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Day award

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residents 3008:
advocating for
community
representation



Marvel Stadium's grand vision unveiled to revitalise the Docklands waterfront

“

New life could be breathed into the Docklands waterfront after a bold plan was announced to explore a “major new development opportunity” at Marvel Stadium and AFL House.

”

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Under a joint venture between the state government and the AFL, “redevelopment opportunities” for the sites are being considered to “transform the waterfront” with “a range of potential uses” including housing, commercial and entertainment.

The Channel 7 building, adjacent to AFL House, could also form part of the Harbour Esplanade overhaul.

The project would see the government's property developer and major project agency Development Victoria and the AFL work together.

Development Victoria bought the leasehold over 160 Harbour Esplanade, currently occupied by Channel 7, in 2018.

According to a state government press release, the future redevelopment of the sites “presents opportunities” to create a mixed-use development “that can revitalise Docklands’ waterfront and enhance the Stadium as a sports and entertainment complex”.

Acting Minister for Development Victoria Natalie Hutchins said the joint venture would “unlock a major new opportunity in Docklands” while “transforming the waterfront and enhance Marvel Stadium as a sports and entertainment precinct.”

AFL executive general manager Matthew Chun said the league was committed to delivering a “memorable experience for fans and visitors to the precinct and excited by the opportunities this agreement presents at the site”.

Mr Chun told a Property Council of Australia event in October last year that there were opportunities to “go high” at its current headquarters at AFL House, as well as the Channel 7 building.

While it remains to be seen how the project will unfold, the proposal would however be separate to state government's \$225 million investment in the redevelopment of Marvel Stadium, which was completed in 2023.

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Pat joins in on the Padel Tennis craze

Two-time US Open winner and two-time Wimbledon finalist, Pat Rafter, had a hit on the Game4Padel courts underneath Shed 21 at Yarra's Edge on January 12 as part the “Padel Open” where local and international players competed for \$10,000 prizemoney.

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Demolition of Central Pier progresses

The presence of an excavator alongside Central Pier in January came as a welcome sight for Docklanders, as Development Victoria (DV) ramps up its efforts to carefully remove the heritage-listed structure from Victoria Harbour.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Central Pier was permanently closed in 2020 due to safety issues and has sat idly deteriorating ever since while its owner (DV) has sought necessary permits through Heritage Victoria. Last year, DV appointed Fitzgerald Constructions Australia – the same contractor which removed Central Pier’s disparate western tip in 2022 – to lead the removal of the remainder of the structure. But given the pier’s heritage status, the process to demolish, as well as remove various elements for repatriation in a rebuilt structure, is a delicate one and is expected to take several years to complete. DV told *Docklands News* that in order to achieve this safely, equipment and cranes would work from barges anchored in the water, carefully positioned alongside the structure, with the process being to remove the buildings first and then the pier itself. “Development Victoria is progressing plans to remove Central Pier from Victoria Harbour. To date, specialist marine contractor Fitzgerald Constructions Australia Pty Ltd, has removed the external awnings on Shed 9 and 14, as well as the internal strip out of Shed 9,” DV’s group head precincts Niall Cunningham said. “In the coming months, works will continue on the removal of Shed 9, and the concrete area around Shed 14. We expect that Shed 9 will be removed by later this year.” DV also completed its first stage of engagement with the community in late 2022 into what it would like to see in the reconstructed Central Pier, and released a report into its findings last year. It has yet to announce any further plans for community engagement or any proposals for Central Pier. ●

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Respected cardiologist earns Australia Day honour

Dr Alan Soward, a much-respected cardiologist and passionate Docklands resident, has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day honours.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Dr Soward, who established the Mildura Cardiology in 1986 with his wife Bev, expressed his gratitude and humility for the award, which recognised his services to cardiology.

"It certainly was a big surprise and a nice cap to a career I wasn't expecting," he told Docklands News.

"I'm very happy but I always think other people are more deserving."

Dr Soward and his wife have lived in Docklands for the past 17 years while alternating their time living in Mildura as they ran their practice, which involved Bev looking after reception and business duties.

"It began with just the two of us and the practice now employs more than 20 people."

Now retired, the couple reside at the Banksia building in Docklands after moving in when it was built six years ago.

"Our commitment to Docklands is solid. We enjoy being here, we like the proximity to the city and the tram to the MCG, and the view – we're behind Docklands," he said, adding they looked forward to the redevelopment of Central Pier and the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel hopefully lighting up the skyline again.



As well as setting up a practice in Mildura, which continues to run today under new owners, Dr Soward's impressive career included being a cardiology Fellow at The Thoraxcentre, Rotterdam in the Netherlands from 1984 to 1985.

He has also been an Adjunct Associate Professor at the School of Rural Health Mildura at Monash University since 2013.

Currently, Dr Soward is a Fellow with The Cardiac Society of Australasia and

New Zealand and The European Society of Cardiology.

In other services, he was a visiting medical officer and cardiologist at the Mildura Base Public Hospital and Mildura Health Private Hospital for 34 years.

Speaking of his honour, he emphasised the real reward was the positive impact his work has on patients' lives and their families.

"There is one thing we're particularly

proud of and that is 10 years ago when defibrillators were becoming more widely known and distributed, we donated, as a practice, 50 defibrillators to the local community [of Mildura] including sporting clubs and social groups around the area," he said.

"To this date we know two people who have been saved by the presence of a defibrillator where they had a cardiac arrest. So that was a great source of pleasure to us." ●



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Marvel Stadium's grand vision unveiled to revitalise the Docklands waterfront

Continued from page 1.

That revamp included new facilities for players and guests, a Town Square precinct, more hospitality and catering options, and better screens and lighting.

Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny has lodged a planning scheme amendment application to change the Melbourne Planning Scheme to include potential building outlines and design requirements for future buildings at Marvel Stadium, AFL House, and the Channel 7 site.

Under the latest proposal, a transformation of the waterfront would be key to the

redevelopment of Central Pier, for which early removal works are under way.

The state government is developing a strategy to revitalise Central Pier and the adjacent waterfront following its permanent closure in 2020, with its redevelopment being crucial to the future of the precinct.

The state government and the AFL were contacted about how the proposed development would integrate with the western side of Harbour Esplanade and Central Pier, however a state government spokesperson referred *Docklands News* to the press release, adding the plans had not advanced at this stage.

Late last year Development Victoria's acting group head of precincts Niall Cunningham said feedback from the community about the future of Central Pier spoke of a need for a "vibrant space".

He said this included embracing the water and creating a welcoming space, as well as showcasing the environmental sustainability and the rich history of the waterfront and the pier.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Dan Hibberd said Marvel Stadium's recent developments and future integration with the waterfront was a "fantastic thing" for Docklands. ●



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BY SHERATON

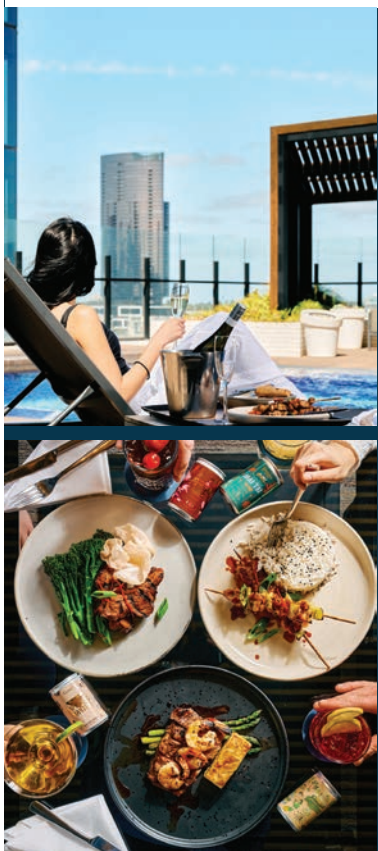
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Five-tower development and pocket park in Docklands get green light from council

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The City of Melbourne has given the all-clear for a five-tower development and pocket park next to Docklands Primary School, in what is touted as the “creation of a new and diverse neighbourhood”.

Developer MAB has proposed to build towers ranging from 50 to 70 metres high over two 20-metre podiums for residential, office and retail use at 396-416 Docklands Drive.

The site, which spans nearly a hectare, is currently used as a commercial carpark, and is the only remaining parcel of land left in NewQuay (north of Docklands Drive) to be undeveloped.

While the plans are still subject to final approval from the Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkeny after the application was referred to the council for comment, the plans would include a 700-square-metre public park at the corner of Little Docklands Drive and St Mangos Lane, adjacent to Docklands Primary School.

The proposed park would feature seating, a children’s play area, a café, ramp and stair access, sandstone boulders, and bike ramp access.

Designed by ARM Architecture, the proposal features two triangular podiums, east and west, that would combine the five towers, and be separated by an 11 to 13-metre-wide pedestrian laneway with “lush green planting” linking Docklands Primary School, the tram depot, and NewQuay central park.

Overall, the development would “deliver a diverse village of buildings and public spaces” and could support between 500 to 600 dwellings and 20,000 metre squares of commercial spaces, including a possible hotel.

The precinct would be delivered over four stages with the new park include in the first stage.

The west podium would comprise three towers and the east podium contains two.

According to the designs, the podiums would be responsive to streetscape character with a frontage that has a “varied architectural language and material selection, presenting as a collection of buildings rather than a singular expression”.

Amendments to the planning application have been ongoing since the original 1999 application, which was more recently informed by community engagement conducted by MAB.

The City of Melbourne’s planning team has worked with MAB to create “several positive design changes to address previous concerns” including a separation of 10 metres between the towers, the removal of one tower, overall reduction in maximum built form height, revised building envelopes, a revised public park layout, and additional design principles to guide future planning applications.

A summary of the engagement stated Docklands Primary School was “excited by the prospect of the community park” and hoped to contribute its input into the design of the space “which MAB believes is an appropriate consideration”.

The plans were endorsed by the City of Melbourne councillors at their December 5



Future Melbourne Committee meeting, with Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece praising the application, noting the pocket park was “fantastic news for everyone”.

“This is a happy day for Melbourne, a happy day for Docklands, and a happy day for the community at Docklands Primary School,” he said at the meeting.

“This is an application which we’ve heard it’s been 24 years in the making. And I’m really pleased with what’s before us.”

“For those of us who know this area, we know that there’s a desperate need for green space around the Docklands Primary School. We also need space that’s available for the parents and carers in the community to drop their kids off and pick them up, and that’s exactly what this development proposal is going to deliver.”

“It’s also a great example of council working constructively and creatively with the developer to get a positive outcome for both the developer and the city.” ●

New tram stop flagged to help improve safety around Docklands Primary School

Authorities are actively considering adding a new tram stop at the Footscray Rd terminus opposite Docklands Primary School to ease congestion at other nearby stops and improve accessibility to the school for families.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Docklands News understands the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and Yarra Trams are working through an extension of routes 30 and 75 to allow for an additional tram stop to be added on Footscray Rd, however timing of completion will depend on other tram stop upgrade priorities across the network.

It follows ongoing advocacy from the school community to improve safety in the area, with this latest initiative prompted by concerns at nearby tram stops on Harbour Esplanade/NewQuay and Docklands Drive/St Mangos Lane.

During morning and afternoon peaks, locals have reported that overcrowding of the two stops located closest to the school have resulted in several near misses, with families having to contend

with trams, trucks, and cyclists in often constricted areas.

Routes 30 and 75 currently cross the Docklands Drive/Dudley St intersection to terminate on Footscray Rd near the school, however there is currently no dedicated tram stop for commuters to disembark at this location.

While the current terminus provides ample space to add an extra stop for commuters, the proposal would require adding new, and upgrading existing, crossings to allow for safe access across Footscray Rd.

A DTP spokesperson told Docklands News that any potential future changes to the Footscray Rd terminus, including the introduction of a tram stop, would need to consider the existing tram operations.

This would include trams for special events to Docklands Stadium, as well as the function of the arterial road, nearby cycling paths and the accessibility and



▲ Trams currently travel past Docklands Primary School only to terminate further along Footscray Rd.

safety of users.

While DTP didn’t confirm when a new stop would be added at the terminus, it said it continued to liaise with the school community regarding potential improvements near the school.

“We have delivered upgrades along Footscray Rd and Dudley St to improve safety for students, including electronic speed limit signs, updated line marking and pedestrian fencing,” a DTP spokesperson said. “We are always reviewing our public transport network and welcome feedback on how we can further improve connections to Docklands Primary School.”

The DTP released “Melbourne’s Tram Plan” in August 2023, which sets out how it plans to deliver “a tram network for the future that puts passengers first and gets people to where they need to go”.

The DTP said the plan focused on improving accessibility and safety, moving more people, improving journey times and reliability, better connecting people and places, and delivering value for money.

It said any future potential tram network extensions would focus on how to improve the network to better service growing employment and innovation clusters, major urban renewal precincts and

major developments.

The priority and timing of any extensions, including to the Footscray Rd terminus, would consider a range of factors including predictions of patronage, travel time, geography, running costs and the infrastructure required.

Parent Mary Masters told Docklands News the school community was aware of early conversations about the new tram stop.

“This solution could have beneficial safety and traffic flow outcomes for pedestrians, cyclists, tram passengers and car drivers if planned and executed successfully and with community consultation.” ●

Pat Rafter joins in on the padel craze sweeping Docklands

Docklands welcomed former Australian tennis champion Pat Rafter in January, who came to check out what all the fuss with our padel tennis courts is about.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Rafter, a two-time US Open winner and two-time Wimbledon finalist, had a hit on the Game4Padel courts underneath Shed 21 at Yarra's Edge on January 12 as part of a padel tournament where local and international players competed for a \$10,000 prize.

He was welcomed on the day by Game4Padel's operations director Rob Daley and City of Melbourne Cr Jamal Hakim, with the council supporting the establishment of the padel facilities on Lorimer St along with Development Victoria.

As one of only two dedicated padel locations in Melbourne, Docklands now has five courts and the popularity of the facilities continues to grow.

"It's fantastic to see a new sport grow, particularly from our Docklands community set against the backdrop of our beautiful city," Cr Hakim said.

"I joined community members and international champions to witness the first padel tournament in Australia, the Padel Open, and was impressed by the welcoming atmosphere and the comradery the game has built."

"Padel is a new racket sport in Australia, and it's growing rapidly from their home base in Docklands, something that I am proud to support. It's also great to see increased take-up from women and girls, with a women's tournament attracting athletes from home and abroad. Padel is truly a game for everyone, no matter their skill with a racket."

"I look forward to joining the team at Game4Padel for a game of padel in Docklands this summer and urge my neighbours across our city to come down and give it a try."

For more information: game4padel.com.au.



"It's fantastic to see a new sport grow, particularly from our Docklands community set against the backdrop of our beautiful city."



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DOCKLANDS NEWS

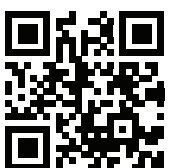
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The vision for a residents 3008: advocating for community representation

“

In the bustling heart of Melbourne, Docklands stands as a vibrant and evolving community.

”

WORDS BY
CR JAMAL HAKIM



As a dedicated member of the Docklands Stakeholder Group, I'm constantly considering ways to enhance our community's functionality and vibrancy, focusing on hearing the diverse voices within our neighbourhood.

We have a number of groups representing areas of Docklands, and yet something is missing. I believe a key initiative in this vision is the formation of a group that represents individual residents.

Drawing inspiration from Residents 3000 and the active participation in neighbouring Southbank3006, the idea of a Docklands 3008 is both exciting and essential. This group would not only hear but amplify a greater number of local resident voices, intertwining it with community-led activities.

Ultimately when we have representation across the spectrum, and by uniting residents, businesses, our primary school, sports clubs, and developers, we can weave the rich, diverse fabric of our community into a cohesive whole.

Docklands' unique mix of commercial vibrancy and serene waterfront living brings its own challenges in representation and decision-making. A residents' group would be instrumental in supporting to navigate these complexities, ensuring all facets of our multifaceted community are considered along with residents.

Creating this group is no small task.

Our strength lies in our diversity, which also means accommodating a myriad of perspectives and needs. It requires the engagement of every "village" member – each individual, business, and community group – and acknowledges the need for other representative groups to ensure comprehensive community participation.

I want to celebrate those already making a difference in Docklands. The residents in pink, keeping Victoria Harbour pristine, the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) enhancing vertical living and owners' corporation (OC) participation, and Game4Padel's community-building Padel Open Tournament are shining examples.

Local businesses like Cargo and Berth, supporting those in need on Christmas Day, also demonstrate the community spirit that underpins Docklands.

A formal residents' group would create a point where ideas can come together and empower these individual efforts, transforming them into collective action with a tangible impact on policy and community initiatives. Imagine a community where initiatives like a fortnightly mah-jong evening (make sure to check this out!), bringing locals together for fun and connection, become the norm.

The council, through the Docklands Stakeholder Group, is committed to facilitating these endeavours, but the impetus for a residents' group must come from within the community. I encourage every resident and stakeholder in Docklands to recognise the power of their voice and the importance of their participation.

Establishing a Docklands 3008 is more than an objective; it's a vital step for our dynamic and diverse community. It's about creating a forum that not only reflects but actively supports the myriad voices of Docklands.

Our community is more than a location; it's a vibrant, living entity shaped by its members. Let's unite to form a group that represents residents and works to collaborate with other local groups to truly deliver on the spirit, diversity, and vibrancy of Docklands. Your voice is crucial, and together, we have the power to shape our community's future. ●

Could Costco's departure pave the way for a new Docklands High School?

While the exit of any business from the precinct isn't usually cause for optimism, Costco's recent announcement that it will leave Docklands for Ardeer could open the door for a desperately needed secondary school.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The wholesale supermarket giant's country manager Chris Tingman confirmed with Docklands News in January that it would soon close its Docklands warehouse, however an exact timeframe for when is not yet known.

Opened in 2009, Costco's departure will mark the end of a 15-year presence in Docklands which helped create an important activation of an otherwise difficult site on Footscray Rd, drawing thousands of customers to the precinct every year.

"Costco is continually looking to improve our members' experience and bring great value," Mr Tingman said. "Our focus is always to find the right location to meet our specifications so that we can ensure every warehouse is comprehensively stocked, offering a wide range of products and services of the best quality at the best possible price." "We are closing the Docklands warehouse and relocating to Ardeer. Costco is very excited to be a part of the wider Melbourne West community; we feel it is the perfect location for offering more convenience for our rapidly expanding membership base." "We look forward to sharing our progress with our members as we work on the relocation. Any updates will be shared via social media and on our website."

While Mr Tingman didn't confirm when asked by Docklands News, reports have suggested that a contributing factor behind Costco's decision was an increase in expenses, namely council and state government costs.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Daniel Hibberd said the announcement was another reminder local businesses in Docklands, irrespective of their size, were still feeling pressure.

"I think that there needs to be a realisation

for the entire community that businesses are still in a compromised position with current market conditions, and increased costs outside of that are putting businesses under a lot of strain," he said.

However, he added: "Although it's never a nice thing to hear a big employer exit Docklands, the opportunity of the large space that Costco's departure opens for a new business or community use in Docklands is exciting – something good could come out of this."

Locals took to social media in January to share a range of ideas on what big businesses could potentially replace Costco at the site, which included the likes of IKEA and Bunnings.

But the idea which has been raised the most is for a new Docklands Secondary School.

Issues surrounding the growing pains at the nearby Docklands Primary School have been well reported, with students overflowing into a temporary campus in the District Docklands shopping centre.

The primary school was constructed on the last conceivable site left in Docklands, and the school's principal Adam Bright and the school community have been vocal about the need for the government to start thinking about a secondary school for the area.

What better use for the Costco site than a high school, which would help draw more families to the area and provide a community activation that could breathe new life into this site abutting the Moonee Ponds Creek?

It would require a major investment by the state government to purchase the land from Costco, but after all the education planning failures in Docklands to date, this would be the perfect way to repay the debt to local families. ●

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METRO MELBOURNE



Building communities that thrive: Lendlease puts social impact first

Development giant Lendlease has carved a niche for itself in Docklands after delivering some large-scale projects over the past 20 years.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



But what may not be commonly known is the firm's dedication to going beyond its construction process to ensure positive social impact on communities is achieved.

Lendlease's regional social impact manager Jacqueline Saultry said she was committed to creating positive social outcomes and so brought her passion of making an impact on people's lives to the large-scale mixed-use projects she worked across.

"Social Impact creates an opportunity to enrich the project, foster ongoing relationships, create positive social outcomes and cultivate a vibrant and resilient community," she told *Docklands News*.

"By having a role that allows the community to participate in and benefit from the investment being made allows me to bring purpose to what I do."

Successful projects in Docklands include the Exchange at Knowledge Market at Victoria Harbour, a creative hub for sharing ideas created by the community for the community.

A collaboration between Lendlease and RMIT University in 2016, the Exchange explores the concept of community through a curated series of public workshops, exhibitions, forums, and community events.

Another success included Lendlease partnering

with First Nations fashion brand Ngali to open its fashion studio within the Melbourne Quarter precinct in 2022.

The studio founded by Wiradjuri designer, Denni Francisco, is the brand's first-ever exclusive retail experience that celebrates First Nations culture and creativity.

Lendlease said its collaboration with Ngali would continue to bring about a greater awareness and understanding of its vision for reconciliation and enhance the public's knowledge of Indigenous culture and history.

Ms Saultry, who has 20 years' experience in the property and construction industry in Australia and the UK, said Lendlease was always learning, noting the sector was "evolving but it is important that we focus our efforts".

"At Lendlease we focus on three key social impact areas: economic prosperity, community inclusion and wellbeing."

Asked what challenges she had found in trying to make a social impact through its projects in Docklands, Ms Saultry said it was aligning project timings with community expectation, which "often isn't at day one".

"We look at 'what, where and how' to deliver impactful outcomes and align with project delivery timelines to ensure we get the greatest outcomes throughout the project lifecycle and beyond."

Looking ahead to Lendlease's Collins Wharf project, a residential tower at 907-913 Collins St and future development at Victoria Harbour, she said building strong communities that thrived would continue to be at the heart of the firm's purpose.

"In creating meaningful social impact projects, it's not always about creating something new but rather leveraging and building on existing partnerships, programs and assets – this is something I look forward to continuing in 2024." ●



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Ballarat/Greensborough-bound: You'll need to be in the left-hand lanes to get onto the M80 Ring Road, instead of the right-hand lanes.

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(Geelong)



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Footscray Road between Pearl River Road and Docklands Drive will be closed westbound from Monday 12 – Monday 19 February, and then in both directions from Monday 19 February to Monday 4 March.

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Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM, founder and CEO of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and Melburnian of the Year for 2023

Melburnian of the Year Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM, inspires us all to build a more compassionate Australia, where everyone has a seat at the table.

From a Greek-Australian child experiencing racism in a country town to CEO and founder of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Kon has turned trauma into action that positively impacts countless lives.

As a human rights lawyer, social worker, Children's Ground board member, philanthropist, masseur, and cooking enthusiast, Kon is both a passionate advocate for people in need and a voracious learner.

"Education is power – the power to do good, and the power to influence and change things for the better. Thanks to my parents' legacy, I get to live this dream. I can't waste that opportunity," Kon said.

FAMILY VALUES

Kon's grandparents came to Australia as refugees, and his parents made great sacrifices for their children.

His dad spent humiliating and gruelling years working on a tobacco farm to support the family, and his mum never fulfilled her dream of being a maths teacher. Kon was the first in his family to complete high school.

Kon and his sister, Her Honour Nola Karapanagiotidis, who was the first Greek-Australian woman to be appointed a judge in the County Court of Victoria – remain ever grateful for these sacrifices, and their family's strong Greek values.

"The Greek term 'philoxenia' means to welcome the stranger, or to love the stranger. 'Philotimo', too, means being a servant to love. These values are like breathing for Greeks," Kon said.

"Society so often forgets it, but everyone deserves to be seen and valued. After all, with a change of the wind we could be the ones in search of safety and welcome."

A Seat At My Table: Philoxenia

Kon's strong family values have made their way into the title of his Greek cookbook. Created with his mother Sia, *A Seat At My Table: Philoxenia* includes 100 vegan and vegetarian recipes. Proceeds have raised more than \$200,000 for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

THE POWER OF COMPASSION

Motivated by generational tenacity and a conscious decision to "lead with love", Kon's journey has seen him support the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Among Kon's many roles, he has worked the midnight shift on a crisis line, run support groups for male survivors of incest, promoted safety for sex workers on the streets of St Kilda, and provided massage clinics for men experiencing homelessness.

"I was working with men sleeping rough – tough guys who'd been in prison – and they'd be like little lambs. They told me it was the first time they'd been touched without being harmed. We don't often think about that, with men," Kon said.

"People we turn our backs on have trauma at the heart of their journey. That's the common thread. Whether it be displacement, abuse, serious health issues, bereavement or family breakdown, trauma is the universal story. Intergenerational trauma, in particular, places people at the margins.

"Everyone is worthy – there's no such thing as a broken person. Most

Australians are just a step away from being on the streets, so we need to show each other compassion."

A CHARITY BEGINS

At 28, Kon founded the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre with TAFE students he was teaching to become welfare workers. Their first task was to provide meals for refugees who couldn't find food in Melbourne.

"The TAFE students were migrants, refugees and lots of Australian mums in their 40s and 50s returning to studies – they were people about whom the world had low expectations," Kon said.

"This project taught them that they could make a difference and change the world for the better – all you need is the intention, passion and ideals to do so. There's not much more to it than that."

The eight-week TAFE project became a charity, and thousands of people began to volunteer and donate in the wake of the Tampa affair.

ASTONISHING IMPACT

Twenty-two years later, the non-profit has made a huge impact – supporting 30,000 people in need, raising a quarter of a billion dollars and saving thousands of lives. This success was based on three core principles:

"I decided that the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre would never take money from the Australian government, that we would be outspoken and fearless, and that we would never turn anyone away in need," Kon said.

Today, 200 staff members and 1000 volunteers deliver English classes, a full-scale legal service, an incubator for refugee-led businesses, two social-enterprise cafes, numerous programs



in health, education, housing, meals, financial aid and women's empowerment, and much more.

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre has also worked tirelessly to support and evacuate refugees from Nauru and Papua New Guinea. The organisation is training the next generation of advocates as Australia's largest investor in refugee leadership.

"We are Australia's most influential and effective refugee organisation when it comes to creating change," Kon said.

HOW TO MAKE AN IMPACT IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

For people seeking to follow in Kon's change-making footsteps, he has some encouraging advice:

"Be proud of where you come from, work hard, remain humble and make a difference. Everything you build, you build through your own hard work," Kon said.

"There is a long way to go, and the work is ahead of us, but we cannot despair. Despair is not a strategy. We've got to come back and be prepared, and more compassionate."

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre website offers a wealth of information about how to support refugees, from volunteering to booking catering with social impact. To learn more, visit asrc.org.au

ABOUT THE MELBOURNE AWARDS

The Melbourne Awards are the City of Melbourne's highest accolade, recognising the people and organisations who make a significant impact on community life.

"I'm surprised, humbled and very grateful to be recognised in the Melbourne Awards," Kon said.

For more information visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards



Browse 30,000 books, use high-tech creative gadgets or bliss out on the rooftop terrace while your children play at narm ngarrgu, the City of Melbourne's new flagship library and family services centre.

narm ngarrgu is on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country, and we have worked closely with Elders, artists and community members to bring this warm, welcoming space to life by drawing on deep knowledge systems.

The name, materials, artworks – even the design of the carpet – honour and celebrate the First Nations community. narm ngarrgu means 'Melbourne Knowledge' in Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung language.

Spanning three levels and 3000 sqm, narm ngarrgu is an urban oasis for families designed so everyone in our diverse community can explore their interests, learn something new and access integrated family support.

It's also our first new library in almost a decade.

The project is part of the broader Queen Victoria Market precinct transformation and the \$1.7 billion Gurrwaa Place development, with support from the Victorian Government, the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and Changing Places.

Welcoming, accessible spaces

The entryways to narm ngarrgu set the scene for a very special library experience.

The front counter is staffed with caring workers who ensure everyone visiting the library feels welcome. Community outreach, social work, digital literacy and Aboriginal liaison staff members support this commitment to inclusivity across the library.

Venture further inside to discover lofty spaces for reading and study that transform into grand event spaces with retractable tiered seating.

Around the corner there's a computer lab where training and digital literacy workshops will be held, and lockers with laptops you can borrow to use throughout the library.

The library also offers many different spaces you can use for events and meetings. These spaces are low-cost to book, and free for First Nations people.

For library users who need mobility support, narm ngarrgu offers a state-of-the-art bathroom fitted with a hoist and full-size change table.

Last but not least, help yourself to water or a cuppa from the stations dotted throughout narm ngarrgu. We want you to feel at home.

Aboriginal artwork

Maree Clarke, a Mutti Mutti / Yorta Yorta and Wemba Wemba / Boon Wurrung artist from north-western Victoria, collaborated with other creatives and designers to shape immersive spaces that tell the stories of the site and its context.

Designed to invite reflection, learning, ceremony and play – the artworks at narm ngarrgu celebrate the rich contribution First Nations people make to the life of the city, share stories of Country and speak to the impact of colonisation.

Maree described the expansive library space as a super-giant blank canvas.

"In the Children's Library, I've designed the carpet to represent the seven seasons of the Kulin nation through plants and animals," Maree said.

"And I've also designed the forest on the mirrored glass that's down the passageway, so children again will be able to see themselves reflected in the forest on the way to the beautiful library.

"Through the main library carpet – with the beautiful watercolour and the maps over the top – people will get to learn about the five clans of the Kulin nation. And what better place to learn about it than in a library."

Books and collections

The library has more than 30,000 books – 22,000 for adults and 8000 for children. There are books in a variety of languages including Chinese, Japanese and Korean. narm ngarrgu also offers an English as an Additional Language collection.

When you return books inside the new library, pause at the window above the slot and watch – like a child at a chocolate factory – as a state-of-the-art machine automatically sorts the titles into their correct categories.

Children's library



On the way to the dedicated bubup wilam Children's Library, follow a trail of blue ants that weave among images of native animals and plants, including sugar gliders, koalas and golden billy-buttons.

Grab a colourful cushion from the stack and make yourself comfortable with books from local and international authors, in multiple languages.

The bubup wilam Children's Library features stories galore, access to a play area on the secure terrace and a large space that will host storytime, craft sessions, book clubs and more.

The library also hosts a social work outreach program, which provides support and referrals to families in need.

Family services centre

Our family services centre offers a generous playroom, outdoor play area and accessible parent room.

The dynamic space is also home to a holistic range of services, including maternal and child health services, parenting services, immunisation, family support and counselling.

Creative makerspace and sound studios

Explore your passions or start a new creative side-hustle in our decked-out makerspace. Think 3D printers, laser cutters, sewing and embroidery machines, airbrushing, electronics, sound studios and much more.

Expert support is on hand to help you learn how to use all of the equipment.

Rooftop terrace

When you reach the spectacular rooftop terrace, crawl through the giant eel trap, breathe in the native plants and pause to reflect by a coolamon cast from a giant eucalyptus burl by Wurundjeri Elders, which will be used for smoking ceremonies.

The rooftop terrace also features an outdoor play area and a water-play space for the warmer months.



More library locations

The opening of narm ngarrgu Library and Family Services adds to our five neighbourhood libraries, City Library, plus the Mel-Van mobile library service.

You can find narm ngarrgu at 141 Therry Street, Melbourne, just across the road from Queen Victoria Market.

To learn more, visit
melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

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Bringing an eye for good urban design to Docklands

Dr Elek Pafka has brought the best of both worlds to life as a resident of Docklands.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



As a senior lecturer in urban planning and urban design at the University of Melbourne, as well as the parent of a student at Docklands Primary School, Dr Pafka seeing the precinct around him through both lenses.

His combination of professional and lived experience provides for valuable insights into how the public realm in Docklands could be improved to create more enjoyable and safer spaces and journeys for residents, workers, and visitors alike.

Having previously lived in the CBD for 10 years, the Romanian-born academic moved to Docklands with his family in 2021 to be within walking distance of Docklands Primary School.

And as many parents with children attending the school will attest to, it's not an easy walk. Located at the busy nexus of Footscray Rd, Harbour Esplanade and Docklands Drive, trucks, trams, and speeding cyclists are just some of the many obstacles one must navigate to arrive at school safely.

Since the school opened, the issues for families have been so bad that concerned parents formed an action group to lobby authorities,

resulting in a suite of safety measures and improvements being introduced to the area.

But as Dr Pafka said, the public realm surrounding the school, and throughout the precinct generally, still had a long way to go.

"It's unfortunately a bit monotonous to go down Harbour Esplanade every day, the same route, and that's perhaps one of the areas that I think should be urgently improved," he said.

In December *Docklands News* reported on locals lamenting the lack of sun protection and overall heat levels surrounding Victoria Harbour, with particular focus on the "hot" and "exposed" nature of Harbour Esplanade.

While Dr Pafka shares this same view, he said it wasn't uncommon for post-industrial urban renewal areas around the world such as Docklands to have challenges when it came to achieving "fine grain mix".

"An approach that is now quite popular in urban design is temporary and tactical urbanism, which are very small interventions that are not necessarily conceived as being permanent, although sometimes they are so successful that they remain in some form," he said.

"The [Good Cycles] container that repairs bicycles on the esplanade is one example, but there could be many other interventions



that are similar that test various business ideas or community services and would be relatively easy and affordable to implement to test whether there is sufficient need for them in this area."

Dr Pafka said that in politics, thought is too often about "possible futures in very narrow and highly framed ways" and that public discourse is similarly limited. Development Victoria's recent public engagement process on Central Pier is perhaps one recent example of this.

And, when it comes to planning for the future, who better to consult on urban design than children?

The City of Melbourne's Docklands Summit in 2022 identified a strong desire to create a "family-friendly precinct", and Dr Pafka said Docklands Primary

students should be engaged in helping to realise this ambition.

"We've never had a wealthier society than we have now, and the possibilities in terms of what we can achieve with the material wealth and technology we have are way broader," he said.

"One way to look at that spectrum of possibilities is to engage with as many perspectives as possible with people who are perhaps less likely to participate because they come from different cultures, are new to the place, or are children who often are forgotten about."

He added that major developments such as Central Pier, "perhaps deserve a competition where many ideas have been presented to the community, and perhaps the community has a say as well, which proposal is more interesting

to be shortlisted."

During 2024, Dr Elek Pafka will contribute regular columns on urban design and planning for *Docklands News*, where he will explore a range of different topics aimed at educating and empowering the community about what might be possible for our suburb.

"I think many people have relevant urban experiences from cities they visited around the globe, but often do not have the language or the literacy to talk about urban design futures," he said.

"I hope that some articles on that would be helpful to empower the local community; to advocate for better public spaces and a better neighbourhood." ●

Docklands' newest club gears up for big 2024

After moving into its new home at Ron Barassi Snr Park, Docklands Athletic FC is looking for new junior and women's players.

WORDS BY
DAVID SCHOUT



Competitive local soccer is just months away from kicking off in Docklands, and new club Docklands Athletic FC is on the hunt for new junior and women's players to join for the 2024 season.

Since moving into its new home at the picturesque Ron Barassi Snr Park in late 2023, the club has settled in well to what it's called a "fantastic" base.

And after a strong response to senior men's pre-season training, which kicked off in early January, the club is now looking for interested children to join their "Minirooms" program for under-7s through to under-12s.

Docklands Athletic hosted a six-week clinic in late 2023 in one of the club's first organised activities at the NewQuay playing fields.

Boasting several qualified coaches ready to help, the club is now getting the word out for what will be an inaugural year for its junior program.

"We're hoping to lodge three junior teams, which would be a good start for our first time around. That's our goal at the moment," club president Matthew Tate



told *Docklands News*.

Minirooms sessions, which run for 45 minutes on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, were launched in late January.

Formerly known as North Melbourne Athletic FC, last year the club shifted from Parkville to Ron Barassi Snr Park in a move that saw them largely absorb the existing Docklands Sports Club (DSC).

As part of the move, which was seen as a win-win by both clubs, it changed its name

to Docklands Athletic FC.

For years the North Melbourne club had envisaged plans to establish a junior program to provide a pathway to the club's senior men's and women's teams, which play in Football Victoria competitions.

And in 2024, it gets its wish.

Given the club is just starting out, it does not have a big

database of parents and kids to connect with and is keen to spread the word out about its new program.

It has made early connections with Docklands Primary School and announced nearby Lucas Real Estate as its major sponsor in November.

Players "absolutely love" new Docklands home as women urged to join

Mr Tate said the response from members, who had unanimously backed the move from Parkville to Docklands 86 votes to nil last year, had been extremely positive.

"Fantastic, they absolutely love it," he said.

"We've got a home base for pre-season, which we haven't had for so long – our previous oval was a cricket pitch throughout summer which we weren't allowed on, and which they played on until the end of

March, which is when Round 1 starts.

"So, we were literally just hopping around parks for pre-season. The guys are just loving having a base for the home season, which is probably helping us with recruitment as we look like a legitimate club operating out of one base."

He said logistically, having a home-base headquarters also made the world of difference, while the picturesque surrounds in Docklands was an added bonus.

"Just having the facilities as well – [our former home] was filled with cricket stuff in the summer and we had to move all our stuff out, so we were carrying bags of balls around wherever we were training."

"Whereas now we've got a base to move all our stuff into, open up and grab the stuff out to train, so it's a much more professional setup and the players absolutely love it. Especially in the summer with the beautiful backdrop in Docklands when you're training in the evening. The feedback has been great from everyone."

The men's seniors and reserves teams, which will play out of Football Victoria's State League 4 competition this season, had around 45 players take part in early sessions, which Mr Tate said was "probably our biggest squad this early in pre-season for quite some time".

The club's existing women's team will again compete in the State League 3 competition in 2024, and new players were encouraged to join in pre-season training, which began on January 31.

For more information email the club (docklandsafc@gmail.com) or visit its Facebook page for updates. ●

ATET sues City of Melbourne and Development Victoria over loss of business

The owners of former Docklands events space ATET have launched legal action against the City of Melbourne and Development Victoria, claiming they unlawfully shut down their business.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The business's co-founder Jake Hughes said they had been left "no choice but to seek justice in court" after the council terminated ATET's licence in June 2023 despite the business claiming it was "compliant".

According to a statement of claim filed with the Supreme Court of Victoria, ATET had lost an estimated \$7 million since having to close its doors, just eight months after launching.

The closure came after the venue faced a barrage of noise complaints from nearby residents, who said the loud music had disturbed their peace and health.

The City of Melbourne issued a notice of default to ATET in May, after an Environment Protection Authority (EPA) report found the venue had breached noise regulations.

Mr Hughes said the notice of default failed to include any attachments of evidence of the business breaking their permit conditions.

He also alleged the business "repeatedly complied" with all the council's requests and adjusted the venue's noise limiter to ensure it met EPA standards.

"We have done everything the council has ever asked of us and have been repeatedly blindsided by their actions not matching their words. We are shocked at how unprofessional some of their behaviour has been," he said.

Mr Hughes said he and his parents had put six years of work and all their savings into creating the business but now they now faced the prospect of bankruptcy and losing their family home.

"The City of Melbourne claim to be a champion of the live music scene, but they have rejected every attempt to save our venue, which was cherished by the music community," Mr Hughes said.

"We believe if council are allowed to get away with this, they will keep doing it. We are standing up for not only ourselves, but other small businesses and the live music

scene that we love."

At the time of terminating ATET's licence, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the venue had "generated an unprecedented level of complaints and concerns from local residents" with the council "really doing everything we possibly can to support them as they have tried to comply with EPA noise regulations".

But the lawsuit alleges the council and Development Victoria's conduct has been "misleading or deceptive".

Mr Hughes said the council had "consistently refused" to negotiate to save the business despite "repeated attempts" from the business to resolve the dispute.

Development Victoria is named in the lawsuit as it was the responsible authority about its permanent location.

ATET was located at a temporary berth, operating as an open-air floating bar near the Bolte Bridge, while the owners awaited to be relocated to North Wharf, which would be further away from apartments, but this was to be carried out once structural works were completed by Development Victoria.

"We are shocked at how unprofessional some of their behaviour has been," Mr Hughes said.

"The council has failed to act in good faith, and we are being expected to bear the cost of that. That is wrong."

In February, the venue was engulfed in flames after being the target of a suspected arson attack, three months into its operation.

ATET said it continued to await further information from Victoria Police, which is still investigating the fire.

"The business was just getting back on its feet from that incident when the council suddenly shut them down," the business said in a statement.

Docklands News contacted the City of Melbourne and Development Victoria for comment. ●

Pet's Corner

Lapis enjoys his newfound life in Docklands

Lapis, the former greyhound racing dog, is loving a "life of luxury" in Docklands.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES

The three-year-old was adopted by his devoted owner Michael nine months ago with his days filled with walks, socialising, and curling up on the couch.

He loves every opportunity to take leisurely strolls around the neighbourhood while taking in the views of the waterfront.

"He loves when people stop and ask to pat him, he's wonderful with people," Michael, a NewQuay resident of 18 months, said.

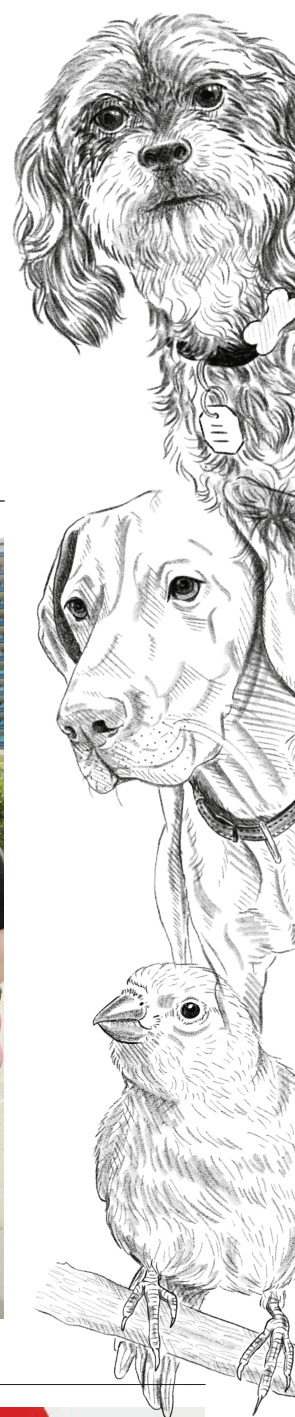
"He also enjoys seeing other dogs out and about, particularly a greyhound, he gets very excited."

And he knows his days of a fast-paced life (which included a few racing wins) are truly behind him when Lapis can explore the boats around the harbour and visit the Buluk Park near the Library at The Dock.

He also gets "very excited" when surrounded by big crowds such as New Year's Eve or events like the Firelight Festival. While a burst of energy is in his nature, Michael laughs that Lapis is more than happy to sleep for the "rest of the day" at his apartment. ●



▲ Photography by Hanna Komissarova.



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QUESTION:
What’s your New Year’s resolution?

Faces of Docklands



TOMMY

I want to travel more around Victoria, Western Australia and Sydney.



ROHINI

Be happier and be more productive



SOPHIE

Honestly, just be happy and not worrying what everyone else is doing.



What’s with all the shopping trolleys?

Everywhere you go, Docklands seems to be littered with them.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



So much so, locals have taken to social media in recent months to express their growing frustration with the situation, sharing photos of abandoned trolleys in parks, roadways, tram stops and even in the harbour.

One local with a sense of humour has even started a Facebook page titled “Trolleys of Docklands”, which tells “the real stories of trolleys lost and living on the streets of Docklands”.

But the rise in discarded trolleys is no laughing matter, with

many seen blocking the street and footpaths for motorists and pedestrians.

Docklands News witnessed one driver having to make an emergency stop in the middle of peak hour traffic on Harbour Esplanade in January to move two trolleys which had drifted from the footpath onto the road.

One local Alex Matthews wrote to *Docklands News* last month to encourage anyone misusing the trolleys to change their behaviour, saying their growing presence was making the precinct look like a “trashed ghetto”.

“[I want to] help bring to everyone’s attention to stop taking trolleys from Woolworths and dumping them all over our neighbourhood,” he said.

“Yes, this is an issue also for Woolworths but getting them to pick up these trolleys

after reporting constantly daily is impossible.”

“I feel it’s also the locals’ responsibility to take trolleys back from where they came from if they do have to take them.”

“This is a major issue and not just a one-off problem and I’m embarrassed that people come to Docklands and see this as we already do not have a great reputation even though it is an amazing area.”

Docklands News spoke with store management at Woolworths Victoria Harbour, who reminded the community that discarded trolleys were a matter for the contractor who is responsible for collecting them.

All supermarkets deal with one company, 1800 TROLLEY (1800 876 553), which is subcontracted to patrol the streets and return trolleys to supermarkets.



You can also report a trolley for collection to “Trolley Tracker” at trolleytracker.com.au/report-a-trolley ●

The Salvation Army is calling out for driving instructors

The freedom and independence of driving is something most of us take for granted, but many young people struggle to get their licence if they don’t have access to a supervising driver or vehicle.

Not having a driver’s licence can limit a young person’s goals for work, study, and housing, so the Salvation Army is making learning to drive more equitable through its Drive for Life TAC L2P program in the City of Melbourne.

The inclusive program is funded by TAC and matches learner drivers aged 16 to 21 with volunteer mentors who can help them achieve their licence and reach their full potential.

Stephen Harvy, program manager (and volunteer mentor), is seeking new mentors to help more young people achieve their licence, and their dreams.

“We take family for granted. Not everyone is able to ask mum or dad to take them out in the car. Volunteers power the Drive for Life TAC L2P program,” Mr Harvy said.

“Some young people really don’t have any other way to get their licence and it’s a really big thing in their lives if you can help them achieve that goal. If you have some spare time, becoming a Drive for Life TAC L2P program mentor is a really worthwhile and rewarding way to spend it.”

“We welcomed and provided training for our latest intake of volunteers in December (pictured) readying them for matching with learner drivers in the year ahead but are



always seeking to attract and recruit more volunteer mentors.”

To be eligible, you need a current unrestricted driver’s licence, maturity to bring to a mentoring relationship with a young person, a desire to improve road safety, and just two hours per fortnight or month.

Learners must be aged 16 to 21, with a current learner’s permit, and without access to a vehicle, a supervising driver, or both.

To apply to be a mentor or learner, visit salvationarmy.org.au/driveforlife, phone 0477 408 533, or email driveforlifel2p@salvationarmy.org.au ●

Embedded networks review by Victorian Government not comprehensive enough

The Victorian Government announced back in October 2018 an election commitment to ban embedded networks in new residential apartment buildings, with appropriate exemptions for buildings that use renewable energy microgrids to deliver low-cost renewable energy to apartment buildings.

The commitment was made in response to ongoing concerns that customers currently living in embedded networks pay higher prices and do not have access to the same level of consumer protections as other Victorians.

An Expert Panel was appointed and developed a comprehensive package of recommendations to the Victorian Government on how to best implement its commitment to ban embedded networks in new residential apartment buildings.

The government supported all of the

panel's recommendations.

This includes transitioning embedded networks into Victoria's electricity licensing framework, which will ensure that consumers in both new and existing residential embedded networks will have the same retail market access, legal protections, and regulatory oversight as other Victorian consumers.

The first phase of reforms was completed with a new General Exemption Order (GEO) published on September 29, 2022. The revised GEO contains a new renewable energy condition which new residential embedded networks will need to meet to operate legally.

The second phase of reforms will improve outcomes for all customers living in embedded networks, including those in existing sites.

The Victorian Government supported the additional recommendations and will legislate further reforms through 2024 to introduce licensing, and to enhance consumer protections and provide access to competitive retail offers for all embedded network customers.

However, in the meantime much harm is still occurring in existing residential and commercial buildings where embedded

network operators are flexing their muscles.

The fundamental issue is that the developers of these buildings permitted the network operators to install their electricity and water/gas infrastructure while the building was still being constructed.

Therefore, regardless of any reform, the equipment and infrastructure will always be owned by the network operator. If an owners' corporation (OC) decides to switch providers, it will have to buy the equipment from the network operator.

In the meantime, of course, the network operator has depreciated its equipment, but then stands to make a profit on selling the equipment back to the OC.

This should never have been allowed to happen, and unfortunately it is nearly impossible to put the genie back into this particular bottle.

The other point is that embedded networks come in all types and varieties. For instance, a lot owner recently lost a case in November 2023 in relation to his building's embedded internet network.

Mr Lieu, who lives in the Nightingale Village development in Brunswick, filed a claim seeking to have the embedded internet network installed by the developer

to be classified as a lot owner service, and therefore payable by only those owners that use the internet service, and not all owners.

However, the company involved – Net 360 – had not only installed internet infrastructure but had also installed on behalf of the developer an interface nodule to operate the intercoms, vehicle entry gates, and "call to lift" buttons which were all typical common property services.

Therefore, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) had to conclude that all lot owners were liable to pay Net 360 the costs that the developer had committed them to paying when it signed the agreement while the building was still under the developers' ownership.

Not fair for unit owners, but very profitable for developers and network operators. Further reform is still required. ●

Tom Bacon

STRATA TITLE LAWYERS
TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.COM.AU



DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

Lithium-ion batteries in strata: webinar

The Owners' Corporation Network (OCN) will host a free online webinar on Thursday, February 15 from 12pm to 1pm on the growing importance of rechargeable lithium-ion (li-ion) batteries to high-rise living.

These batteries are now the most widespread portable energy storage solution globally. This is due to their use in a wide range of consumer products such as mobile phones, laptops and a growing array of home appliances and tools.

But what has brought li-ion batteries to the fore in residential

strata is their use in personal transportation devices such as e-bikes and e-scooters. This is because some li-ion recharging incidents have caused fires, resulting in serious injuries and extensive property damage.

One recent example occurred in January 2024 where a faulty li-ion e-bike battery caused a devastating fire in a North Bondi apartment. An e-bike had been left to charge in a bedroom unit overnight, leading to a fire in the early hours, which subsequently engulfed the beachside apartment.

Attending the event, the Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) has publicly warned of the risks posed by li-ion battery failure which can include severe burns, chemical exposure, and smoke inhalation. Added to this, fires arising from li-ion batteries are difficult to extinguish and

may spontaneously reignite.

This means that fire emergency services are required to dedicate significant resources to protect consumers from fires caused by li-ion batteries.

Also expressing grave concerns about the increasing number of incidents involving li-ion batteries is the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). In a recent report they warn of the hazards that can arise from low-quality batteries, unsafe charging practices, unauthorised repurposing or modification and storage failures, such as when they are exposed to heat or moisture.

The ACCC's report also identifies the risks surrounding the disposal of li-ion batteries. Specifically, their chemical makeup means they may ignite upon exposure to conditions that are common during household waste disposal,

such as compaction or exposure to heat or moisture. This can result in intense and persistent fires in communal waste areas that are difficult and dangerous to extinguish.

This now leaves residential strata communities with significant challenges regarding how best to manage this growing use of li-ion batteries in their apartment blocks. There are questions around what ways owners' corporations (OCs) can mitigate these risks and whether, in fact, OCs have authority to regulate what residents do in their private lots.

Added to this, there is uncertainty around what fire-fighting capacity OCs now need to deal with because of faulty li-ion battery incidents.

While state regulations differ, this is shared challenge across all Australian states, which is why

the OCN is hosting a free webinar on February 15 where a panel of experts will discuss:

- fire risks across common lithium-ion battery products;
- recommended code of conduct for common lithium-ion battery powered devices;
- expert advice (including a summary of responses and submissions regarding the EV fire risk); and
- advice from the Insurance Council of Australia.

Speakers include Fred Tuckwell (OCN chair), Emma Sutcliffe (EV FireSafe general manager) and Ross de Rango (Electric Vehicle Council head of Infrastructure).

The webinar is free, and you can register your attendance online by visiting ocn.org.au/events ●



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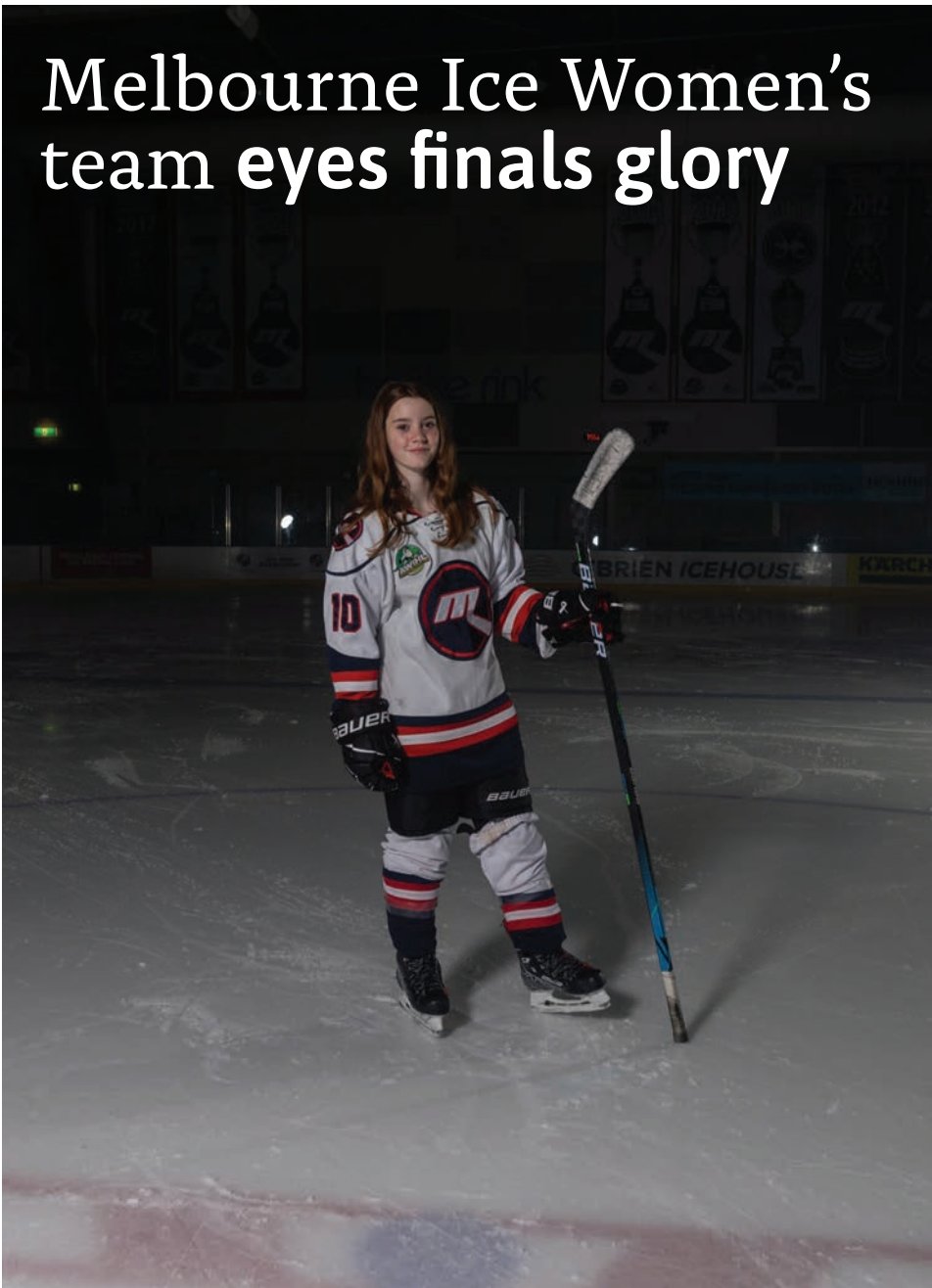
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Melbourne Ice Women's team eyes finals glory

Docklands' O'Brien Icehouse is set to host the Australian Women's Ice Hockey League (AWIHL) finals on March 9 and 10, with the Melbourne Ice Women's (MIW) team hoping to "reclaim the championship title" in the 2023/2024 season.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Currently positioned at the top of the ladder, MIW is busy training for the remaining games of the season to not only secure a spot in the finals, but also to contribute to the establishment of women's ice hockey as a leading sport.

"We went into the season with a lot of pressure on us to perform," MIW's captain, Georgia Moore said.

"We are that team that everyone else wants to knock off, so it puts a bit of a target on our back – we have to be performing at our best at all times."

Having played ice hockey since the age of 9, Moore brings extensive experience to the team, representing both MIW and Australia in the sport, as well as having played overseas.

"I moved to Canada when I was 17 and I was there for 10 years playing hockey," she told Docklands News.

"While I was away, the AWIHL started up in 2007 – it was great to be able to come back and jump into competitive hockey that was women-specific".

Ms Moore describes ice hockey as not only a "highly entertaining, fast-paced sport", but also one that requires a lot of strategy.

"It may look quite simple from an outsider's perspective, but there's a lot going on," she said.

"It's one thing to be able to skate, handle the park, shoot and score, but it's another thing to be strategic on the ice – you never stop learning and developing."

Despite noticeable progress for the AIHWL, challenges persist for equal opportunity between the men's and women's teams.

While The Melbourne Ice men's team play for free, MIW players pay upwards of \$3000 each season, and all staff are volunteers.

"There's been a lot of change in the last couple of years for women's sports, I think in direct relation to AFL Women's and other sports that have emerged – people are starting to realise that it can be just as entertaining," Ms Moore said.

"There are young women who are coming up now who are fantastic hockey players and they're going to be way better than I am, and they deserve that opportunity to not be prevented from playing just because of financial reasons – there's a lot of us senior players who are fighting for that equal right."

One of MIW's rising stars is almost 14-year-old Taylie Nelson, a Docklands resident and player in their Development Squad.

"I've been watching the MIW team since I was little and now, I get to train with them every week, it's amazing," Ms Nelson said.

"Training with MIW is like my dreams have come true – I'm still too young to play for the team in the AIHWL but I can't wait until I'm old enough to wear my own MIW jersey."

MIW's next home game at O'Brien Icehouse is against Brisbane Lightning on February 24 and 25, which Ms Moore hopes the community will come out to support their local team ahead of finals, which will also contribute to the aspirations of players like Ms Nelson to reach their full potential.

For ticket information: obrienicehouse.com.au ●

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Check your child's posture this back-to-school season

As February rolls around, the excitement of a new school year is certainly in the air!

WORDS BY
DR MIKE EDGLEY



With freshly polished shoes and perfectly sharpened pencils, our little learners are eager for the challenges ahead.

However, while our kids are diving into their times tables and spelling bees, it's also important to educate them about the importance of maintaining good spinal health.

Naturally, kids don't often consider how slouching in their seats or lugging around a heavy backpack might affect their developing spines. That's why a visit to the local chiropractor is so beneficial at this time of year.

We can assess your child's spinal health and provide valuable tips on maintaining proper posture in class and the correct way to wear a backpack to support their spine.

Additionally, we can even adjust their backpack during the visit to ensure it is fitted correctly for the year ahead.

We also have a fun and rewarding "Back to School Health Checklist" that your little ones can tick off as they get ready for school.

The checklist, developed as part of the Australian Chiropractors Association's (ACA) Back to School Campaign, is a great way to encourage kids to build healthy habits both at school and at home.

The checklist is quick and simple to follow and can be easily incorporated into your child's everyday routine. For instance, packing a healthy lunch filled with lots of fruit and vegies, getting plenty of daily exercise, and wearing their backpack correctly by carrying them with both straps over the shoulders and with the buckles properly secured at the front.

Pick up your complimentary "Back to School" Health Checklist or colouring book from us today, or if you are concerned about your child's spine or any other back to school related activities, book an appointment with us via docklandshealth.com.au ●

10 YEARS ON

FEBRUARY 2015 | ISSUE 94 |

DOCKLANDS NEWS

OC breaks solar energy record

An owners' corporation (OC) at Yarra's Edge has set a renewable energy record by installing the largest solar system ever retrofitted to a Melbourne apartment block.



The OC at Yarra's Edge towers two and three has installed a 47.5 kilowatt solar system with 190 solar panels. The system will save 92.568 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year, which is enough to fill 21 Olympic swimming pools.

OC member Peter Taylor said the system cost around \$67,000, but one of the benefits of living in an apartment building was that the costs were shared, equating to around \$230 for each of the 290 owners.

"The final price was very affordable when we acted together and it's an investment in the future value of the whole block," Mr Taylor said.

"A lot of people think you can't install solar in a high-rise, but we've proved that you can and the savings are real."

The OC took advantage of a \$3000 rebate from the City of Melbourne and support from the national Smart Blocks program.

A limited number of rebated up to \$3000 are still available for apartment buildings in the municipality to install solar electricity systems to power common areas.

Councillor Arron Wood said the initiative benefited the environment and the OC.

"This huge 47.5-kilowatt solar system is the largest every retrofitted to a Melbourne apartment block, with 190 solar panels converting sunlight into electricity," Cr Wood said.

"It's not just the environment that is the winner here, it's the 290 owners who will pay less to power the lighting and ventilation systems in their common areas."

Cr Wood said the Smart Blocks program supported City of Melbourne's goal to become a carbon neutral municipality by 2020. High-rise apartment dwellers consume more than 25 per cent more energy than people living in a detached dwelling. ●

Saluministi comes to Melbourne Quarter

Melbourne Quarter is the newest location to house Melbourne’s cult-favourite paninis from the team at Saluministi.

Slated to open their doors in February this year, Saluministi will bring their much-loved, fun, and relaxed atmosphere to the precinct, along with their delicious panini and cannoli on offer for all Melburnians to indulge in.

The panino-bar will be serving up all the fans’ favourites, such as “The Porchetta Panini” with free range slow roasted pork, artichoke paste, pecorino romano cheese and rocket; “The Salsiccia Panini” featuring a grilled pork and fennel sausage (a nod to their award-winning salami); “The Cotoletta Panini” with crumbed free-range pork loin, vincotto mayo, coleslaw and provolone dolce. The paninoteca offers meals that are made fresh to order and utilise seasonal produce and traditional flavours.

Not only will the fan-favourites be available, but the menu will also offer breakfast dishes, snacks and desserts. Saluministi’s handmade cannoli and bombollini will be



available at the Melbourne Quarter venue, paired perfectly with their fresh Italian stovetop coffee. The venue will also be offering catering services for corporate events and activities surrounding the precinct.

The Melbourne Quarter site will be the third venue for Italian maestros, Frank Bressi and Peter Mastro, and will see a new personality join the dining and entertainment offer within the precinct.

Stay in the loop and be the first to hear of Saluministi’s opening at Melbourne Quarter: melbournequarter.com/subscribe ●

What value will the Melbourne Star bring if it is to spin again?

The future of the iconic Melbourne Star Observation Wheel in Docklands continues to hang in the balance as liquidators’ efforts to sell it remain closely watched.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



But while there is still hope a buyer may emerge – with administrator Grant Thornton confirming in January that it was working with an “interested party” – questions, however, have been raised about its viability as a long-term investment and how it can attract visitors if it was to turn again.

The 120-metre-tall waterfront wheel, situated next to the District Docklands shopping centre, closed in 2021 when its operating company MB Star Properties Pty Ltd went into liquidation.

It first opened in 2008 and has long been a prominent landmark, but before its closure, it had a history of mechanical issues and struggling visitor numbers, and with uncertainty surrounding its future profitability, it would appear any potential investor would have to make a significant financial commitment.

While the price tag for the observation wheel is unknown, the towering structure cost an estimated \$100 million to build.

The Victorian Tourism Industry Council’s chief operating officer Chris Porter told Docklands News that it was hoped the observation wheel would be relaunched, saying it had the potential to be reimaged as an exciting attraction.

“We’re very supportive of the wheel finding a new owner and someone taking over the responsibility for it to bring it back to life,” he said.

Mr Porter said the wheel could breathe new life into Docklands and “add to the mix of attractions in Melbourne” but added a revamped model must improve the overall visitor experience and encourage people to explore the Docklands precinct further.

“How do they encompass that whole Docklands precinct as well and reinvigorate that whole area? It does overlook Costco and Docklands, but it does provide a different perspective for Melbourne even for locals,” he said.

“I think it comes down to how are you going to activate not just the Star but the whole destination as a whole? How do they make that experience more enlightening or engaging? I think it would all help benefit The District Docklands experience.”

It’s probably not living its best life at the moment. Hopefully someone does see the value in it and gets the lights turned back on and gets it spinning again.

A statement issued by Liquidator Grant Thornton said: “The interested party is undertaking ongoing due diligence and their intention to proceed remains”.

“Upon completion of this they will determine whether they wish to progress to a purchase of the assets.”

As previously reported in Docklands News in 2022, there had been various parties who have expressed interest in the sale and that “there are all sorts of options on the table”.



The Docklands Representative Group (DRG) acknowledged the wheel had been problematic since its initial opening but said “the real question for Docklands is: what value it brings?”

“While many locals love to see the colourful night-time display, its ability to serve visitors as a viable attraction is questionable,” the DRG said.

“The rationale of having the Star in Docklands is that it would draw visitors to the area. However, this hasn’t transpired and rather than being a drawcard with benefits flowing to other retailers, the Star has become a source of negativity, attracting more criticism than tourists.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the City of Melbourne would love to see the Observation Wheel “back in action” and “enhancing the Docklands vibe, attracting more visitors and boosting business for local traders”.

“We’re doing what counts for Docklands – from greening the promenade to creating new spaces to bring people together for major events like the Firelight Festival and New Year’s Eve,” she said. ●

Maria’s Japanese textile mastery comes to Docklands



Textile artist Maria Cook is excited to showcase her latest work in an upcoming exhibition at Magnet Galleries Melbourne in Docklands which also celebrates International Women’s Day.

Maria has a love of using Japanese textiles to craft new, expressive works ranging from large wall pieces to intricate textile pictures.

“I am smitten with indigo but also have explored whites and taupes and occasionally silks for the lustre they can contribute,” she said.

“Working with these materials, I layer and patch fragments together, combining them with machine and hand stitching – a slow and thoughtful creative process.”

Maria, from Ballarat, said she would display four large pieces and six very small pieces at Magnet Galleries at the District Docklands from February 1 to 24, with the theme centred around “journeys”.

The exhibition is being displayed early ahead of International Women’s Day on March 8.

“I feel everything about my art is represented in this notion: fabric that has been transported around the world and in my small pictorial pieces the journeys women are forced to make.” ●

The 2024 Docklands Directory is out now

The Directory is a guide to, and celebration of, business throughout Docklands, as well as our world-class waterfront surrounding Victoria Harbour.

To explore all that the precinct has to offer or find a local business, visit docklandsdirectory.com.au.

To get your copy, advertise, contribute or feature your business, please contact jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au



Quiz



- Axl Rose cameoed as a musician in which 1988 film alongside Clint Eastwood?
- What was the name of Blackbeard’s ship?
- What waterfront venue is considered the first restaurant/café in Docklands?
- On average, Melbourne imports how many tonnes of coffee beans each day?
- What did the British design and install in their tanks after World War II?
- November’s Diwali Festival celebrations (pictured) attracted more than how many people to Marvel Stadium’s Town Square?
- Why are bananas curved?
- Described as ‘hot’, ‘exposed’ and with ‘no shade’, which area of Docklands have residents criticised?
- Who played the lead character, Tony Soprano, in the hit TV series *The Sopranos*?
- What is the official national sport of Australia?
- Occupying the heritage-listed warehouse at Batman’s Hill Drive, Lindsay Fox’s family trust pays how much rent a year to house the Fox Collection of classic cars?
- Simon Perry’s *Threaded Field* can be found next to what Docklands landmark?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. *The Dead Pool* 2. *Queen Anne’s Revenge* 3. Renzo’s Bar Restaurant 4. 30 tonnes (enough to make three million cups) 5. Special tea kettles 6. 12,000 7. They grow towards the sun 8. Harbourside Esplanade 9. James Gandolfini 10. Cricket 11. \$1 per year for 99 years 12. Marvel Stadium (La Trobe St end)

5x5

No. 033

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

B		S		L
	M		T	
A		N		A
	L		M	
T		R		E

SOLUTIONS

BASIL, EMOTE, APNEA, SLAMS, TERSE

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION

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February, 2024

Sudoku

No. 032

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

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Rodents

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

AGOUTI

CAPYBARA

CHINCHILLA

CHIPMUNK

DORMOUSE

GNAWING

HAMSTER

MAMMAL

MARMOT

MOLE

MURINE

OPOSSUM

PAWS

PORCUPINE

RACCOON

RAT

SQUIRREL

Secret message: Always nibbling

Crossword

No. 032

ACROSS

- Solid geometric figure (5)
- Thwart (9)
- Energy (11)
- Ovum (3)
- Presented for the first time (10)
- Free from danger (4)
- Looked at (8)
- Modern (6)
- Strand (6)
- Drink (8)
- Conceal (4)
- Perks (10)
- Nothing (3)
- Coiffeur (11)
- Jocks, etc. (9)
- Flanks (5)

DOWN

- Head of state (9)
- Passivity (7)
- Systematic (10)
- Losers (8)
- As one (6)
- Playthings (4)
- Mean (7)
- Bird of prey (5)
- Inexorable (10)
- Prized items (9)
- Protector (8)
- Filled (with holes, e.g.) (7)
- Recommended; guided (7)
- Imprudent (6)
- Vishnu worshipper (5)
- Scorch (4)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9												10		
11												12		
												13		
14										15				16
										17				
18		19						20					21	
								22						
23						24								
						25								
26						27								
28												29		

SOLUTION

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

Codeword

No. 032

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

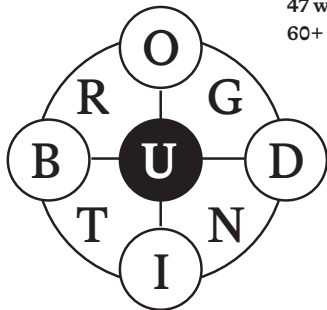
SOLUTIONS

T	J	W	I	F	S	R	U	A	V	E	M	K	B	G
19	20	18	22	10	12	18	18	10	16	17	24	22	18	19
6	10	21		10	7	18	21		18	20	6		18	22
13		19		17	3		20							
10	24	4		18	15	21	18	15	24	10	20	22		

9-Letter

No. 032

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

Today’s Focus:

30 words: Good

47 words: Very good

60+ words: Excellent

WHAT'S ON
February




The weather is getting warmer and Melbourne's events season is just getting started. Here's our list of the best community events this month.



PLANET ARK NATIONAL TREE DAY NATURE CARE, LIGHTING AND HERITAGE EXPERT EVENT

Including latest science, research and information to assist you in your home, your street, with your council, and for our precious heritage listed parks, gardens and places.


Community Hub at the Dock, 912 Collins St



SUPER BOWL PARTY LIVE SITE

Gather your friends and get down to Melbourne's ultimate Super Bowl live site to watch the 2024 Super Bowl – a free event at Marvel Stadium.


Stadium Square (Gate 1, 2 & 3), Marvel Stadium



BOURNE LOCAL MARKET

Wander around the Collins Square Retail Plaza during your lunch break and immerse yourself in a Valentine's Day shopping extravaganza with carefully curated local market stalls.

Collins Square, 727 Collins St, Docklands



COME AND TRY DAY


It's time to try paddling with The DAM Busters Breast Cancer Survivors Dragon Boat Club and meet a great group of people. Free. All equipment provided.

Community Hub at the Dock, 912 Collins St



FREE MOVIES ON THE DISTRICT

Customers are invited to spend \$50 on food and beverage at any participating restaurants, cafés or takeaway food and beverage outlets at The District on Monday to Thursday and receive a free Hoyts movie ticket, valued at \$26.50. Free tickets are redeemable between Monday and Thursday. moviesonus.com.au



FREE CEILIDH INFO FOR STARTERS

Ceilidh Dance (Pronounced Kay-lee)

Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers will have you up and dancing all night. No partner or experience needed, just a love of unbridled, chaotic fun. 'Ye dancin'? 'Ye askin'?

melbournecelticfestival.com.au



HOLI FESTIVAL MELBOURNE

Celebrate unity in diversity on the occasion of Holi – festival of colours. Enjoy three days and nights of celebrating with colours, music, dancing, multicultural performances, food and drinks, and much more.

Ron Barassi Snr Park (West)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 8.30AM

FEBRUARY 5 - MARCH 20

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 7PM - 10PM

MARCH 29 - 31, 11AM - 10PM

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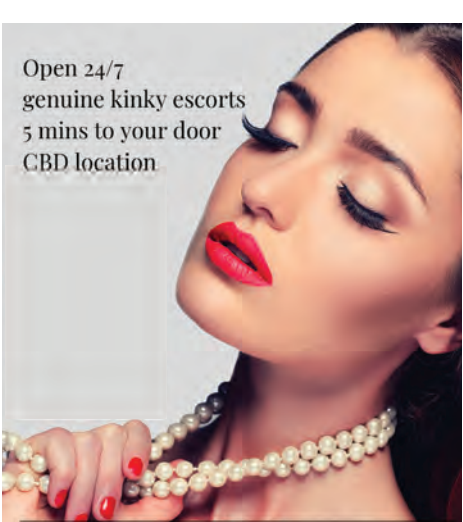
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At Rothwell Lawyers we deliver exceptional legal advice, and always focus on achieving the best outcome for our clients.

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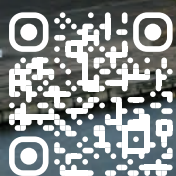
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