once more. Whether Kevin Louey, the silent but influential councillor, will run in the number one spot on her council ticket again remains to be seen. It would be a remarkable fifth term serving on council if he did.

But it's fair to say Liberal Party member Roshena Campbell won't take the number two spot on the Team Capp ticket as she did in 2020. There's been a clear divide between Capp and Campbell during this council term on a number of issues including transport, climate policy and a safe injecting room in the CBD. The philosophical misalignment appears to be too great to reconcile.

After a failed byelection in the federal seat of Aston this year, and an earlier nomination for the seat of Casey in 2021, it's clear Roshena still has aspirations for Canberra with the Libs.

It's likely she could head up an unofficial Liberal Party ticket of her own at the next council election as a way of providing her with a platform for whatever her next federal tilt might be. Only time will tell!

The big change will come in the form of Greens councillor Rohan Leppert, who is understood not to be contesting for what would be a fourth term. This is a significant and irreplaceable loss for the council – his incredible knowledge and expertise will be missed.

This will likely see Olivia Ball moved up to the first spot on a Greens ticket, presenting an opportunity for a new Greens councillor to join her at Town Hall.

As for the rest of the current council, one would think the return of Davydd Griffiths will be nothing short of a formality on another Labor Party-endorsed ticket, while Elizabeth

Doidge will likely seek re-election again with the strong support of a union-backed ticket.

Docklands resident Jamal Hakim will also run again as an independent and is in a good position for re-election having built a positive profile and strengthening his electoral hand since last squeezing onto council in 2020.

Phillip Le Liu is also expected to run again, but having since resigned his Liberal Party membership, it's difficult to see a clear path to re-election for what would be a third council term. Who he decides to align himself with will be key, but one can never count him out.

That leaves Jason Chang, the councillor elected through Arron Wood's ticket. As proprietor of the business Calia, as seen at Emporium, his personal mandate was always to be a voice for small business.

But running a business alongside being a councillor seems to have weighed heavily on his ability to make a significant impact, so it's a question of whether the fire's still burning for a tilt in 2024. And, of course, who he runs with.

So, apart from the exit of Cr Leppert and uncertainty surrounding a handful of other positions, it's hard to see too much changing in 2024. But all councillors and other hopefuls will already be busy making their moves and mapping out pathways towards election, with plenty to contemplate over the Christmas break.

On that note, *Docklands News* wishes all our readers, advertisers, and supporters a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year. As always, we look forward to bringing you more local news from the City of Melbourne in 2024. ●



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“Get it right the first time”: Maritime Union of Australia supports call to create maritime experience centre at Central Pier

The Maritime Union of Australia’s (MUA) Victoria branch secretary Robert Lumsden has spoken of the critical importance in redeveloping Central Pier, saying it must capture the essence of maritime history while providing a vibrant space for everyone to enjoy.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Hanna Komissarova*
PLANNING



Mr Lumsden said the MUA was actively supporting and advocating for the successful reutilisation of Central Pier, as Development Victoria prepared to demolish and redevelop the deteriorating century-old structure after a community engagement report was released in August.

As part of the project, Mr Lumsden told *Docklands News* that consideration should be given to creating a maritime experience centre showcasing the historical significance of the pier and its connection to Melbourne’s maritime history, while ensuring it was an appealing tourist destination, emphasising “if you’re going to do it, get it right the first time”.

He pointed to the success of the Brook Street Pier in Hobart, a floating pontoon built in 2015 that incorporates maritime heritage and architecture of the precinct to deliver a vibrant working cruise and ferry centre.

It also features a public space and market for tourism operators including seafood, dairy,

wine and whisky, with the terminal level also used as an event space for up to 1200 people outside of ferry operating hours.

“Creating something like a floating pier would be great as an interactive space for people and kids to be able to enjoy it,” Mr Lumsden said.

“We don’t want to see so much as a museum, we don’t want to call it that, but more a maritime experience and cultural centre along the lines of what’s happening in Hobart.”

Mr Lumsden said the Brook Street Pier had proved to be an overwhelming success, noting its transformation of becoming a bustling tourism hub should serve as a blueprint for Central Pier, a concept supported by the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN).

Asked if he agreed with Development Victoria’s community survey in relation to the redevelopment of Central Pier, which asked

whether the pier and the water should be a dynamic mix of public and commercial uses to activate the space and reflect the rich heritage of the place, Mr Lumsden said “most definitely”.

“Why wouldn’t we? It has to be something that’s interactive, bringing together Indigenous and cultural elements – just a record of the fantastic history the maritime sector brought to Melbourne,” he said, adding it must intertwine the “past, present, and future” to captivate locals and tourists alike.

However, he said that while “some form” of hospitality venues was welcome, “we wouldn’t want it to become a commercial entity”.

Mr Lumsden said it was equally important to also keep the murals at Central Pier, which are believed to have been created in the 1950s and ‘60s, most of which had deteriorated, saying it “would be a shame to see all of that lost”.

According to MMHN’s chair Dr Jackie Watts,

she understood that the murals, with their historical merit being unknown, “may not stand up to demolition”, with Development Victoria taking the “precautionary step to ensure they were digitally captured”.

Dr Watts said MMHN had been offered to meet with the designers of Brook Street Pier at some time in the new year to explain the success behind Hobart’s floating pier project.

A huge benefit to building a floating pier, she said, was that it would be built off-site with “no disruption” (either noise or pollution) to Docklands, as “it’s floated into place and reconnected to the existing services”.

“That’s our plan to get experts and the powers to be in round table discussion and share their expertise.”

Meanwhile, Development Victoria’s group head of precincts Niall Cunningham said specialist marine contractor Fitzgerald Constructions Australia Pty Ltd had been on-site since October and had begun water-based piling works, which was the first step in the process of removing Central Pier.

“This work will include mooring poles driven into Victoria Harbour to secure the barges that will transport the machinery, including cranes, that will be used for the removal works,” he said.

“The buildings on the pier will be the first to be removed, followed by the pier itself. The process is expected to take several years to complete.”

Equipment and cranes will work from barges anchored in the water, which are carefully positioned alongside the structure.

Development Victoria said it would continue to engage with Heritage Victoria, the City of Melbourne, the community and other key stakeholders to identify opportunities for the revitalisation of Central Pier and adjacent waterfront areas while respecting the rich cultural heritage of the Victoria Harbour. ●

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POINTS**
BY SHERATON

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Helping to bring Docklands' soul to the surface

To any Docklander who has had the pleasure of getting to know Jason Butcher, they'll already be familiar with the fact that he is pure heart and soul.

WORDS BY Sean Car

He may have only worked in our community since 2019, but during that time, Jason has established a reputation for being a fearless champion and advocate for Docklands.

One could be forgiven for thinking that he'd worked his entire career in community development, such is the connection he has established with so many locals, and the passion he has brought the area.

But it was only during that same year, 2019, when he made the jump from hospitality – an industry he admitted he'd worked in for “far, far, far too long”, but was also one that gave him the impetus and many of the people skills necessary for community development.

“It [my hospitality career] was all front-of-house. I got really good at being able to talk with people and make them really comfortable,” he told *Docklands News*.

“I had so many people, friends and strangers and everything, going, ‘you know, you should get into social work or something, man. I reckon you'd be really good at that.’”

“I was just tired of incredibly late nights and wanted to do something more fulfilling for myself and which allowed me to have the capacity to give back a lot of what I'd taken out of the world.”

Since helping establish Docklands' Pop-Up Neighbourhood House in 2019, which was formerly based at The District Docklands, Jason

has undoubtedly poured his heart and soul into supporting this community.

While he also spent time early in his community development days as part of his placement working with the Centre for Multicultural Youth in Sunshine West, he's remained in Docklands ever since.

But like so many, the passion he now has for postcode 3008 has been fed by a continuous sense of discovery about what Docklands really is beneath the surface – largely, that is, the people who make it what it is.

“There's probably some people who are going to slam my head against the wall for this ...” he laughed. “I guess in a lot of ways I did have what is the common misconception of Docklands – the fact that it was largely, particularly pre-COVID, nine-to-five [workers] outweighing the resident population so much that it was a corporate wasteland.”

“It was only through meeting some of the community groups like Love Our Streets 3008 and actually going out and volunteering, linking up with groups like the YMCA, getting to meet some of the residents who had a real passion for getting things kicking in the suburb that it [the misconception] was disavowed.”

He added that if there was one positive to come out of COVID for Docklands, the exodus of office workers and renewed focus on the notion of “the local” had helped to further reveal more about its identity.

“It [the pandemic] left a lot of gaps for community to fill, and really promoted the growth of the resident community,” he said.

“As much as community is used as a sort of blanket term for everyone, basically at the core of it, I tend to think that the real community are the people that are here before and after everyone else goes home. They're the ones that live here. They're the core.”

And, since serving as the Docklands Pop-Up Neighbourhood House community development officer from its inception, Jason has been able to develop a strong understanding of what that “core” looks like.

Up until its closure this year, the pop-up facilitated a range of regular programs, including playgroups, health and wellbeing classes, fishing sessions, art classes and the popular repair café, among others.

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

But it was the “front-line services” it often provided to locals in a range of areas including family violence, government services and rental support that only further demonstrated the critical need for a Neighbourhood House in Docklands.

However, after initial funding from Development Victoria elapsed and ongoing financial support was not provided by the City of Melbourne, the service closed its doors at The District this year.

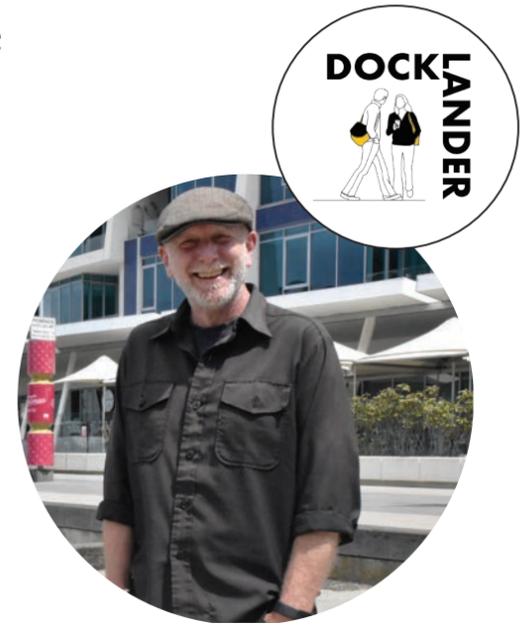
“It [Neighbourhood House] was hugely appreciated,” Jason said. “The fact that I still have community members coming up to me and asking when we're going to start running programs again, I think that it shows just how important the way that we approached things was.”

“Community development, to my mind and to my ideals, views the community as creators. It's much messier, it's much more non-linear than community engagement, but it involves, getting the community, particularly its more disadvantaged members, used to the fact that they have the power.”

“That they have the capacity and the strength. That they're the experts in what they do. It's all about working with them.”

But while the Neighbourhood House may have closed (at least for now anyway) it has done anything but diminish the love Jason has grown for Docklands.

So much so, that he has been quietly working on a campaign in conjunction with some major precinct partners, all aimed at telling the Docklands story through the lens of those who



make it what it is – its people.

In celebration of the soul of Docklands, from 2024 expect to hear the stories of just a handful of our many inspiring locals as told by Jason, who believes it will be another important exercise in this community's development.

“I've been talking to people for this project that I'm working on, and just the intelligence of the community, the passion of the community, the commitment that some of the people have to actually affect positive change, not just for themselves but for the wider community as well, is incredible,” he said.

“This community is amazing – it's the diversity, the breadth of experience, the fact that, there's people from all over the world, and there's people who have had experiences that like I could never have even dreamt of having.”

“I think it's time that that people start concentrating on telling Docklands' story, telling the story about Docklands' culture, and building that, rather than just building things. That really struck me, and I hope this project can at least be a platform for that.” ●

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- Library at The Dock is hosting Salamfest on 2 December, creating a space for diverse Muslim communities to support social change through arts and culture. Activities include films, interactive and performing arts, and discussions.
- Get in the Christmas spirit with The Dock Community Christmas on 2 December and enjoy community activities, craft, music and a visit from Santa.
- City of Melbourne is running a health and wellbeing session on 6 December to hear community priorities on this topic. Check out the events section on your Neighbourhood Portal for more.
- Have you been to the Makers' Market at The District lately? Enjoy live entertainment and colourful market stalls with art, craft, jewellery, fashion, homewares, gifts, and homemade and homegrown produce. Grab a coffee and stroll around with friends. From 11am-4pm Sunday 31 December.
- What better way to make the most of summer than fishing on the Yarra River-Birrarung? Join a keen group who meet at 3pm on Wednesdays for afternoon fishing at Docklands Marina. Bait and fishing rods are provided.
- The Docklands Stakeholder Group continues to work on the key priorities identified by the Docklands Summit. Keep an eye out on the Neighbourhood Portal for activities to action these items.
- Have an idea that brings your community together? Apply for a City of Melbourne Connected Neighbourhoods Small Grant with up to \$2000 to run your activity.

Want to connect with your neighbourhood? Contact your Docklands neighbourhood partner, Fadi Qunqar, at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/docklands

A LOOK AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



Andrea Seers and the Dragons Abreast Melbourne Pink Phoenix take to the waters of Victoria Harbour for fitness and fun

Dragon boating in Docklands is the breast medicine for cancer survivors

A group of breast cancer survivors have found strength, solidarity and healing through an unconventional avenue: dragon boating.

Having navigated their own personal health challenges, the members of Dragons Abreast Melbourne Pink Phoenix come together each week to navigate the waters of Docklands' own Victoria Harbour, proving that paddling is sometimes the best medicine.

The dragon boat has become a vessel of resilience and empowerment, fostering solace and support among these survivors who, while all having their own lived experiences, share the benefits of camaraderie and an active lifestyle post diagnosis and treatment.

For Andrea Seers, who was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a bilateral mastectomy in 2003, joining Dragons Abreast Melbourne Pink Phoenix has afforded her a healthy new life of friendship and adventure in a safe and caring environment.

"After the bilateral mastectomy I experienced lymphoedema in my arms," Andrea said.

"When I read an article in the Breast Cancer Network of Australia

newsletter back in 2011 outlining the benefits of dragon boating for breast cancer survivors I was interested."

The article profiled Dragons Abreast Australia which has clubs all over the country, including Docklands-based Dragons Abreast Melbourne Pink Phoenix.

"I had been wanting to try a new exercise and it was a perfect fit, along with the social side of dragon boating," Andrea said.

"This exercise is perfectly suited to me to keep my lymphatic system moving well throughout my body via the gentle repetitive motion of paddling and it's keeping my arms quite strong as well."

Andrea, who is now club president, said membership is open to all breast cancer survivors and their support crew.

"The club has 26 members comprising breast cancer survivors and our wonderful male and female supporters, currently ranging in age from 48 to 68. Our group is multicultural and we are always looking to welcome new members."

The importance of social connection and belonging after undergoing a

serious health diagnosis cannot be underestimated, Andrea said.

"Especially after dealing with the debilitating treatments and psychological stress after a diagnosis of breast cancer, our club is a wonderful supportive environment for people who have been through this," she said.

"To be surrounded and supported by those who have all been through the same experience is hugely rewarding, and we provide hope and a pathway for these people to experience a new life of wellness and adventure."

Dragons Abreast - and many community groups like it - are listed on City of Melbourne's new Wellbeing and Connection Map.

The map is designed to help people find activities, services and initiatives that support social connection and inclusion in their neighbourhood.

"By including information about our club in the Wellbeing and Connection Map, we are hoping that many in our community who have previously been diagnosed with breast cancer will be made aware of our club's existence and become aware of the potential health and wellness benefits they could receive by coming to join us," Andrea said.

Dragons Abreast Melbourne Pink Phoenix paddle for one hour from 10am on Saturdays and, during the non-winter months, from 6pm on Wednesdays. No previous experience is necessary. Meet at the Community Hub @ The Dock, 912 Collins Street, Docklands.

To learn more about the pink paddling phenomenon, visit revolutionise.com.au/pinkphoenix/home/ or find other community groups in Docklands at melbourne.vic.gov.au/wellbeingconnectionmap

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A look inside the Fox Classic Car Collection



Open two days a week in the historic Queen's Warehouse in Docklands, the evolution of trucking billionaire Lindsay Fox's classic car collection remains somewhat of a mystery to many in the community.



WORDS BY *Sean Car*
HERITAGE



Docklands News visited on a Saturday in November to get a sense of what's on offer. Along with Thursdays, Saturdays are the only other day of the week the museum opens to the public, from 10am to 2pm on both days.

The Fox Family Trust, which manages the warehouse and the collection, has been known to rotate the many cars within Mr Fox's collection since it gained control of the heritage-listed warehouse on the corner of Collins St and Batman's Hill Drive in 1996.

The trust pays just \$1 a year in rent for the building and surrounding land, under a special 99-year lease granted by former Prime Minister Paul Keating and then-Premier Jeff Kennett in 1995.

The lease was issued for the purposes of establishing a public car museum and promoting uses consistent with those purposes. The Kangan Institute has run an automotive TAFE

next to Queen's Warehouse since 1996, which was provided by the trust for a peppercorn sum.

But since those days, the precinct, which extends to the neighbouring site at the corner of Harbour Esplanade and Collins St, has seen very little activity. In 2019, the trust moved the cars out of the warehouse in preparation to remediate the adjacent site ahead of development, but no plans have been revealed since.

The new development has long been understood to house stage three of Kangan's Docklands campus, as well as an expanded "world-class" car museum managed by the trust. But for now, the collection is made available to the public to view for a total of 8 hours a week.

Upon entering the Queen's Warehouse, you can't help but be struck by a rare sense of Docklands' working-class history, much of which has been diminished or demolished

across the rest of the suburb.

The warehouse, which was built as a Customs Bonded Store in 1890, was designed by the Victorian Public Works architect Alexander James Macdonald in the American Romanesque style.

Between 1908 to 1924, it was Australia's first banknote and stamp printing works. The "Strong Room", which you can still peer inside today, was built to secure contraband, printed notes, and gold.

During World War Two it became a major goods and warehouse distribution point for wharf and rail.

If you're a car enthusiast, Fox's Car Collection naturally provides a fair bit of intrigue. The volunteers who work there are very accommodating, and there are some truly stunning cars, both vintage and modern.

Among the current display, which is largely made up of Porsche, Ferrari and Mercedes, notable features include the Mercedes 280SL – the same model driven by former Beatle John Lennon – and the Porsche 1955 Spyder, the car in which James Dean famously died in while driving.

While there are many memorable cars to see and some interesting gems of automotive history that come along with them, even for an avid petrol head, the current museum offers a fairly static experience.

With 70-odd years left to run on the current dollar-a-year lease arrangement, the Fox Family Trust would understandably be in no hurry to get on with revitalising the museum and the adjoining site, particularly in today's economy.

But with the lease agreement signed before a single resident called Docklands home, it's existence should call into sharp focus whether the automotive theme still holds water in the community.

The opportunities for more parklands, community facilities or even affordable housing at the adjoining site, are but a smattering of more valuable uses one could think of for what is publicly owned land.

Not to mention the heritage Queen's Warehouse itself, which screams of opportunities for an arts and cultural institution that Docklands is sorely lacking at present, and one which connects its users back to Docklands' past.

But it would appear any talk of a change in use remains an impossibility given the existing long-term lease arrangement that is in place – something reiterated by Development Victoria's Group Head Precincts, Niall Cunningham.

"There have been no changes or extension to the current lease agreement for the Queen's Warehouse building," Mr Cunningham said.

"We're continuing to work with the Fox Family Trust to consider options to develop the site adjacent to the Queen's Warehouse to support the urban renewal of Docklands." ●

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Diwali delight

EVENTS

More than 12,000 people flocked to Marvel Stadium's brand-new Town Square precinct, and a further 1000 people attended events held at The District Docklands, for Diwali celebrations on Saturday, November 11. ●



For more information:
docklands.community

Police investigate suspected arson attack at a Docklands restaurant

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

A Docklands restaurant that went up in flames during the early hours of November 18 was suspected to have been targeted by arsonists twice within three days, according to Victoria Police.

Emergency services were called to the blaze at the Karizma restaurant on New Quay Promenade after fire alarms were set off about 2.40am. The fire caused significant damage to the venue, with about 60 people safely evacuated from the overhead apartments.

"The offenders struck a second time, setting fire to the restaurant again, which was completely destroyed shortly after 2am on

November 20," Victoria Police said.

Residents who were again forced to evacuate made a lucky escape. Detectives from the Arson and Explosives Squad are investigating and are looking at whether the two incidents are linked to other fires across Melbourne relating to the illegal tobacco trade, "however it is still too early to say at this time".

Police have taped off the front of the business with charred rubble inside and broken glass visible from the footpath.

It's understood the restaurant is owned by convicted drug boss Fadi Haddara.

Anyone who witnessed the incident, with CCTV/dashcam footage or information that could assist investigators are urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. ●



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Cygnets capture local hearts

WORDS BY *Afraa Kori*
ENVIRONMENT

Docklanders from across the precinct have witnessed the full circle of life with the birth of beautiful cygnets in November.

Since the November edition of *Docklands News* with photos of mother with her unhatched babies on new floating wetlands installed by the City of Melbourne, the fluffy little creatures have since emerged and have been busy exploring their surroundings.

Many residents, including Docklander Shahzad Siddiqui who captured these stunning images, have been sharing their experiences and sightings with others in the community which has whole-heartedly embraced them.

“I have been coming across them on a daily basis since they hatched,” Mr Siddiqui said. “On the day they hatched, it was kind of a festive atmosphere. Most of the residents were aware and keeping track of them. They were happy and it was like someone we knew had given birth.”

Another resident Lori Fellows said the swan families had been attracting the interest of many locals and visitors.

“We have been seeing pairs of swans set up nests and raise their cygnets on one of the main islands since they were first installed. Lots of locals from South Wharf and other places go down to see them and watch for the hatching,” Ms Fellows said.

“Many people are there taking photos every day, all of them with smiles on their faces, also chatting to each other. It’s so lovely to see in the centre of Melbourne.” ●

Delays to continue around Wurundjeri Way

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
TRANSPORT

Following a brief reopening over the coming Christmas and New Year break, the northern end of Wurundjeri Way will close again for a further two months as part of the completion of the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP).

The government announced in September that the section between Bourke and Dudley streets would remain closed to traffic between October 8 and December 2 while new ramps were constructed as part of the project.

With no further works at Wurundjeri Way announced at the time, it was expected the important Docklands arterial road would reopen and remain open ahead of the Christmas break.

However, as part of its “Big Summer Build” program of works, the state government announced on November 20 that following a brief reprieve for local traffic, the same section of road would close again from “mid-January to early March”.

It said these works would “allow for intersection works as well as work on the new road bridge that will remove traffic from the CBD and improve connectivity between the north, city, and west.”

“There will also be a weekend closure of CityLink between Footscray Rd and Dynon Rd on December 8 to allow for the installation of a huge

steel beam that will create the vital link between the new elevated road on Footscray Rd and CityLink,” a government statement said.

The closures to Wurundjeri Way and Dudley St have seen extensive delays surrounding Docklands in recent months, with through traffic forced to travel along Harbour Esplanade and through the western end of the CBD.

A spokesperson for the WGTP told *Docklands News* works on Wurundjeri Way had been split into two stages with a break in between to allow the roads to reopen over the busy pre-Christmas season.

Multiple detour routes will be in place to help people get around, while access to Marvel Stadium will be available at all times via Bourke St or Flinders St and the southern end of Wurundjeri Way.

“We’re close to completing the first stage of works on this new city bypass that has involved building a new bridge and elevated roadway to extend Wurundjeri Way to Dynon Rd. We’ll start the second stage of works in mid-January,” the WGTP spokesperson said.

“We are delivering these vital works in stages to minimise disruptions and thank the community for their patience and understanding.”

“The Wurundjeri Way city bypass will change the way people move around the city and remove traffic from key city roads, including taking up to 5000 vehicles a day all up off Spencer and King streets.” ●

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Docklander recognised in the Melbourne Awards

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*
LOCAL NEWS

Docklands resident and founder and CEO of fintech startup 1receipt Shahryar Faraji was among the finalists at this year's Melbourne Awards on November 11.

The annual ceremony, which awards the coveted Melburnian of the Year honour, and, for the first time this year, the Young Melburnian of the Year, identifies eight key areas that are central to helping Melbourne thrive, including:

- Aboriginal Melbourne (ganbu guljin)
- Access and Inclusion
- City Design
- Arts and Events
- Community
- Knowledge and Innovation
- LGBTIQ+
- Sustainability



Finalist for the Sustainability award, 1receipt aims to reduce paper receipt wastage through its smartphone app, which issues, stores and manages receipts in one location.

While he didn't emerge as the award winner, which was won by clothing recycling organisation RCYCL, Mr Faraji said he was honoured by the recognition.

"Being named a finalist for the 2023 Melbourne Awards in the Sustainability category for the second time has been an incredible honour," Mr Faraji said.

"It's a testament to our shared dedication to reshaping the shopping landscape and contributing to a more sustainable future."



The Melbourne Awards also recognised Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM as the Melburnian of the Year for his work in developing the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Australia's largest independent refugee organisation.

Additionally, the Young Melburnian of the Year was awarded to Georgie Stone OAM for the first time since the category was introduced this year, celebrating her advocacy for trans and gender diverse children and youth. ●

For more information:
1receipt.co

Council endorses build-to-rent tower on "irregular-shaped" Victoria Harbour site

A "unique triangular building" featuring 499 build-to-rent apartments has been given the green light by City of Melbourne councillors.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

A 499-apartment build-to-rent tower on one of Docklands' last undeveloped parcels of land has been given the tick of approval by City of Melbourne councillors.

On what's been termed an "irregular-shaped" site at the junction of Collins and Bourke streets, developer Lendlease is set to commence construction on the 24-storey tower in 2024 should it be granted approval by the Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny.

Project architects Cox Architecture said it "broke with convention" in delivering a three-winged design that straddled the corners of the Victoria Harbour site, allowing for more sunlight than the usual, standard developments.

It is Lendlease's first build-to-rent project in Docklands that, unlike most apartment buildings where units are sold to prospective buyers, refers to a residential development in which dwellings are retained and leased directly by the developer.

The majority of the tower's 499 apartments will be one- or two-bedroom dwellings (198 and 224 respectively), as well as 56 studio apartments and 21 three-bedroom offerings.

"[The site is] one of the last remaining parcels of land remaining in Docklands, which is quite a remarkable thing if you think about what this part of the city looked like just three decades ago," the council's planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece said at the November 21 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

"It's now I think one of the best examples of waterfront living in an urban environment in Australia and it's been a remarkable journey ... I think it will be a real landmark for this part of the city, as you'd expect at the junction of Collins St and Bourke St."

The council attached one condition to its support; that ground-floor display suites were replaced by hospitality, retailers and tenancies which are publicly accessible at the 899-913 Collins St site.

"We have noticed with some of the build-to-rent applications coming before us, that we haven't seen the same level of street front activation that we would normally look for," Cr Reece said.

"So instead of retail or hospitality, we're getting co-working spaces, gyms and other amenity which is only accessible for people



who live [there]. From the City of Melbourne's perspective, we want to see our streets as active as possible, and create space on the street where the public is."

Cox Architecture director Simon Haussegger said the unique design would create better living conditions for future tenants.

"It's the first build-to-rent development by Lendlease in the precinct, so their ambitions were set really high from the very start of this project," he said.

"The floor plates are really designed to maximise the resident experience, so natural light to corridors where possible. The way that the three wings are configured allows for maximum natural light."

Speaking on behalf of Lendlease, Sarah Macklin from town planners Urbis said they expected construction to begin next year.

"The project will deliver almost 500 new dwellings, and when we're in a bit of a housing crisis with an undersupply [of housing], the delivery of those projects will be most welcome," she said.

"It's shovel-ready being a built to rent project. We don't have the burden of requiring pre-sale [of apartments] so it does mean it can commence quite quickly."

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

Cr Reece said the council was pleased to see another upcoming build-to-rent tower.

"Melbourne has really taken a lead with this sort of development. We've got more build-to-rent developments than anywhere else in the country with vacancy rates as low as 12 per cent. Like most other build-to-rent offerings this one will offer a very high standard of amenity." ●

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The good, bad, and delayed: Council releases “honest account” of how key projects are tracking



The City of Melbourne has released an appraisal on where it's falling behind, and what it's doing well.



WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has conceded key projects like Greenline and the Queen Victoria Market renewal were behind schedule as part of an “honest account” of key initiatives.

The appraisal, as part of the council's annual report released in late October, featured concessions it had not met some goals set out for the 2022-23 financial year.

Other indicators within the municipality were positive, in particular, slashing the number of shopfront vacancies, which had become a feature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the council acknowledged that key milestones for big-investment projects had not been met.

As part of a warts-and-all report of happenings throughout the municipality, the City's two key projects in Greenline and the QVM precinct renewal were marked as “behind schedule at 30 June 2023”.

A pledge to establish a funding plan for Greenline – crucial for the full project going ahead – and beginning stage one works at Birrarung Marr were not met.

Docklands News revealed in September however that works on site one (at Birrarung Marr) would begin in April 2024.

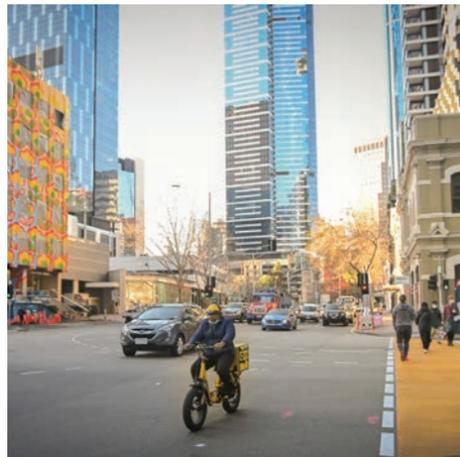
Key 2022-23 milestones for the Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal (the council's largest ever investment) such as completing the sheds' restoration and the Food Hall, and starting works on the new Trader Shed, weren't met either.

However, the latter two weren't far behind schedule; the Food Hall was set to open in November and works began on the seven-storey Trader Shed in October.

Some delays, the council said, were out of its hands.

“There's no doubt supply chain issues, experienced by others in our economy, have affected our capital works,” City of Melbourne CEO Alison Leighton noted in the report.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the report was designed to identify where the council had “fallen short”, and to “hold ourselves to account”.



▲ The City Road Master Plan and Greenline (right) are among projects identified by the council as being behind schedule in its latest Annual Report.

He argued they had even gone further than required.

“We've been fully up-front about activities that have been delayed or deferred and where we're behind or ahead of schedule,” Cr Reece said at the October 31 council meeting.

“This report goes way above and beyond what's required under our statutory reporting obligations. Way beyond.”

Long-time Greens Cr Rohan Leppert said the reporting was “best in the [local government] sector”.

“This sets the standard now,” he said.

“This is a level of disclosure on not just how each major initiative is being progressed over the course of the financial year but each individual activity beneath that, and it's an honest account as to whether we've been able to complete those activities or not.”

The council said one of its successes in 2022-23 was around retail recovery.

In the two years to June 2023, it had more than halved the number of empty retail spaces, from over 31 per cent to 14.4 per cent.

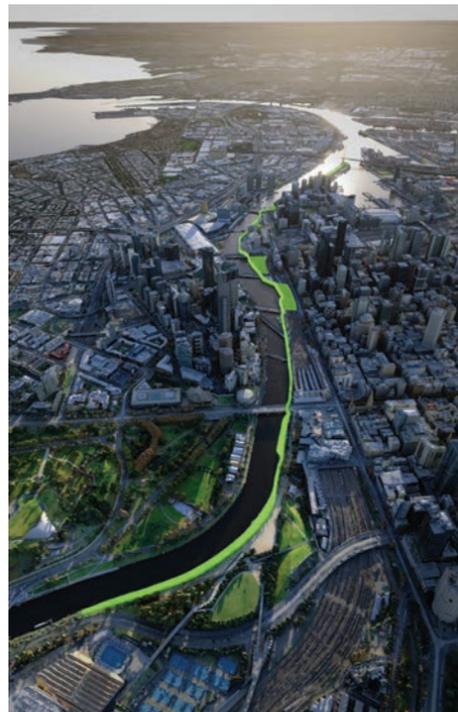
The “Shopfront Activation program”, which concluded in March, transformed 67 vacant shops into new retail spaces and enterprises in the CBD, Lygon St and Docklands.

Its business concierge team provided 14,081 businesses with support and mentoring.

The council's city activation chair Cr Roshena Campbell said the program was “the most tangible example” of the city's economic recovery.

“Anyone who walked the streets of Melbourne after COVID, towards the end of 2021, the fact that more than 30 per cent of our shops were vacant was one of the most stark realities about the impact of the pandemic on our city,” Cr Campbell said.

“The fact that we have halved that rate, that we are now down to 14.4 per cent, says a lot about how strong our city is, about the green shoots and the fact that we're coming back. But it didn't happen on its own.”



She said there was still a way to go. “The reality is 14.4 per cent isn't good enough, we know that we've still got to go further, but it does say that we have come very far along this journey and anyone walking our streets today can see the difference.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said while they were formally required to release an annual report each year, this year's went above the minimum requirements and urged locals to read it online.

“Really what is the point of this document if it's not a document that welcomes and encourages people to read it, and to gather that information and to hold us accountable and to be involved in that measurement of our progress,” Cr Capp said.

“We can also see from the Annual Report that nothing is ever really over, really. And it does really set us up for the ongoing work at council.”

Major projects behind schedule

- Greenline
- Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal
- Munro library and community hub
- Increase of public open space
- City Road Master Plan
- Increase/upgrade women's sport facilities

Major initiatives on track

- Power Melbourne
- Homes Melbourne
- New neighbourhood model
- Public art program
- Heritage reviews/new planning scheme amendments
- Delivery of new design panel/committees
- Rapid response cleaning team

What's going well?

- Gross local product: \$114 billion (up from \$107.4 billion in 2021-22)
- Number of jobs: 480,600 (up from 465,600)
- Number of visitors: 12.4 million (up from 6.3 million)
- Vacancy rate of retail premises: 14.4 per cent (down from 19 per cent)
- Number of start-ups in the municipality: 1251 (up from 1180)

What's not?

- Municipal greenhouse gas emissions: 4.55 million CO₂e (up from 4.23 million CO₂e)
- Number of businesses in the municipality: 13,829 (down from 14,513)
- Proportion of dwellings within 300m of public open space: 94.7 per cent (down from 96.3 per cent)
- Proportion of people reporting food insecurity (no change)



Other positives:

- Average score out of 100 for resident wellbeing: 73 (up from 72 in 2021-22)
- Proportion of people who regularly visit a park in the municipality: 88 per cent (up from 85 per cent)
- Proportion of people who participated in arts and cultural activities in the municipality: 24 per cent (up from 19 per cent)

Other negatives:

- Number of people supported through a range of accommodation: 91 (down from 118)
- Number of trees planted in the municipality: 2554 (down from 3041)
- Melburnians' self-reported sense of belonging to community: 63.1 per cent (down from 64.8 per cent)
- Number of people sleeping rough who have not been offered accommodation: 73 (up from 38)



David Schout

JOURNALIST

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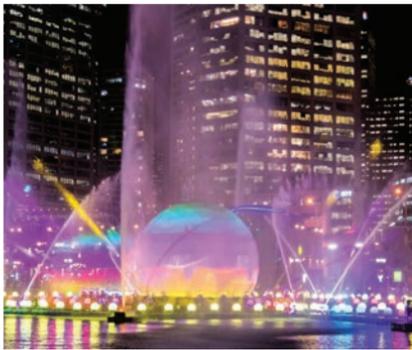
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CITY SET TO 'SLEIGH'

THIS CHRISTMAS



Enjoy free festivities as part of the City of Melbourne's Christmas Festival



Christmas is the most magical time of the year and the city is the place to discover all the fun and festivities.

And the best part – most of the fun is free.

It's because we want everyone to be able to have an affordable day out in the city and enjoy the Christmas activities on offer.

This year's Christmas Festival is set to be our best yet with a spectacular new laser show on the Yarra River – Birrarung and a brand-new home for Santa's Workshop in Howey Place, transforming the laneway into

a Christmas wonderland perfect for a jolly good photo moment.

The inaugural Christmas River Show will illuminate Southbank each night of the Christmas Festival - dazzling Melburnians with water fountains, lasers, lights and projections to a soundtrack of festive favourites.

An array of Christmas decorations will also adorn the city, including showstopping projections, laneway theming, giant presents, and nutcrackers.

And if that's not enough, wrap up your Christmas list at the city's iconic strips, malls and arcades. Shop little laneways and markets to find the perfect present for everyone in your life.

Catch up with loved ones in the city this Christmas to feast under festive lights or celebrate the sparkle season from rooftops.

Highlights of the festival include:

- Mesmerising Christmas projections – illuminating Melbourne Town Hall and State Library Victoria.

- A pop-up Christmas-themed roller rink – keeping the free festive fun rolling into Carlton's Argyle Square. Entry is free, with optional \$10 skate hire.
- The new-look Christmas Cinema – screening iconic festive films at the stunning Capitol Theatre.
- A festival maze in Docklands – inviting Melburnians to win their way through a full-sized labyrinth of giant presents and interactive games.
- Festive thrills and classic carnival treats – as the Christmas Carnival returns to the banks of the Yarra.
- The Listies Ruin Xmas – the acclaimed comedic duo returns to put the slay into sleighbells with an uproarious take on the holiday pantomime.
- The return of the Christmas Quest and Treasure Hunt – the ultimate Christmas-themed scavenger hunts with plenty of prizes to be won.

All attractions are free, except the Listies Ruin Christmas and the

Christmas Cinema. Proceeds from these events will go to the Good Giving appeal for Make Room – a City of Melbourne project creating new pathways out of homelessness.

The Christmas Festival is supported by major partners including the Victorian Government, Fed Square and World Vision.

For more information, visit whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au and search for Christmas.



Our Make Room project will provide supported accommodation and pathways to long-term housing for rough sleepers. We thank people like Helen Matthews, pictured with Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who has experienced the hardships of homelessness, for helping us deliver this important service.

PAY IT FORWARD THIS FESTIVE SEASON

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

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

We believe all Melburnians deserve access to safe and affordable housing.

That's why the City of Melbourne is working to reduce homelessness in the city through our housing project, Make Room.

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

The Make Room development will deliver 50 studio apartments, housing and homelessness services and other wraparound support. Residents will stay for up to 12 months, or until they can find long-term secure housing.

The design and service model have been informed through people with lived experience and support the needs of residents from different backgrounds. It will offer care and support services, with specialist health, housing and support staff located on-site.

HOW YOUR DONATION WILL HELP

This is a project that will change people's lives. By giving to Make Room, you are helping to give our most vulnerable community members a safe and secure roof over their head.

Donate at lmc.org.au/makeroom

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Your City of Melbourne community update

SIX WAYS TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Melbourne is rolling out the sparkling red carpet for a New Year's Eve celebration like no other.



Get ready to don your sequins and glitter as the city sparkles for the annual New Year's Eve spectacular.

The City of Melbourne will host a massive city-wide midnight celebration with a special 'all that sparkles' theme.

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

For the first time, Melbourne's iconic buildings and streets will be drenched in sparkles for the occasion - with trees across the city lit up, glittery projections across Town Hall and the State Library, late-night busking performances

and free sparkly New Year's Eve hats available at Celebration Zones.

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

1. Be dazzled by a fireworks and laser extravaganza that will light up the city across 27 CBD rooftops. You can watch the fireworks from anywhere you can see the city skyline.
2. Head to our family-friendly Celebration Zones at Docklands, Flagstaff Gardens, Treasury Gardens and Kings Domain for live music, dance workshops, light installations, food trucks and a 9.30pm localised fireworks display.
3. Revellers can also savor the celebrations at renowned city

hospitality venues, with special events taking place at Arbory Bar & Eatery, Afloat, HER, Marvel Stadium, Blossom Rooftop and many more.

4. See superstars Marina Prior and John Foreman host the Aussie Pops Orchestra's New Year's Eve Gala extravaganza at Arts Centre Melbourne.
5. Settle in at Sidney Myer Music Bowl to watch some of the world's best live acts, brought to you by the Heaps Good live music festival.

Stay home and tune in to the official New Year's Eve live broadcast on Channel 9 from 11pm.

With half a million people expected to attend, safety remains our number

one priority. A detailed safety plan will be in place to ensure the wellbeing of everyone celebrating in the city, in partnership with Victoria Police and emergency service providers.

Plan early, book into one of the city's world-class hospitality venues or attend a Celebration Zone, as large crowds are expected to close a number of roads.

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

For more information, visit nye.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Keep your cool this summer

Melburnians are urged to prepare for a hot and dry El Nino summer and reminded of the dangers posed by heatwaves in our city.

By 2050, Melbourne will experience an average of 16 days a year over 35 degrees.

The City of Melbourne is working to reduce the threat of extreme urban heat for vulnerable people.

Our goal is that Melbourne provides places of respite for residents,

workers and visitors during extreme heat events.

We have already started acting to:

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

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

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

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



ANNUAL REPORT OUT NOW

Find out how the City of Melbourne supported the city and the community in the 2022-23 Annual Report, available to read online now at melbourne.vic.gov.au/annualreport

KEEP IN TOUCH

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BUSINESS



Festive season in full swing at Collins Square

This holiday season, Collins Square is transforming into a festive haven, offering incredible activations that promise to add joy and warmth to your celebrations.

Join us for a unique experience that not only brings a smile to your face but also spreads the holiday cheer to those in need.

A Snapshot of Festive Fun with Awkward Portraits & The Property Industry Foundation

From December 5 to 7 (11am to 2pm) you can embrace the quirkiness of the season with our Awkward Portraits activation.

By participating, you're not only getting a unique keepsake but also making a positive impact on someone's life. Don gaudy festive sweaters and pose for portraits, all while raising funds for The Haven Project by The Property Industry Foundation.

"We wanted to implement an engaging activation for our tenants that was fun and quirky, while also supporting a fantastic cause which we are very passionate about at Walker," Collins

Square general manager Hannah Mehmet said. Support this great cause by donating a minimum of \$5 per person for your portrait.

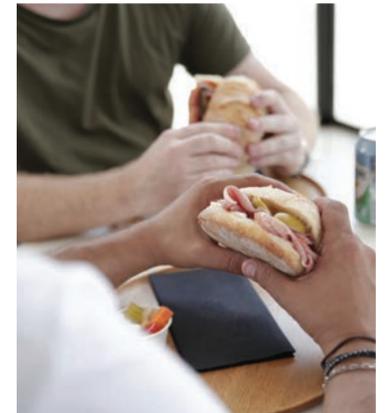
Bourne Local at Collins Square – Christmas Market: your one-stop shop for last-minute gifts

Still checking off your holiday gift list? Look no further than Collins Square's Christmas Market! From December 12 to 14 (10am to 2pm), immerse yourself in a shopping extravaganza featuring carefully curated local market stores.

Whether you're searching for handmade crafts, artisanal goodies, or unique trinkets, our market has it all. Enjoy a stress-free shopping experience in the heart of Collins Square and ensure that your loved ones receive gifts as special as they are.

With a wide array of vendors offering the finest products, you'll find everything you need to make this holiday season memorable – not to mention ticking off the list during your lunch break. ●

For more information:
collinssquare.com.au



Melbourne Quarter to bring two weeks of festive fun

From Tuesday, December 5, Melbourne Quarter will come alive with food stalls, live music, free food, and drinks for all Melburnians to enjoy.



The celebrations will roll over the course of two weeks. Week one kicks off with free coffees and mini danishes from the team at Peddler Espresso; followed by slider tastings at the vibrant Royal Stacks (offering mini versions of their two most popular burgers) with a DJ playing tunes for all guests in the outdoor seating area.

Closing out week one is a pop-up stall featuring Docklands' favourite panini bar, Saluministi. Set to open their doors in Melbourne Quarter in the coming months, Saluministi will be offering free mini tastings of their famous panini and cannoli, while the Ital-disco DJ plays in the background.

Founders, Peter Mastro and Frank Bressi will also be there to meet the locals and provide an insight into what's to come for the precinct's newest venue.

"We are very excited to be joining the Melbourne Quarter community, with two operating stores across Melbourne CBD, we can't wait to open the doors to our third location," Mr Mastro said.

Week two will see Melbourne Quarter's newest cafe Gilbert offer free coffees, sweetened with a taste of their popular flourless brownie; alongside this will also be an exclusive offer from Fishbowl, which will provide a VIP tasting of its latest bowl "Streetfood By Fishbowl" to 125 guests.

To round out the celebrations, there will be Happy Hour at Sergy Boy on December 14, with roaming canapes, Aperol Spritz, tap beer by Moondog and Balter, wine by the glass, and live music.

Project director at Melbourne Quarter Christopher Munn said he was looking "forward to rounding out the year by celebrating some of the best things Melbourne Quarter has to offer – quality food, vibrant activity, and a great place for our community to connect and enjoy themselves." ●

For more information:
melbournequarter.com/eoy-2023

"We need action now": Push to improve access to overdose-reversing drug

A spike in overdose deaths and a "looming threat" of fentanyl has experts and councillors pushing for a life-saving drug to be made readily available.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HEALTH

The City of Melbourne has called for an overdose-reversing drug to be made readily available to prevent a growing number of "avoidable" deaths in the local area.

As an "emergency response" to recent data that showed two people died each month because of heroin-involved overdoses in the municipality in 2022, councillors unanimously backed a motion to improve access to the life-saving drug naloxone.

At the November 21 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, the motion presented by Cr Dr Olivia Ball urged the state government to act quickly on the issue and committed to hosting a roundtable of experts to identify the benefits of the medicine.

Described as a "life-saving" medicine, naloxone reverses opioid overdoses "almost instantly"

and is seen as a safe, easy-to-administer drug.

It is currently only available in approved pharmacies, whereas other states around Australia have more extensive supply sites.

Experts addressed councillors at the meeting and argued there were little to no downsides to making the drug freely available.

"It doesn't require a prescription and is easy for anyone to use – it's a simple nasal spray administered into one nostril and that will save a life," Deputy Director of the Monash Addiction Research Centre in Melbourne, Professor Suzanne Nielsen, said.

"Extensive research shows that someone who witnesses an overdose, a lay person, can save a life if they have naloxone available, but naloxone can't help if people can't access it."

Dr Dean Membrey, an addiction medicine specialist and general practitioner for community health organisation cohealth, told councillors naloxone had already made a sizeable impact.

"It has been amazing to witness our community's response to take-home naloxone. It has saved lives, created a sense of empowerment in a community that often feels disempowered, and has reduced the strain on emergency services," Dr Membrey said.

"For a period prior to COVID we had a tally-board of lives saved by our patient cohort and this reached triple-digits. While on

International Overdose Awareness Day there is always a sombre atmosphere as we remember the people we've lost, there is also now a glimmer of optimism and gratitude as we think of the people who are still with us due to take-home naloxone."

However, he said the take-up rate of naloxone was not where it needed to be.

The recently released Coroners Court data now puts Melbourne (24 deaths in 2022) as having a higher heroin-involved fatality rate than any municipality in Victoria, overtaking Yarra and Brimbank council areas.

Dr Membrey said barriers to naloxone use meant people "continued to die unnecessarily", and likened providing readily available naloxone in places where locals typically experience overdoses to providing cardiac defibrillators to those experiencing a heart attack.

The cohealth GP said the invention was crucial given an expected rise in use of fentanyl, a cheaper synthetic opioid far stronger than heroin that has proven catastrophic in North America and is expected to eventually arrive in Australia.

"[It's] particularly important given the looming threat of fentanyl, which is likely to cause a significantly higher overdose rate than what we are accustomed to. However even without significant amounts of fentanyl on our streets, currently people continue to die of preventable

causes of death right here in our community," Dr Membrey said.

Victoria Police officers are currently not authorised to carry naloxone, which the motion noted was "a problem" given they are often first responders on the scene of an overdose, and it was urged they undertake a local pilot similar to what Western Australia Police had recently undertaken.

During this trial, 16 WA officers administered naloxone at least once during a 12-month period, and on each occasion the police intervention was successful, and no-one died.

Despite this, Police Association secretary Wayne Gatt was wary when asked about officers carrying the medicine.

"What we want to be careful about is that police aren't administering drugs," he said.

However, experts have argued that there should be few concerns, and that even if not administered properly naloxone did not pose as harmful.

Cr Dr Ball reiterated the low-risk nature of the drug, and argued the recent spike in deaths must trigger an "emergency response".

"As the government of this municipality, we must respond," she said.

"[Naloxone] cannot be used to get high, it is not addictive, it reverses the use of heroin and it's harmless if given to someone who has not taken heroin." ●



A sneak peek at Marvel Stadium's \$250 million upgrade

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
LOCAL NEWS

An expansive civic space for community events, a two-level Asian fusion restaurant from the team behind The George on Collins, and a suite of new game-day and function spaces are just a few of the new features in Marvel Stadium's \$250 million redevelopment.

Docklands News was treated to an early access tour of the renovation which is hoped to transform the stadium's user experience not just for those attending sport or concerts, but also to encourage "365-day" use of the precinct by and for the community.

The transformation includes a double-storey

mezzanine Town Square precinct, a rooftop bar overlooking the CBD, premium function spaces, more "dwell and socialisation" areas, and even a tiny *Ant-Man* [Marvel Comic] hidden on the stadium's roof.

"It will be something for the community and Docklands. 365 is our plan. We want to encourage more people to come to the stadium not just for football, cricket, or a concert, but to use it Monday to Friday," a spokesperson for the AFL said. "There is a lot happening in the space and we expect it to be really vibrant."

"We will have a premium restaurant run by The Kahan Group (The George on Collins), a two-level restaurant and bar. Downstairs will be more casual with upstairs more fine dining."

Topsy-turvy fun lands in Docklands



An inverted house attraction will land at The District Docklands just in time for some holiday fun on December 2.



Visitors and locals are invited to step inside the seemingly defying-gravity structure at Waterfront Way where they can expect to have their world flipped on its head.

From walking and dancing on the ceilings, visiting a bathroom with an upside-down toilet, as well as a kids' room, home office, entry way, lounge room, bedroom, kitchen area and more – everything is upside down, creating fun for people of all ages and that perfect photo moment with no time limit inside the house. ●

For more information:
housedownunder.com.au



DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

Radical retrofits



Ninety-nine percent of Docklanders reside in apartments, and a growing number of their residential buildings are fast approaching their two-decade mark.



As more and more apartment buildings head towards their 20s, owners' corporations (OCs) are (or should be!) turning their attention to upgrades.

Tier 1 buildings (which are classified as more than 100 occupiable lots – the main category

of residential building in Docklands) and Tier 2 buildings (51 to 100 occupiable lots) are required to have maintenance plans. This suggests some thought has been given to common property replacements.

Unfortunately, maintenance plans often fail to promote strategic thinking.

According to an increasing number of voices, fostering strategic thought is crucial for the transformation of our residential buildings into more energy-efficient and financially sustainable entities. In line with this, last month a representative from the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) took part in two seminars which focused on strategic retrofits and transitions.

One event, *The Retrofit Symposium*, was hosted by University of Melbourne's Faculty of Architecture. This is an annual event which brings together academic, government and industry experts to help set the national research agenda for the transformation of Australian cities.

Noteworthy aspects included the pragmatics of redesign, which spanned approaches from collaborating with First Nations designers (beyond artwork) to accessibility and useability

redesign for different cohorts (i.e., beyond the ramp).

However, it was the event hosted by the EEC (Energy Efficiency Council – the peak body for Australia's energy management sector) that shouted the message about "getting off gas".

It must be said that, disappointingly, apartments did not feature strongly in many of the speakers' presentations. The exception was the City of Sydney representative, who spoke loudly and strongly about the imperative for policy makers to understand the residential strata sector and specifically include apartment buildings in their transition schemes.

In the case of gas, the danger is that residential strata will be left behind as other parts of the residential sector are funded to transition away from gas. As it stands, Docklands' existing residential stock is facing a cocktail of three issues:

- New residential builds (in a growing number of jurisdictions) are not incorporating gas infrastructure;
- Schemes are being designed for residential housing (not apartments) to transition away from gas; and

- Many service providers to existing residential buildings continue to promote gas upgrades (such as for hot water systems), citing the lack of "viable options".

Together, this locks residential strata into gas. This then places the burden of future transition costs onto apartment owners. But more than this, OCs will be saddled with the burden of supporting a legacy gas network, with a diminishing number of consumers to share associated costs.

Continued advocacy on this matter is essential, and OCs must be actively engaged in fostering strategic initiatives to enable the transition of their residential strata buildings. The DRG will continue to liaise with key stakeholders and stay abreast of developments. ●



Janette Corcoran
DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP
DOCKLANDS.ORG.AU



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ANGELO, DOCKLANDS WORKER
We've been here for the past 10 years in our cafe and it's fantastic. The people are very warm around here, you feel safe and it's just a nice environment.



FAITH, DOCKLANDS RESIDENT
There's a lot of people around you can make friends with and things to do all the time.

Faces of Docklands

Photos and words by Afraa Kori.

Question:

What is it like living or working in Docklands?



JOHN, DOCKLANDS RESIDENT
It's just so convenient for a lot of purposes.



ROSE, DOCKLANDS RESIDENT
I moved here in September 2021 from Brunswick – it's like living in a resort.

Pet's Corner



Being misunderstood is the norm

Three-year-old "pandemic baby" Phoebe is still trying to find acceptance in the community according to her owner Xiaoming Huang.

WORDS BY Afraa Kori

While she's "the loveliest big little girl", Ms Huang said she was often misunderstood by others as Phoebe's breed brought its own challenges.

"She's obviously a German Shepherd and she's very intimidating to look at. We've got a lot of neighbours who get intimidated by her!" Ms Huang said, adding that larger dog breeds were often treated unfairly by other pet owners.

"One of the problems we have, along with other big dogs, is that the smaller dog owners don't like it when we are interacting with them," she said.

"But they're just the nicest dogs; just like any little dog. But because of their size they can be intimidating. There are only limited areas in Docklands where dog owners can go and sometimes when the big dogs come around, the small owners don't like it."

"Some of the time it's for the right reasons because some of the big dogs can be quite rough, but she [Phoebe] alone is very misunderstood."

Phoebe has brought light to the community by being a gentle giant and is surprisingly low maintenance.

"She will never attack anyone, she's very loving and very well socialised," Ms Huang said.

"She's very easy to deal with, even though she's a big dog she doesn't have as much energy as a lot of people think, so she sleeps for 50 per cent of the day." ●

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



A new home for the Docklands Squid (Octopus)?

Dear Sean,

If and when the boat shed gets demolished at North Wharf, we at the Melbourne Seafood Centre would be happy to be the new home for "the Docklands Squid" with the financial help from Developments Victoria.

If this happens please tell the artist Mike Maka that we will rename it "The Docklands Occy" because that's what it is: an octopus.

George Miriklis
Melbourne Seafood Centre (wholesale fish market)
133-165 Kensington Rd, West Melbourne.

Exorbitant rental increase in Docklands

Hi Docklands News,
I'm writing to let you know about our experience with renting in Docklands.

My housemate and I moved in to The Montage apartment building at 1 Encounter Way during the middle of the pandemic in October 2020.

The rent was admittedly relatively low given the weak conditions at the time, and when we

came out of lockdown and inflation/interest rates started rising in 2022 we were expecting some form of correction. However, we have since been subjected to two rental increases that amount to a shocking 64.9 per cent increase on what we were paying two years ago.

Landlords and real estate agents in this suburb are using current conditions as an excuse to squeeze exorbitant rental amounts from tenants. We have heard similar stories from other tenants in our building and in the neighbourhood.

We have since decided to move from Docklands as we have found an apartment in the CBD itself that is cheaper, bigger and has two tennis courts and a swimming pool – compared to the zero amenities that The Montage offers.

Best regards, Adrian. ●



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
ADMIN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

Renters getting a rough go under the Labor Government

If you've had the misfortune of attending a rental inspection in Melbourne, you're not alone.

WORDS BY *Evan Mulholland*
LIBERAL MP FOR NORTHERN METROPOLITAN

It's more likely than not that you've lined up in an anxious queue spilling into the street just to have the privilege of looking at a mouldy, pre-war cottage on the precipice of losing its long fight against the termites.

Too many renters – predominately younger Melburnians – are forced to live with this reality. I remember being one of 20 applicants to a tiny apartment. I was on a stable income, had no pets, and had a great rental record. But I didn't even get a look-in.

We know that housing affordability is at the forefront of so many Victorians' minds. If you're lucky enough to own your own home outright, you're largely insulated from the pain. But most younger Victorians and new migrants are not. Despite their spin, the state government has to wear some of this blame.

According to SQM Research, when Labor was first elected in 2014, Melbourne had 12,713 homes available to rent. Despite our state losing population during the pandemic and a flood of government press releases about homebuilding, there are now only 6,449 homes available to rent. All this as our state's population is set to grow to 10 million by 2050.

Labor's Housing Statement should be read as an admission that what they've been doing for the past nine years isn't working. The former Premier said of the statement that "the status quo is not an option". I wonder who oversaw the status quo for the past decade?

What the Housing Statement doesn't fully grasp is this central fact: the overwhelming majority of renters are in private, market-rate housing. If you build more of this housing, it

becomes cheaper and higher quality. This is the view of every economist with half a brain and is consistently borne out in the data, both overseas and here at home.

The answer is to allow the market to deliver more housing. But in true fashion, Labor simply can't let market forces take credit for something it believes the government can do.

So, what's their answer? If the past nine years are anything to go by: taxes. This government has never found a problem they can't tax their way out of. Increases to stamp duty, land tax, taxes on Airbnbs and vacant land – you name it. And still the government acts surprised when these taxes flow through to renters and homeowners, increasing prices further.

All economists know that when you want less of something, you tax it. Investors are listening – the Property Investment Professionals of Australia found that one in four investors have sold their Victorian properties during the past year and labelled us the worst to invest in.

National investment firm Propertyology is now advising clients to boycott the state altogether in response to onerous taxes and regulation. This means even less rentals on the market. Labor appears to have forgotten that property investors make up 100 per cent of the private rental market.

I suppose it's inevitable, then, that the Greens have come forward to beat the Cold War-era rent control drum. Notwithstanding the mountain of economic evidence that rent control not only doesn't work, but, in fact, reduces the quantity and quality of rental stock. As the Grattan Institute has said, "... it'll end up doing more harm than good."

Melbourne isn't alone here – rents are skyrocketing in major cities across the world as housing stock has struggled to keep pace with population. We can look to what other cities are doing to bring down rents, such as Auckland and Minneapolis, which have reformed planning regulations to allow more homebuilding and as a result, rents are easing. ●

BALANCING WORK AND PERSONAL LIFE FOR OPTIMAL WELLNESS



Balancing work and personal life for optimal wellness

In today's fast-paced world, the quest for a fulfilling career and a rich life often leads to blurred lines between work and personal space.

Today, we explore the significance of maintaining a healthy work-life balance for overall wellness, offering practical strategies to achieve this equilibrium.

Understanding work-life balance

Work-life balance is about creating harmony that reduces stress and prevents burnout.

It's crucial to understand that this balance is highly individualised and varies across different life stages and personal circumstances. It's important to personalise your approach to work-life balance based on your unique situation and priorities.

Setting boundaries between work & personal life

Boundaries are essential in maintaining a healthy divide between professional and personal life. This can include setting specific work hours, having a dedicated workspace, and learning to say "no" to non-essential tasks. We recommend regularly reviewing and adjust your boundaries to ensure they align with your current needs and responsibilities.

Time management strategies for a balanced life

Effective time management is a cornerstone of work-life balance. Prioritise tasks based on urgency and importance, and don't be afraid to delegate. Utilise tools like digital calendars and to-do lists to keep track of tasks and commitments. We recommend blocking out time for personal activities and self-care just as you would for work meetings.

The role of technology in work-life balance

Technology should be a tool that aids, not hinders, work-life balance. Utilise apps and tools that enhance productivity but set strict limits to avoid constant connectivity. We suggest having designated "tech-free" times to disconnect from work-related communications.

Incorporating wellness activities into daily routine

Integrate wellness activities such as exercise, meditation, or hobbies into your daily routine. These should be viewed as non-negotiable elements of your day, vital for your physical and mental health. It is best to schedule short, consistent periods for these activities, making them as routine as your work tasks.

The importance of "me time"

Dedicate time to activities that bring you joy and relaxation. Whether it's reading, crafting, or simply unwinding, "me time" is a critical component of self-care and mental health. You should identify activities that rejuvenate you and ensure they're a regular part of your week.

Conclusion

A healthy work-life balance is key to achieving and maintaining overall wellness. With deliberate effort in setting boundaries, managing time, using technology wisely, and prioritising self-care, a fulfilling and balanced life is achievable. Remember, balance is a continuous journey. ●



Dr Mike Edgley
CHIROPRACTOR
DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU

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



How to maximise your marketing efforts this holiday season

It's beginning to look a lot like the holiday season!

WORDS BY *Mo Hamdouna*
MOWORKS.COM.AU

As we start to see Christmas lights and tinsel pop up around the waterfront, things may start to become a little overwhelming for those of us trying to push through the noise and promote our businesses.

When it comes to the holidays, it can be tough to juggle marketing and other activities you need to accomplish before you wrap up the year. Many might think holiday marketing is as simple as overloading your content with jingle bells and red and green stripes. However, there are quite a few things you can do to maximise your return from marketing efforts.

Say it loud and often

If you are offering any special holiday promotions, don't keep it quiet! Utilise your social media platforms and mailing lists and include frequent communications and audience engagement in your campaign strategy.

Plan ahead

Holiday campaigns are always exciting, but make sure you're planning in advance. Remember, you need more than just one social post or EDM (electronic direct mail) to get people in the holiday spirit. So be strategic with your social and direct marketing content. Give yourself time to prepare and schedule in as many marketing "nudges" as possible to ensure you get the word out before everyone has finished their gift shopping.

Be visible

As with every other day of the year, SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) is vital for ensuring people can find your products and services, and the holidays are no different! Optimise your content to reflect any new offers or themed campaigns, and make sure you are keeping up to date with trending keywords that relate to your business and incorporate that into your content.

Google My Business

Update your holiday hours or give extra information about your offerings around the holidays. Be sure to update your Google Business Profile so that your customers know where and when they can find you, as long as any new offers you might have.

Get creative

There is absolutely nothing more satisfying than sneaking a clever Christmas pun into your content. There's also nothing wrong with including holiday imagery in things like social and video content to engage customers around the holiday. Just try not to make *everything* reindeer themed.

Want more tips on how to utilise your marketing for business growth? Make a move this holiday season and get in touch with us! ●

MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK

Maritime freight matters

The community living in the Docklands precinct with large vessels and tugs on their doorstep are likely to be more aware than many in the wider community of the immense importance of maritime trade.

Thanks to COVID having a very obvious adverse impact on maritime trade, the general public now better understands Australia's vulnerability and utter dependence on trade by sea.

You may have read the recent alarming media coverage of cyber-attacks on supply chain infrastructure issues relating to DP World, one of Australia's largest port operators, handling approximately 40 per cent of the nation's container trade across terminals in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Fremantle. The Melbourne terminal is Australasia's largest maritime hub for containerised, automotive, and general cargo.

David Tuffey reported in *The Conversation* on November 13 that DP World's "Major cyber-attack on Australian ports suggests sabotage by a 'foreign state actor'". Cyber-attacks on ports and shipping are becoming more common and are critical for any port terminal operator trying to manage the complexity of port operations.

Simple really. If they don't know what containers are, and where and what containers are to go on or off what ship, containers without identification and documentation may be lost in the freight yard.

In February 2022 several European ports were hit by a cyber-attack that disrupted oil terminals. Earlier in 2023, a ransomware attack on maritime software affected more than 1000 ships globally.

All this cyber drama reveals the vulnerability of our global maritime trade. The federal government is attempting to assist by providing support and advice to DP World and other affected parties through the Critical Infrastructure Centre and the Trusted Information Sharing Network. The problem is not diminishing.

Heritage precinct at the 2023 Melbourne Boat Show

Many in Docklands will have seen the heritage ferry *Grower* tootling back and forth across Victoria Harbour from NewQuay to the heritage precinct on North Wharf during the recent Melbourne Boat Show.

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) is delighted at the success of this excellent first opportunity to collaborate with the Boating Industry Association Victoria (BIAVic) to engage with so many recreational boating industry enthusiasts and remind them of their own maritime heritage.

MMHN thanks BIAVic and commends Nick Atkins at the Victorian Wooden Boat Centre on North Wharf for so generously hosting MMHN and several members of Maritime Museums Victoria at this event.

MMHN also congratulates the stalwarts of the heritage fleet in Victoria Harbour – the steam tug *Wattle*, the *Enterprize* and the *Alma Doepel*.

MMHN strongly recommends that you pop out along to the North Wharf Wooden Boat Shed and visit the vessels out there to have a look what is going on – perhaps build yourself a wooden canoe?

Victorian historic vessels

Further on the topic of Victorian heritage in vessels, MMHN has been concerned that, although the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) in Sydney keeps a national register of historic vessels, until now people around Australia who try find and view heritage vessels in their locality have found the ANMM online "search" process very difficult.

MMHN advocated to ANMM that it changes the process to enable better online access to



local noteworthy heritage-registered vessels in each state. MMHN argued that such an improvement in the registration process may also encourage maritime enthusiasts in Victoria and in other states outside of NSW, to look more closely at the marvellous heritage vessels they may find accessible close to home.

Hopefully this improvement in online searching will also serve to encourage owners of even more Victorian vessels to make their way onto the ANMM Australian Register of Historic Vessels. It's super-impressive – 800 historic vessels are listed – with images and background information on designers, builders, owners, geographical location, aspects of their type or class, the eras their life has spanned, and stories. Victoria's magnificent *Sayonara* made the list.



World Ship Society – four tugs!

Given that it is so close to the Docklands precinct, MMHN highly recommends that you pop out along to a World Ship Society Meeting, 10 am on the first Saturday of every month at the Port Education Centre, 343 Lorimer St in Fishermans Bend.

We guarantee you will be enthralled with huge vessels nudged along the Yarra within touching distance of the estuary bank.

“

MMHN thanks the World Ship Society for yet another fascinating and rare image of four tugs at work in Port of Melbourne waters. ●

”



Jackie Watts
CHAIR OF MELBOURNE
MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK
INFO@MMHN.ORG.AU

WE LIVE HERE

From housing crisis to hope?



Now that Victoria has both a new Premier and a new Minister for Consumer Affairs, can we dare to hope or dream there will be some meaningful changes during the first term of this new government?



When the previous Premier Daniel Andrews took office in December 2014, the focus was on boosting tourism; the rights and liveability of residents were ignored.

The rise of short-stay accommodation over the past eight years has reduced the availability of long-term rental properties, particularly in sought-after urban and tourist-centric regions.

A short-stay property levy of 7.5 per cent announced in the Victorian Government's Housing Statement and released just days before Mr Andrews resigned, is scheduled to come into effect only in January 2025!

The micro-levy is so small that it will do nothing to address the housing crisis. The Housing Statement states explicitly that the short-stay levy is purely a fund-raising device without any aspirations whatsoever for behavioural change. Collecting only \$70 million per year, it will take decades for the program to deliver any meaningful volume of housing stock.

Let's learn from a decade of global experience. For example, New York has provided a model for managing the short-stay industry to balance competing interests. Like most major tourist destinations, New York's regulations include mandatory registration of short-stay operators.

We Live Here looks forward to dialogue with the incoming Minister for Consumer Affairs, Ms Gabrielle Williams, about these issues and the plethora of established solutions.

The 2024 agenda

We want the government to review the legislative framework – with full community consultation in Victoria (anyone could be forgiven for thinking that the current legislation was drafted over a couple of caramel macchiatos at the Airbnb headquarters in San Francisco).

Below are two Acts affecting owners' corporations need urgent attention:

The Owners' Corporation (Short Stay Accommodation) Act 2018

The government promised a review by February 2021 – that promise was broken. About 50 cases have been to VCAT, costing OCs thousands in legal fees, without a single case being successful. The threshold is just far too high. Currently this worthless Bill is incorporated into the main *Owners' Corporations Act*.

Owners' Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act 2021

This patchwork act incorporates the unreviewed *Short Stay Accommodation Act 2018* and the amendments to the OC Act dated December 1, 2021. It's a hot mess.

The legislation is passed its use-by date and even the state government has promised to repeal the Act "between 2023 and 2027". At the going ratio of promises to action, that could mean sometime after 2035.

Short-stay accommodation was excluded from a 2018 review of the *Owners Corporation Act* because of planning issues. This time, everything needs to be examined. There must be a level playing field. Let's hope that with a new team some action will at last be taken.

Campaign donations

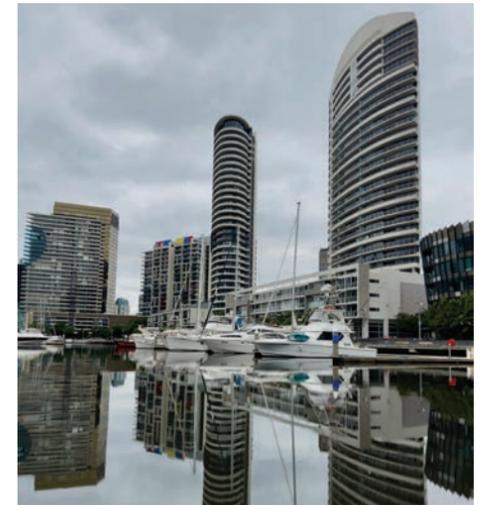
As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, visit welivehere.net.



OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Got a remedial works contract coming up? Who's the super?

During COVID, a number of owners' corporations (OCs) deferred major remedial works projects that were due to be undertaken.



These projects were deferred for a number of reasons – mainly due to the COVID lockdown, work from home constraints, and also concerns about cashflow, it was difficult to pass on special levies and fees to owners who were already struggling to pay their bills. There was also a general concern about lack of builder availability and scarcity of construction supplies.

Fast forward three years to today and now we are finding that a number of OCs are just about ready to push the start button on these same remedial works projects.

However, during the past three years, the cost of construction materials and labour has increased by 21 per cent in Victoria (according to new data published by WT Partnership in November 2023).

On top of that, there has been a number of small and medium construction companies that have gone into administration over the past few years which reduces the competitiveness of the market overall and leads to further prices increased.

Insurers in the construction sector have also increased policy premiums year on year by around eight per cent over the past four years, and with a new and expanded Victorian Building Authority keeping a closer and more vigilant eye over Victoria's builders, there is less opportunity to implement a more basic scope of works for a cheaper price.

What all of this means is that OCs have disadvantaged themselves massively by not undertaking these remedial works at an earlier opportunity.

What I am seeing from several OCs is that committees are electing to save costs and cut corners by not appointing a project manager or superintendent to oversee the works. This is a mistake, and, in my view, the superintendent is almost a must if the works involved are going to exceed \$500,000.

A good superintendent will oversee the contractor and will be onsite every week. They will assess all progress claims, perform inspections,

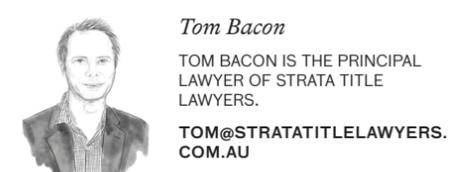
advise and assist on access issues, and will act as the conduit between the committee, building manager and the contractors.

Importantly, the superintendent will assess on behalf of both parties as to whether the contractor gets to vary the contract due to latent and unexpected problems (or whether the risk was known, and the contractor ought to have known of the potential for the problem before the works began).

The superintendent will assess whether the contractor will be penalised or their fees deducted for finishing late, or for taking too long to do the works, and will also assess whether bad weather gets them an extension of time without penalty.

All of this work is well and truly justified and is not something which a building manager or a retired committee member can do, as they are not qualified to do so.

A good superintendent will save you thousands, get the job done quicker, and ensure the quality is high. It is definitely not a cost to compromise on.



Tom Bacon
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CHAMBER UPDATE

Diwali magic in Docklands

In a dazzling celebration of cultural diversity and community spirit, Marvel Stadium and The District Docklands recently played host to this year's spectacular Melbourne Diwali festival.

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

SarasCare for its outstanding efforts in managing and producing the festivities.

This vibrant event not only highlighted the cultural richness of our Docklands community but also underscored the calibre of events hosted in the area.

The Chamber remains keen to continually foster inclusivity and celebrate diversity in future celebrations of all kinds.

Members of the DCC were recently treated to an exclusive tour of the upgraded Marvel Stadium, our central hub for sports and entertainment. Impressed by the substantial improvements, especially in the entertainment areas, the Chamber eagerly anticipates the stadium's enhanced status as a premier venue in the Docklands precinct.

As the holiday season approaches, the DCC is gearing up for festive celebrations, with the highlight being the upcoming Docklands Christmas Maze which is again set to captivate visitors of all ages. The Chamber is thrilled to throw its support behind this initiative,



including special visits by Santa and friends, spreading joy and holiday cheer.

Additionally, The District is set to host a variety of Christmas-themed activities, with O'Brien's Icehouse adding an extra layer of Christmas magic through their "Skate with

Santa" sessions in a winter wonderland setting.

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce proudly supports these initiatives, recognising the importance of fostering a festive atmosphere in the community throughout the Christmas season.

Docklands News in 2023: a year in review

“

Take a step back in time as we feature some of the image highlights from every edition of Docklands News over the course of 2023...

”



▲ April: Docklands Primary School families raise concerns about new campus at The District Docklands.



▲ March: Victoria Point secures Tayla Harris statue.



▲ February: Fire at floating nightclub ATET.



▲ May: Docklands Neighbourhood House introduces a new fishing club to Docklands.



▲ June: Berth gets behind The Biggest Morning Tea.



▲ July: Social enterprise Meals with Impact sets up new cafe in Docklands.



▲ September 2023: Our 200th edition of Docklands News.



▲ August: Huge crowds returned to Docklands for another Firelight Festival.



▲ October: Dragons Abreast Melbourne Pink Phoenix dragon boat team continue paddling for breast cancer awareness.



▲ November: Docklands puts on another cracking Boat Show.

What's on: December 2023 - January 2024



DECEMBER 1-24, 11AM-5PM

DOCKLANDS CHRISTMAS MAZE

Santa's lost his elves! Can you help find them? Make your way through this giant present-themed maze with fun interactive games and find all the elves for a chance to win exciting prizes.
New Quay Central Park, 429-437 Docklands Dr



DECEMBER 2, 11AM-1PM

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

Visit Library at The Dock for their annual neighbourhood end of year festive celebration. Help decorate their Christmas tree, get creative with Christmas crafts, enjoy a BYO picnic or festive season treats.
Library at The Dock, 107 Victoria Harbour Prom

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12. 4PM-5PM
CHRISTMAS CRAFTERNOON
 Drop by Library at The Dock and get into the Christmas spirit with some fun Christmas themed craft activities.
 For ages 6 to 12.
Library at The Dock, 107 Victoria Harbour Prom



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



Wednesday, December 13, 6pm
MMHN Christmas Gathering 2023
 MMHN Board members invite you to join with us to mark the end of another most eventful year for all maritime sector enthusiasts in the marvellous maritime state of Victoria. Stella Maris Seafarers Centre - 600 Little Collins St. Melbourne
RSVP for catering purposes, please, by Friday 8/12. info@mmhn.org.au



DECEMBER 4-22
CHRISTMAS ICE SKATING AT O'BRIEN ICEHOUSE
 Get ready to escape the summer heat and dive into some festive fun at O'Brien Icehouse at The District Docklands.

 obrienicehouse.com.au

10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

DEC 2013 / JAN 2014 | ISSUE 93 | DOCKLANDS NEWS

Waterways team to the rescue

A quick response from the City of Melbourne's waterways unit on November 27 saved charter boat Mandalay from a watery grave.



The craft was sinking at its Central Pier mooring when an alert Nolan tower resident raised the alarm just before 5pm. By 5.30pm waterways staff had started pumping water from the stricken vessel but called for emergency services help shortly after when the magnitude of the problem became apparent.

Some 45 minutes later the fire brigade had pumped the vessel out. It is believed that the vessel would have gone to the bottom within an hour had its plight not been noticed. *Mandalay's* owner Keith Rankin told *Docklands News* that the vessel appeared to have been taking water for three days but that its main pump had failed and, in the process, had destroyed the power supply to the boat.

Mr Rankin said that, without power, auxiliary pumps failed to activate and the vessel was slowly sinking. He said it was normal for wooden boats to "weep" water and be automatically pumped out and that *Mandalay* had been rescaled only last year when she had been out of the water for four months.

Mr Rankin said he was dealing with a family emergency in Warburton when he was alerted by phone about *Mandalay's* predicament. Mr Rankin was on his way to Warburton in February 2008 when he similarly learned that another of his vessels, *Lady Chelmsford*, had sunk at its Central Pier moorings.

Lady Chelmsford spent three years on the bottom of the harbour before being broken up for scrap. However, Mr Rankin rejected any suggestion that there were any further similarities between the *Chelmsford* and *Mandalay* situations.

He said there was evidence of a break-in on *Chelmsford* before the 2008 sinking that that witnesses reported that her pumps were going flat-out as she sank. ●

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Quiz



1. According to the 2021 ABS census, what percentage of City of Melbourne residents were born overseas?
2. Docklands will welcome what new 1500-capacity venue mid next year?
3. Which TV series starred Kiefer Sutherland as Jack Bauer?
4. Approximately how many people attended the 2023 Melbourne Boat Show: a) 23,000, b) 38,000 or c) 42,000?
5. Herman Melville wrote which famous maritime book?
6. James Earl Jones (pictured) voiced which famous Star Wars character?
7. What Docklands first is coming to Ron Barassi Snr Park?
8. How many times faster does sound travel through water than air?
9. Katsudon is a dish from which country?
10. Which celebrity owns Aviation Gin?
11. There has been some exciting news from the floating wetlands outside Library at the Dock: what has happened?
12. What piece of Docklands public art is under threat of demolition?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. 55 per cent 2. A brewpub from Moon Dog Brewing 3. 24-4 c) 42,000 5. *Moby-Dick* 6. Darth Vader 7. A new soccer club; Docklands Athletic FC 8. Four times faster 9. Japan 10. Ryan Reynolds 11. Five Black Swan cymbals hatched 12. The Docklands Squid mural at the Wooden Boat Centre

5x5

No. 031

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

B		D		Y
	E		I	
A		O		A
	I		E	
S		E		S

SOLUTIONS

BADLY, EERIE, AROMA, RIVER, SEEDS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION ©PAGEMASTERS PTY LTD PAGEMASTERS.COM December, 2023

Sudoku

No. 030

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Travel

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| AEROPLANE | PASSENGER |
| BICYCLE | PASSPORT |
| BOAT | PILOT |
| CAR | ROAD |
| DRIVE | SHIP |
| FLY | SUITCASES |
| FUEL | TAXI |
| HIGHWAY | TICKET |
| JOURNEY | TRAIN |
| LUGGAGE | TRUCK |
| MOTORCYCLE | VOYAGE |

Secret message: Roam around

Crossword

No. 030

ACROSS

- 1 Parisian lady (11)
- 7 Male sheep (3)
- 9 Wielding (11)
- 10 Rule (3)
- 11 Happening in a way not expected (6)
- 12 Flower merchants (8)
- 14 Indifference (6)
- 15 Implicate (8)
- 18 Individuality (8)
- 20 Look at (6)
- 22 Basic understanding of maths (8)
- 24 Swiss city (6)
- 26 Weapon (3)
- 27 Meeting (11)
- 28 Indian state (3)
- 29 Infamously (11)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9												10		
11								12						13
14								15				16		
18				19					20	21				
22		23							24					
									25					
26						27								
28						29								

DOWN

- 1 Lie (11)
- 2 Dry up (9)
- 3 Water creature (7)
- 4 Wimp (4)
- 5 Greater part of a country (8)
- 6 African country (7)
- 7 Actor's parts (5)

- 8 Cat noise (3)
- 13 Persistently (11)
- 16 Inelegant (9)
- 17 Slow cooking vessel (8)
- 19 Region (7)
- 21 Modern music genre (7)
- 23 Japanese cartoon style (5)
- 25 Row (4)
- 26 Concert (3)

SOLUTION

A	T	S	N	O	I	H	O	I	O	N	V	O	B
L	S	R	E	O	I	G	I						
I	N	E	W	I	N	I	O	E	R	V	N	N	
S	L	O	L	X	R	V							
V	A	N	E	D	A	O	V	R	E	W	P	N	
F	O	C	T		O	E							
O	B	V	D	E	R	A	S	T	I	N	E	D	I
V	R												
I	T	O	N	V	I	N	E	A	H	I	J	V	
I													
S	I	S	I	R	O	T		C	I	N	O	R	I
E													
M	V	L		D	N	I	H	S	I	D	N	V	R
E													
R	A	V											

Codeword

No. 030

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

SOLUTIONS

P	R	E	X	W	Z	V	G	M	H	F	O	T
J	U	V	A	N	S	I	L	C	O	K	B	Y

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

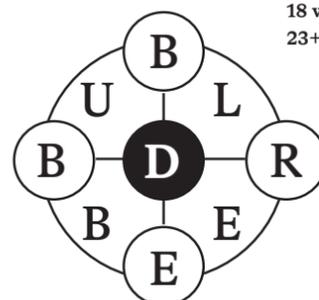
9-Letter

No. 030

Today's Focus:

- 13 words: Good
- 18 words: Very good
- 23+ words: Excellent

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



SOLUTIONS

Reference: Collins Concise English Dictionary

bled, bleed, blubbed, BLUBBERED, blued, bubbled, bred, breed, bubbled, burbled, buried, deer, dele, drub, due, ebbled, elder, elude, eluder, lure, lured, lubbed, rude, rued, ruled

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