

MARCH 2024 EDITION #205

PUZZLES & TRIVIA P18



## Docklands Community Garden celebrates 15 years

The Docklands Community Garden will host a major fundraising event at its Geographe St home on Saturday, March 16 to celebrate its latest milestone: its 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. All Docklanders are invited to come along for a day of fun, connection and planting ahead of autumn. More on page 5.

Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

## Growing pains only getting worse: calls continue for the Costco site to become a new school

“

Pleas continue to mount for the state government to purchase the Costco site for a badly-needed secondary school for Docklands, as the supermarket giant confirms it will vacate its premises by the end of the year.

”

*Docklands News* reported in its February edition that Costco had announced it would relocate from its current site at The District Docklands to Ardeer, with the move prompting calls for the state government to purchase the land for a school.

In February, Costco confirmed via a press release that its “Ardeer warehouse will open, and the Docklands warehouse will close in late 2024”, paving the way for a buyer to claim ownership of the site by 2025.

A spokesperson for the Department of Education said that the Victorian Schools Building Authority (VSBA) had not undertaken any assessment of the Footscray Rd site and was therefore unable to comment on its suitability for a new school.

“To ensure robust planning for growth, the Department reviews the need for new schools using a range of metrics including demographic modelling of residential growth, demographic change and enrolment trends at schools across Victoria,” the spokesperson told *Docklands News*.

“This has resulted in the opening of second campuses of Docklands Primary School and North Melbourne Primary School.”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



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### Rethinking tram stops for pedestrians in Docklands

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### Council overwhelms itself on Israel-Hamas conflict



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## Liam Neeson welcomed to Docklands Studios

Hollywood icon Liam Neeson, international superstar Fang Bingbing, and the blockbuster production of *Ice Road 2: Road to the Sky* were officially welcomed to Docklands Studios Melbourne in February in a landmark film coup for the state of Victoria.

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# HYPERLOCAL

NEWS

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## A new community space for Docklands

Not-for-profit organisation Saras.Care has taken over the space at The District Docklands previously occupied by Docklands Neighbourhood House.

Saras.Care, led by Docklander Gautam Gupta, supports youth and people at risk of becoming homeless or who are socially isolated by providing a safe space for connection and access to opportunities. With a “deep commitment to social impact” the organisation runs a number of programs from its headquarters at The District and plays a particularly important role in supporting Docklands’ significant Indian community.

Last year, it organised Docklands’ biggest-ever Diwali Festival at Marvel Stadium’s redeveloped Town Square precinct, attracting more 12,000 people. The Saras.Care team is inviting any Docklanders to come down and use its new space at The District or to just drop in a say “hi”. You can find Saras.Care at SEG04, 2 Wharf St, Docklands. ●

Photography by Hanna Komissarova.

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# Tram stops for pedestrians?

Trams provide space-efficient low-carbon transport in cities around the globe, connecting walkable neighbourhoods within metropolitan areas.

WORDS BY  
DR ELEK PAFKA



Melbourne has the longest tram network in the world, with routes connecting Docklands to the inner city and further.

It also has one of the slowest services at an average speed of only 16km/h, less than most cyclists can do. In contrast, better designed tram networks achieve average speeds of around 30km/h, without increased risk to safety. Much of this has to do with tram stop design. Frequent stops, narrow doors, and steps to negotiate, slow trams down. At times there is gentle social friction in tram doorways, at other times it is excruciating overcrowding. If it is easy to embark and disembark, then network speed increases, and overcrowding can be reduced. Level access reduces idle time at stops considerably. Hence the new generation of low-floor trams

combined with slightly elevated tram stop platforms. But there is a hiccup. For “safety” considerations, these “super stops” that are providing level-access, like in Docklands, are surrounded by fences. Some are up to 80 metres long and are doubled-up at the entries. That makes pedestrian access difficult, often squeezing dozens of people in most uncomfortable ways, pushed into each other’s personal spaces. Watch the video:



It seems that the transport engineers have forgotten that tram riders walk to and from the tram stop. The concern to improve access between tram stop platforms and trams seems to have obscured the imperative need to walk into and out of stops. Fences make some of the stops look more like a fortress against vandals, than a civic space for people to enjoy life and socialise. This is all very abstract, many will think, so let’s take a specific example. Stop D2 named “Central Pier” with its northern access aligned with the eastern end of New Quay Promenade, is linking many residents to their workplaces in the CBD and beyond. Fences that are 75 metres long make people scramble during the short green-light cycle. Most will cross on red as car traffic is restricted to one lane and comes in easily legible packs. In a highly formalised city, most of us feel uneasy to behave informally. Yet informal crossing is a most logical thing to do: to shorten waiting time, walking distance, or evade unpleasant overcrowding. It has also been long argued that we have a right to do so, from the Chicago school of urban sociology to Churchill and many more. If the ways cities are designed change us, and we have a right for self-determination, then we have a “right to the city” – to have a say about how we use and shape the city we live in. When Docklands was redeveloped from industrial land to a mixed-use neighbourhood, there weren’t many residents to consult. Yet by now this area has evolved into an increasingly diverse and dense neighbourhood where residents start asserting their rights.

Tram stops could be designed as shared zones, with low speed-limits, pedestrians having a right of crossing at all times. Crossing could be safer, tram access easier, network speed faster and people happier. Gradually even more people would choose to walk, which is good for individual health and the global environment. Barriers to this are our counter-intuitive fears. We tend to think that fences always protect us. Even when they distract from how we cross the street, by providing false symbolic reassurance. Even when they induce increased vehicle speeds – the main cause of collisions and fatalities. Even when we are constrained by fences on the inside or excluded on the outside. Maybe, with less fences and more shared spaces, we may have more freedom of movement and chances of encounter. Dr Elek Pafka is a senior lecturer in urban planning and urban design at the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne. ●



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## Docklands Community Garden celebrates 15 years



The Docklands Community Garden will host a major fundraising event at its Geographe St home on Saturday, March 16 to celebrate its latest milestone: its 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The garden's lead volunteer Greg Wise, who has been involved in the initiative since its inception in 2009, said all Docklanders were welcome to attend the celebration and support its efforts.

The event will provide locals with an opportunity to connect with volunteers and find out more about how one can volunteer and support, as well as to do a bit of gardening and maintenance on the day itself. A sausage sizzle will also be held, with all proceeds going towards helping maintain the garden.

The community garden is 100 per cent funded by money that is raised by the community garden volunteer group, which Mr Wise proudly boasted consisted of more than 200 members.

However, following a recent incident in December, which saw vandals damage much of the garden's infrastructure and steal some shade cloth and security lights, he said more funds were needed to restore what had been lost.

He added that the group would be putting funds towards constructing new raised garden beds, to allow easier access for some of its older volunteers who could no longer bend down as easily to garden

at ground level.

"The garden attracts a wide range of ages and cultures. We are continually working to make the garden more attractive to a wider range of Docklands residents and office workers," Mr Wise said.

"One of our recent initiatives involved building a sensory garden where people and their children can touch and feel growing plants and savour the fragrances of nature."

While other community initiatives have come and gone over the years in Docklands, the community garden has stood the test of time and provided a vital space for locals to build lasting connections and express their inner green thumbs.

The Geographe St space is one that thrives and survives on volunteers and support from other organisations, and Mr Wise called on anyone interested in getting involved to come along on March 16 to find out how.

"One of the many benefits the garden offers to the Docklands community is its ability to help people meet other people in a calm, safe and pleasant environment," he said.

"This is particularly useful to new Docklanders who might find it difficult to meet fellow residents and start the process of making friends."

"It is very easy to start a conversation with strangers in the garden as everyone who visits is interested in gardens or gardening."

"We look forward to welcoming new and longer-term Docklands residents to the community garden on Saturday, March 16 starting at 10am. The event will finish at around 1pm."

For more information, contact Greg at [wiseguy873@gmail.com](mailto:wiseguy873@gmail.com) or visit the Docklands Community Garden Facebook group. ●



## Central Pier tenants settle their case against Development Victoria

The legal case brought against Central Pier's owner Development Victoria (DV) by its former tenants has been settled out of court for an undisclosed amount.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The settlement finally ends a four-year dispute between Central Pier Pty Ltd, led by the pier's former anchor tenant Atlantic Group, and DV, which closed the pier suddenly in 2019 citing critical safety issues.

The \$42 million dispute was finally due to come to a head in the Federal Court on Monday, February 5, but was instead settled for a confidential sum.

A statement on February 5 from Central Pier Pty Ltd confirmed it had "this afternoon reached agreement with Development Victoria in relation to the shutdown of Docklands Central Pier in 2019".

"This was achieved following productive discussions between both parties outside of the Federal Court hearing scheduled to start this morning," the statement read.

Atlantic Group and its CEO Mr Hatem Saleh told *Docklands News*, "It's been a challenging number of years for all involved and we are now looking forward to getting on with what we do best."

"We'd like to thank the state government for its support in working to resolve this matter in collaboration with Development Victoria."

Central Pier Pty Ltd, made up of five of the pier's former tenants,

had originally launched a \$100 million Federal Court action in October 2019, accusing DV of "misleading and deceptive" conduct, during which time Mr Saleh slammed his former landlord for trying to "choke" and "financially weaken" businesses.

According to documents obtained through the Federal Court proceedings, *The Age* reported in 2021 that DV knew 10 months before the pier's closure on August 28, 2019, that the pier risked "catastrophic failure".

The out-of-court settlement reached means DV has avoided a potentially explosive Federal Court hearing.

The Atlantic Group, The Woolshed Pub, Mill Bakery, Mama Rumaan restaurant and Illumbra nightclub were among some of the businesses which formerly operated on Central Pier, supporting some 1300 employees.

Diners were famously forced to shovel down their meals on the night of August 28, 2019, and immediately evacuate the pier after DV received information from its engineering contractor KBR that it was no longer safe for occupation.

Since 2017 up to its closure, DV had previously commissioned the engineers to carry out a "rehabilitation program" on the heritage-listed pier, which is more than 100 years old.

Marine contractor Fitzgerald Constructions is currently demolishing the pier while plans for its future are finalised by DV. ●



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# Growing pains only getting worse: calls continue for Costco site to become a new school

Continued from page 1

But while the latter of those two campuses is a modern, purpose-built, stand-alone school, the Docklands Primary School (DPS) campus, opened last year, occupies unused space in The District Docklands shopping centre.

DPS parent Mary Masters said a new school at the Costco site would not only be perfect for a new secondary school, but also provide extra space for the primary school, which was “bursting at the seams”.

“I’ve heard positive community sentiment for turning the Costco site into a high school. It’s a huge site and would be perfect for a school and could provide shared amenities for the existing Docklands Primary School,” she said.

“Inner city families – specifically those of us within the Docklands Primary School vicinity – are crying out for more school options. We will outgrow the ‘temporary’ campus, opened this year in The District Docklands, as early as next year.”

“Docklands kids are zoned to University High School, which is already over capacity: our 110 DPS foundation year Preps are in Grade 3 this year and when they graduate at the end of 2027 this will further increase enrolment pressures on University High School.”

Ms Masters said a new vertical school,

which could accommodate 1500 students across Years 5 to 12, would allow the existing DPS to operate at its capacity of 100 students in each year.

“A significant secondary school of 1500-plus students could bring further economic investment to the northern end of Docklands and increase foot traffic and patronage at local businesses – it could add to the Docklands community as opposed to Costco which just causes weekend traffic jams.”

However, while supportive of the idea of a new school at the Costco site, Ms Masters added that she was more hopeful of a new high school being constructed in the Arden urban renewal precinct in North Melbourne in the short term.

The state government has just completed the first of five new Metro Stations in Arden, and much of the land in the precinct is government-owned making planning for schooling infrastructure much easier.

In December, deputy secretary of strategy and precincts at the Department of Transport and Planning Natalie Reiter told sibling publication North West City News that there was land planned for a school in Arden, with “significant conversations” already held with the Victorian School Building Authority.

Ms Reiter said this included “what that school would look like, the land area required and the need to have a model



similar to that at Fishermans Bend, where the school children can access the neighbouring park area for play and recreation”.

A spokesperson for the Docklands Representative Group (DRG) said the idea of a new high school at the Costco site presented an “intriguing opportunity” to leverage existing infrastructure for education, which it suggested could bring “significant benefits”.

“Not only would it provide much-needed space for our growing population, but it could also pragmatically help with revitalising the area, including creating opportunities for collaboration between students and local businesses,” the spokesperson said.

“While cost considerations and logistical challenges, including traffic management, are undoubtedly needed, exploring innovative solutions could mitigate these concerns. Overall, this proposal has the potential to positively impact both education and the local community, provided that careful planning and collaboration are prioritised.”

Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell has also thrown her support by a new high school at the Costco site, urging the government to invest in the community infrastructure that Docklands families “actually need”.

For more, read Ms Sandell’s regular State MP column below on this page. ●

## STATE MP

## Docklands needs a high school

When it comes to school planning in our inner city, we need bold, creative ideas.

With the recent news that Costco is leaving Docklands, locals are hopeful that this could provide an opportunity for a high school to be built in Docklands, or a permanent second campus for Docklands Primary School.

Alongside local parents, I started campaigning for a local primary school for Docklands back in 2014. Following a strong community campaign, I was thrilled when the new Docklands Primary School opened in 2020.

But, like many others, I was really disappointed to see that poor planning quickly led to overcrowding, with enrolments exceeding capacity only two years after the school opened and students being forced

into a temporary campus at the nearby shopping centre.

Unfortunately, the Labor Victorian Government has a history of short sightedness and poor planning when it comes to our local inner-city schools.

Many were baffled by the decision to place Docklands Primary School right on busy Foostscray Rd, for example, which has led to a number of near misses and other serious safety concerns.

This is partly due to poor planning of Docklands overall, with governments leaving property developers to do what they like without proper government planning, but it’s also due to state government short-sightedness about where schools will be needed in future, and governments refusing to buy land early to ensure suburbs are future-proof.

We have seen countless examples over the past few years of state governments

trying to play catch up rather than investing in long-term planning, but with a bit of thought and proactive investment there is a great opportunity to get things right.

There are two empty blocks of land right next to Docklands Primary School and now Costco leaving the suburb will free up even more space. Rather than building more unaffordable apartments, the government should invest in the community infrastructure that Docklands families actually need, even if it means creative thinking or having to renegotiate deals with developers.

Not every site will be suitable for a high school, but the state government must look at all options, and do it now before it’s too late. Kids in Docklands deserve quality local schools and proper spaces to learn and play.

If you’re interested in getting involved with a community campaign for a high school, please touch get in touch. ●



Ellen Sandell

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# Council overwhelms itself on Israel-Hamas conflict

City of Melbourne councillors spent four hours debating a war taking place on the other side of the world at its February 20 meeting, which expectedly drew usual questions about local government overreach.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



While everyone has their views on what the role of local government should be and which "lanes" it should remain in, this latest example of a council veering into foreign affairs should only raise the question around "good governance".

To Docklands Cr Jamal Hakim, and many other sitting councillors, when it comes to the current war in Gaza, "good governance" is making a statement on behalf of Melburnians affected by the conflict in an effort to preserve our city's proud multicultural values.

Cr Hakim, who brought the motion to the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, highlighted that more than 100,000 Palestinians had been killed, injured, or declared missing since the war began.

These numbers, together with the many Israeli civilians who continue to be held hostage by Hamas, are not something that any member of our community, politician or not, can ignore.

As a major international city, Melbourne is home to many people from all over the world with diverse backgrounds, all of whom will be feeling the impacts of this tragic conflict in Gaza differently.

It's far from the first time the council has

formed a position on an international issue either. Only recently it terminated its sister city relationship with St Petersburg amid the war in Ukraine. It's also called for the release of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, who is a Melbourne resident.

And the conflict in Gaza is sadly having real-world impacts for the people of Melbourne. The rise of antisemitism and Islamophobia is a disgusting and unfortunate reminder of this fact.

The motion on February 20 introduced by Cr Hakim sought to take a stand for the thousands of innocent Palestinians who have lost their lives in the war against Hamas and help give voice to constituents in Melbourne feeling this pain.

But while few could disagree Cr Hakim had nothing other than the best of intentions in bringing the debate to Town Hall, it's also not hard to argue that this process could have, and should have, been handled a lot better.

It's understood Cr Hakim and Lord Mayor Sally Capp had agreed that the City of Melbourne ought to make a statement reflecting the pain being felt on all sides of this conflict in our city, while calling for peace and unity.

Fair enough. And "a statement", championing peace, while condemning atrocities on both sides issued at the beginning of the meeting before the usual agenda of council business kicked off, perhaps is all it should have been.

But as the Lord Mayor prepared to go on leave amid changing circumstances and further consultation with those groups affected in the community, Cr Hakim took on the responsibility of drafting a motion – one which ultimately made its way onto the meeting's agenda, inviting media attention, fierce debate and some 200 protestors to rally outside Town Hall.

It was often noted during the debate that

the council should be commended for providing a space for people to have their views and feelings heard on this issue. Absolutely. We're fortunate to live in a city where this is made possible.

As beloved Melburnian and council regular Chris Thrum said during the meeting, "peace be in this room".

But ultimately, "good governance" is a balance between practicality and pragmatism.

Pragmatism is not shying away from important issues, local or global. It's having the courage of conviction to do what's right, and not what's easy. But the practicality of government is also recognising reality, and the need to deliver real-world outcomes.

While symbolic, all the debate largely achieved was eat up four hours of a council meeting stacked with incredibly important items. These included the Queen Victoria Market southern site development plan, a new homelessness strategy, a developer contributions plan for Fishermans Bend, a neighbourhood planning update, a fair access sport and recreation plan, and a motion on guidelines for the adaptive reuse of city buildings.

Some of those community members who attended the meeting had to wait until after 10pm to have their say on these issues that fall under the auspice of local government, unlike the motion on Gaza which dominated proceedings.

And after close to three-and-a-half hours, Cr Hakim's motion was ultimately voted down five to five, with Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece using his casting vote to sway the outcome.

Ironically, Cr Reece then put forward an alternative motion, which in his words was "less divisive". It was unanimously supported.

Despite Cr Hakim saying it didn't go far enough in calling out the disproportionate response by Israel in its fight against Hamas, he too ultimately voted in favour.



▲ Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece addresses the media the morning after the debate.

At the end of it all, "good governance" might have recognised the need for clear communication from the outset, which might have helped ensure a similar outcome was achieved via a simple statement read out at the beginning of the meeting.

What transpired was a ridiculously long debate, a whole range of unnecessary security concerns for people attending, and no material impacts on the war in Gaza itself.

In the future, the council would be wise to ensure that all matters relating to foreign affairs, albeit with local significance, go through a more rigorous process to provide for a more efficient outcome.

The power of good governance compels it. ●

Sean Car

EDITOR

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# Residents angry over “secretive” local West Gate Tunnel impact projects

A \$100 million “transport and amenity program” (TAP) that was supposed to ease traffic impacts in Docklands and West Melbourne when the West Gate Tunnel opens is being used to finance projects in the CBD, outraging residents.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



The amenity program, a 50-50 funding split between the City of Melbourne and state government, is aimed at delivering projects to improve streetscapes, transport, and amenity of the areas expected to be affected by the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP), which is expected to open in late 2025.

Key projects in the planning stages that the money will go towards include a masterplan for Spencer St North, a Hawke St linear park in West Melbourne, and streetscape improvements on Franklin St, as well as a new park which will sit above the future underground State Library Metro station.

But according to the state government, some of the funds are proposed for new tram stops on William St while the City of Melbourne said “projects already delivered” in 2022 included bike lanes on La Trobe St, Abbotsford St, William St, and Peel St.

Other projects “delivered” from the program include a “connecting Docklands to North Melbourne feasibility study,” a “Victoria St opportunities plan,” and a “Peel St corridor study,” with the council also proposing to spend money on a new linear park outside the North Melbourne Town Hall.

But residents say they have been left in the dark about how the program’s funds are being allocated and spent, while not addressing the real issues that the WGTP will create for the community.

North and West Melbourne Association secretary and former Lord Mayor Kevin Chamberlin said, “The only thing that everybody seems to agree on is that when the West Gate Tunnel opens, the movement of traffic and volumes are unclear.”

As reported in *Docklands News* in 2017, the project’s original traffic modelling forecasted that the extension between Dynon Rd and Wurundjeri Way as part of a new city bypass would carry up to 19,000 vehicles per day.

Wurundjeri Way, which is getting an extra lane in each direction, is predicted to carry up to 16,000 vehicles per day by 2031.

Developer David Napier, executive director of Digital Harbour at Docklands, said his company made a submission several years ago outlining their concern about “the lack of thought that appears to have gone into the intersection of Wurundjeri Way and Flinders St”.

“It’s already a bit of a bottleneck and it doesn’t appear that anything has been done to address that issue or to try to create a wider funnel at that end to get the traffic beyond the Flinders St intersection,” he said.

Mr Napier said this could create problems of trucks as well as general traffic choosing to use Harbour Esplanade to access Flinders St via the Charles Grimes Bridge “without going through that intersection in Wurundjeri Way” and “potentially pushing traffic back onto Footscray Rd and Harbour Esplanade.”

West Melbourne resident Mary Masters, whose children attend Docklands Primary School, said the community wanted “good safety outcomes” to mitigate huge amounts of traffic when the tunnel opened, adding residents had the right to feel “cheated” over the amenity program’s spending.

“We are yet to hear from any government stakeholders about how the transport and amenity funding will deliver good outcomes for Docklands, West Melbourne and North Melbourne or evidence of traffic modelling or community consultation that points to what amenity improvements are needed,” she said.

Ms Masters said one project that could potentially be funded through the scheme was improving pedestrian safety along Footscray Rd.

“There is no separation from trams when crossing Footscray Rd, and pedestrians compete with bike riders for space on the footpath outside school which frustrates cyclists and is terrifying for kids,” she said.

“We are aware of early conversations had over the past few years about moving the Footscray Rd pedestrian crossing towards Little Docklands Drive and incorporating a new Footscray Rd 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.”

A Docklands Representative Group spokesperson said transparency surrounding the TAP raised “significant concerns for Docklands residents and businesses”, particularly in relation to increased traffic with an expanded Wurundjeri Way.

“In addition, locals are concerned about the increased bike traffic coming to Docklands via the new Veloway which will combine with the explosion of eScooters and eBikes on our already congested bike paths and, frustratingly, footpaths,” the DRG spokesperson said.

“Residents deserve clarity on how these changes will affect daily life and the environment and how TAP can help mitigate these impacts and better align with community needs and values.”

The City of Melbourne openly opposed the West Gate Tunnel project when it was originally announced by the state government due to the significant influx of additional vehicles it will bring into the city.



Docklands Primary School parent Mary Masters wants to know how money is being funded to offset the traffic impacts when the West Gate Tunnel opens. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

When the transport and amenity program (TAP) was originally negotiated in 2018, then Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood told *Docklands News* that despite a shared commitment on TAP, it “fundamentally” disagreed with the state government on the WGTP.

“We have a shared commitment to these projects [TAP], while acknowledging disagreement on the project fundamentally. They are acknowledging that we don’t support the project, but they are coming to the party on mitigating some of those impacts,” Cr Wood said.

But Mr Chamberlin told *Docklands News* that “the community was led to believe the money was only to be spent when the tunnel was open and the issues identified.”

“To find that the council and the government are planning to spend some of it in the CBD is an absolute betrayal of the community.”

“If the council thinks it’s such a great idea [to fund projects in the CBD through the amenity scheme] why are they doing it in an underhand way?”

He added that due to the uncertainty of the traffic being pumped into the local area, “it’s not very smart of the council and government’s transport department to be proposing to spend this money in this secretive fashion”.

The City of Melbourne did not respond to questions about how much of the transport and amenity program had been spent or what other future projects had been proposed or how they were chosen.

According to a council report in 2022, stakeholder and community engagement was “undertaken on a project-by-project basis,” and “council is working with DTP (Department of Transport and Planning) on a joint communications strategy, with a view to releasing information about the program

objectives and key projects in 2022”, which residents say they have never seen.

City of Melbourne Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council would engage the community, stakeholders, and traditional owners on project proposals “to secure positive outcomes for local residents, businesses and visitors impacted by the Victorian Government’s West Gate Tunnel project”.

“Design works are well under way for streetscape improvements and a new linear park on Hawke St. Upgrades will include a significant amount of new green space along with traffic calming measures.”

“As drivers opt to use the tunnel, we’re looking at opportunities for the future of Spencer St in North Melbourne. One option I am keen on is to make it into a pedestrian-friendly area like Lygon or Errol streets – bringing more visitors and business to the area.”

RMIT University’s emeritus professor of environment and planning Michael Buxton said he predicted “very large volumes of vehicles” would be pumped into North and West Melbourne, which was “a classic example of a freeway dumping traffic onto congested conventional streets that are separated from another freeway”.

“Why dump traffic on the streets and then try and improve the amenity of those streets? I mean they’re contradictory aims,” he said.

“It strongly indicates that nobody’s in charge. Nobody seems to have a proper strategic overview of the relationship between traffic movements and amenity at all.”

The community was invited to have their say on the Hawke St linear park and proposed Franklin St projects, with a consultation summary published on the council’s Participate Melbourne website. ●

## Docklands Community Garden

### DOCKLANDS RESIDENTS EVENT

**When: Saturday, March 16 from 10am till 1pm**

An introduction and fundraising event to welcome Docklands residents to their garden. Funds raised will be used for garden maintenance and ongoing improvements

*New garden volunteers will be welcomed*

**Activities will include:**

- Tour of the garden and its facilities by garden volunteers
- General gardening and maintenance activities
- Sausage sizzle and bottled water available for purchase



## Liam Neeson welcomed to Docklands Studios



Hollywood icon Liam Neeson, international superstar Fang Bingbing, and the blockbuster production of *Ice Road 2: Road to the Sky* have officially been welcomed to Docklands Studios Melbourne.

VicScreen CEO Caroline Pitcher greeted Mr Neeson and the rest of the cast and crew on February 24.

*Ice Road 2: Road to the Sky* is an adrenaline-packed feature film, which follows Liam Neeson's character, Mike McCann, on a dramatic adventure through Nepal's perilous mountain tops.

The epic production is currently shooting action scenes at Melbourne's state-of-the-art virtual production stages headed by NantStudios. This technology is set to be a staple of the screen industry's future, with *Ice Road 2: Road to the Sky* filming scenes set in Nepal right here at Docklands Studios Melbourne.

Liam Neeson, Fan Bingbing and Australian cast members, Bernard Curry (*Wentworth*, *Savage River*), Geoff Morell (*Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*, *Harrow*) and

Grace O'Sullivan (*Erinsborough High*, *Neighbours*), took time to show Caroline Pitcher and Docklands Studios' chair, Louisa Coppel, the set while producers Al Corley and Bart Rosenblatt, spoke of their brilliant experience so far, filming across regional Victoria, including at Walhalla in Gippsland.

Contributing to both Victoria's screen industry and the local economy, the production is injecting more than \$30 million into the state and creating nearly 600 employment opportunities, for screen practitioners and extras, with 15 locals taking on Head of Department roles.

*Ice Road 2: Road to the Sky* is being directed by award-winning writer and director Johnathon Henleigh, who is behind a slate of blockbusters including *Jumanji*, *Armageddon* and *Die Hard with a Vengeance*. ●

## Seven Network and Beca make the switch to Melbourne Quarter

The iconic "7" statue will soon no longer be a feature on Harbour Esplanade, with the Seven Network announcing that it will soon relocate its headquarters to the Melbourne Quarter precinct near Southern Cross Station.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The Seven Network, which will move into the new precinct by developer Lendlease during early 2025, will join design, advisory and engineering consultancy firm, Beca, which also announced it would be relocating to Melbourne Quarter later this year.

After leaving 160 Harbour Esplanade at Docklands, Seven Network will occupy a combined 4500sqm across levels three and four of Melbourne Quarter Tower, the precinct's flagship commercial building that is currently under construction.

Beca, which is one of Asia Pacific's largest consultancy firms, will occupy a combined total of 2900sqm across levels 22 and 23 of the commercial building, which will feature a new premium workplace and bespoke interiors.

The two major employers will join Melbourne Quarter Tower's anchor tenant, Medibank, one of Australia's largest private health insurers.

Located on Collins St and opposite Southern Cross Station, Melbourne Quarter Tower will span 34 levels and is scheduled for completion by mid-2024. It will be the final commercial building delivered in the Melbourne Quarter precinct.

In February, *Docklands News* reported a joint venture between Development Victoria and the AFL to redevelop Marvel Stadium's waterfront edge, which includes the current Seven Network building owned by the state government.

Seven West Media managing director and CEO James Warburton said the time was right to move on from its current headquarters, which it has occupied since 2002 as one of Docklands' first major tenants.

"Docklands has been a fantastic home for Seven Melbourne for more than two decades, but the time is right to move to a new, more advanced facility, one specifically designed for our digital future," Mr Warburton said.

"Melbourne is a critically important market for Seven and the home of some of our most valued partners, including the AFL and Cricket Australia. Our new operation in Melbourne Quarter Tower reflects the priority we place on Melbourne and will be a fantastic workspace for our people."

Beca's acting Australian managing director David Papps said the company was "delighted" to be moving to Docklands.

"The location is a step forward for our business and aligns with Beca's overall purpose to have a positive impact on the world," Mr Papps said.

"We are excited to have co-designed the new space, including with input from the traditional owners of Wurundjeri Country." ●



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# CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF MOOMBA 7 TO 11 MARCH

The popular Underwater float will return in 2024

Head to the banks of the Yarra River, Birrarung Marr and the Alexandra Gardens for the platinum jubilee of Australia’s largest community festival this Labour Day long weekend.

Moomba has been enchanting Melburnians with free, family-friendly fun since 1955 – proudly owned and delivered by the City of Melbourne.

Join us this year for skate competitions, world-class water sports, face painting, dance workshops, live music, kids’ yoga, carnival rides, karaoke, bubble and magic shows, ukulele lessons and much more across five magical days.



A skater in action at Riverside Skate Park



A ride with a view at the Moomba carnival

## ACCESS AND INCLUSION HIGHLIGHTS

We’re introducing relaxed hours for people who are sensitive to bright or strobing lights, loud music and sounds on Friday 8 March from 4pm to 6pm.

People with hidden disabilities are also invited to collect free sunflower lanyards on-site throughout the festival. These are a discreet sign to our trained staff that you may need extra assistance.

## MOOMBA MONARCHS: DOWN MEMORY LANE

This year’s Moomba monarchs are children’s entertainer Emma Memma and comedian Peter Helliard.

The tradition of crowning Moomba monarchs dates back as long as the festival itself.

In the earliest days, a queen was chosen in a beauty contest. Finalists were judged on their self-confidence, poise and ability to answer tough questions like: “How many sheep are there in Australia?”

A string of non-Australian monarchs later caused controversy, and none more so than the 1977 King of Moomba – Mickey Mouse. Mickey received a pie to the face and a mock crowning of Blinky Bill was staged in protest.

Dame Edna Everage and Molly Meldrum were among the local personalities crowned in the following years.



The Queen Mother at Moomba in 1958



The Moomba Queen float in 1962

## A PARADE OF ALL NATIONS

The Moomba Parade is the much-loved centrepiece of the festival, promising a special kind of magic driven by the community.

Around 1800 people from dance troupes, cultural performance groups and marching bands participate in the

parade alongside a fleet of impressive floats and giant puppets. Look out for the giant new ladybugs this year.

The image below shows Tia Hutajulu wearing a beautiful costume designed and made by Ganda Marpaung in last year’s Moomba parade.

Hailing from Indonesia, Tia belongs to the Bonapasogit Victoria community and the ExtravaGanda group.

“I enjoy being in the parade because I’m not just watching, but participating directly in the very famous, colourful and amazing Moomba festival,” Tia said.

“The parade gives me the opportunity to share my country’s cultures by wearing our traditional costumes and by doing traditional dance.”



## KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne News* at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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Moomba Monarchs Emma Memma and Peter Helliär

### MOOMBA ARTEFACTS ON SHOW

In celebration of 70 years, a special Moomba collection has been curated at Melbourne Town Hall with a showcase of all things Moomba from over the years – from monarchs’ robes to a bottle of vintage spumante.

Tours of our Art and Heritage Collection are free and available year-round, however this special collection will be on display until 8 March. Bookings essential. Search for the Art and Heritage Collection Tour at [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### SUSTAINABILITY AND ECONOMY

Moomba has been certified carbon neutral since 2022.

The Alexandra Gardens will be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity, and our organic waste collection alone will divert more than 4.5 tonnes of food waste from landfill. That’s equivalent to 450 watermelons or 22,5000 curly potatoes.

The event also supports more than 800 jobs across a range of sectors, including the arts, creative, construction and services industries.



People watching the parade in 1987

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

## MUST-SEE MOOMBA MOMENTS

### MOOMBA MASTERS

All weekend

Ooh and ahh as an elite field of Australian and international water ski and wakeboard athletes complete on the Yarra. There’ll be slalom, tricks and jumps galore as participants vie for the coveted Moomba Masters title.



Moomba Masters athletes

### BJORN AGAIN

Saturday 9 March

Dancing queens and super troupers can relive the magic of ABBA’s 1977 Moomba performance at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl when world-renowned tribute show Bjorn Again takes to the stage as the sun sets.



A firefighter takes the leap for charity



Children enjoy a carnival ride

### BIRDMAN RALLY

Sunday 10 March

See courageous competitors don inventive homemade flying devices and hurtle themselves over the Yarra in the Birdman Rally from 11am. It’s all in the name of charity, and good fun.



Cultural dancers in the parade

### MOOMBA PARADE

Monday 11 March

See larger-than-life floats, dance troupes, community groups and performers pass by as the epic Moomba Parade weaves through the leafy surrounds of Linlithgow and Birdwood avenues, finishing near the Shrine of Remembrance and Royal Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre. The parade begins with a smoking ceremony at 10.45am. If you can’t make it, tune in to Channel 9 from 1.30pm.

## IN BRIEF

### OUT AND ABOUT ACTIVITY GUIDE OUT NOW

Discover why Melbourne is a great place to age with our latest Out and About Guide.

Our updated guide has a variety of free or low-cost events, activities, services and support information in the City of Melbourne that promote healthy ageing and social connection.

From regular community meals to gardening groups, tech help to historical tours and plenty more, there’s something to suit all interests and to help keep both body and mind active.

Pick up a free copy at your local library, neighbourhood centre or community hub, or read it online at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/outandabout](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/outandabout)



### PASSIONATE ABOUT PARKS?

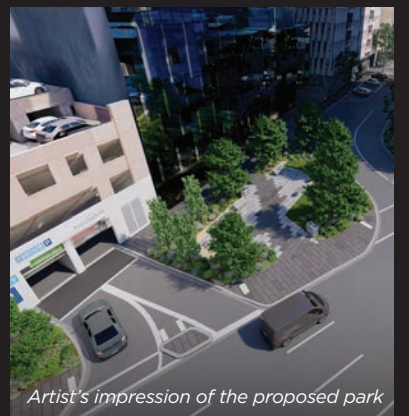
Expressions of interest are open to join City of Melbourne’s Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee. People from all backgrounds, with experience or an interest in parks and gardens, horticulture, ecology, landscape design or health and wellbeing are invited to apply.

Committee advises Council on a range of technical and community issues involved in sustainable management of the City of Melbourne’s parks, gardens and urban landscapes.

For more information and to express interest before 8 March, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/parks-gardens-committee](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/parks-gardens-committee)

### NEW SMALL CBD PARK PROPOSAL

A new small park is being proposed for the corner of MacKenzie and Victoria streets in the CBD. Review the plans and have your say before 11 March at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/mackenzie-street-greening](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/mackenzie-street-greening)



Artist’s impression of the proposed park



# Council renews calls for tram to Fishermans Bend

The City of Melbourne has once again stressed the urgent need for a tram connection to Fishermans Bend after endorsing its own position on the state government’s draft developer contributions plan for the urban renewal precinct.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Councillors unanimously supported a submission made by council management to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on February 20, which made a suite of recommendations.

The government’s plan seeks to consolidate all infrastructure charges into one contribution from developers in Fishermans Bend, which for the first time will include contributions to open space previously

collected under the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

It also allocates \$309 million towards construction of major drainage and flood mitigation projects across Fishermans Bend and surrounding areas, replacing any charges ordinarily enforced on new development by Melbourne Water.

The draft plan identifies a total of \$2.44 billion worth of infrastructure needed in Fishermans Bend, with \$1.75 billion of this expected to be provided for through developer contributions resulting in a funding gap of \$698 million.

The council noted in its submission, however, that the draft plan primarily funded “essential” infrastructure projects, with the detail for what constituted such projects not provided.

While it acknowledged “local” projects such as open spaces, minor streets, laneways, and community facilities would be funded between itself and developers, it stressed that “catalytic” infrastructure such as the new tram line and Melbourne Metro 2 “must be funded by the Victorian

Government”.

Two of Fishermans Bend’s five precincts – Lorimer, much of which is in Docklands, and the Employment Precinct – are situated within the City of Melbourne’s municipal boundaries. The remaining three, Sandridge, Wirraway and Montague are locally governed by the City of Port Phillip.

Cr Rohan Leppert said the City of Melbourne wanted to make it clear that its support for the plan and the ongoing urban renewal of Fishermans Bend generally, was “contingent on that tram line being built”.

“We need the tram, we need the train as well, but for goodness sake, we need to know when the tram line is going to be built and so our support cannot be seen to be support in and of itself,” Cr Leppert said.

“If the tram is not built, the land values and the building finance strategies and the ability for developers to actually build the housing that is anticipated in Lorimer as well as the rest of Fishermans Bend, it’s just not going to work.”

“So, we need to make it very, very clear that our support is contingent on that tram

line being built. We need to redouble our efforts to advocate to the state government and make it very clear that Fishermans Bend still has the opportunity to fail, and it will fail if the if there’s no public transport in and out.”

In February, Infrastructure Victoria, the state government’s independent adviser, told sibling publication *Southbank News* that a tram line route north of the West Gate Freeway was “most urgent and should be delivered by 2026”.

“Residential development alone is projected to create 260,000 extra daily trips by 2050. There are only limited Yarra River crossings, existing roads cannot meet growing demand efficiently or sustainably, and other movements are impeded by the West Gate Freeway,” Infrastructure Victoria said in a statement, which also recommended a tram route south of the West Gate Freeway.

The tram route which remains in the Melbourne Planning Scheme under the Fishermans Bend framework connects Collins St to Hartley St via a new tram bridge across the Yarra River through Docklands. ●

# Discover Docklands from the water

Melbourne’s award-winning ferry service, Port Phillip Ferries, is offering a unique opportunity to take in our city from the water with their new Docklands Discovery Cruises.

WORDS BY  
JACK HAYES



Running Tuesdays from March 5 to 19, between 2.30pm and 3.30pm, the hour-long cruises take passengers through Victoria Harbour, along the Yarra River, and under the Bolte Bridge and Westgate Bridge, accompanied by commentary on the port’s rich maritime history.

“The historical commentary begins with some notable vessels in the harbour such as the *Alma Doepel*, a century-old tall ship currently being restored at North Wharf,” Port Phillip Ferries marketing manager, Brad Wright, told *Inner City News*.

“It also goes over the history of Victoria Dock, the Bolte Bridge, info and stats on the Port of Melbourne, Port of Melbourne tugs, Coode Island, European discovery and settlement, the Westgate Bridge, Newport Power Station and Williamstown.”

The cruise includes your choice of afternoon delight, including house wine with cheese and crackers, a beer with mixed nuts, or a coffee or tea with a muffin.

The modern fleet of ferries features

multiple indoor and outdoor seating areas, accessible onboard facilities and complimentary Wi-Fi and charging stations, and are easily accessible for all via our boarding ramps and they comfortably accommodate wheelchairs, motorised mobility scooters, and prams.

“The Melbourne Docklands area we know today surrounds the former Victoria Dock, which opened in 1893 as the second largest single dock in the world,” Mr Wright said. “Built as part of Sir John Coode’s port improvement plans, Victoria Dock formed an integral link with the railway yards at Spencer St. By the early 1900s, Victoria Dock received most of Victoria’s imports.”

“It is important we show and celebrate Melbourne’s deep maritime history, and there are few better ways to do that than from the harbour itself.”

For more information: [portphillipferries.com.au/packages/docklands-discovery-cruises](http://portphillipferries.com.au/packages/docklands-discovery-cruises) ●

# New council plan bolsters women and girls in sport, despite “messy” gender framework

A new policy to provide better access for women and girls in sport has been introduced by the City of Melbourne.

WORDS BY  
DAVID SCHOUT



With a growing population and “increasing demand” on sports infrastructure and open space, the council said it was “imperative that we carefully plan and manage these resources” within the municipality.

In conducting focus groups, interviews, and surveys in late 2023, the council heard that women and girls wanted facilities that made them feel welcome, were well designed and maintained, and wanted to feel safe getting to and from community sport.

Others expressed a desire for easier introductions to sports and recreation activities that are “non-threatening” and “build skills and confidence”.

“The unequal provision of sports facilities and services to women and men, and girls and boys, is well documented,” Cr Rohan Leppert said at the February 20 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“Council is a locally, regionally, and state significant provider of sports facilities and demand for those sports facilities far exceeds supply.

“Despite this, the term ‘sex’ is not mentioned once in the draft policy we are considering today.

“We also know that gender is not a polite byword for sex for the purposes of this policy because in the *Gender Equality Act*, these two terms are clearly expressed as separate concepts.

“Gender is also not a byword for gender identity. They too are separate concepts in the same act of parliament ...”

“It is frustrating that the *Gender Equality Act* makes no effort to define the term ‘gender’. But that is the situation. The question for councils and other defined identities under that act is what to do about it.”

Cr Leppert said the lack of clarity was giving rise to a “pretty messy policy framework” across state and local government.

He said it was the council’s duty to provide a “clear policy framework” so that staff could do their jobs confidently, particularly when determining the allocation and use of community sport and recreation facilities.

“Why is this a problem? It’s a problem because this is a policy that seeks to advance the interests of a historically oppressed group, without defining that group. If allocation disputes do arise, council staff who are charged with implementing and upholding the policy will take on the role of adjudicator, but they will probably struggle to make decisions that are understood and supported by all affected parties.”

“We have hundreds of clubs and associations that seek to use council sports facilities, and let’s be real about this: they don’t all agree on concepts of sex and gender.”

Cr Leppert advocated that council policy should not exclude groups who organise based on sex, nor groups that organise on the basis of gender identity.

“Part of governing a diverse municipal community is respecting that diversity, including the diversity of opinion and the rights of clubs and associations to self-determine the basis of their association within the bounds of the law, of course. And I don’t want council to become embroiled in adjudicating which of these clubs are correct and which are incorrect.”

An amended draft policy, backed unanimously by councillors, stated: “The council will avoid adjudicating between clubs and associations that have chosen different lawful bases on which to advance the interests of women and girls.”

The draft Policy and draft Action Plan are now open for public comment, with the community able to have their say at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au) ●

“So, it’s important that we have a policy about allocation, and that the policy explains how it will work to address inequalities and facilitate positive discrimination in favour of women and girls.”

Before approving a draft policy, and draft action plan for “fair access” in sport over the next three years, however, Cr Leppert expressed concern that it could fail to meet its objectives.

The Greens councillor said that different terms and concepts in the policy were “either undefined or they are inconsistent with Victorian law” which he said left “significant potential for interpretational dispute”.

Chief among these was the fact the policy before councillors referred exclusively to “gender”, rather than “gender and sex”, despite the fact the *Gender Equality Act 2020* states that women have historically experienced discrimination and disadvantage on the basis of both.

“For centuries, the provision of sporting facilities here in Melbourne and globally has discriminated against women and girls on the basis of sex,” Cr Leppert explained.

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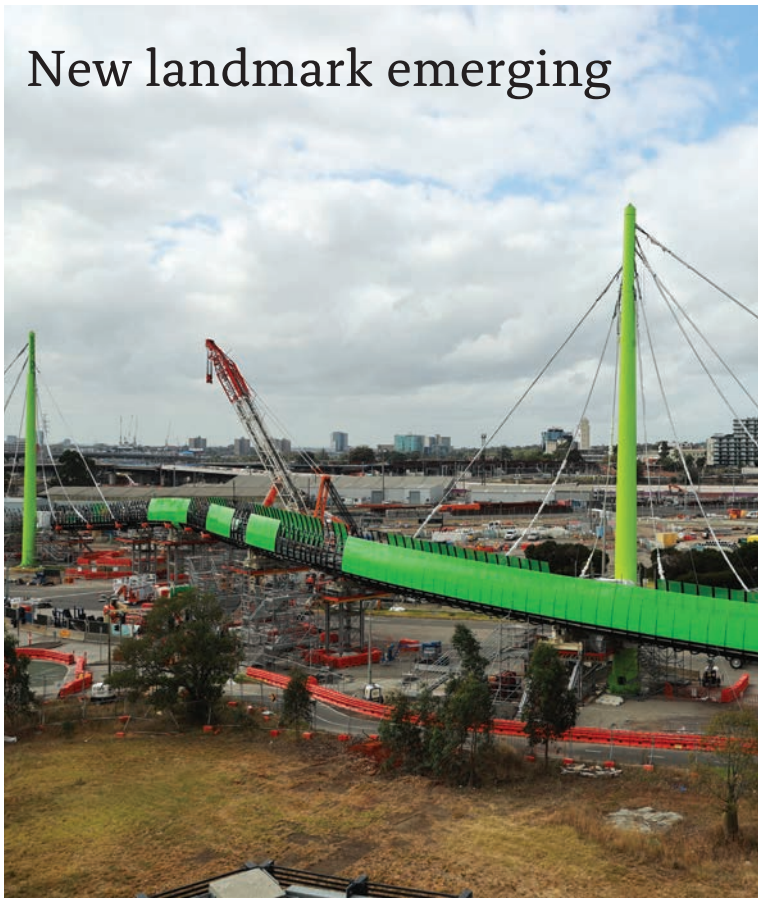
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# New landmark emerging

A brand-new bright green cycling and pedestrian veloway is growing before the eyes of Docklanders above Footscray Rd.

The new cycling and walking crossover is being constructed as part of the West Gate Tunnel Project, linking up the Capital City Trail across Footscray Rd and Moonee Ponds Creek.

The numbers of people using

the trail, which pre-COVID already boasted daily morning traffic (between 7am and 9am) of around 2000 riders, are expected to scale up considerably when the veloway opens this year according to the Bicycle Network.

A temporary path remains in place along Footscray Rd between Waterfront Way and Little Docklands Drive while workers continue to finish the bridge, with its soaring green structures already proving an eye-catching addition over Footscray Rd. ●

# Pet’s Corner

## Docklands’ own four-legged Hero

“In the heart of Docklands, two-year-old Maltese-Shih Tzu-Pomeranian, Hero, has embraced Docklands’ waterfront lifestyle with his aunt, Kat.”

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



While Hero officially belongs to Kat’s flatmate and her partner, their bond has blossomed into a heartwarming friendship since moving into her Docklands’ home in May last year, with Kat affectionally dubbing him her “nephew”.

“My flatmate moved to Melbourne during lockdown with her partner and they were bored and lonely, so they found Hero through a Facebook listing and drove out to pick him up,” Kat told *Docklands News*.

“They named him Hero because he saved them from boredom.”

“He is extremely energetic – he thinks everybody is his best friend and has no boundaries in that sense.”

Embarking on their weekly grocery shopping adventure, Kat and Hero enjoy exploring the Pier, where Hero’s curiosity shines as he inspects “every single lamp post along the way.”



Hero, an adventurous eater, is known for his peculiar fascination with roast duck, especially the Chinese variety.

“He goes feral over roast duck, specifically Chinese roast duck – he absolutely loves it,” Kat said.


Despite Hero’s exuberant personality, there’s also tender side to him, Kat revealed.

“When people come over and visit us he gets super-excited, but when it’s time for them to leave he’ll sit at the door for hours wondering why they haven’t come back,” she said.


“To sum up Hero in a nutshell – he’s an absolute menace, but really cute and loving so we forgive him.” ●



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DOCKLANDS NEWS



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QUESTION:  
What's been the highlight of your summer?

# Faces of Docklands



BEN  
Going skating with my friends



KC  
I just came to Australia, so everything is new for me



SONNY  
Beautiful weather



## New Years and AFL give Docklands an economic shot in the arm

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The City of Melbourne's latest economic snapshot has revealed that New Year's Eve and AFL games at Marvel Stadium continue to provide the greatest stimulus to Docklands businesses.

According to the council's economic data released in February, Docklands recorded its busiest and biggest ever New Year's Eve in 2023, with spending across local dining, retail and entertainment sectors enjoying a record December.

"Visitors to Docklands headed to the waterfront suburb in droves around the festive end-of-year period," the report stated.

"While Docklands continues its road to recovery, spending was higher in December 2023 than in previous years and pedestrian activity in the precinct was at its highest since records began in 2018."

"New Year's Eve saw around 40 per cent more activity than 2019, showing that Docklands' blockbuster events program continues to draw crowds."

The report also revealed that AFL fans lift spending in Dockland by up to 30 per cent on game days, with dining venues and bars and clubs enjoying much of the benefit, with 60 and 50 per cent increases in revenue, respectively.

It also showed that AFL game attendance at Marvel Stadium increased on pre-COVID numbers in 2019 in a welcome boost to the precinct, which is expected to rise in 2024 thanks to the recent completion of the stadium's city edge redevelopment.

Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said that in addition to other recent major events in the city, including the Australian Open and pop superstar Taylor Swift's *The Eras Tour*, events had driven up night-time activity and spending right across the city.

"AFL season is just around the corner, and our latest Melbourne Economy Snapshot shows we can expect matches to boost business right across the city," Cr Reece said. "Last year, game days in Docklands resulted in a 30 per cent increase in spending, while attendance continues to grow year-on-year." ●



## When I started my journey as a councillor, I entered with a mindset geared to deliver for our community through evidence-based and representative decision-making in the face of COVID.

WORDS BY  
CR JAMAL HAKIM



I have been a member of boards for a long time, so I knew my way around the boardroom table.

What I didn't have in my back pocket was some of the intricacies of the machination of local government and why it sometimes takes so much longer than we expect.

First, Team Melbourne does an incredible job balancing the responsibilities of a capital city council. Melbourne is no ordinary local government after all.

The Melbourne City Council municipality is responsible for a fair portion of Australia's GDP, and must manage more interests that live, work, and play in our municipality than most. The actions during and coming out of the pandemic show that government can act swiftly and decisively in the face of extreme challenges. That's a good thing.

While there is still work to do, the City of Melbourne has come out of the pandemic in a position of strength, with a lively city, the night-time economy booming, and residents and visitors returning. In Docklands, we've seen a change in demographics with

more families and long-term residents choosing Docklands as their home.

While Docklands was more impacted by the pandemic, we are now starting to see improvement. This has been on the back of a concerted effort that hasn't been without its frustrations.

How has this been achieved? As part of our commitment to our neighbourhoods, action in each neighbourhood has been refined by what we are hearing on the ground. This now forms part of our updated way of working with neighbourhoods, and why on Tuesday we endorsed an update on the neighbourhood strategy and are doing a pulse check on our neighbourhood model. Take part in the survey here:



In the meantime, it has been sometimes frustrating. Since the Docklands Summit, it has taken time to progress each action, but I have come to understand that they are progressing. When I'm frustrated, I ask for a briefing, only to be faced with the realisation of how complex the issues in the background can be with so many parties involved.

So, when community members ask me to follow up or solve an issue, and it's taking

months, and it seems like there's no end in sight – I completely feel the frustration. I get frustrated too, because it's hard to see what's in motion when it's hidden behind layers of work that spans across departments inside and outside council.

The system is, however, constantly improving, supported by an amazing neighbourhood team worth their weight in gold, and I feel like we're cracking the code with improvements coming through now in Docklands, and more planned in the next six months.

As part of this, I've learnt three things:

- It takes time for proper process, so communication and managing expectations is key. That's why I make myself available to community regularly to discuss issues.
- Driving action through the council plan and the various strategies of council is key. If it's not in a plan, then it takes considerable effort to deliver. Your feedback to plans matters!
- Community engagement and responsibility are important. If community is not actively taking part, local government action will not be enough.

My one call to my Docklands neighbours: get out there and start up a community club or two, come down to the fortnightly mah-jong game or come together to make the Library Christmas party the best it can be.

We need to all have skin in the game to make change happen.  
Let's get in there. ●



## Are you a new unit owner? Make sure you attend the first annual general meeting

For a long time in Victoria, it was a common practice for the developer of residential towers to ensure that they arranged their affairs to benefit them before they settled on the lots and handed over control of the owners' corporation (OC) to lot owners.

This often involved the appointment of a caretaker/facilities manager for often very long periods of time (10 years plus) as well as long-term essential services contractors (fire inspectors) OC managers, cleaning contractors, embedded networks, high-speed internet services, security contractors, rubbish contractors and the like.

One of the dirty secrets of the OC industry is that some developers would seek a payment for appointing these contractors as a quid pro quo.

However, this messy practice has been overhauled by the Victorian Government as part of its reforms and amendments to the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006*.



So, it is now not possible for an OC manager to be appointed for a term beyond the first meeting of the OC. That means that it is up to lot owners to reappoint them once they have taken possession of their units.

The reforms also make it clear that any other service contract that the developer has signed the OC up to will only be valid for a maximum term of three years.

Unfortunately, the reforms can only go

so far. What usually happens in practice is that all of these contracts are placed on the agenda for the first annual general meeting (AGM), however no alternatives are proposed on the agenda either.

The developer or OC will tell owners that they have no choice but to reappoint these persons otherwise the building won't function. They'll say anything; the power will go out, bills won't get paid, the rubbish will pile

up, the internet will be suspended, etc., etc.

Perhaps naively, the owners present at the first meeting raise their hands to reappoint these entities. And that's how OC gets stuck with these non-competitive, expensive and long-term contracts.

The case law of the Supreme Court is of no assistance to OCs here, because if an OC independently affirms the contract at these meetings, then they are bound. And it will be no excuse to run an argument that not many owners turned up to the meeting, or that lot owners had no alternate choice.

If you are settling on an apartment in the next few years, make sure to get yourself along to the first AGM, and ask for those contracts to be deferred to the next meeting once the committee of owners has formed, and once independent quotes have been sourced. ●

**Tom Bacon**

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### DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

## Disconnect between council and residential strata

In recent years, the landscape of Victoria, especially in Docklands, has been reshaped by the rise of strata-titled properties. Yet, despite their prevalence, there is a glaring lack of understanding within local council about how residential strata operates.

This deficiency is evident in the design of the City of Melbourne's Connected Neighbourhoods Small Grants.

Initially, owners' corporations (OCs) – the legal decision-making entities responsible for these multi-million-dollar residential apartment buildings – were not eligible to apply for these grants.

However, after the Docklands Residents Group (DRG) raised this issue, OCs became eligible to apply. But the saga doesn't end there.

The council now requests a copy of a strata scheme's "constitution", but OCs do not have constitutions.

Again, the grant eligibility criteria were amended to include "or rules".

OCs do have rules for the control, management, use or enjoyment of common property and lots, and these rules aim to guide day-to-day decisions around issues such as parking, pets and noise.

It was puzzling why the council wanted to know how OCs were dealing with pets and parking. When queried, the response was that the council wanted to ensure that the organisations being considered for funding are legitimate organisations who have legal structures.

Accordingly, the council asks for a "constitution" or "rules" with the management company's name on them so it can be checked through Consumer Affairs OC Managers register: [registers.consumer.vic.gov.au/ocmsearch](http://registers.consumer.vic.gov.au/ocmsearch)

The issue here is that the name of the

management company will not appear on this document, meaning that this document will not provide a name that can be searched on the register.

This is just one example of the lack of understanding of residential strata within the council that negatively impacts on the ability of OCs to undertake initiatives for the betterment of residents.

The crux of the issue lies in the council's failure to grasp the nature of strata governance.

To rectify this situation, local councils must proactively engage with knowledgeable strata bodies and adapt their policies and services accordingly. This means fostering greater understanding and empathy towards the complexities of strata governance and recognising the value of OC-led initiatives.

By incorporating the voices of OCs into decision-making processes and enhancing transparency and accountability, councils can foster stronger, more inclusive strata



communities. Bridging the gap between local councils and OCs is essential for fostering equitable and sustainable development.

Only by recognising and addressing the challenges faced by OCs can councils truly serve the needs of its community. ●



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MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK

Celebrating Docklands’ maritime heritage in 2024

The Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) looks forward in 2024 to working with the Docklands community to grow public awareness of the precinct’s unique maritime heritage.



Docklands enabled maritime trade which was and still is, the basis of Victoria’s prosperity.

Maritime infrastructure really matters

Throughout history, maritime exploration, maritime trade, and maritime infrastructure investment in has been all about seeking and sustaining economic and political advantage for any given nation. Let’s consider:

In these most challenging precarious times around the world, we are reminded that maritime trade and global political conflict are inextricably enmeshed. This is being played out today in the oceans of the world.

Consider historical investment in maritime infrastructure in Docklands

It was intended to expand and sustain Victoria’s political and economic advantage i.e. prosperity.

State government of the day set about maximising the potential benefit to be derived by growing the port capacity and efficiencies with ambitious projects e.g. the excavation of Victoria Harbour, re-shaping the Yarra estuary watercourse and later, to efficiently manage port operations, construction of the once technologically cutting-edge Shipping Control Tower on North Wharf.

Consider global Investment in Naval power

Historically, all naval services had roles in protecting and sustaining political and economic advantage. In colonial Victoria this, too, was the case.

Fifty years before the federation of the colonies in 1901, the colony of Victoria had its own navy, the first on the continent, created to guard the gold-rich, very prosperous southern colony from any maritime threat.

MMHN membership 2024

We invite you to please consider joining MMHN so that together we can continue to staunchly support due recognition of the unique maritime heritage of the Docklands precinct.

Register online at [mmhn.org.au/membership](http://mmhn.org.au/membership)

Jackie Watts

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NET.AU



FEDERAL MP

You shouldn’t have to win a lottery to have a home

For many people, finding an affordable place to live is impossible.

One of the reasons it’s so hard to buy your first home is that the housing market is rigged in favour of ultra-wealthy property investors.

When people are bidding at an auction, trying to buy their first home, they have to compete with others who might already own a handful of properties.

The reason it’s so unfair is because wealthy property investors get access to government handouts (like negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions) that renters and first home buyers don’t.

So, at an auction, an investor can keep bidding the price up and put it out of the range of a first home buyer, knowing that the government will subsidise their purchase and they can write off their losses as a tax break.

Tax handouts for property investors cost the country’s budget almost \$39 billion in forgone revenue – and with rising interest rates and house prices, this keeps going up.

So far, Labor has refused to touch these handouts to wealthy property investors. Instead of tackling the billions going to rig the property markets, Labor established a so-called “Help-to-buy” lottery.

It’s a band-aid solution, and it will make the problem worse.

The scheme can only be accessed by 0.2 per cent of eligible renters and first home buyers.

And it will help push up house prices even more for the 99.8 per cent of people who can’t get into the scheme.

First home buyers and renters can’t afford house prices as they are, and any scheme

that sees prices continuing to soar is only going to make the problem worse.

The Greens’ position is straightforward: you shouldn’t have to win a lottery to buy a home.

Over the next few weeks, we’re going to be negotiating with Labor over their scheme, because they need our support to get it passed.

We will be pushing Labor to make housing more affordable by fixing negative gearing and capital gains tax handouts. We’ve said Labor should look at those investors with two or more investment properties, because they don’t need government handouts.

We will also keep pushing for a rent freeze and a cap on rents, as we know these schemes will work for renters.

With rents continuing to rise rapidly and rental inflation likely to hit another record this year, we need a rent freeze and an end to the handouts to the wealthy property developers.

A lottery for new home buyers isn’t going to cut it. The rental crisis is breaking people. Buying a home shouldn’t be harder to win than the hunger games.

What we know is that pressure works. If we push and push, we know we can get a better deal for renters and first home buyers.

Something has to change for renters and first home buyers. We need to stop the rigged and broken system, so everyone has an affordable place to live. ●

Adam Bandt

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HEALTH & WELLBEING

Positive affirmations: shifting your mindset for success



In the fast-paced whirlwind of modern life, where stress and uncertainty often loom large, the power of positive affirmations stands as a beacon of hope and resilience.

It’s a simple yet profound practice that has the potential to transform not only our mindset but also our reality.

In this article, we delve into the captivating world of positive affirmations, exploring how they have the remarkable ability to shift our mindset and pave the way for success in every aspect of our lives.

From fostering self-belief to cultivating a mindset of abundance and possibility, positive affirmations serve as potent tools for navigating life’s challenges with grace and determination.

Positive affirmations are more than just words; they are declarations of self-worth, empowerment, and possibility.

Rooted in the principles of self-affirmation theory, these powerful statements are designed to challenge negative thoughts, boost self-esteem, and rewire our subconscious mind for success.

At their core, positive affirmations operate on the principle of neuroplasticity, the brain’s remarkable ability to reorganise and adapt by forming new neural connections. By consistently repeating positive affirmations, we signal to our brain that these beliefs are important and worthy of reinforcement.

Over time, these affirmations become ingrained in our subconscious, shaping our attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors in profound ways.

The beauty of positive affirmations lies in their versatility and adaptability. Whether it’s overcoming self-doubt, manifesting abundance, or fostering resilience in the face of adversity, affirmations can be tailored to address a wide range of goals and aspirations.

From simple statements like “I am worthy” and “I am enough” to more specific affirmations related to career, relationships, and health, the possibilities are endless. But the true magic of positive affirmations lies not only in what we say but also in how we say it.

To maximise their effectiveness, affirmations should be phrased in the present tense, using language that is positive, specific, and emotionally resonant.

By framing our affirmations in this way, we create a sense of immediacy and authenticity that helps to bypass the critical faculties of the conscious mind and speak directly to the subconscious.

Moreover, the power of positive affirmations extends far beyond mere wishful thinking; it’s about embodying the energy and mindset of success. When we align our thoughts, words, and actions with our affirmations, we send a powerful signal to the universe that we are ready to receive the abundance and opportunities that await us.

In essence, positive affirmations serve as the building blocks of a growth mindset, a mindset grounded in the belief that our abilities and intelligence can be developed through dedication and hard work. ●

Dr Mike Edgley

CHIROPRACTOR  
DOCKLANDS HEALTH



10 YEARS ON

MARCH 2015 | ISSUE 95 |

DOCKLANDS NEWS

Support for Docklands fountain show



Docklanders overwhelmingly agree that a one-of-a-kind fountain and flame show in Victoria Harbour would put Docklands on the map.

Some 46 of the 52 people (88 per cent) surveyed by Docklands News supported the concept. Those who backed the plan commented that the show would give Docklands an international profile, that it would “ignite” Docklands, and that Victoria Harbour was the perfect location for the spectacle.

Other comments included: “A bold concept of an elegant, artistic installation.”

“It’s unique ideas like this that will put Docklands on the map.”

“Docklands is in dire need of something like this. It would be truly amazing to have this feature on Melbourne’s Waterfront and would actually bring people to

Victoria Harbour and surrounding areas.”

Just five respondents (10 per cent) said no to the proposal, while one person said they didn’t know if the idea would be successful.

One respondent described the show as a “gimmick” and said they would prefer to see a cultural space such as a theatre.

Another said the idea would put Docklands on the map for all the wrong reasons. “This new idea is awful in every aspect of its concept,” the respondent said.

The concept was presented to the Docklands Community Forum on February 25 and received a positive response from attendees. ●





## Run for the Kids is back this March

The *Herald Sun* and Transurban Run for the Kids will return Sunday, March 17, taking over the streets of Melbourne to raise much-needed funds for the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

The iconic event, which has hosted more than 400,000 participants and raised more than \$21.7 million since its inception, is one of the largest fundraisers for the Good Friday Appeal which supports the lives of Victoria’s sick and most vulnerable kids.

Event organisers are calling all runners, walkers, or volunteers to join the expected 30,000 participants in this year’s event.

The event village build will start on Wednesday, March 13 from 7am in Docklands Park and surrounding areas and be completed by Tuesday, March 19.

The event will be live from 6am Sunday with PA announcements and music on the morning of the event. Sound checks will take place during build times.

According to event organisers, their “objective is to close roads for the shortest possible time, and we are focused on minimising disruption wherever possible.”



“There will be a significant impact on traffic in and around the course during the event, with road closures in place to ensure the safety of participants,” a Run for the Kids public notice said.

“There is no parking on the course itself during the road closure period. Temporary parking restrictions and tow-away zones around Docklands and the wider course will be in place, please obey signage. At all times emergency access and the movement of emergency vehicles takes priority.”

For information on all road closures or to participate in the event, [runforthekids.com.au](http://runforthekids.com.au).



## Melbourne’s celebration of international students

Committee for Melbourne is proud to see the return of the Melbourne International Student Week from March 1 to 8, 2024, which recognises and celebrates international students and all they bring to the city.

Joining forces with The Ascott Limited, Australia (Ascott Australia), the Committee will for the second year, put on a welcome celebration full of events, activities, giveaways, and live music at Fed Square from March 1 to 2. Performances from K-Pop band AO Dance Crew and international DJ Jodilly are among the acts to be enjoyed by everyone. This weekend will be followed by a weeklong series of activations and activities over multiple sites across Melbourne.

International students are a critical part of the social, cultural, and economic fabric of Melbourne. International education is the state’s third largest export earner and there are more than 140,000 international students from 160 countries studying in Victoria, making Melbourne the most diverse student city in the world.

That’s why our educational institutions such as Deakin University, RMIT, Latrobe University, The University of Melbourne, Monash University and Victoria University will be onsite at Federation Square on March 1 to 2 and offering a week of festivities to ensure that international students feel at home in Melbourne. It is important that we provide occasions such as MISW to

ensure that international students understand the culture and services our great city has to offer.

With international students contributing \$6.9 billion into the economy and supporting more than 40,000 jobs, the Committee and Ascott Australia recognise the value and importance of providing effective backing for international students.

To support the influx of students and families, Ascott Australia’s multiple brands, including Quest Apartment Hotels, offer students, and visiting friends and families a range of accommodation options to make their stay in Melbourne comfortable and convenient.

Committee for Melbourne’s CEO Mark Melvin said, “It is no wonder international students are attracted to studying at Melbourne’s universities. With the recent announcement of Melbourne as the fourth-best international student city, I genuinely believe Melbourne International Student Week is important opportunity to welcome international students and help them get to know this incredible city”.

For more information about the week-long activities please visit: [misw.org.au](http://misw.org.au)

# 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](http://docklandsdirectory.com.au).

To get your copy, advertise, contribute or feature your business, please contact [jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au)





Quiz



1. Australian tennis legend Pat Rafter (pictured) was recently spotted in Docklands. What was he here to promote?
2. Joanna Lumley plays which character in British comedy show *Absolutely Fabulous*?
3. With Costco announcing the closure of their Docklands store, what new use for the building is gaining momentum?
4. In which year was Google invented?
5. Smelling something that is not actually there is called what?
6. What is the official summer sport of Canada?
7. What does burrito mean in Spanish?
8. Channel 7 is set to move headquarters from Harbour Esplanade to Melbourne Quarter on Collins St. How many years have they been located next to Marvel Stadium?
9. Docklands' O'Brien Icehouse is set to host what event in March?
10. Which number's letters are in alphabetical order when spelled out?
11. Which of Docklands' favourite cafes is opening a new location on Collins St?
12. *Edge of Your Seat*, an artwork by street artist Rone, can be found at the Marvel Stadium Concourse, The District Docklands or Tower 1 Yarra's Edge?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. A Padel tournament 2. Patsy Stone 3. A new high-school 4. 1998 5. Phantomia 6. Lacrosse 7. Little donkey 8. 21 years 9. Australian Women's Ice Hockey League Finals, March 9-10 10. Forty 11. Saliminititi 12. Marvel Stadium Concourse.

5x5 No. 034

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

G		P		D
	N		N	
V		S		A
	S		E	
N		A		S

SOLUTIONS

GAPED, INANE, VISTA, ESTER, NEARS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION  
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March, 2024

Sudoku

No. 033

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: South America

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

AMAZON

GUYANA

ANACONDA

MACAW

ANDES

MACHU PICCHU

ARGENTINA

PATAGONIA

BRAZIL

PIRANHA

CAPYBARA

RIO

COLOMBIA

SURINAME

GALAPAGOS

VENEZUELA

Secret message: Very diverse place

Crossword

No. 033

ACROSS

- 1 Highways (5)
- 4 Best features (9)
- 9 Paintings of people (9)
- 10 Gap (5)
- 11 Prefix meaning new (3)
- 12 Bigotry (11)
- 13 Female stage performer (7)
- 15 It causes a bad reaction (7)
- 17 Acrobat (7)
- 20 Journeys (7)
- 23 Focus (11)
- 25 Enemy (3)
- 26 Former US president (5)
- 27 Provided safe-haven (9)
- 28 Levels (of quality) (9)
- 29 Short literary composition (5)

DOWN

- 1 Contrite (9)
- 2 Transport hub (7)
- 3 Endure (7)
- 4 Type of garment (5)
- 5 Subsequent (9)
- 6 Nose hole (7)
- 7 Coach (7)
- 8 Part of a play (5)
- 14 Injured player carrier (9)
- 16 Preceding day (9)
- 18 US state (7)
- 19 On the sheltered side (7)
- 21 Great (7)
- 22 Attempts (7)
- 23 Cuts (wood) (5)
- 24 Land measures (5)

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

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

Codeword

No. 033

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

SOLUTIONS

S	G	T	O	A	K	X	M	C	D	L	Z
9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
U	B	E	F	I	N	V	A	H	O	R	W
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

9-Letter

No. 033

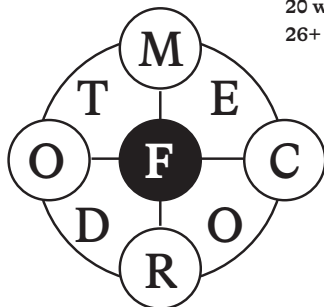
Today's Focus:

14 words: Good

20 words: Very good

26+ 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

comfort, COMFORTED, corf, croft, deform, deft, doof, doofer, food, foot, foored, foote, force, forced, ford, fofo, form, forme, formed, fort, forte, fret, froe, from, from, ref, roof, roofed



WHAT'S ON  
March

As we welcome Autumn we welcome a huge month in Dockland's event calendar. Keep up to date with everything happening in postcode 3008.

**RUN FOR THE KIDS**

Victoria's favourite fun run supporting the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

The Long course starts from 8am

The Short course starts from 9:30am

[runforthekids.com.au](http://runforthekids.com.au)

**INTERNATIONAL ICE HOCKEY: AUSTRALIA V NEW ZEALAND**

Don't miss the excitement of international Ice Hockey when Australia host New Zealand in a 3-Game series. It promises to be fast and furious.

[obrienicehouse.com.au](http://obrienicehouse.com.au)

**CREATURE VOICE: CREATIVE ASIA FOUNDATION**

Step into the captivating realm of Creature Voice, an art exhibition meticulously curated ahead of Earth Day with local and international artists.

**Library at The Dock, 107 Victoria Harbour Prom**

**PORT PHILLIP FERRIES: DOCKLANDS DISCOVERY CRUISES**

Includes a relaxing one-hour cruise through Victoria Harbour, along the Yarra River, and under the Bolte Bridge and Westgate Bridge – with some historical commentary.

[portphillipferries.com.au](http://portphillipferries.com.au)

**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.

[moviesonus.com.au](http://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](http://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.

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

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

**Victoria Harbour Medical Centre**

2-3/850 Collins Street Docklands 3008  
Entry via Merchant St

**Hours:** Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 9am-12 noon

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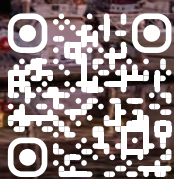
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