

NOVEMBER 2024 EDITION #213

PUZZLES & TRIVIA P22



Melbourne's Diwali Festival was held at Marvel Stadium in October, with 20,000 visitors flocking to Docklands for the always colourful occasion. More on page 10.
Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

Is Development Victoria planning its exit from Docklands?

“An end date for Development Victoria's cessation from its authority over Docklands may be on the horizon amid speculation that it could be handing over its planning powers by 2030.”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR

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Under the *Docklands Act 1991*, Development Victoria (DV) is the master developer of Docklands, and it continues to be tasked with “ensuring the timely delivery of development across the precinct”.

But with only a few outstanding projects remaining for the Victorian Government's development agency to oversee, including Harbour Esplanade and Central Pier, Docklands News understands 2030 has been flagged as a potential exit date.

While DV didn't confirm this when questioned by Docklands News, its acting group head precincts Ronan Mellan said, “as one of Australia's largest urban renewal projects, Docklands was always positioned as a long-term project.”

“In less than three decades, it is already a success story as a thriving community with more than 17,000 residents and more than 73,000 workers, as well as millions of visitors every year,” Mr Mellan said.

“Docklands is now more than 60 per cent complete and we continue to work with key stakeholders to continue its momentum as a key destination precinct in combination with the planning and delivery of significant projects such as transforming the waterfront into a premier mixed-use destination.”

While DV's “master-developer” role falls away as projects are completed and responsibility is passed over to the City of Melbourne as the municipal authority, critics continue to call for its immediate exit from Docklands.

Despite having played a critical role in Docklands' urban renewal story, a vast majority of the precinct is now complete with only a handful of major projects remaining at Collins Wharf, City Harbour, Waterfront City and the NewQuay West site.

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Division over stamp duty concession impact on Docklands

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Moon Dog's new venue brings a tropical oasis to Docklands



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SoyToy Club brings new energy to Docklands

Since 2023, SoyToy Club has been injecting colour and life into Melbourne's Docklands with its creative streetwear brand.

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The gym that's taking Docklanders by storm

“

Starting a gym was inevitable for Bryan Letch, who always knew he wanted to combine his passion for fitness with his work.

”

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



After working as personal trainer throughout his twenties Bryan's wish finally became a reality nine years ago, when he decided to start InFitPTV at 61 Merchant Street, Docklands, just across from the Woolworths.

Since then, Bryan's gym has turned into a Docklands mainstay, providing residents not only with high-quality training facilities and coaching, but also a strong and motivated community.

Members are able to take part in group classes or private sessions depending on their fitness goals and abilities.

One of the perks of the gym, according to Bryan, is that because it isn't a 24-hour gym there aren't swarms of people coming through and members are able to have a personalised and private workout.

Whatever someone's fitness level is, the staff team at InFitPTV are able to help, with their classes tailored to suit people with different abilities.

Bryan is a deeply committed trainer whose qualifications

extend far beyond personal training.

Over the years he has collected a number of certifications in post-natal training, rehabilitation training, Pilates, mixed martial arts, and nutrition.

He is able to use this knowledge base to develop a unique program and diet for members so that they can achieve their fitness goals.

One aspect of the business that Bryan has worked diligently to cultivate over the years is its strong culture.

He said that people who join InFitPTV classes build friendships and develop a strong comradery that keeps them coming back.

A core part of this culture is a competition that he has set up within the gym.

Upon signing up, members are assigned to either the Creators or the Destroyers team, and over the course of the year they complete a number of challenges.

The challenges lead up to an end-of-year award night where members have a chance to win a \$5000 dollar prize.

InFitPTV is more than just a gym according to Bryan, who is excited to continue building a strong fitness community in Docklands. ●



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SoyToy Club brings new energy to Docklands

Since 2023, SoyToy Club has been injecting colour and life into Melbourne's Docklands with its creative streetwear brand.

WORDS BY
LÉA CARRÉ



Nestled in The District, this youthful brand aims to redefine what Docklands represents, bringing in a fresh and vibrant atmosphere.

Co-founded by Miki, Jamie, and Mikaela, the brand launched in early 2023 after a series of pop-up stores around Melbourne.

"It's such a beautiful place, geographically interesting, but I think it's also the sleepest part of Melbourne, though in a good way," Miki said.

In his thirties, Miki sees the potential for growth in the area and believes that the SoyToy Club brand and their collaborations with neighbouring new retail shops can contribute to its transformation.

"Docklands needs more young brands to elevate it," he said.

"Together, we're trying to reinvigorate the area."

SoyToy Club is more than just a fashion label, it's a creative collective. Miki, who previously worked as a brand manager for Samurai Punk, teamed up with Jamie and Mikaela to break down barriers in the streetwear scene.

The trio wanted to make fashion more inclusive and transparent, creating a

community-centred brand. "We wanted to bring a bit of youthfulness, colour, and energy to Docklands", said the heart of the SoyToy team.

The store itself reflects this playful philosophy. Gender-neutral designs are crafted in sizes ranging from XS to 5XL. The clothing features dropped shoulders and boxy fits, emphasising comfort for all body types.

The shop's interior, with its anime-inspired décor and a cool rap playlist in the background, creates a welcoming environment for everyone. "We don't exist without our community," Miki stressed, noting that the shop aims to be an "ego-free zone."

SoyToy Club is also about engagement. Miki and the team throw monthly events, aiming to foster personal connections with their customers.

Their first major collaboration with the iconic anime character Astro Boy is set to launch on November 29. The celebration will include a free event at the store, complete with music, free tattoos, and drinks for around 150 guests.

"We want to bring human interaction back, especially post-COVID," Miki said, adding that the shop serves as a safe space where customers are greeted as friends.

For Miki, SoyToy Club is more than a business—it's a movement built on joy, creativity, and inclusivity. ●



Nick Reece's plan for a "world-class" seafood dining precinct for Docklands

A new world-class seafood precinct would be pursued for Docklands as a vibrant attraction to draw more visitors to the area if Nick Reece is re-elected Lord Mayor this month.

WORDS BY
FAITH BUGEJA



Showcasing Melbourne's renowned food culture along with many experienced chefs, the Docklands Seafood Dining Precinct would be a unique destination for visitors and locals to enjoy fresh seafood by the water.

"This precinct will transform Docklands into a must-visit destination for seafood lovers, offering a unique dining experience that celebrates Melbourne's diverse culinary culture," Lord Mayor Nick Reece said.

Including open air dining, restaurants,

food stalls, and a seafood school, surrounded by a public open space, the Docklands foreshore will be designed to create a welcoming and lively atmosphere, bringing Docklands to an even richer life.

In addition to enhancing Melbourne's reputation as Australia's food culture capital, the project will aid in boosting local business by attracting more visitors to the area.

"We know that a new area like this for Docklands can provide an incredible opportunity for local businesses and create a dynamic new space for the community to enjoy," Cr and Deputy Lord Mayor candidate Roshena Campbell said.

If re-elected, Cr Reece will work closely with residents, local landholders, and the wider Docklands community to help determine the final location of the precinct.

He will also work alongside the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network to identify ways the precinct can help celebrate the rich maritime history of Docklands.

"Docklands has a proud maritime history,



and this project will celebrate this story and bring it to life for modern Melburnians," he said.

Featuring a range of seafood eateries including charcoal-grilled octopus, sushi, oyster bars, and ceviche stalls, the new precinct will display the rich and diverse culinary culture of Melbourne.

Inspiration for the design of the new seafood precinct will be drawn from some

of the world's great seafood markets, including Tokyo's Tsukiji Market and San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf.

"Docklands is perfectly placed for a major food tourism project like this – a waterfront seafood dining precinct that will attract local and international visitors," Chris Lucas from Lucas Restaurants said.

"I look forward to working closely with Nick to make this a reality." ●

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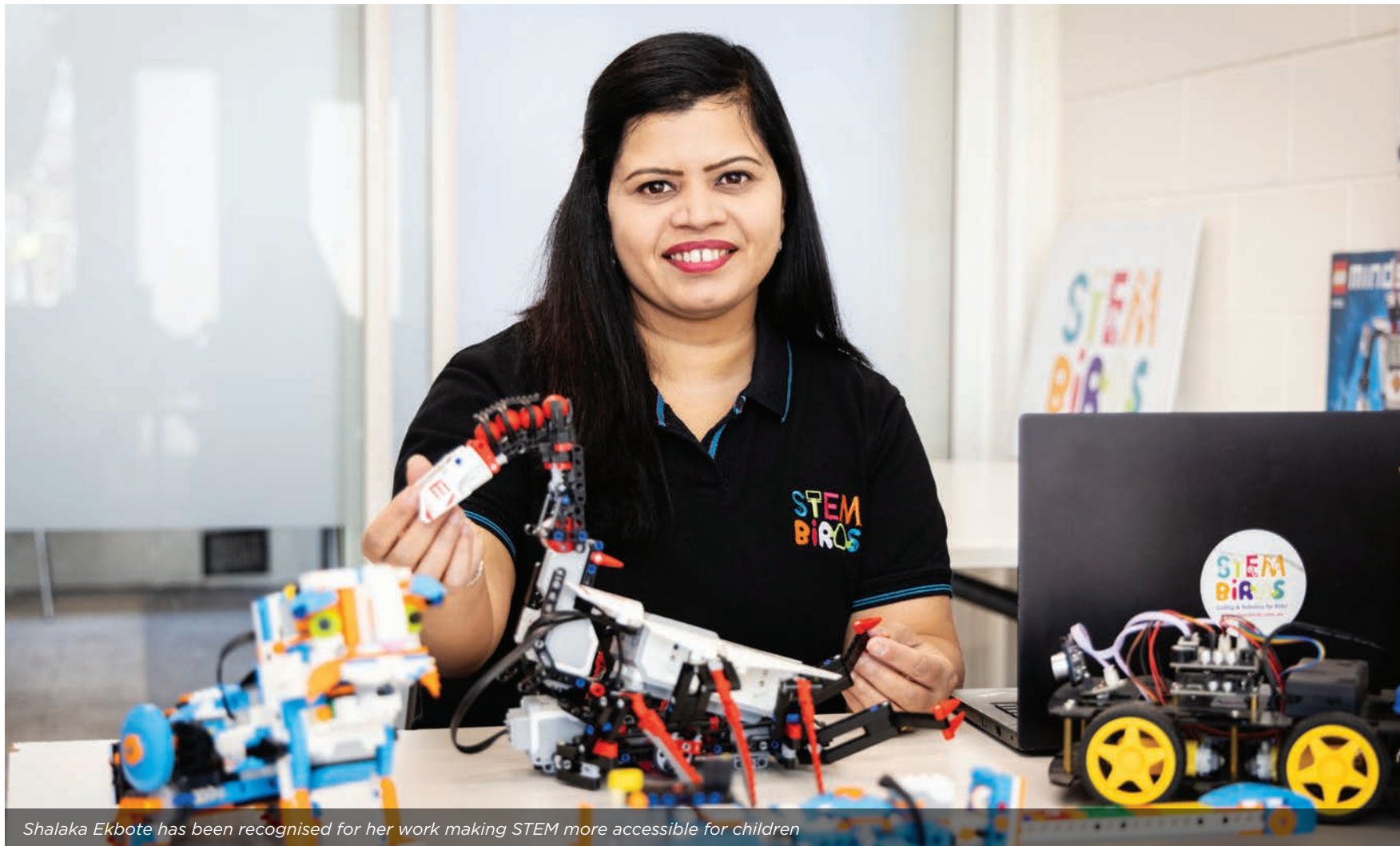
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ENTREPRENEUR HELPS INNOVATION STEM FROM A YOUNG AGE



Shalaka Ekbote has been recognised for her work making STEM more accessible for children

Shalaka Ekbote has always had a passion for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

With an engineering degree in electronics and a masters in software engineering and telecommunications, it wasn't long before Shalaka would use that experience and enthusiasm to launch STEM Birds.

STEM Birds is an education provider offering courses in robotics, coding and electronics, designed to foster creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

"My goal was to make high-quality STEM learning accessible to young students," Shalaka said.

"In 2017, I began by offering small workshops from my home, where I could share my knowledge directly with students. As interest and demand grew, I decided to expand STEM Birds into a fully-fledged business, aiming to reach and inspire even more young minds. This journey has allowed me to merge my education and passion, creating meaningful and impactful learning experiences for children."

What started out as a home-based business has turned into an award-winning educational platform equipping young people with skills and knowledge for the world of the future.

Shalaka's vision to inspire and empower the next generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and critical thinkers through accessible and engaging STEM education has

seen STEM Birds awarded the City of Melbourne's Small Business Innovation Award in 2024.

This award honours a small business that has embraced innovation to improve outcomes for their business, customers or community.

STEM Birds was recognised for its focus on providing accessible STEM education classes to young Melburnians, with a specific focus on robotics, coding, and electronics classes.

"Being recognised with the award is an immense honour and a deeply gratifying experience. It not only validates the hard work and dedication of our entire STEM Birds team but also underscores the positive impact we strive to make in the community," Shalaka said.

"This recognition is a testament to our commitment to advancing STEM education and supporting local talent. This is the biggest milestone in STEM Birds journey. It motivates us to continue innovating and expanding our initiatives to benefit even more students and families.

"We are truly grateful to the City of Melbourne for their support and encouragement, and we look forward to continuing our journey of fostering a love for STEM among young learners."

From its humble beginnings, STEM Birds has grown to become a prominent educational platform, operating online and from 13 locations across Melbourne - including in Docklands - and three in Adelaide, offering an array of programs in robotics and coding.

Always the innovator, Shalaka launched Melbourne's first robot library in 2022. The ground-breaking initiative is designed to make STEM education more accessible by allowing young people to borrow robots.

Then this year, STEM Birds expanded its reach launching the Kids Activities Expo, a platform to support and celebrate local businesses while informing parents about local children's services all in one place.

When she's not working with young people, Shalaka found time to write and publish a book, STEM Birds Scratch Ideas for Kids on block programming, and was invited to attend and judge the world scratch coding competition.

Shalaka said Melbourne was a fertile city for startups, the ideal place to start and grow her own business.

"Melbourne is an exceptional place to do business, particularly for STEM Birds, due to its vibrant and diverse community, which fosters innovation and creativity," she said.

"The city's supportive environment is bolstered by local councils that encourage and motivate small businesses.

"Additionally, Melbourne's community centres have generously offered their classrooms for our classes for minimal cost, significantly aiding our mission to extend STEM education to a wider audience. This collaborative spirit and resource availability make Melbourne an ideal location for STEM Birds to thrive and make a meaningful impact."

It's clear Shalaka isn't short on ideas and new ways to innovate but it's her purpose that drives her business success.

"STEM Birds aims to create a future where every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to explore, learn, and excel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, fostering creativity, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning."

You can learn more about STEM Birds at stembirds.com.au

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“Good government – that’s winning”: John Pesutto’s mission to be the next Premier

It might sound like a lofty goal amid the ongoing uncertainty gripping the state’s Liberal opposition, but Victoria’s current alternative for Premier John Pesutto knows “good government” is the only way forward.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



While the next election may seem like a long time away in November 2026, it will mark 12 years since the current state government led by former Premier Dan Andrews took office.

With the state under a significant cloud of rising debt amid the government’s ambitious infrastructure agenda and recent polls suggesting a turn against current Premier Jacinta Allan, Victoria’s appetite for change appears stronger than ever.

But having lost the past two elections in a landslide, it will take an almighty effort from this Liberal opposition – one which continues to face deep internal divisions – to turn that tide and convince Victorians they are ready for the challenge.

The one man who knows that better than anyone is Mr Pesutto, who despite facing the mammoth task of needing to unite his party ahead of the next election, is undoubtedly up for that challenge.

With Victorians having voted for a progressive agenda at the past three elections, Mr Pesutto, who is widely considered a more moderate voice for reason in the Liberal Party, is surely the right person to lead it forward.

And, despite being at the centre of a defamation battle with ousted Liberal MP Moira Deeming, which is expected to conclude in early December, it’s clear he’s not letting the distraction dull his passion for his agenda for change.

As we approach the two-year mark until the next election, *Docklands News* caught up with Victoria’s potential next Premier to discuss the road ahead, his vision for Melbourne and his thoughts on repositioning the relationship between Spring St and Town Hall.

“I do think we’re facing serious challenges, but all of those can be solved,” Mr Pesutto said. “My appeal to Melburnians and Victorians alike is that this government can’t fix the problems they’ve created.”

There can be no argument that at the heart of the battle to form the next government will be the issue of Victoria’s debt, which is forecast to grow from \$156.2 billion in 2025 to \$187.8 billion by June 2028.

While there are many pressing issues affecting the state and the city, Mr Pesutto is acutely aware that without getting the economy under control, the essential services we all rely on will become increasingly compromised.

“All of those matters around the management of the budget and the finances are relevant to me because it’s about trying to boost our quality of life and standard of living, and I think we’re suffering because of that,” he said.

“Health, ambulances, education, roads, housing; all of those things suffer. And we’ve worked very hard to try and draw out that link for people that unless you stabilise debt, taxes will continue to rise. The government doesn’t have a plan for that.”

One place that continues to feel the brunt of these challenges, according to Mr Pesutto, is Melbourne’s CBD, which he holds “growing concerns” for as Victoria’s “economic engine room”.

While he’s troubled by commercial vacancy rates in the CBD, which continue to track well behind Sydney and Brisbane, he said the lack of investment in the city reflected the state’s delicate financial position.

“I’m very concerned why we can’t get those vacancy rates down. Work habits have changed, I accept that, but the CBD can’t lose that commercial impulse,” Mr Pesutto said.

“Capital is mobile as we all know, and it is very sensitive. I’ve been told by business leaders that South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas tries to court businesses from Melbourne over to South Australia.”

“What concerns me about that against the backdrop of our poor economic performance by way of tax and debt is that there are a lot of companies that have seen Melbourne as the seat of their operations. They’re now thinking about where to go.”

And while he supports any landlord’s right to transition underutilised commercial buildings in the CBD to housing, for example, he said talks of a second wave of Postcode 3000 shouldn’t be the product of “giving up on the CBD”.

“The caveat though, and I feel very strongly about this, is if it’s happening because we’re giving up on the CBD being an ever-thriving seat of community,

political, social and economic vibrancy for the country,” he said.

“Melbourne must, in my view, be the driver of economic activity around the country. Historically, Melbourne has been seen as the nation’s financial capital,” adding he was determined for the city to reclaim its title as the world’s most liveable.

But in his view, this is only going to happen through “a more collaborative” approach between the City of Melbourne and the state government, emphasising that improving safety and security in and around the CBD was paramount.

Whether it be rough sleeping, drug-use, criminal activity or the recent wave of violent protests, Mr Pesutto said the city couldn’t hope to attract more investment, major events or new residents until these types of issues were resolved.

“When it comes to antisocial behaviour or trying to address the tragedy of rough sleeping, which just breaks your heart to see – you can’t do that with one level of government,” he said.

“Let’s be frank about it, whether it’s protests or criminal activity, it’s always a reflection of how well you resource Victoria Police and other agencies of government to deal with anti-social behaviour.”

“If that’s deterring people from coming to the city or employers from investing in our city ... we pay a double price for all of that.”

Mr Pesutto also has similar misgivings about the government’s plan to deal with drug-use, saying that while he had opposed a second safe injecting room for the CBD, it couldn’t be “an all or nothing approach”.

“You are deploying an enormous amount of resources to perpetuate the cycle,” he said about safe injecting rooms.

“We’re all trying to solve the problem, but I don’t think that’s the way you get people off that cycle. And so, we’ve talked about hydromorphone treatment, more investment in rehabilitation beds – there are better approaches in our view.”

Despite the challenges ahead, he said that, if elected, he was determined to address them via a “whole of state approach” to governing, which would only be “enhanced by a more liveable city”.

When it comes to economic revitalisation, he pointed to the growth in AI and robotics as an example of how the state could boost manufacturing in precincts such as



Fishermans Bend.

He also wants to reestablish “order and oversight” over the state’s infrastructure program, and while not yet announcing any specific projects, he’s since revealed that the controversial East West Link proposal would be reconsidered.

Mr Pesutto would consider scrapping the “exorbitant” Suburban Rail Loop project, which he said the Allan Government continued to pursue at the expense of more acute infrastructure needs of communities in Melbourne’s West.

“We will still build a lot of things – we have to, as our state is growing,” he said.

“But clearly the government has overrun on a number of fronts with exploding debt. It’s important to get the sequencing right, and the way we procure them must be carefully planned.”

He added that projects that addressed greater public transport connections to the western suburbs, such as Metro 2, would need to be looked at, which would ultimately benefit the CBD by getting more cars off the roads.

While Mr Pesutto senses there is a strong appetite for change in Victoria, he said he didn’t want to be “weighed down by the electoral maths” of the challenge ahead and continued to implore his colleagues to pursue the prize of “good government”.

“This next election will be about issues that will have lasting generational impacts, so I say to my team, victory is not winning, the election is just a step to good government. Good government – that’s winning.” ●

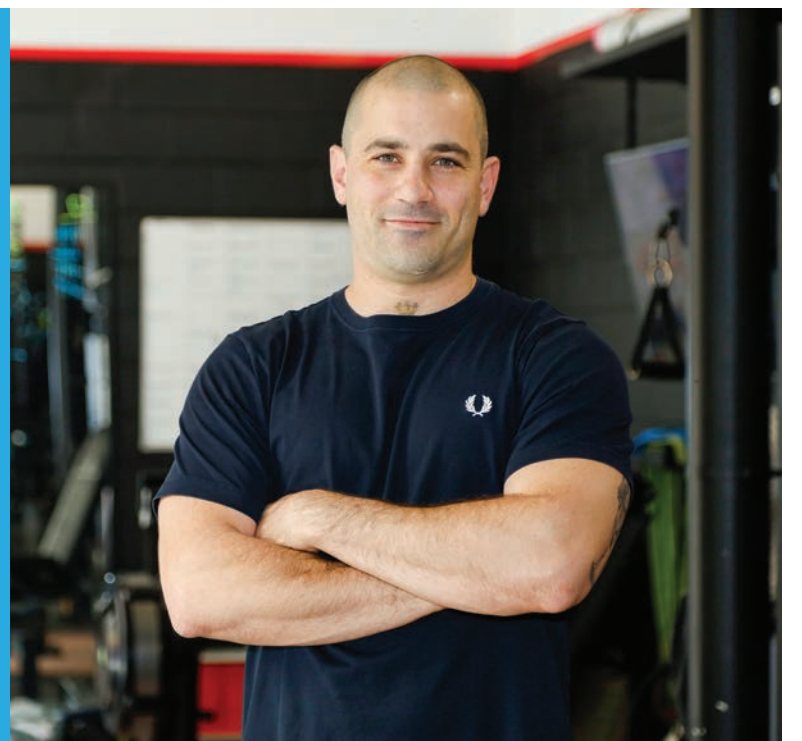
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Boat Show on NewQuay Promenade prompts concern

Some members of the Docklands community have raised concerns over the City of Melbourne's decision to hold the 2024 Melbourne Boat Show on NewQuay Promenade despite the council restricting vehicle access due to repair works.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



According to a City of Melbourne spokesperson, the council has identified that some of the piles supporting the promenade require upgrades. However, the council states that it has ensured that the piles are included in a regular maintenance regimen.

While pedestrian, bicycle, business, residential and pontoon access has been

maintained at all times, vehicle access has been restricted to some parts of the promenade.

Former Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer, Shane Wylie, questioned the reasoning behind holding the Boat Show on NewQuay Promenade despite it having restricted vehicle access.

"It makes no sense at all to have hundreds of tonnes of boats and then to just cut off vehicle access again," he said.

"Why close it off to the public and markets for two months and then have thousands of tonnes of boats and vehicles on it for four days straight."

However, the City of Melbourne a spokesperson confirmed that NewQuay Promenade remains structurally sound and accessible to the community.

"We are currently in the planning phase of the project and working to determine construction schedules," the spokesperson said.

Temporary concrete bollards have been installed to delineate the areas that have been identified for work. ●

Hollywood returns to Docklands

Cast and crew of a new sci-fi action movie have made their way to Docklands Studios as the film enters its final stages of principal photography.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



War Machine is produced, directed and co-written by Victorian filmmaker Patrick Hughes, who made *The Hitman's Bodyguard* and *The Man from Toronto*.

War Machine follows the final 24 hours of the world's toughest selection program, as a team of Army Rangers encounters a threat beyond their imagination.

The production filmed scenes around Bright and Myrtleford in Victoria's high country and has now moved to Laverton RAAF base and Docklands Studios Melbourne.

As the film's director, Mr Hughes said that he is excited to be shooting in Australia after years of working internationally.

"It's been a lifelong dream to bring Hollywood-style blockbusters home to Australia," he said. "This project is just the beginning; I truly believe there's no better place than Victoria to make movies."

The film's lead is Alan Ritchson, who recently starred in Guy Ritchie's *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare*.

Ritchson is playing alongside a star-studded cast, including Dennis Quaid from *Breaking Away*, AACTA Award-winner Jai Courtney, and rising Australian actors Blake Richardson, Keiynan Lonsdale, and Daniel Webber.

"Victoria is in high demand as a screen destination because of our stunning locations, screen business infrastructure, expert local crew and exceptional creative talent," state Creative Industries Minister Colin Brooks said.

"*War Machine* is part of a robust pipeline of screen productions filming in Victoria this year, creating jobs, boosting local business and showcasing Victorian creative talent, locations and technical skills to a global audience."

The film is creating 2,100 job opportunities for Victorians and engaging 600 local businesses, ranging from specialist screen businesses to accommodation and hospitality providers, and it will spend \$73 million in the Victorian economy.

The production is just one of several major screen projects filming in the state, including the Peacock series *All Her Fault* and the Sony Pictures feature *Beneath the Storm*, which recently wrapped at Docklands Studios Melbourne.

War Machine was attracted to Victoria through the State Government's Victorian Screen Incentive, Victorian Digital Screen Rebate and Regional Location Assistance Funds, administered by VicScreen.

The movie will be distributed in Australia by Roadshow Films and released internationally by Netflix in 2025. ●

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Melbourne Boat Show in Docklands

The Melbourne Boat Show returned to New Quay Promenade and Harbour Esplanade in Docklands during October for the third year in a row.

WORDS BY
FAITH BUGEJA



Showcasing a range of waterfront boating activities, family entertainment, seafood cooking demonstrations and guest speaker presentations, the 2024 Boat Show spanned four full days from October 17 to 20. This year the Boat Show celebrated its 62nd annual iteration. With free entry and no bookings required, Victoria’s premier boating event hosted more than 100 exhibitors and brands and attracted thousands of water sport enthusiasts. On display were cruising yachts, ski boats, pontoons and jet skis, as well as live food and cookery sessions, and rows of marquees and kiosks set out beside Victoria Harbour. This year there were new attractions, including a heritage and wooden boat precinct and the highly popular cooking and food service area. Visitors also saw a selection of tall ships, steamboats and beautifully restored classic wooden vessels at the Boat Show.

With a family-oriented environment in mind, parents were able to bring their children to the dedicated Suzuki Marine Kidz entertainment zone. Many visitors also watched the rig rundown boat competition, while enjoying their day out with live music and plenty of prizes up for grabs. Each year the Boat Show brings together those who enjoy the boating and fishing lifestyle as well as those who are curious to learn more about water-based fun. With live talks on the Honda Marine stage, guest speakers discussed catching and eating King George whiting, southern calamari, Murray cod, snapper and southern bluefin tuna. The event came along at an ideal time as Melbourne has entered the 2024/25 boating season. Last year’s Boat Show attracted more than 42,500 visitors. Boating Industry Association of Victoria (BIAV) CEO Steve Walker said that the Boat Show had “traditionally been an indoor event at the Melbourne Convention Centre. “In 2022 it transitioned to outdoor,” he said. “It’s been quite a success in that lifestyle, and it’s doubled in size since year one.” “The Melbourne Boat Show brings a positive vibe to the community, it attracts visitors to Docklands and it [also] brings the Docklands community together,” Mr Walker said. “A lot of the locals come out and give positive affirmation about the event, and they are happy to get involved, too.” ●

Docklanders marvelled at this year’s “bigger” and “better” Diwali Festival

Melbourne’s Diwali Festival was held at Marvel Stadium in October, with 20,000 visitors flocking to Docklands for the always colourful occasion.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The free event was held on Saturday, October 26 and included an expanded Melbourne Diwali Business Expo, giveaways and a range of cultural performances. The festival was put on through a partnership between the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV) and Melbourne Diwali. RACV Melbourne Diwali CEO Anna Bhardwaj said the festival played a huge role in fostering community connections and that it was “more than just a festival”. According to Ms Bhardwaj, the vision for this year’s Diwali was for it to be a community platform that celebrates and promotes the values that define the community.

“Melbourne thrives on diversity, and Diwali is the perfect symbol of the vibrant, interconnected lives we lead,” she said. As Diwali continues to grow in popularity, so does its size and this year’s festival was the largest and most immersive celebration yet. It included enhanced entertainment through interactive zones and \$20,000 worth of giveaways, an array of eating options that took festivalgoers on a culinary journey through India’s diverse regions, and a Content Creators lounge. The Melbourne Diwali Dance Competition was a crowd favourite too, showcasing diverse Indian dance styles and local talent. RACV executive general manager membership Mark Geraghty said RACV was excited about the partnership with Melbourne Diwali to acclaim and support Victoria’s vibrant Indian community. Through the partnership, Mr Geraghty said that they delivered a vibrant and engaging festival that celebrated the rich cultural heritage of India. “RACV is proud to have been a part of such a significant cultural event that fosters respect and tradition,” he said. ●



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“An extraordinary councillor”: Rohan Leppert calls time at the City of Melbourne

Few figures are respected and admired right across the political spectrum, but outgoing Greens councillor Rohan Leppert leaves behind one such legacy at the City of Melbourne after 12 years of dedicated community service.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



And, as such, after three consecutive terms, Cr Leppert also leaves behind a gaping hole on the next council, one which will be impossible to fill, given the unparalleled standards he set for the role of councillor.

In so many ways, he has epitomised what it means to be a local politician. Talk to those who have worked with him over the years, or the many in the community who he's engaged with, and similar themes will emerge.

“The ultimate political professional” was how one former colleague best described him. Another said, “the highest integrity of anyone I've ever met” with a “commitment to safety, community and governance” that was “second to none”.

Another perhaps summarised Cr Leppert's legacy best; put simply, he is “an extraordinary councillor”.

But to the many Melburnians who don't follow council affairs too closely, they're unlikely to know just how lucky they are to have had someone of his calibre serving their city, which is so much richer for his contribution.

Docklands News caught up with Cr Leppert one last time as councillor to reflect on his incredible journey at the City of Melbourne while capturing him at his absolute “favourite place” in Royal Park.

The city's largest park is symbolic to him for many reasons. Namely, he said it represented the place where his “public life in politics starts and ends” having first campaigned to protect it from the former Liberal state government's East West Link proposal.

And coming full circle at what was his final Future Melbourne Committee meeting on September 10, he endorsed the new Royal Park Master Plan for public consultation as chair of planning – the portfolio he has championed for much of his time on council.

While Cr Leppert's “mission to make the city greener” had remained a constant, he told *Docklands News* his knowledge base and ability to understand how the “puzzle pieces that made a city fit together” had “radically changed” over the years.

It's that curiosity for what makes a city function combined with an incredible intellect and a unique ability to articulate complex information that saw him transform into somewhat of a planning master. Or as he modestly put it, “the planning wonk”.

“Over time, I've found a bit of a niche on council as the planning wonk, and I confess I'm very happy with my niche!” Rohan said.

“I've obviously learned to love planning as a profession and the concepts that underpin a well-planned city and environment,” adding that as “weird as it might sound, I genuinely enjoy reading council reports, and I think most people find it a tedious chore.”

“The reason I enjoy it is I love understanding all of the complex systems that make up the city, and then considering the report in the context of those systems,” he said.

“So, I'm not reading a report as a piece of prose from beginning to end and going ‘what do I think about this?’. I approach it as a bit more of a challenge about how this piece of the puzzle fits into the bigger picture, and that's actually enjoyable.”

With Cr Leppert originally moving

to Melbourne from Canberra in 2003, *Docklands News* asked him whether hailing from the nation's capital had any bearing on his career in politics. His answer: “not at all”.

But as he explained, his upbringing in the city that he had grown up “resenting”, did ironically provide some of the makings for the politician he would turn out to be ...

“In Canberra, I learned to resent politics because it was a politicians' town,” he said. “I also learned to resent planning because growing up in Canberra on the outskirts without a car is a pretty difficult way to live. There was no critical density; no middle.”

“It took me a long time to overcome my rejection of Canberra as a concept. It's quite a nice place to visit these days ... I think I can find the middle now, more or less. But as a planned city, I grew up resenting it and put it over there in the failed projects basket along with town planning generally.”

Hence, it might not be unreasonable to say that Melbourne owes some gratitude to Canberra for giving us Rohan Leppert complete with a template of how not to do politics and planning.

First running for council unsuccessfully in 2008, he would eventually win election in 2012 at the age of 27. At the time, he said his prime motivation was largely driven by seeing an under-representation of residents on council.

He said that he “immediately” developed a passion for planning during his first term through this lens, when he wanted to rewrite a council policy to “democratise resident access to planning decisions.”

“Basically, it was about when are drawings and assessments publicly disclosed and when are they not,” he said. “I wanted to move the dial a bit in favour of disclosure, and I realised immediately that I was in over my head and the system was about 100 times more complicated than I realised in my overconfidence as a 27-year-old.”

“So, I was learning right from the get-go. I hate to think of some of the questions and proposals I put on the table back then and what the seasoned planners in the council thought about them at the time.”

“But the role of councillor is like any other job in that there is an element of learning as you go – you can't be taught everything.”

“There's nothing quite like being at the middle of the City of Melbourne, which has by far the most complicated planning system of any of the [other] 78 [Victorian local] councils. I had to learn very quickly and I just soaked up that information.”

That desire to learn, coupled with an extraordinary work ethic, has won him many admirers. Talk to just about anyone who's tuned into a council meeting during the past 12 years, and they'll agree the most intelligent, well-informed and clearly articulated explanations and speeches were so

often delivered by Cr Leppert.

His ability to absorb complex information and present it in a way that is digestible to the community has been an asset on council, and he said that he hoped to have had some influence in improving access to decision-making.

“Planners have to learn their own language in a way and the thing I still struggle with the most has been trying to translate that complexity into something that is able to be grappled with at a democratic level ... not that it's understood by anyone but that it can be argued about by members of the public,” he said.

“The accessibility of these massively consequential decisions about the future of the places that people live in is critical. Government has to find a way of presenting information that can be argued about by residents. But that gets harder and harder because the system gets more and more complicated.”

“This state government has given up on that – their reforms to the system are all about cutting out any attempt to democratise or disclose or translate any complexity into something that can be understood by a great mass of people.”

“I think that's a great failure of democracy, because the city is going to grow up to nine million people by 2051 apparently, and Melburnians should have a genuine say over how we can do that well,” Cr Leppert said.

“I do hope I've had a bit of influence at the council level to try to resist that trend and to genuinely bring members of the public inside the municipality into the conversation about the future of our city.”

While his passion for planning will forever remain a hallmark of his legacy, his time on council wasn't without its share of challenges, all of which shaped him as a councillor equally as significantly.

In 2018, he ran for Lord Mayor in a bye-election triggered by the resignation of Robert Doyle, and despite being widely considered the most qualified, he would finish a distant third to Sally Capp who pipped Labor's parachuted candidate Jennifer Yang.

The result would unleash a rather less filtered Cr Leppert, who was never afraid to speak openly about what he considered to be an undemocratic and gerrymandered electoral system that continues to favour business interests over residents.

But despite holding his share of frustrations, it would never dull his drive to make Town Hall a fairer and more democratically accessible place.

Renowned throughout his career for going well beyond the part-time commitments expected by a councillor, Cr Leppert would eventually go full-time in 2020 when the COVID pandemic struck.

While the job had “suddenly shifted to

one of direct support” with businesses closing their doors across the city, he said the doubling workload that came with it was “a genie that the council hadn't quite put back in the bottle yet.”

“We do need to find a way to make the role of councillor more manageable and hopefully the start of the next council will present an opportunity to reset that,” he said. “We haven't quite reversed back from that position.”

While 12 years comprises too many achievements to pack into one article, Cr Leppert said that among his proudest were being part of making the City of Melbourne a “park-building machine” and serving as the council's representative on the Municipal Association of Victoria.

As a Kensington resident, he's also proud to have played a central role in planning for urban renewal in Macaulay, as well as serving across the environment and arts and culture portfolios.

His work on the heritage portfolio will also be remembered as some of his finest, having helped to deliver more heritage reviews across the municipality than what had been undertaken in more than a generation.

“Robert Doyle's mantra at the time was ‘we've protected the best, now we'll develop the rest.’ And if something rhymes, then it must be true, right?” Cr Leppert said.

“Almost all the previous heritage reviews were from early '80s. So, it took much of my first term to shake loose the idea that had set in that council had already done all the work it needed to.”

“That's been a mountain of work and getting our house in order is something I've loved.”

As he bows out, he said one of the things he would miss the most about being a councillor was working with the city's “deeply passionate” planning team, made up of professionals and experts he described as “absolutely extraordinary”.

And while he hasn't quite figured out his next career move yet, he doesn't think he'll “be too far away from the Victorian planning system” having somehow managed to recently complete a master's degree in planning and environment.

But despite feeling a “little melancholy” after 12 years, he said he was feeling optimistic about his future – the very least he deserves after an exemplary innings as one of the best councillors this city has ever seen.

“This is a privilege and an opportunity that demands your full attention and passion, and so I do this job at 110 per cent, and not the most sustainable way to be a councillor of the City of Melbourne,” Cr Leppert said.

“I think three terms is reasonable. But at the same time, I'm already missing it.” ●

A LOOK AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



We're working to ensure Melbourne is inclusive and accessible for all

BUILDING BELONGING: A GUIDE TO
ACCESS AND INCLUSION IN MELBOURNE

Live, work and play in your neighbourhood supported by inclusive programs that welcome people of all ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds.

City of Melbourne recently launched the Inclusive Melbourne Action Plan, which details how we're improving our events, programs, services and facilities to be inclusive for all.

Here are some of the activities we deliver or support.

Getting around

Eighteen per cent of Victorians live with disability so we're evolving our community spaces and resources. Check out tips for accessible public transport, parking, and getting around Melbourne.

Power your electric scooter or wheelchair at recharge points at Melbourne Town Hall, North Melbourne, East Melbourne and City libraries, and Flinders and Southern Cross stations. melbourne.vic.gov.au/accessibility-melbourne

Changing places and accessible toilets

Public toilets with full-sized change tables, ceiling hoists and peninsula toilets can be found at Melbourne Town Hall, Community Hub at the Dock, narm ngarrgu library, Hamer Hall and Melbourne Cricket Ground. melbourne.vic.gov.au/moving-around-melbourne

Multicultural Melbourne

The Multicultural Hub is a place where people from different cultures can meet, share and learn in a supportive environment. Opposite Queen Victoria Market, drop in to access free English conversation classes, Wi-Fi, and information for newly arrived migrants. melbourne.vic.gov.au/multicultural-hub

Services for our multicultural community

We have a wide range of multicultural services to help you feel at home in Melbourne, including interpreter services, programs for international students, refugee services and our Multicultural Hub. melbourne.vic.gov.au/multicultural-services

Sunflower products to signal hidden disabilities

Visit our events, tourism hubs, and libraries to collect a free Hidden Disability Sunflower lanyard or wristband to signify you have a hidden disability and need extra assistance or considerations. Staff who wear a sunflower symbol at our events are trained to assist.

Accessible entertainment

Explore wheelchair-friendly restaurants with open spaces and accessible toilets.

Plan a tour of Melbourne and download sensory maps of attractions. whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/article/accessibility-in-melbourne

Libraries a place for all

Trans, gender diverse and queer-identifying young people are invited to use the safe spaces in our libraries. Our libraries also host welcoming book clubs including Womempower, Queer, and Chinese book clubs. melbourne.vic.gov.au/book-clubs

Support for rough sleepers

The Helping Out guide lists services in our municipality for people experiencing homelessness. We also publish the Need to Know booklet in partnership with Cohealth and people with lived experience of homelessness. Available in our libraries and community hubs.

Learning and education

Head to libraries or community hubs for one-on-one technology support sessions on how to use a mobile, laptop or tablet, to connect with family and friends, and discover new interests. melbourne.vic.gov.au/event/tech-connect

Accessible playgrounds

Discover more than 40 playgrounds with accessible surfaces, swings, sensory play and features for children with a disability. melbourne.vic.gov.au/playgrounds

Inclusive swimming safety

Enrol in adult swimming classes to feel confident in the water. Instructors will guide you through the fundamentals of swimming at Melbourne City Baths. melbourne.vic.gov.au/swimming-lessons-adults

Council backs new Inclusive Melbourne Action Plan

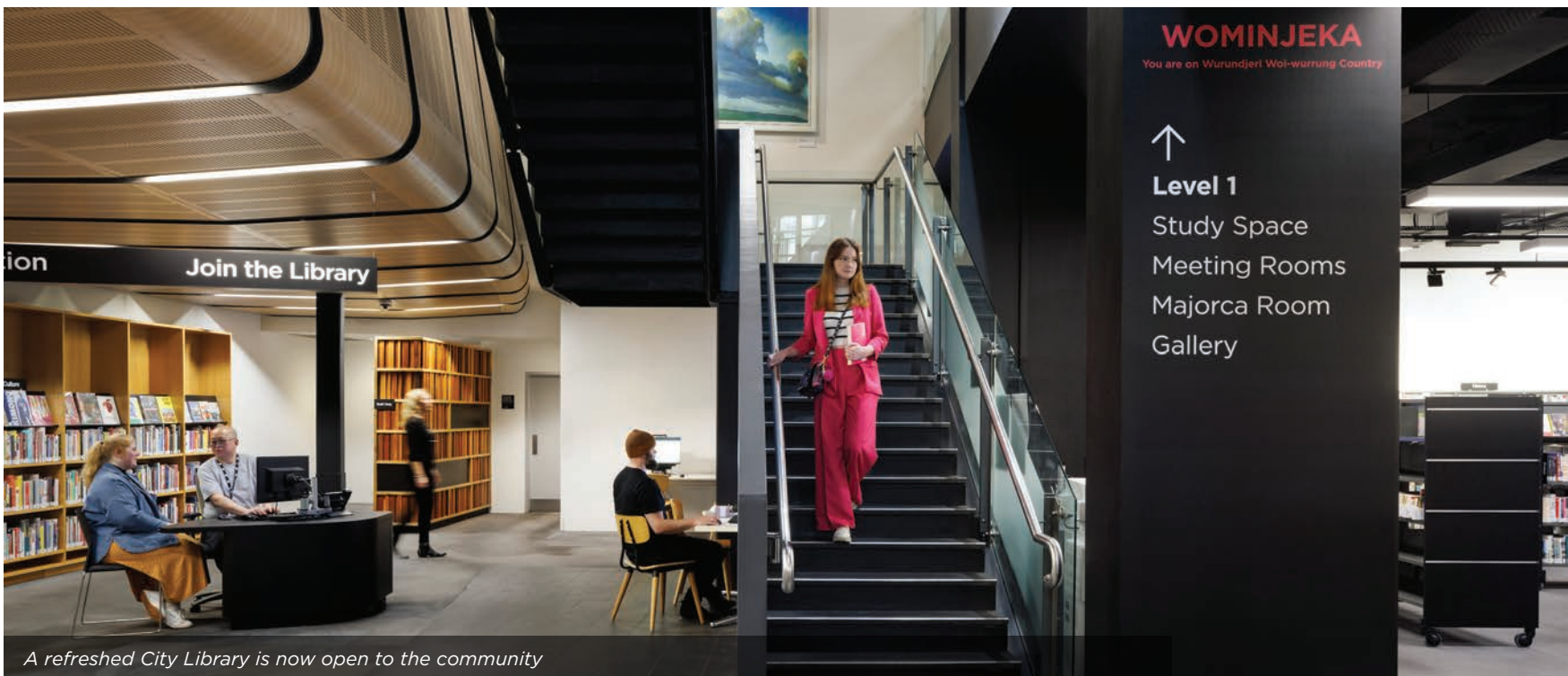
We've created a plan to continue to make our city more inclusive and fairer.

The Inclusive Melbourne Action Plan 2024-26 will deliver on City of Melbourne's Inclusive Melbourne Strategy 2022-32.

We want our city to be a place where people of all cultures, ages, genders, sexualities, backgrounds, religions, beliefs, and abilities are welcomed, celebrated, and protected.

The action plan was developed in consultation with the community and stakeholders, and focuses on community connection, empowering everyone and breaking down barriers to participation.

Read it at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/inclusive-melbourne-action-plan-2024-26



A refreshed City Library is now open to the community

A NEW CHAPTER FOR CITY LIBRARY

City Library has re-opened following renovations.

Head to Flinders Lane to check out the new look and feel which has been redesigned to meet the changing needs of our community and was co-created with feedback from library users and staff.

Across our library network, we've added more opening hours, with five of our seven neighbourhood library branches now open until 7pm Monday to Thursday.

Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries



The new gallery space at City Library

IN BRIEF

SPRING CLEAN

Spark joy at home with a spring clean and tidy up. Remember all residents are entitled to one hard waste collection per financial year and one garden waste collection a month. Book your collection at melbourne.vic.gov.au. If you live in an apartment, don't forget to speak to your building manager.

CONNECT WITH COUNCIL

You can connect with the City of Melbourne via our website. Find the information you need in 16 languages to pay rates, apply for permits, book a hard waste collection and so much more. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au to explore.

ANNUAL REPORT

As our population grows, our work to improve our reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities continues. Discover how we're supporting our communities and investing in our future through the newly released Annual Report 2023-24. Available online at melbourne.vic.gov.au/annualreport and in our libraries.

COMMUNITY FOOD GUIDE

The Community Food Guide provides information on how to access low-cost and free food programs, services and resources within the City of Melbourne and surrounding suburbs. Download a copy of the guide and explore our Community Food Map at melbourne.vic.gov.au/community-food-guide



GRANTS TO HELP OUR COMMUNITIES THRIVE

Our Social Investment Partnership program grants are now open.

If you're a not-for-profit organisation, social enterprise or B Corporation delivering programs that address key social issues in Melbourne, provide equitable opportunities for people,

and enable diverse communities and neighbourhoods to thrive, you may be eligible to apply.

Eligible projects can receive funding of between \$25,000 to \$90,000 per year for up to two years.

Applications close on 25 November.

Learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/social-investment-partnership-grants

Discover your Neighbourhood Portal



Access community grants, find local news and events in Docklands, and learn about community-building programs at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/docklands



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Division over stamp duty concession impact on Docklands

A number of Docklands apartments that are under currently construction are eligible for off-the-plan stamp duty concessions, but the development community is divided on what the impact of this will be.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



On October 21, Premier Jacinta Allan unveiled her plan to slash stamp duty on off-the-plan apartments, kicking off what was to be a week of announcements aiming to ease the burden of construction costs and speed up building.

Under the change anyone buying an apartment, unit or townhouse off the plan can claim the concession – not just first home buyers and owner-occupiers, as it was previously.

Premier Allan said, “we asked industry what they need to build more homes sooner – and this is what they said.”

The decision to scrap these thresholds has been welcomed by many developers who currently have projects under construction in Docklands.

“More apartments and townhouses getting built means more homes for young people and families to rent or buy,” Lendlease executive director development Daniel Dugina said.

“[The concessions] will offer home buyers significant savings on their future homes, while boosting the future supply of housing in Melbourne,” he said.

Mr Dugina told *Docklands News* that purchasers of Lendlease’s Regatta and Ancora developments located at Collins Wharf are eligible for the concession, including owner-occupiers and investors.

A major point of difference to the current concession is that thresholds will be removed so that it is available for apartments, units and townhouses of any value.

Currently, first home buyers and owner-occupiers can access a stamp duty concession when they buy off the plan, but the amount is capped and subject to construction cost deductions.

This means, for first home buyers and owner-occupiers to access the concession, the reduced value for stamp duty calculations following the deduction of construction costs must be under thresholds of \$750,000 for first home buyers and \$550,000 for owner-occupiers.

Under the new changes, a Victorian

using this concession who buys off the plan before any construction work starts could pay around \$28,000 less stamp duty on a \$620,000 apartment – with duty slashed from around \$32,000 to about \$4,000.

However, it is understood that off-the-plan stamp duty concessions are calculated based on the value of construction works completed to date.

This means buying an apartment early on in the construction program allows purchasers to maximise their stamp duty saving.

In Docklands, purchases made at either Regatta or Ancora over the next 12 months will be eligible for the stamp duty concession.

A spokesperson from Lendlease confirmed that there are currently 51 residences remaining for sale at Regatta, and 159 residences at Ancora that are eligible, but the concession for each dwelling will reduce as construction comes closer to completion.

While the concession changes have been welcomed by many, not everyone within the development community think they will have a lasting impact.

In a scathing op-ed published in *The Age*, property developer Maxwell Shifman said, “temporary off-the-plan stamp duty savings of \$40,000 do not make up for the extra \$700,000 a young family needs to find to buy a relatively small three-bedroom apartment.”

RMIT development expert, Professor Trivess Moore, holds similar concerns. He told *Docklands News* that while the change will help some people enter the property market it doesn’t do enough to address the housing affordability crisis.

“I’m not sure that reducing stamp duty is going to drive a whole heap of people to suddenly go ‘oh yes, now I can buy,’” he said.

According to Prof. Moore, it is the people who are already close to having the amount of savings to purchase an eligible apartment or townhouse that will benefit.

Additionally, he believes that there is a risk that the off-the-plan apartments sold may get built beyond the timeframe that is communicated to the purchaser.

Docklands resident and Lord Mayoral candidate Cr Jamal Hakim said that a multi-pronged approach supporting the development of more affordable housing is needed.

“I think one of the key things is having government starting to build on government-owned and public land, to be able to create a mix of housing options,” he said.

“Government intervention is critical, and we’ve got marketplace failure right now and a lot of that is because governments failed to put in the right programs to deliver on housing.” ●



The internet that’s challenging the market

As Docklands continues to grow and prosper so does Uniti Internet, which for the past two years has helped residents get access to faster internet and better hardware.

Uniti Internet provides an end-to-end broadband internet solution to ensure both residents and community have the best-connected foundations to work, play and thrive today and for decades to come.

Uniti offers a range of plans to suit your data needs and budget, with no lock-in contracts, and all with free activation and same-day connection.

Chief executive retail operation, Brendan Wilson, said that Uniti is proud to have built a strong presence in Docklands through working with property developers to ensure that residents have access to the OptiComm network that serves Uniti Internet’s clients.

“Wherever the Opticom network is deployed, we’re there, and make sure we’re engaging with the community in the existing communities to deliver our services,” he said.

As a Challenger brand, Uniti is both affordable and reliable, and the company has a commitment to ensuring they have a team on the ground to support anyone who

uses their internet services.

Mr Wilson said that a point of difference between their service and other competitors is that there is a “face behind the logo” and that “we are able to provide consistent and reliable support”.

Uniti also places a lot of emphasis on ensuring that all customers have high-quality hardware so that their internet performs to a high standard.

“We basically sell at a cost price so our customers can get access to the latest technology, which means that [the money] they spend on their internet is actually getting the best chance of being utilised properly,” Mr Wilson said.

Uniti is also committed to continuing to foster a strong relationship with Docklands through working with building managers and the community.

With Uniti Internet’s plans starting at \$55 per month, they not only offer reliable and high-quality internet but it’s affordable too.

“We’re here to help, we’re here to grow, we want to be trusted advisor. However, most importantly we want to be frictionless,” Mr Wilson said.

“The goal is that we’re there when people need us, but ultimately if the internet works then they should never have to talk to us.”

If you’re looking to learn more about Uniti Internet reach out to their friendly team at docklands@unitiinternet.com ●



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Moon Dog's new venue brings a tropical oasis to Docklands

“

As one of Australia's independent and most loved breweries, Moon Dog is now welcoming Melburnians to its newest venue, Moon Dog Doglands, and transforming Docklands into a bustling tropical oasis set right in the city.

”

WORDS BY
FAITH BUGEJA



Located in Marvel Stadium Concourse, Doglands is a 2,021sqm island-themed haven offering residents, local workers, visitors and sports goers a much-needed hospitality break ahead of the first siren and when the game is over.

“We've all been down to a pub on Swan Street before or after a game at the 'G but never really had that same experience around Marvel,” Moon Dog CEO and co-founder Joshua Uljans said.

“So, we're really excited to be opening somewhere in Docklands for mates to meet for a schooner and a feed,” he said.

Hosting up to 1,200 patrons, Doglands is one of a kind, featuring curving boardwalks lined with palm trees, a mezzanine level showing the enormous scale of the venue, and a large glowing 360-degree bar at the centre of it all.

“Moon Dog Doglands is a bright and bold tropical escape bringing all the best bits of Moon Dog under one, enormous roof,” Mr Uljans said.

Offering visitors express pub meals and refreshing drinks during functions and events, Doglands

will serve a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, from beers to seltzers, wines, spirits, cocktails, and more.

There is also a great choice of vacay-inspired special drinks, including Jungle Spritz with Campari, dark rum and pineapple, and a volcano bowl Negroni.

As a venue ideal for weddings, corporate events, Christmas parties and other occasions, Moon Dog Doglands is already more than just a place for a pre- or post-game drink.

The venue is also home to the Jungle Room, a 70-seat terrace restaurant opening onto Marvel Concourse and serving delicious meals seven days a week.

Following the success of their four other venues, Moon Dog's Jungle Room is open Monday to Wednesday from 4pm to 10pm, Thursday to Saturday from 12 noon to 11pm, and Sunday from 12 noon to 9pm.

“We wanted to create the same game-day atmosphere at Marvel Stadium, with a Moon Dog-style twist, and Doglands does just that,” Mr Uljans said.

“There's truly nothing like Doglands in Docklands or Melbourne. We can't wait to get the drinks pouring, and for people to be blown away by the incredible Doglands experience.” ●



*Proudly representing the
community in Docklands*

Evan MULHOLLAND MP

Liberal Member for **Northern Metropolitan Region**

96518242 EvanMulhollandMP Evan.Mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au

Shop 24, 55-63 Paringa Boulevard, Meadow Heights EvanMulholland.com.au

Authorised by Evan Mulholland MP, Shop 24/55-63 Paringa Boulevard, Meadow Heights VIC 3048.



LIBERAL
VICTORIA

73-year-old Docklander conquers Mount Kilimanjaro

Climbing the world’s highest free-standing mountain is no small feat, but 73-year-old Docklands resident Geoff Day has shown that determination knows no age limits.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



While Geoff was never an avid mountain climber, ascending Mount Kilimanjaro had long been on his bucket list. This October, he finally achieved that dream.

“I could feel I wasn’t physically as strong as I used to be, so I thought if I’m going to do Kilimanjaro, I better get cracking,” he said.

Standing at an impressive 5,895 metres, Geoff’s climb to the top of Kilimanjaro unfolded over eight days, alongside a team of five climbers and 25 dedicated support crew members from Kilimanjaro Experts.

Despite his wife Sharon’s reservations and friends questioning whether he was experiencing an “old-age crisis”, Geoff remained steadfast in his commitment to reach the peak.

The oldest of the group, Geoff arrived at the summit at 7:35am on October 6, only an hour behind the rest of the group.

“The chief guy, Robert Masha, he’s been doing it for 17 years and I’m the oldest person he’s ever taken out,” Geoff told *Docklands News*.

“It was brutal, but I wasn’t going to stop because it was hard. I never thought about that.”

To prepare for the climb, Geoff

transformed the stairwell of his apartment building into a training ground - donning his backpack and ascending 31 flights three times a week.

Though initially apprehensive about slowing down the group, Geoff was pleasantly surprised by the camaraderie he found on the trip.

“It’s potluck, who you end up with. I knew I was going to be a lot older than the rest of the group and I had no experience, so I was a bit dubious about how they would treat me,” he said.

“They were really friendly and helpful. Whoever was in front of me when we were trekking would often check to make sure I was okay. They were a great team to deal with.”

Now back in Docklands, Geoff has no plans to pursue mountain climbing further. Instead, he’s setting his sights on the next item on his bucket list - a trip to Antarctica.

“We were all talking the next morning after we came down, and they asked if I’d ever do it again. I said, ‘absolutely never’. It’s like death, taxes and I ain’t climbing Kilimanjaro a second time. But I’m happy I went and had a crack at it.” ●



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Docklands now home to accessible walking soccer

For people who have suffered a stroke or have Parkinson's, finding a way to remain active can be difficult, however, walking football has been a saving grace for many.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The modified version of soccer has a unique set of rules, including no running, no contact, and no ball above waist high, to ensure that it can be enjoyed by any player, irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity or ability.

It's a sport that Walking Football 4 Health Victoria president, Mick Trim, said is "low stress" and "suitable for anyone".

Walking Football 4 Health Victoria has recently launched a new community program in Docklands, with games played on Tuesdays between 2pm and 3pm at the Docklands Sports Courts.

However, due to only being in its early stages in Docklands, Mr Trim can't wait to see the sport grow within the community as it has in a number of other areas in the city.

"We encourage families to come and play as a team. Some of our locations have three generations of families playing, from the age of seven and up into their seventies," Mr Trim said. "There are not many sports where you can do this."

In areas where the walking football programs are well established, many

participants have found a second home and a new way to remain active despite life throwing challenges their way.

John and Ann Anderson are two walking football fanatics from the city's north-east who play up to three times a week at games run by Walking Football 4 Health.

However, the reason behind their decision to begin playing has sadder origins.

After John was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease the couple wanted to explore ways so that he could remain active, and they began looking into walking football.

Since starting, not only has John reaped the health benefits but Ann has also found a new passion.

It has helped John improve his balance and lengthen his stride while providing him with a new group of people to connect with, and a safe place to exercise.

"It's given me an outlet outside of my body and I'm on my way back to being better," John said.

He finds that by playing he feels his life is more balanced and that he is able to give back more to his family and friends.

After coming along to a few games Ann became hooked too, and now she plays three times a week, including a game on the weekend when she plays with her grandchildren.

"I come away from games feeling very exhilarated," Ann said.

If you're a Docklander interested in joining, head down to Docklands Sports Courts on Tuesday afternoons or reach out to Walking Football 4 Health Victoria president Mick Trim if you have any questions. ●

Pet's Corner



Millie the Cavoodle's daily wharf adventures

If you've ever strolled along the Docklands wharf, you might have spotted Leanne and her beloved Cavoodle, Millie.

WORDS BY
LÉA CARRÉ



Leanne's colourful rainbow slip lead is not just for show. "I've trained her well since she was a pup. She knows how to sit, stay, and she comes when I call her," Leanne explains. "She's a lot of fun, and I've met so many people thanks to her."

Millie's bright curls, which she sports proudly during her walks, get pampered every six weeks at the groomer. "She's very spoiled," Leanne laughs.

Millie, who was brought from a breeder as a puppy, has been the highlight of Leanne's life ever since. Whether when they're meeting their neighbour's dog or simply enjoying their walk together, this pair adds a little extra warmth to Docklands every day! ●



ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen, your local state MP.
I'm here to help. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

(03) 9328 4637
office@ellensandell.com

60 Leicester Street
Carlton VIC 3053



Meet your new Upper House Greens MP - Anasina Gray-Barberio

I'm excited to introduce Anasina Gray-Barberio, our newest Victorian Greens MP.

Anasina works in social services across our diverse northern suburbs. She is incredibly proud of her Samoan heritage and is a strong and dedicated advocate for Pasefika communities across Melbourne, making sure their voices are heard on issues like health, education and climate change. In November, Anasina will become the newest Greens MP in Victoria, stepping in to replace Samantha Ratnam, who is running for Federal Parliament in the seat of Wills, which includes the suburbs of Brunswick, Coburg, Pascoe Vale, Fawkner, Glenroy and surrounds. Anasina is going to be an incredible MP and I'm excited for the community to get to know her. "I'm very proud and honoured to be your new representative for Northern Metro," Anasina said. "I'm from the Pacific Islands and I'm so grateful to bring my passion and lived experience to Parliament to address the climate emergency that's unfolding in our Pacific region." "The frequency with which climate disasters are happening everywhere, including here in Victoria, shows that the climate crisis



is already at our doorstep," she said. "Our people's survival is on the line. Their stories are important and need to be amplified." Anasina's perspective and experience is crucial, especially as we continue to see the Labor State Government's alarming trend of approving new fossil fuel projects. With more than a dozen new gas projects in the

pipeline, local communities are forced to fight off disastrous projects time and time again. Near Geelong, the local community is again having to fight a giant gas terminal proposed for Corio Bay - a project that has already been rejected once. The Greens are ensuring the community's opposition is

clearly heard in Parliament. Community pressure is a powerful force for change. Recently, fossil fuel giant TGS pulled out of what would have been the world's largest seismic blasting project here in the Otway Basin, on Southern Sea Country, following immense community pressure. This project would have caused catastrophic harm to the marine environment to search for new oil and gas under the sea floor. Years of opposition from First Nations groups, ocean lovers, and the Greens has paid off. But communities shouldn't have to do this work. Governments shouldn't be approving new fossil fuel projects in the first place. We are in a climate crisis. We don't need any more oil and gas. In fact, Victoria exports more gas than we could ever use. Anasina's background as a community advocate and her deep understanding of climate issues will be an incredible asset as we continue to push the Labor government to prioritise people and planet, not fossil fuel profits. ●

Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
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"A sub-optimal learning experience": concerns mount over University High's new CBD campus

University High School is set to open a temporary campus in the CBD to address growing enrolment and capacity challenges faced by inner-city schools.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



The state government announced on October 9 that it had secured a seven-year lease on 399 Lonsdale St in response to the increased demand for spots at the popular school. Previously an educational facility, the site will accommodate up to 400 students, with all Year 9s from the Parkville-based high school transitioning to the new location starting in Term One of next year. The school is currently operating a temporary campus for Year 9 students at North Melbourne Primary School. Parents, however, have expressed concerns surrounding the future of their

children's education, with West Melbourne parent and schooling advocate Mary Masters describing the new campus as a "sub-optimal learning experience". "Year 9 is a notoriously challenging year where kids are acting out and testing their boundaries. Is it a good idea to be putting them into an office building in the city?" she said. There is no outdoor space at the new campus, with the nearest green area located at Flagstaff Gardens, around 650 metres away. Ms Masters emphasised that the issue wasn't about conducting education within a high-rise, but in the inadequate communication and consultation with parents. She referenced the experience of one parent of two local students, one of whom is in Year 6 attending classes at Docklands Primary School's new campus at The District Docklands shopping centre. Ms Masters said that the parent's other child, who attends University High, received a notice about the relocation to the CBD tucked inside a note brought home in their school bag.

"We understand that space is a premium and that our inner-city kids don't necessarily get sports ovals and large backyards. We all live in a city, so vertical schools are what can be expected," Ms Masters told Docklands News. "But if it continues to be this band-aid, piecemeal solution that we have seen at Docklands Primary and now at Uni High - splitting up the schools, putting more demand on teaching staff and budgets - that's an awful long-term solution." "If it was to be a serious, strategic consideration of repurposing an entire office building for a high school, we know that can work. But there is not enough strategic planning and investment in permanent strategies." Ms Masters has also been an advocate for establishing a secondary school on an available plot of state-owned land in the Arden Precinct, emphasising that "there's no reason not to" explore this solution to alleviate the capacity issues faced by schools like University High. "There is so much state-owned land where you could just plonk a school - a significant



school, the size of Uni High. The population projections the way that they are currently for the area, if they were to open a new high school tomorrow in Arden, it would be full," she said. "The way the government is dealing with it is detrimental to our kids and their learning. There's such a clear solution - build a new school." Minister for Education Ben Carroll said, "The new University High campus will make sure this excellent school can continue to accommodate families and students in its zone." ●

Dockland Studios Melbourne Pty Ltd (ACN 101 578 303)

LAND ACT 1958

Notice is hereby given that Docklands Studios Melbourne Pty Ltd (ACN 101 578 303) has applied to lease, pursuant to Section 134 of the *Land Act 1958*, for a term of twenty one (21) years, Crown land being Crown Allotment 2003, 2004 and 2052 at West Melbourne, City of Melbourne, Parish of Melbourne North, formerly referred to as Crown Allotment 2012, Parish of Doutta Galla and Crown Allotment 2005, at West Melbourne, City of Melbourne, Parish of Melbourne North containing 8478 square metres (more or less) as a site for "Operation of a film and television studio on the Premises and associated purposes including car parking, warehousing, storage, temporary office accommodation and other ancillary uses associated with the operation of a film and television studio."

DENTIST

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Dr Aisling Cromie

QUESTION:

What do you enjoy doing the most on a warm day in Docklands?

Faces of Docklands



Julie
Having a wonderful lunch of prawns at Berth.



Apel Mahmoud
Wandering around the wharf with an ice cream.



Andy
Enjoying the sunshine on the pier after work.



Steph
Strolling along the promenade to the library and the pastry shop.



School streets for Docklands' kids

Children learn from everything they see, hear, smell or taste.

The way from home to school and back is formative – we all remember it. This journey can be rich in sensory and social experiences along the way, or rather constrained, strapped in the back of a car. The difference largely depends on the safety of walking independently.

Streets have been and can be lively places of social encounter, where children can afford playing in many ways, and learn from observing street life. This has been eroded since the 1920s with more and more space being appropriated by motor vehicles. Crossing the street has been increasingly limited too, and ultimately constrained to designated locations.

Docklands has ample pedestrian promenades, but the suburb wasn't coherently planned for children's independent mobility. Now it also has a primary school with more than 600 students, and the case for a high school is mounting.

Yet while some streets are safe for children to walk others are not. And that is the crux of the problem – a single unsafe crossing can broadly deter walking.

Docklands Drive is one of the biggest impediments for children's mobility. The intersections at St Mangos Lane and Harbour Esplanade leading to Docklands Primary School were designed for cars and are dangerous for children.

Crossings are under-dimensioned in width, and green light cycles are too short for the myriads of little steps wanting to get to school. Less than a fifth of public space and very limited time are allocated for pedestrians. It is a major barrier to pedestrian and cyclist mobility.

As at most signalised intersections in Melbourne, pedestrians still have to push a button to ask for their right to cross. During the 2020-21 pandemic green lights for pedestrians were automated throughout Docklands as in the CBD, but then were returned to the mid-20th century car-focused status quo.

Prioritising carbon intensive transport modes ahead of the carbon neutral ones doesn't help transitioning to a clean energy future either.

At a symbolic level, the historic "Drive" designation is also implicitly endorsing high velocity, which is incompatible with child-friendly street design. Docklands Drive's urbanising character with its increasing numbers of pedestrians and a multiplicity of crossings is no longer consistent with the definition of "Drive" in the State of Victoria's naming rules. Rather, it would fit the classification of a "Parade" better. But are we ready to re-imagine our ways?

In the meanwhile, many cities are pushing ahead at an impressive tempo. In the UK and Europe ever more "school streets" are being closed to motorised traffic, during school times, or permanently. Paris has



pedestrianised more than 200 street-sections in front of schools and is aiming for many more. The key to success was temporary testing, using low-cost interventions first, demonstrating the difference. People then judged for themselves, and generally decided to turn the temporary into permanent, which then could be further upgraded.

"What pops up must come down", the saying goes, but good things that pop up stay on. It would cost little to test what would happen if the northern section of St Mangos Lane was temporarily closed to vehicles. Children are not shy of testing difference. Maybe we should learn from them to re-imagine our public spaces.

As Docklands is gradually shifting from

a large-scale property-development to a series of thriving neighbourhoods, it is time to reconsider how public space is allocated and designed.

A built environment that is fair to our children and can give hope for a dignified future has to be one in which they have independent mobility. The answers to our challenges are out there for all to see. ●

Dr Elek Pafka

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
PAFKAE@UNIMELB.EDU.AU



Port of Melbourne is seeking community input into the development of our 2055 Port Development Strategy

As part of Port of Melbourne's 2055 Port Development Strategy we are seeking input from the community to ensure our roadmap for growth and development adapts to their evolving needs and to broader changes in our operating circumstances.

We will be holding an online community workshop on
Monday 25 Nov 6pm – 8pm

If you would like to register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/gXZZPfVJXA> or scan the QR code for more information.

Port of Melbourne



Community3088 Inc. welcomes you

For those that are new to Docklands or who haven't heard about the suburb's new resident and small business community group, Community3008 Inc. has been formed to fill the need for a membership-based community group in Docklands.

The group evolved as a community connection project via the Docklands Stakeholder Group and is supported by the City of Melbourne.

The group is still in the early stages and encourages new members to not only join, but also to become part of the committee, so you can have input into what activities and meeting information nights you'd like to experience and share with others in Docklands.

An active committee and membership is vital so the community can work together representing, and advocating for, those who live and run their small businesses in our great suburb.

After a very busy September, Community3008 Inc. took some time off in October

to concentrate on forward planning and growing membership. We do hope that our "Meet the Lord Mayor candidates" night in September gave all who turned up a better insight into our potential Lord Mayors and their offering to the Docklands community.

November's meeting date is yet to set, but we are working on a "Marina-based" night and a catch-up on some of the local happenings around Docklands.

If you are already a member, a meeting date will be sent out soon via email, so please make sure contact@community3008.org.au is in your address book to prevent notices going into your junk folder.

For those who have not yet joined up you can do so on our website at www.community3008.org.au and hit the "join" button. Yearly membership is \$5 per person.

For those wanting more information about Community3008 Inc. the following is the group's CAV (Consumer Affairs Victoria) purpose statement, and more can be found here: www.consumer.vic.gov.au/clubs-and-fundraising/incorporated-associations

Community 3008 Inc. endeavours to be for the benefit and well-being of the community of the Docklands, people, and place.

We aim to pursue this through:

- Identifying, investigating, and advocating on issues of concern for the Docklands Community as a whole, being businesses, residents, individual community groups and our general Docklands environs.
- Hosting events and initiatives, to promote the flow of information, informed decision making and community bonding.
- Facilitating and/or participating in networks and activities to represent and advance the interests of the Docklands community, including how Docklands is positively promoted as a community to live, work and play.
- Linking up in partnership with CoM neighbourhood community groups, to additionally promote a joint community neighbourhood networking.

We are looking forwards to seeing lots of new faces at the November meeting, for more details feel free to email us at contact@community3008.org.au or visit our website at www.community3008.org.au

We are also on Facebook: www.facebook.com/community3008inc ●

Movember is calling all Mo Bros and Mo Sisters!



Movember is the leading global charity changing the face of men's health. They exist to stop men dying too young by tackling some of the most complex health issues facing men today – mental health, suicide, prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

Thanks to the seven million people from across the globe who have got behind the movement, Movember is proud to have funded more than 1,300 men's health projects around the world.

These are programs that challenge health systems, confront gender norms, reduce health inequalities, and encourage men to adopt healthy behaviours.

They continue to make noise, push boundaries, and shape the health and wellbeing of men for generations to come. Because having healthier men means a healthier world.

Around the globe, men are dying too young. It doesn't have to be like this. Did you know:

- On average, men are dying 4.5 years earlier than women, and for largely preventable reasons
- Globally we lose one man to suicide every minute of every hour, every day
- Testicular cancer is the most common cancer in men aged from 15 to 34
- Prostate cancer is the most common for men over 45

How can you get involved?

Grow a Mo

Even if you can't grow a showstopper, don't worry: the worst moustaches start the best conversations.

Make a Move

Run or walk 60kms during the month of Movember. That's 60kms for the 60 men we lose to suicide each hour, every hour, across the world

This Movember we encourage all men and women of Docklands to get involved, help shine a light on men's health and raise some much-needed funds.

Sign up at www.movember.com and share your Mo or Move with the Docklands community. ●

MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK

Are you interested in what could happen with Central Pier?

MMHN invites the Docklands community

In response to the Docklands precinct community's interest, Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) now invites you to join us at a presentation about our proposal to replace the demolished Central Pier with a large floating pontoon pier.

This pontoon pier would be constructed off-site without nuisance to residents.

Come along at **5pm on Thursday November 14** to the City of Melbourne Waterways Lounge at level one, 120/439 Docklands Drive, near the corner of NewQuay, via a lift or stairs. Our proposal includes shared community facilities, as well as a Maritime Experience Centre surrounded by a promenade and with a Maritime Garden at its tip, overlooking Victoria Harbour.

RSVP by November 10 via email to info@mmhn.org.au

Maritime Heritage at Docklands

At the aquatic heart of Docklands precinct, the 2024 Melbourne Boat Show proudly featured Maritime Heritage this year. Thanks to MMHN member and Boating Industry Association (Vic) CEO Steve Walker, the Boat Show this year provided a special opportunity to showcase the unique maritime status of the Docklands precinct.

Along the wharves of Victoria Esplanade, and on Victoria Harbour itself, the public had valuable access to information and conversations about the 17 Maritime Museums of Victoria dotted around Victoria's coast, our stunning lighthouses, and the Wooden Boats Association.

We also had the rare opportunity to climb aboard several vessels in Melbourne's heritage fleet. Finally in brilliant sunshine the 3rd annual MMHN and Offshore and Specialist Ships Australia presented the young maritime artists of Docklands Primary School with Maritime Art Awards on centre stage.

It was a memorable weekend for many on Victoria Harbour.

Bolte West Precinct Marine Services

MMHN is pleased to report progress by the City of Melbourne on the long-awaited and desperately needed marine services

depot on the Yarra River in the Bolte West precinct under the Bolte Bridge. Planning notices are on display at 208 Lorimer St.

The absence of such a depot has been a glaring deficit in the Docklands precinct from the outset, which is why MMHN list it as a major objective. See an outline on our MMHN website at:



Melbourne at the 2024 International Congress of Maritime Museums (ICMM)

MMHN represented Melbourne at the recent 2024 International Congress of Maritime Museums held in two European port cities, Rotterdam and Amsterdam, comparable to Melbourne, which is Australia's largest container port.

A total of 190 delegates from 50 countries attended the Congress, presenting a program encompassing many current global maritime industry issues, a "tsunami" of world's best practice in relation

to maritime heritage preservation, exhibition, ocean literacy, the Blue Economy, and decolonisation.

MMHN was buoyed and optimistic to find that the Melbourne "approach" and the MMHN "agenda" compares so favourably with organisations elsewhere, many of which enjoy centuries of maritime tradition, an abundance of maritime assets, and secure government support!

In 2026, the next ICMM conference will be held in Sydney at the Australian National Museum (ANMM). The Sydney conference program is to be devised by the ICMM itself, and MMHN is optimistic that it will have Australia-wide representation.

MMHN will be well-placed to share Melbourne's rich but poorly acknowledged maritime heritage to a global as well as an Australia-wide audience. ●

Jackie Watts

CHAIR
INFO@MMHN.ORG.AU



Dr Mike Edgley

CHIROPRACTOR
DOCKLANDS HEALTH



Connect with craft at The Cauldron

If you haven't already discovered our beautiful little shop space full of colour and wonderful crafty goodness, the next time you are in The District do swing by The Cauldron – craft connect, Shop 11, Wharf St.

We are a community connection program, created via the Docklands Stakeholder Group and supported by the City of Melbourne.

The aim of the program is to connect people who live and work in Docklands using crafting as the conduit.

We are currently holding "social crafting" sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 5pm to 7pm, though it is always best to check for any updates via our social media sites or email.

What is social crafting? Social crafting has many names, historically it would have been similar to a "sewing circle". More current terms are "crafternoons", "sip and stitch", and "makers sessions".

Essentially, we create a space where anyone who handcrafts, knits, crochets, hand stitches, draws, writes poetry, etc. can turn up with their own projects and meet others in the community who also ply their craft, and then work in a supportive, inclusive, encouraging group environment.

We are very excited to announce that the program is now hosting craft classes. Everything from paper craft such as making your own Christmas cards, wrap and tags, and basic hand stitching to create your own felt and fabric decorations, to learning how to knit and exploring the intricate craft skill of tatting.

More classes are being added weekly. For more information you can see all available classes on the Try Booking site by searching Docklands on www.trybooking.com

If you are an experience crafter yourself and would like to offer classes in our space we'd love to hear from you too. Our aim is to offer craft skills and projects to the community with a percentage of class fees being directed back into the program so we can continue our social and charity crafting sessions for all.

For those who enjoy crafting for charity we have a healthy supply of wool and knitting needles, which can be borrowed, to knit and crochet items that we donate the KOGO. KOGO is a Melbourne based charity group that gives handmade knitted and crocheted items to vulnerable people experiencing hardship in our Australian community.

Being handmade, donations like scarves, blankets, and beanies not only provide physical comfort and warmth but also add an emotional boost for those receiving items knowing they have been crafted by a community that cares.



If you have knitted donations, you can drop them at the shop on social crafting nights or contact us via email.

More on KOGO can be found here: www.kogo.org.au/welcome

If you'd like to find out more about our community crafting program, we are having an open night on Wednesday November 6 from 4pm to 7pm, with a guest speaker from KOGO explaining more about their mission.

We hope to meet plenty of new community members and it's the perfect way to drop by meet the team and explore our space.

For further details please contact us: thecauldroncraftconnect@gmail.com
Instagram: [@thecauldroncraftconnect](https://www.instagram.com/thecauldroncraftconnect)
Facebook: The Cauldron – craft connect: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557615314083 ●

OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Owners Corporations must not sit on their hands when it comes to building defects claims

There are strict time limitation periods in Victoria's building laws, which require owners of buildings to file their claims at VCAT or in the Courts promptly.

Owners Corporations owe a strict duty to repair and maintain its common property, and this duty can be enforced by any member of the relevant Owners Corporation.

If an Owners Corporation suspects that there is damage to common property (or accelerated deterioration) from either:

- defective workmanship or building practice; or
- defective design by the builder / developer/ architect.

Then the Owners Corporation should immediately engage an expert engineer to inspect the common property, commission an expert report on the exact cause of the defect, and an explanation as to how it should be fixed.

It is well known that an Owners Corporation has only up to 10 years from the date of the building's occupancy certificate to bring about a claim for defects of the common property.

What is not so well known is that the time limitation period is reduced to six years in circumstances where the Owners Corporation becomes aware of the existence of the defect (or is "reasonably" taken to be on notice of the existence of the defect).

If the Owners Corporation has missed the time period in which to file a claim, then it will have no choice but to fund any repairs themselves by raising special levies.

Section 134(2) of the Building Act allows for an extended limitation period for building actions related to non-compliant cladding products, which would have otherwise expired on or after July 16, 2019, but before

December 1, 2023, providing that these actions can be brought more than 10 years but less than 15 years after the issue of the occupancy permit or certificate of final inspection.

Care should also be taken to find out whether the builder's company is still in business. If it has been de-registered, then there will be no utility in bringing a claim.

An Owners Corporation should also investigate whether the builder sub-contracted to an alternative company to complete a particular part of the building, as this will have a bearing on who the Owners Corporation can chase for rectification.

The Supreme Court recently determined in a case the long-held view that an Owners Corporation may sue a developer for defects under the Domestic Building Contracts Act, although only in circumstances where the particular contract between the developer and builder makes explicit reference to the nature of the building work to be performed.

This is a complex area of the law, and great care should be taken in engaging any expert or in taking any steps to bring a claim.

However, it is recommended that an Owners Corporation ought to be commissioning building-wide reports from around the five-year mark after completion with a view to bringing a claim for any defects against all relevant wrongdoers.

It is very rare that a builder's company would still be registered ten years after the project is completed, further limiting the window of opportunity for an Owners Corporation to seek redress. ●

Tom Bacon

STRATA TITLE LAWYERS

TOM@STRATATITLELAWYERS.COM.AU



CHAMBER UPDATE

Event season in Docklands

The 2024 Melbourne Boat Show, held from October 17 to 20 in Docklands, was an impressive showcase for boating enthusiasts, featuring a range of new launches, exclusive deals, and interactive experiences. Over four days, the event highlighted the latest in recreational and luxury boating plus the chance to preview high-tech marine gadgets, water sports equipment, and safety tools.

WORDS BY DANIEL HIBBERD



The Boat Show also catered to families with kids' activities and boating safety workshops, adding a community vibe to the Docklands backdrop. This year's show lived up to its reputation as a premier boating event in Australia and with the increased visitation to our perfectly suited location, we look forward to Docklands being the home of the Boat Show in the coming years.

Diwali 2024 at Marvel Stadium was a spectacular celebration of lights, culture, and community, bringing together thousands into our vibrant Docklands location. A huge congratulations to the organisers who have made Diwali an event that has put Docklands on the cultural map for Melbourne. Diwali's expansive interactive zones, lively cultural performances, and a bustling marketplace filled with artisans and festive items make it an unforgettable experience for all ages.

We're also excited for the launch of the Docklands Farmers Market on Sunday, December 1! Located along the vibrant NewQuay Promenade, this morning market



will feature an array of fresh, locally sourced produce, artisanal goods, and specialty items. Shoppers can enjoy delicious baked treats and seasonal fruits and vegetables—all from regional vendors, making it an ideal spot to stock up on holiday produce while supporting local farmers and artisans.

Adding to the festivities, there will be a special Christmas theme with free kids' activities, community group involvement, and there could even be a visit from Santa, making it a perfect family outing for the season!

A visit to Stadium Square at Marvel Stadium is a must this Christmas season! The area will be transformed into an AFL-themed Christmas wonderland, bringing festive cheer mixed with Aussie sports pride. It's perfect for fans of all ages, with fetching decorations, interactive displays, and photo opportunities that celebrate the holiday season with a unique footy twist.

While you're in the area, head over to The District Docklands to run into even more Christmas fun! The District Docklands will be offering festive activities and an array of shops for all your holiday gift needs. It's the ultimate destination to combine holiday cheer, shopping, and family-friendly experiences. ●

Quiz



1. What is the name of the tallest building in Australia?
2. In the year 2000, who won the AFL Grand Final?
3. Holden Caulfield is the main character of which J.D. Salinger novel?
4. How many apartments have been built at Docklands newest build-to-rent, Home Docklands?
5. What new cultural precinct does Lord Mayor Nick Reece hope to establish if re-elected?
6. Where in Docklands can you find one of Melbourne Fashion Week's fashion capsules?
7. What is the title of the soon to be released biopic movie filmed at Docklands Studios that tells the story of a UK pop crooner using a CGI monkey?
8. Battenberg cake is traditionally covered in what?
9. A flibbertigibbet is what kind of person?
10. What did Melburnians call the slums that occupied the West Melbourne Swamp before it was drained and became the Docklands port?
11. *The Power of Love* by Huey Lewis and the News (pictured) was featured in which '80s film?
12. What was Marvel Stadium called under its first commercial naming rights deal awarded in 2000?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Q1 2. Essendon 3. *The Catcher in the Rye* 4. 676 5. Little India 6. Collins Street 7. *Better Man* 8. Marzipan 9. Chattering or Flighty 10. Dudley Mansions 11. Back to the Future 12. Colonial Stadium

5x5

No. 306

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

P		L		Y
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SOLUTIONS

PALSY, ELITE, NOVEL, CHEEP, EARLS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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Sudoku

No. 041

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

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HARD

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			3	5			4	
		1						
		3			8	9		5

SOLUTIONS

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

Wordfind

Theme: Shoes

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- BOOT
- BROGUES
- ESPADRILLE
- INSOLES
- LACES
- LOAFERS
- PLIMSOLL
- PUMPS
- SANDAL
- SLIPPERS
- SNEAKERS
- SOLE
- STILETTOS
- TONGUE
- TRAINERS
- WELLINGTONS
- WINGTIPS

Secret message: To walk a mile

Crossword

No. 041

ACROSS

- 1 Deciphers (6)
- 4 Muddy (6)
- 10 Fragrance (5)
- 11 Appalling (9)
- 12 Food (9)
- 13 Avoid (5)
- 14 Maul (6)
- 15 Gray (4)
- 19 Medicine container (4)
- 20 Previously (6)
- 24 Uncertainty (5)
- 25 Globe-trotter (9)
- 27 Artificial language (9)
- 28 Outranking (5)
- 29 Purchasing (6)
- 30 Bug (6)

DOWN

- 1 Trade (8)
- 2 Optional (8)
- 3 Murdering (7)
- 5 Blasphemous (7)
- 6 Fair-haired (6)
- 7 Animation pioneer (6)
- 8 Measure (4)
- 9 From the UK (7)
- 16 Choosing actors (7)
- 17 Kicking a ball between two of these gives a score (7)
- 18 Find and fetch (8)
- 19 Ex-soldier (7)
- 21 Raise (7)
- 22 Meaning modifier (6)
- 23 Provide (6)
- 26 Riding (4)

1		2		3			4	5		6		7
					8		9					
10					11							
12									13			
14						15						
										17		18
				19				20	21			
22		23										
24					25		26					
27										28		
29								30				

SOLUTION

B	E	E	R				N	I	I	A	N	B
A	S	J	G		V		L					
E	A	O	G		O	N	V			S	E	
I	A	A	T		E		J	S				
H	E	T	E	A	V	A	L		I	B	O	O
L	V									S		V
R	O	F	E		B	E	F		A	I		
H				H	O			E		S		
A	E		L	I			N	I				
E	G	O	O		T	N	E	W	I	H	L	I
N	N		O		T							
S	O	I	O									
I	T											
B	R	E	A	K								
B	R	E	A	K								

Codeword

No. 041

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

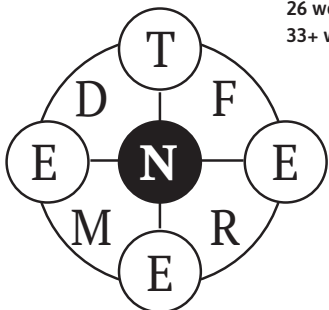
SOLUTIONS

G	L	G	A	H	I	A	I	W	A	R	T	S	O	L	P
92	52	42	52	22	12	02	61	81	21	91	51	11			
N	W	Z	V	J	D	J	K	U	X	B	E	C	O	B	I
51	21	11	01	6	8	3	9	5	8	3	2	1			

9-Letter

No. 041

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".

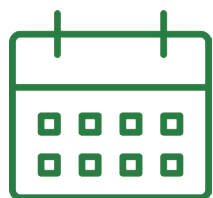


Reference:
Collins Concise
English Dictionary

Today's Focus:
18 words: Good
26 words: Very good
33+ words: Excellent

SOLUTIONS
deneer, defereat, DEFERMENT, demerit, dene, dent, emend, enter, entered, entree, erne, eterne, fend, fender, ferment, FERMENTED, fern, freedmen, freemen, mend, mender, mentee, need, needer, nerd, rend, rend, rent, rented, retene, retere, trend, tern, treen, trend

WHAT'S ON November



Dive into Docklands
this November!



DOCKLANDS SUNDAY MARKET

Enjoy a walk by the harbour, grab some lunch, explore fantastic craft shops and discover unique handmade items and support local artisans.

Newquay Promenade, Docklands

SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER, 10AM – 3PM



BOURNE LOCAL MARKET

Visit the Collins Square main retail plaza and explore a carefully curated variety of local market stalls, featuring handmade crafts to artisanal treasures.

727 Collins St, Docklands

THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER, 10AM – 2PM



HERITAGE TOURS OF THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Learn about the history of seafaring and the Mission's role in supporting the thousands of seafarers who visit the Port of Melbourne each year. Free, book online.

Seafarers Mission, 717 Flinders St

12 – 28 NOVEMBER



AUSTRALIAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Experience Australia's elite singles, dance, pairs and synchronised figure skating athletes battling it out for the title of Australian champion.

O'Brien Icehouse, Docklands

29 NOVEMBER – 6 DECEMBER



THE FANS STRIKE BACK

Visit a spectacular showcase of Stars Wars memorabilia, featuring one of the largest private collections in the world. Enjoy rare artefacts, immersive displays and unforgettable experiences.

Level 1/116 Studio Ln, Docklands

23 NOVEMBER – 31 MARCH



LIBRARY CINEMA

Come along for contemporary, classic and documentary films on the big screen. Feel free to stay for snacks and a chat afterwards. November's film screening is *Brazen Hussies*.

Library at The Dock

MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER, 3PM – 5PM



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Library at The Dock

SAT 30 NOVEMBER, 10.30AM – 11.30AM

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