

MARCH 2025 EDITION #216

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Docklands' new arts school

Art has been Julia Mindraoui's passion for as long as she can remember, but it wasn't until last year that the stars aligned, and she was ready to turn her passion into her life. She has since established The Artsy Kid at 126 Lorimer St in Yarra's Edge. More on page 5.

Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

"A complete rethink": Calls for state government to return to E-Gate

“With construction of the West Gate Tunnel Project nearing an end, calls are reemerging for the state government to revisit urban renewal in E-Gate to address critical shortfalls in housing, schools and open space.”

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



E-Gate, a 20-hectare parcel of government-owned land just north of Docklands abutting Footscray Rd between Dudley St and Moonee Ponds Creek, has been long earmarked to house more than 10,000 new residents.

But in the words of RMIT University Emeritus Professor Environment and Planning, Michael Buxton, original visions for the precinct have been just about

“torpedoed” by the West Gate Tunnel Project's (WGTP) Wurundjeri Way extension into Docklands.

Speaking with *Docklands News* in February, Prof. Buxton said with the toll road project affecting around 30 per cent of land in E-Gate, the government had substantially reduced its attractiveness and viability as an urban renewal project.

However he also said that with growing pressures on housing, open space and education in the inner-city, the site presented the government with an opportunity to make up for past planning failures and give something back to the community.

In February, *Docklands News* reported that long-held hopes for a desperately needed secondary school to be established at the Costco building in Docklands had been dashed, with a pathology company understood to have purchased the site.

The government has also yet to allocate land in Arden for new schools despite opening new campuses for Docklands Primary School and University High in The District Docklands and a CBD office building, respectively.

Also in February, sibling publication *North West City News* reported on the debate surrounding the City of

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Council "actively engaging" with ACCC after Citywide sale blocked

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Melbourne federal election preview



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The deadline for the April
edition is March 28

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Support for Little India to be established in Docklands

Lord Mayor Nick Reece’s election pledge to establish a new Little India precinct in Melbourne has been met with enthusiasm across the community, and many are hoping that it could find its home in Docklands.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Announced during October’s City of Melbourne election campaign, Cr Reece said \$10 million would be dedicated to establishing a Little India precinct in Melbourne, which is home to the country’s largest Indian diaspora.

According to the most recent Census data, around 15 per cent of Docklands residents were born in India and the suburb has been the centre of significant Indian cultural celebrations in recent years.

While the location of the precinct has yet to be determined, the Lord Mayor has previously stated that “I wouldn’t be surprised if it ended up being in Docklands” but that the council would consult with the community.

In October last year, Docklands hosted Melbourne’s largest-ever Diwali festival at Marvel Stadium’s new town square precinct, which saw more than 20,000 people gather.

The Lord Mayor said last year that he wanted Diwali to become Australia’s largest event and committed to “an unprecedented investment” of \$1 million to support cultural events in the city.

He also pledged that his first “overseas mission” as Lord Mayor would be to travel to India to continue strengthening ties and said that he also wanted to establish a sister city relationship with a city in India.



The Lord Mayor told *Docklands News* in February that he wanted to see Melbourne have a proper home for Little India, like Chinatown, to celebrate the city’s fastest growing cultural community.

“A Little India precinct would be a wonderful way to recognise and celebrate the massive contribution the Indian community has made to Melbourne’s cultural and economic life,” Cr Reece said.

“It would be a place where our Indian community and all Melburnians could come to celebrate important occasions like Diwali, Holi, India playing cricket, the latest Bollywood movie, or just to enjoy a good curry.”

“Multiculturalism is one of our greatest strengths, and we support a range of activations to celebrate our diversity.”

Further details regarding suitable locations and community engagement have yet to be confirmed, but the City of Melbourne said councillors would have an opportunity to share their priorities as part of the council plan process in the coming months.

Melbourne Diwali director Gautam Gupta said he warmly welcomed the Lord Mayor’s

support for the city’s Indian community and that a new Little India precinct could help revitalise Docklands.

“The pledge to establish Little India in Docklands, coupled with a commitment to provide \$1 million annually for Indian cultural events, signals a transformative boost to Melbourne’s international standing as a global city,” Mr Gupta said.

“Little India is poised to attract millions in investment, revitalise Docklands and drive economic dynamism that resonates worldwide. Engaging the local community is essential, but our focus is on positioning Melbourne as a vibrant hub for global connectivity and innovation.”

Mr Gupta also urged the City of Melbourne to consult extensively with Docklands residents, ensuring that the local community’s vision was reflected as “we build this great new chapter for our city”.

A Community3008 spokesperson said the local residents’ group supported proposals that enhanced community connection with local cultural events.

“With more than half of our Docklands residents born overseas, celebrating a range of cultural events in our precinct would benefit community connection and local commerce,” the spokesperson said.

“Our promenades are perfect spaces for residents to celebrate their heritage and invite their neighbours to join in and experience different customs and traditions.”

“The establishment of a ‘Little India’ in Docklands seems appropriate given our large local Indian community and would greatly benefit our suburb via social and commercial investment.”

“We’ve seen the great success of the Diwali festivals in the past few years and to add such inclusive cultural colour to Docklands on a permanent basis would be wonderful and it would be good to see the Lord Mayor’s election promise come to fruition.” ●

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Council “actively engaging” with ACCC after Citywide sale blocked

City of Melbourne CEO Alison Leighton says the City is still in active discussions with Australia’s consumer watchdog after it blocked the council’s sale of Citywide to private waste management giant Cleanaway late last year.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



In June last year the council made the surprise announcement that it was selling Citywide, and that ASX-listed Cleanaway had been “chosen as the best operator to deliver world-class waste collection services.”

The deal included Cleanaway’s \$110 million purchase of Citywide’s waste and recycling business and assets, as well as a \$35 million investment to redevelop the ageing waste transfer station at Dynon Rd in West Melbourne. The redevelopment was to be boosted by a further \$10 million from the council.

But with the sale subject to regulatory approval, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in November said that the “proposed acquisition of Citywide Waste raises concerns”.

“We are concerned that the acquisition will extend Cleanaway’s already strong position in Melbourne by expanding Cleanaway’s existing network of waste disposal facilities”, ACCC Commissioner Dr

Philip Williams said.

“Our preliminary view is that the proposed acquisition would remove the close competitive tension between Cleanaway’s and Citywide Waste’s waste disposal facilities, particularly in the central and west regions of metropolitan Melbourne.”

“We are concerned that the expansion of Cleanaway’s waste disposal network may enable Cleanaway to charge downstream collection providers higher prices and reduce service quality.”

“Rival waste collectors, particularly commercial and industrial collectors, require access to waste disposal facilities at competitive rates, and competitive service levels, to compete effectively for customers.”

During public question time at the February 18 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, former City of Melbourne

councillor and shareholder activist Stephen Mayne asked the council how it had signed the deal without any public consultation or disclosure.

With Citywide, which is chaired by former Premier John Brumby, having recorded a near \$8 million loss during the 2023/24 financial year, Mr Mayne asked the council whether this was the reason behind the sale of its “crown jewels”.

“It looks like you’ve suffered an unprecedented loss, and you’ve decided to sell off the crown jewels,” Mr Mayne said. “What’s happening with the deal and why did you do it so secretly?”

The council’s CEO Alison Leighton responded by saying that the matter was still under active consideration by the ACCC after it released a statement of issues with the sale in November.

“There is an active dialogue taking place

right at the moment between the City of Melbourne and also Cleanaway in relation to their [the ACCC’s] assessment of the proposed transaction,” Ms Leighton said.

“It’s fair to say that given that there was a very significant degree of commercial-in-confidence information in relation to the process that council undertook to assess its options and to engage with the market around potential bidders ... meant that it was appropriate that it was a confidential consideration.”

“As soon as there was an ability to make a statement to the public around council’s intention, that was done.”

But Mr Mayne said after his efforts to sell Citywide during his time as the council’s finance chair had fallen on deaf ears, “I fell off my chair when they just announced a done deal with no public consultation and no advertising process.”

“I thought it was a very untransparent process. Really shocking,” Mr Mayne told Ali Moore’s ABC Drive program on February 20. “Then the ACCC comes out and said ‘no ... you’re creating a monopoly, and everyone’s prices are going to go up.’”

“Why are you [the council] doing this deal if you’re going to put everyone’s prices up just because you’re embarrassed you’ve lost \$8 million?”

Citywide is a wholly owned subsidiary of the City of Melbourne, which established the business in 1995 after then Premier Jeff Kennett implemented compulsory competitive tendering (CCT) to force local governments to compete for contracts.

Having invited public submissions on its statement of issues until November 28, the ACCC originally said that it expected to publicly announce its final view by February 13 but that this “timeline may change”. ●

Docklands’ new art school

Art has been Julia Mindraoui’s passion for as long as she can remember, but it wasn’t until last year that the stars aligned, and she was ready to turn her passion into her life.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The Artsy Kid, located at 126 Lorimer St, Docklands, opened its doors just over six months ago, and Ms Mindraoui has had the pleasure of watching her business become an important part of many Docklanders’ lives.

There is a range of classes on offer for kids aged between three and 12 years, helping them develop various artistic techniques.

The sessions run for 45 minutes for students aged between three and five, while older students attend for an hour and a half.

“The point of the tutorial is that they can learn some techniques,” she said. “I’d like them to learn a little skill in the funniest, most achievable way for their age.”

Now, with three terms under her belt, Ms Mindraoui is pleased to see parents returning and her classes continuing to grow.

Parents looking to host birthday parties can also book private sessions, with a courtyard out the back for them to mingle while the

kids have a blast with brushes and canvases.

With so many cafés and restaurants in Docklands, Ms Mindraoui wanted to bring something new to the table – something that could become a cornerstone of the community and help foster creativity.

Having worked as an interior designer for several years before stepping into the chaotic world of parenting, Ms Mindraoui has always allowed her passion for art and design to guide her career.

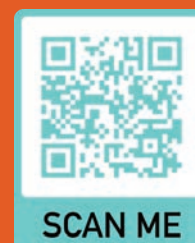
However, after dedicating several years to raising her child she didn’t want to return to interior design, seeking a change instead.

She decided to enrol in art school and the rest is history, and it’s safe to say Docklands is all the better for it. ●




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New face leads Development Victoria

Docklands’ authority Development Victoria (DV) has a new CEO in former Lendlease and Mirvac figure Anne Jolic, who will lead the state government’s property development agency into its next critical phase.

According to the state government, Ms Jolic “brings a wealth of experience from her extensive career in the private sector and property industry”, having held senior roles at Docklands developers Mirvac and Lendlease.

She also previously served in various leadership positions with the Property Council of Australia, including a two-year tenure as its Victorian president.

With a career spanning more than 25 years, she has led diverse multi-disciplinary teams to deliver award-winning projects.

In her most recent role as head of operations at Lendlease, she oversaw a \$4.1 billion portfolio of complex projects spanning mixed-use developments, residential, commercial, retail, and build-to-rent projects.

Minister for Development Victoria and Precincts Harriet Shing said Ms Jolic was well placed to lead DV’s revitalisation of urban areas, unlock government land and “build diverse, affordable and sustainable communities”.

“Anne Jolic brings decades of experience in delivering major projects to her new role as CEO of Development Victoria and I look forward to working with Anne as we get on with delivering more opportunities for Victorians right across the state,” Minister Shing said.

Ms Jolic replaces former CEO Angela Skandarajah who now assumes the role of chair of DV.

“Development Victoria’s project list in both delivery and pipeline over the next five years is immense,” Ms Jolic said.

“I am excited to lead the organisation in this next phase, working with our partners to deliver critical housing supply and continuing to deliver great places that all Victorians can be proud of.” ●



"A complete rethink": Calls for the government to return to E-Gate

Continued from page 1.

Melbourne’s draft master plan for Royal Park, with sporting groups pushing for more playing space in the municipality.

Speaking at the February 4 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, a council officer said that according to the state’s sporting association ratios, the city was a long way behind in its provision of sports facilities.

Prof. Buxton said that given the impacts of the WGTP on E-Gate, the government should “completely reexamine the type of land uses” in the precinct so it could cater for more desperately needed community infrastructure.

“E-Gate needs a complete rethink,” Prof. Buxton told *Docklands News*.

“We need more open space for every use – both active and passive. E-Gate is an opportunity for the government to provide that and completely reexamine and reimagine its use.”

“It could turn it into an advantage despite the fact that the road has had such an impact, but it’s going to take imagination.”

Past visions for E-Gate have included maximising its potential for providing new open space connected to the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor, as well as “high-quality ecologically orientated residential development linked to public transport.”

Strategically, its activation has also largely been seen as a “critical connection” for Docklands and North and West Melbourne – potential Prof. Buxton said had been “severely reduced” by the Wurundjeri Way extension.

In its 2017 submission to the WGTP’s environmental effects statement, the City of Melbourne opposed the design of the extension due to its impact on Moonee Ponds Creek and the loss of connectivity between Docklands and West Melbourne.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said as per its draft Municipal Planning Strategy, which was publicly exhibited last year, it still saw the potential for E-Gate to be “a world-leading sustainable and affordable mixed-use neighbourhood.”

The council is currently considering submissions made to its proposed strategy, which aims to support the potential long-term renewal of E-Gate with connections to Docklands, Arden, West Melbourne and Dynon.

Having fought against the WGTP, Victorian Greens leader and Melbourne MP Ellen Sandell said she was worried that an opportunity had been lost to develop E-Gate with sustainable, well-designed housing, with good facilities and open space.

“E-Gate is just one kilometre from the city. It should be used to build sustainable, good-quality housing for thousands of people. It’s a complete waste to use this land for a zigzag of toll road on and off ramps,” Ms Sandell said.

“I hope Labor will finally get some vision and put this back on the agenda but given Labor’s record I’m not holding my breath!”

Prof. Buxton is equally as pessimistic about E-Gate’s chances, but says it nevertheless presents an opportunity for the government to do something for the good of Melbourne by reengaging with what the community needs.

However, he believes the government

must get over its “addiction” for “poorly planned growth” to achieve this.

“This is a government that specialises in substandard master plan precincts,” Prof. Buxton said. “The Arden model illustrates this, and it will probably be followed again at E-Gate.”

“What we don’t need in Melbourne is another failed brownfield precinct where everything possible that the government can think of is crammed in.”

“Amenity is everything for these sites to work ... Docklands perfectly illustrates that where too many people have been crammed in without the expected services and particularly open space.”

“That’s put immense pressure on existing services and highlights a lack of open space, so the government really has an opportunity to make up for that failure and provision of services with E-Gate.”

Docklands News contacted the state government for comment, but it was unable to respond by deadline.

But in its latest statewide housing targets, it has forecast more than 120,000 new homes to be built in the City of Melbourne by 2051.

In its 2024 submission to the government’s Plan for Victoria, which will be released soon, the council said one of its “great comparative advantages” was “the enormous extent of brownfields development sites”.

These include Arden and Fishermans Bend, currently being developed, as well as E-Gate and Dynon, whereby the council noted “planning has not commenced, but which needs to balance housing delivery with employment and economic development.” ●



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“Boy from the ‘burbs”: Mark Scott joins Melbourne council team

“

New councillor Mark Scott has been elected for the first time as part of Team Reece in the recent City of Melbourne election and is eager to bring his passion for learning and listening to the council.

”

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



While he has been “engaged with the political process” throughout his life, becoming a councillor wasn’t initially part of his plans.

“When it came time to put together a team, Nick Reece and Roshena Campbell engaged with me and asked if I would like to be a part of their team,” Cr Scott told *Docklands News*.

“I was quite privileged and honoured to be asked, but I had to dig deep and ask myself whether I could really put in the commitment that’s required to do the job.”

With his experience as former manager of Queen Victoria Market (QVM) and owner of Ripe Cheese, Cr Scott has a first-hand understanding of the challenges small businesses face in the city.

“I used to visit the QVM as a kid, like every other kid from the ‘burbs – we used to come in every other week to do our shopping and buy our ugg boots and various other things,” he said.

“I have an incredible appreciation for the challenges of running a small business, because we had to live through COVID and, of course, survive.”

“I know how tough it is, especially coming out of COVID – things have changed a lot, I have huge empathy for how tough it is for small businesses. That was really a huge driver in me taking on this role, to champion small businesses, as well as residents.”

For Cr Scott, addressing safety and cleanliness will be top priorities in the council’s early efforts, as well as tackling the growing mental health crisis.

“A lot of the issues we have to tackle are not easy, but we’ve got to keep advocating for businesses and to government,” he said.

“Getting people back into the city is definitely a priority. If you want a vibrant city, it has to feel like it’s vibrant and alive.”

“Particularly when we talk about the issue of loneliness – if people are sitting at home and not engaging with anybody, those sorts of things do contribute to feeling alone. So, I think social interaction is really important, and a lot of small businesses rely on people coming back into the office.”

As the council’s new head of the tourism and events portfolio, Cr Scott hopes the City of Melbourne will collaborate further to reassess major events and their financial impact on the city.

For example, Cr Scott envisions a “winter solstice festival” that merges the best aspects of the city’s Firelight and Now or Never festivals.

“I’ve seen first-hand the summer night market at QVM and the popularity of that, and it’s only once a week,” he said.

“People will come out in winter, so I think if we can find something that helps to bridge the gap in the city, it would be a really great addition to our major events program.”

As a newcomer to the council, Cr Scott



COUNCILLOR PROFILE

is committed to absorbing as much knowledge as possible over the next four years, both to improve the city and enhance his personal growth.

A highlight of his time so far? Delivering a keynote speech at the Melbourne Queer Film Festival.

“It was an opportunity to stand up in front of a few hundred people and deliver a speech that I wrote myself that really spoke from the heart about the importance of queer film and telling queer stories,” he said.

“I’m a gay man with a husband – 13 years ago I came out, so I believe in living your

authentic life and truth-telling. So, to stand up and share a bit about that, and talk about the importance of inclusivity and diversity in the city, has definitely been one of my highlights.”

Though just a few months into his term, Cr Scott is already learning from his fellow councillors and City of Melbourne staff, eager to grow in the role.

“I’m here for one term, so I’m going to try and do the best job I possibly can in those four years,” he told *Docklands News*.

“I want to make a difference and walk out of here feeling like I’m a better person.” ●

Jeff Gordon says goodbye to the *Lady Cutler*

Long-time mariner and skipper, Jeff Gordon of the *Lady Cutler*, has stepped back from the helm of the iconic vessel.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



Mr Gordon, alongside Ann-Maree O’Brien, bought the former Sydney ferry in 2007 and helped restore the vessel so it could find a new

home in Docklands.

During that time, Mr Gordon has had the pleasure of watching what was once a beaten-up ferry transform into a Melbourne icon.

However, after more than a decade of operating the vessel, he’s ready for a new adventure.

“We’ve had a pretty good innings,” he said. “It’s been very well received, and people have been very happy to enjoy what it has to offer.”

While the new owner cannot be publicly disclosed, Mr Gordon is confident that the boat’s legacy will live on.



Meanwhile, Mr Gordon will continue to enjoy life as a Docklander. He moved to an apartment in the area in 2020 and hasn’t looked back since. As a mariner, he believes the area has everything he could ask for and describes it as Melbourne’s equivalent to Venice.

But he conceded that he’s a “tragic” for the ocean and it won’t be long before he’s back exploring the deep blue, with his eyes already set on a new boat.

While Mr Gordon may no longer be the captain, his legacy will live on as Melburnians continue to enjoy the beauty of the city from the deck of the *Lady Cutler*. ●

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Melbourne federal election preview: can anyone unseat Adam Bandt?

“

Despite two celebrity candidates in the running and recent local voting trends favouring the Liberal Party, the leader of the Greens Adam Bandt is confident he will retain his stronghold on the seat of Melbourne in the upcoming federal election.

”

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



Steph Hunt



Anthony Koutoufides



Sarah Witty



Adam Bandt

The two recent state by-elections have seen votes swing in favour of the Liberal Party, which dethroned the Greens in Prahran and narrowly trailed Labor in the historically safe seat of Werribee, where Labor suffered a 16.5 per cent swing against its primary vote.

However, despite these results at a state level and strong Liberal votes in the City of Melbourne election, the Liberals' campaign team is focused on picking up marginal seats like Aston and Chisholm, leaving the incumbent Adam Bandt confident he will be able to retain his seat.

In addition to Mr Bandt, the current candidates for Melbourne include former Carlton premiership player Anthony Koutoufides, reality TV star Tim Smith, and the Liberals' Stephanie Hunt, who has previously held advisory roles for prominent Liberal MPs.

At the eleventh hour, Labor also decided to enter the race, nominating foster parent and CEO of the Nappy Collective, Sarah Witty, in early February.

Mr Bandt, who was first elected in 2012, is looking to focus on the cost of living if re-elected, pushing for Medicare to include dental and mental health support, making public schools "genuinely free" and making housing more affordable.

"In this term of parliament, I have been working tirelessly for people in Melbourne and across the country," the Greens leader told *Docklands News*. "I have pushed the

government to implement the solutions to the housing and cost-of-living crisis that will help millions of people."

He drew attention to the Greens' success in securing \$3 billion for public and community housing, securing workers the right to disconnect, stopping around half of the coal and gas projects in Labor's approval pipeline, and securing \$1.7 billion to help homes and businesses lower their energy bills.

However, Liberal candidate Stephanie Hunt, who has worked in international arbitration and litigation in both the private and public sectors, believes that not enough is being done federally to ensure that Melbourne is "back on track".

She said that café owners and restaurants in the CBD were in "a lot of pain" and that more needed to be done to ensure that small businesses received better support, citing the Liberals' tax deductions on business lunches as an important policy to provide this support.

The policy, which was dubbed the "long-lunch policy" by Treasurer Jim Chalmers, aims to cut red tape for small businesses by introducing a capped tax deduction of \$20,000 for business-related meal and entertainment expenses.

"This will be a welcome relief to small businesses experiencing the strain of Labor's cost-of-living crisis and higher taxes," Ms Hunt said.

Additionally, the Liberal Party plans

to lower inflation through a reduction in "wasteful" spending, provide Australians with an energy mix that includes renewables, gas, and nuclear, and unlock new affordable homes through investment in essential infrastructure.

A prominent Liberal Party member who wished to remain anonymous told *Docklands News* that Melbourne was not a priority for the major parties, given Mr Bandt's popularity and that federal opposition leader Peter Dutton's populist campaign strategy didn't resonate with the Melbourne voter.

They also noted that Mr Bandt had effectively engaged with voters in Melbourne, and as the leader of the Greens he was "recognisable" and people were comfortable with him representing them.

"It's more a question of what will happen after Bandt is gone," the source said, believing that leaders with a strong public image and profile were able to retain popularity within their electorates.

The seat of Melbourne was historically a safe Labor seat until Mr Bandt took the reins in 2012, but Labor candidate Sarah Witty is hoping to win the seat back.

In 2024, Ms Witty unsuccessfully ran as a Labor councillor candidate for the City of Yarra and she has since embarked on her federal tilt, with the cost of living at the top of her priorities.

She expressed dissatisfaction with Mr Bandt, believing that he has blocked "strong" policies that will benefit Australians in a difficult time, particularly the Help to Buy shared equity scheme for home ownership and Build to Rent tax incentives, which were ultimately passed with the Greens' support late last year.

"I'm personally disappointed by the fact that he's been sitting in that seat for so long and really done nothing," she said.

If elected, Ms Witty's approach will be to actively engage with the community and ensure that the issues she campaigns for are shared by the voters in the electorate.

Another candidate whose recent dalliance with local politics has inspired their federal tilt is Carlton football legend Anthony Koutoufides, who is campaigning on easing the burden of the cost-of-living crisis, improving city safety, and combating antisemitism.

Mr Koutoufides said that he had watched Melbourne decline over the years and wanted to make the city prosper again.

His team is confident about his chances, noting that the redistribution of the electorate of Higgins will favour a "strong" independent candidate like Mr Koutoufides, with the traditionally more conservative suburbs of Prahran and South Yarra now part of the electorate.

Additionally, in the north, Clifton Hill is now part of Cooper, while Brunswick East, Carlton North, and Fitzroy North are part of Wills, which are historically Green suburbs.

Mr Koutoufides isn't the only celebrity in the running this time around, with Married at First Sight contestant Tim Smith also announcing his candidacy.

Mr Smith was contacted for comment but did not respond. However, on social media, he said, "I've officially thrown my hat into the ring to run for parliament for the city of Melbourne for the upcoming federal election."

Docklands News will bring readers more of each candidate's plans for Melbourne ahead of the election. ●



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Home Docklands unveils bold contemporary art collection

A dynamic and visionary collection of contemporary art has arrived at Home Docklands, spotlighting works by some of Australia’s most prominent artists.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Craft Victoria (Craft) has been instrumental in shaping this ambitious project, curating and managing the creation of a diverse range of commissioned artworks over a two-year period.

Spanning various scales and materials, the collection makes a striking contribution to the precinct’s evolving identity.

Integrated into the fabric of Home Docklands, a new residential development, these artworks serve to redefine the area, reinforcing its place as a cultural destination.

The Home collection, which showcases works by 14 leading Australian artists, extends across public and private spaces, and was carefully assembled by Craft through its consultancy division, Craft Agency.

Key highlights include four large-scale, site-specific public art installations, along with a significant interior commission. Among the artists bringing this vision to life are Alexander Knox, Jamie North, Meagan Streader, Vipoo Srivilasa, and Marta Figueiredo.

“As the vision for Docklands continues to take shape, partnerships play a key role in helping to deliver strong outcomes for residents, workers and visitors,” Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks said.

“As a long-term supporter of Craft Victoria, the Allan Labor Government is proud to back this commissioning program

which has brought incredible art to the Docklands while showcasing the powerful role creativity can play in urban renewal.”

Drawing inspiration from the themes of renewal, discovery and water rhythms, the public art collection bridges the area’s natural and built environments, establishing meaningful links between the Birrarung Marr, Latrobe St, and Marvel Stadium – capturing both the area’s history and its future.

“At Craft, we firmly believe in the power of art and culture to have a positive impact on our society and to create stronger communities,” Craft Victoria executive director Nicole Durling said.

“By embedding art into this major development, Home Docklands showcases forward-thinking planning by investing in Australian artistic talent to enhance the collective lived experience of our cities.”

This landmark art initiative seeks to breathe new life into the precinct, encouraging engagement and discovery for residents and visitors alike.

Marking Home’s first-ever public art commissioning project, this collection underscores a strong commitment to cultural investment.

“We are delighted to celebrate our collaboration with Craft Victoria which has endured for more than five years,” head of Home Christian Grahame said.

“By bringing together diverse artworks that speak to our residents from all walks of life, we’re creating more than just a collection – we’re contributing to the cultural fabric that makes our spaces vibrant and meaningful.” ●



Development Victoria to meet with heritage boating operators

Development Victoria (DV) is expected to hold further talks with operators of heritage vessels on February 27 as it continues to “explore viable options and support required to relocate their operations in Docklands or elsewhere”.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Heritage boating operators from the *Alma Doepel*, *Enterprise* and steam tug *Wattle* are required to vacate their current home at North Wharf by June to make way for Lendlease’s ongoing Collins Wharf development.

While *Wattle*’s operators are understood to be less concerned about where it could end up, the teams behind the *Alma Doepel* and *Enterprise* require locations that can provide suitable storage and work facilities.

As of the time of publishing, all operators were none the wiser as to where they would be relocated to, but a meeting was scheduled with DV representatives on February 27 to discuss next steps.

“We are working closely with the heritage fleet to support their relocation so that we can enable Lendlease to deliver around

1400 homes at North Wharf,” DV’s acting group head Imogen Lewis said.

Lendlease is progressing with North Wharf’s staged development, with early works set to commence this year, including the demolition of Shed 2 to enable the next phase of housing delivery.

DV said any extension of licence agreements at North Wharf wasn’t possible, adding that it continued “open and proactive communication with the heritage fleet to explore viable options and support required to relocate their operations in Docklands or elsewhere as their current licence concludes.”

Docklands News understands operators also met with DV representatives in late January to discuss possible relocation options, but so far, no solution has been found despite needing to vacate North Wharf by mid-year.

An *Alma Doepel* spokesperson said, “the *Alma Doepel* restoration team is currently in discussions with Development Victoria and government stakeholders to seek a viable solution for the continuation of the ship’s restoration at Docklands.”

“The *Alma Doepel* is a vital part of Australia’s maritime heritage, and after more than a decade of dedicated restoration work, we are committed to ensuring her completion so she can once again serve Victoria’s young people.”

“Our priority is to secure a suitable outcome that allows the restoration to proceed and youth development programs to be delivered without further disruption.” ●

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The historian diving into the Yarra's rich past

Since the mid-1990s, acclaimed historian Judith Buckrich has dedicated much of her time to detailing the history of the City of Melbourne.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



She has written about everything from Port Melbourne to Greville St in Prahran, seeking to unearth the untold history of Melbourne's streets and explore the significance of its landmarks and buildings.

As part of her latest work, *Yarra Birrarung: Artists, Writers and the River*, Ms Buckrich examined the Yarra River's cultural and historical significance from Mount Baw Baw to Docklands.

Having worked at the Docklands Authority as a historian in the early 2000s, Judith has witnessed the area transform from a barren, industrial-centric precinct into the thriving suburb the city has grown to love.

In the book, she touches on Docklands being home to some of the city's biggest raves throughout the 1990s, with its abandoned warehouses becoming the pulse of the city for techno-fiends.

However, with the construction of the stadium and the Bolte Bridge in the late '90s, and the formation of the Docklands Authority, the area said goodbye to the raves and hello to urban renewal.

The idea to explore the significance of the Yarra came to Ms Buckrich while she was researching the history of Greville St in Prahran.

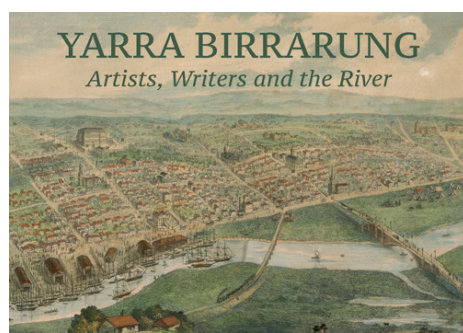
"In the early part of my research, I realised that the very first Aboriginal mission in Melbourne was on the Yarra River," she said.

She was astonished that this fact was so seldom known and decided to embark on a project that put the Yarra River under the microscope to uncover its unique history.

Ms Buckrich, now in her 70s, began writing 34 years ago. The moment everything changed was when she was standing on St Kilda Rd and thought someone needed to write a book about its history.

That someone was her, and she hasn't looked back since.

Originally from Hungary, she emigrated to Australia in 1958 and has lived both



abroad and in Melbourne throughout her eventful career, working as an arts officer before making the switch to becoming a revered historian.

For anyone wanting to learn more about the history of the Yarra, *Yarra Birrarung: Artists, Writers and the River* is the perfect place to start. ●

A family-friendly future for Docklands: the moment is now

Docklands has long been known for its modern high-rises, waterfront views, and entertainment precinct. But what about families?

WORDS BY
JAMAL HAKIM



In recent times, more and more parents have made the decision to raise their children here, lured by the lifestyle, walkability, and proximity to the city. Yet, while Docklands has plenty of potential to be a truly family-friendly neighbourhood, it still doesn't have the required infrastructure to support its growing community.

One of the biggest challenges for families in Docklands is access to education. Docklands Primary School, which opened in 2021, was a huge win for the neighbourhood. But in just two years, it reached its 525-student capacity.

The Department of Education has admitted that "strong demand has exceeded forecasted needs for Docklands PS." To address these capacity issues, a temporary campus was opened at The District on March 26, 2024.

While this is a temporary solution, it highlights a critical infrastructure gap. Docklands needs a complete educational master plan – one that includes expanding primary school facilities and establishing a dedicated high school, so families aren't forced to leave the area when their children get older.

Beyond education, Docklands needs investment in family-friendly infrastructure. Playgrounds and green spaces should be a top priority, giving kids safe places to run, climb, and explore. While the area offers stunning waterfront views, it needs more protected recreational areas that put family safety first.

Docklands has fantastic wide boulevards and extensive walking paths, however, these vast open spaces along the waterfront can sometimes feel exposed and unwelcoming, particularly in harsh weather. Urban design improvements could include more wind-breaking features, strategically placed vegetation or artificial canopies for

shade and weather protection, and "pocket parks" with seating areas to create human-scale gathering spaces.

These elements would make the expansive waterfront promenades more inviting for families (and everyone else) throughout the year, transforming these impressive but sometimes barren areas into lively community spaces. In fact, we already have a few examples. Just pass by Monument Park on any given weekday after 6pm to see how families are gathering.

Public toilets and baby-change facilities should also be easy to access, not an afterthought. And we need more cultural and community events designed specifically for children and young families to bring the neighbourhood together.

Local businesses can also play a crucial role in making Docklands more welcoming to families. More child-friendly cafes and restaurants with play areas, co-working spaces that accommodate parents with on-site childcare, and entertainment venues with options for kids would make a world of difference. This is starting to become a reality with the likes of Saboteurs at The District.

Businesses that embrace family-friendly practices aren't just providing a service – they're making a smart economic choice. Family consumers tend to be more loyal, spend more per visit, and generate valuable word-of-mouth marketing.

Imagine a Docklands where businesses actively cater to families – creating a vibrant, inclusive atmosphere that encourages people to stay and invest in the community for the long term. This isn't just good for families; it's good for business.

Parents and residents of the community (such as myself!) have also been actively lobbying for a long-term campus solution and a new secondary school in Docklands. Melbourne's Lord Mayor Nick Reece has already publicly identified the need for a high school in Docklands as "the next big project". The community now wishes to see concrete action and lobbying from council to deliver on this critical infrastructure need within a clear timeframe.

This is what the future of Docklands should be aiming for. A city precinct that not only houses but welcomes and serves families. And the good news? The foundations are already in place. With the right planning and investment, Docklands can be an example of how high-density, inner-city living can be thriving and family friendly. ●

CHAMBER UPDATE

Chamber update – March 2025

Our 2025-2026 Docklands Chamber of Commerce membership is currently open.



If you are a business owner in Docklands looking for more exposure, stronger connections, and a supportive business community, then it's time to join the Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC). We would

love to have you on board!

The DCC isn't just a business network – it's a powerful platform that helps local businesses grow, thrive, and connect in Melbourne's iconic waterfront precinct. By joining you have access to:

Networking events: meet like-minded

business owners, potential clients, and partners at exclusive Chamber events. Who knows? Your next big collaboration could be just one handshake away!

Marketing and promotion: get your business noticed with free promotions across DCC's website, social media, and events. We showcase members to our large audience, helping you attract more customers.

Stronger advocacy: we don't just support businesses – we fight for them! DCC represents more than 200 businesses, working with local stakeholders to ensure your interests are heard.

Event participation: be involved in exciting local events that draw crowds from all over Melbourne such as the annual Firelight

Festival

Council support: gain access to City of Melbourne resources, training sessions, and workshops.

Sign up before March 31, 2025, and receive a \$50 Docklands gift card as a welcome bonus! That's our way of saying thank you for being part of this thriving business community.

Becoming a member is easy. Just visit docklandsc.com.au and sign up in minutes. For more details or group registrations, feel free to contact us directly at admin@docklandsc.com.au

Join today and become part of a stronger, smarter, and more successful Docklands business community! ●



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Dental into Medicare and see the GP for free

If you're worried about the cost of going to see a doctor, or you're putting off going to the dentist, you're not alone.

It's now more expensive to see the doctor than ever before, and harder than ever to find a doctor who will bulk bill.

Here in Melbourne, it now costs on average \$51.51 in out-of-pocket costs to see a doctor, according to a new report by the independent health directory Clean Bill.

Only 13.2 per cent of all clinics in Melbourne now bulk bill, down 10 per cent over the past two years.

People are also skipping essential dental procedures because they can't afford it. An Australian Dental Association survey found 61 per cent of people delayed dental treatment in the past 12 months, with affordability the main reason.

In a wealthy country like ours, everyone should be able to afford the basics, like healthcare.

We can do something about it. There is a federal election on the way, and experts are predicting a minority government.

Because Melbourne voted Greens, last time there was a minority government the Greens got dental into Medicare for kids. More than three million families have been able to use their Medicare card at the dentist for their children, thanks to Melbourne voting Greens.

This election, with a minority government, the Greens will keep Peter Dutton out



and get Labor to act on healthcare.

I have released costed policies to get dental and mental health into Medicare, and also to see the GP for free, by building local free healthcare centres and lifting the bulk-billing incentive. With one in three big corporations currently paying no tax, we'll tax the big corporations to fund it.

Labor's recent decision to adopt part of our "GP for free" plan shows Greens pressure works, and we'll keep fighting to make sure everyone can afford the healthcare they need.

Last minority government, Melbourne got dental into Medicare for kids – this time, let's get it for everyone! ●

Adam Bandt

FEDERAL MP FOR MELBOURNE

ADAM.BANDT.MP@APH.GOV.AU



THE CAULDRON

Put away the phone and come craft

The Cauldron – craft connect, is a social crafting program supported by the City of Melbourne. It started as a simple community connection idea formed from discussions by the Docklands Stakeholder Group.



Vintage Card Workshop



The craft group has been operating since June 2024 with craft nights originally held at The Hub. From there it has grown into a wonderful permanent creative space in a shopfront in The District Docklands. You can find us at Shop 11, Wharf St, The District Docklands.

Social crafting nights are now a popular weekly event – currently Tuesday nights 5pm to 7pm. They are a "drop in" style night where creatives can bring their own hand-craft projects to work on in the company of others.

It's an inclusive, creative space to put down your phone and pick up a needle, paint brush, glue stick, pen, etc.

Crafting nights are run by volunteers, so we do ask for a gold coin donation which helps to "keep the lights on". Social crafting is currently an adult program, but we will soon be rolling out some parent/child sessions.

In March we will be putting together a calendar of events for the next few months that will include a variety of craft classes including hand quilting, tatting, toy making, knitting, crochet, and paper crafts inclusive of journal making, decoupage, stamping and card making.

Craft classes will generally have a fee attached to pay our teachers for their time, but we aim to keep this as low as possible

so that all members of our community can join in, learn new skills and make new contacts in their neighbourhood.

March will see a focus on International Women's Day with a class in Vintage Style Card Making to be held on March 20 from 6pm to 7.30pm. Bookings can be made via the "Try Booking" site. More classes will be added through the month.

To keep an eye on future classes please follow us on Instagram @thecauldroncraftconnect and Facebook.

The program would love to expand to offer a broad range of craft skills teaching and creative social events for the community to enjoy. So, if you are interested in teaching a craft in our space, we would love to hear from you.

Alternatively, if you would like to learn a specific craft skill, host a group event, hold a creative work bonding class, please feel free to contact us with suggestions: thecauldroncraftconnect@gmail.com ●



Yachting continues Melbourne's proud maritime traditions

From a maritime perspective, Docklands is fortunate indeed, uniquely aware of the water and magnificent yachts. No matter if you don't sail yourself, the exhilarating power of wind and waves can't help but capture the imagination.

Melbourne as we know it would not have been established without vessels under sail. Imagine the fear when surging through the treacherous turbulence of the Heads past the reefs and followed by the comparative calm wonder of magnificence of exploring Port Phillip Bay, finding the meandering Birrarung/Yarra estuary – and upstream, fresh water!

Around 150 years later, the world-renowned Victoria Port (now known as Victoria Harbour) is home to magnificent-vessels harnessing the wind and waves, sailing across the vast oceans, navigating the notorious conditions and obstacles of Bass Strait and the very narrow entry to Port Phillip Bay at the Heads which are one nautical mile (1.6 km), ultimately finding safe haven Victoria Harbour. Modern yachting continues this magnificent tradition.

Make no mistake, ocean sail is in our DNA. We live on the southern coast of an island continent nation. Just last month, Docklands welcomed courageous and skilled yachtswoman Pip Hare who was competing in the Round the World single-handed. Her storm-damaged and de-masted yacht Medallia, limped into the safe haven Victoria Harbour to recover.

Later this month, Docklands will welcome intrepid competitors in the Melbourne-Osaka two-handed yacht race (M2O) – a serious 5500-nautical-mile challenge. Given that it the Heads are distant from Melbourne, competing yachts gather and actually leave from Sandringham Yacht Club between March 9 and 28 at intervals calculated to enable competing yachts to, in theory, arrive in Osaka on the same day. Given, too, that the race is a wild, physically and mentally challenging voyage, who can tell.

Luckily for Docklands, the largest yacht competing in the race, the Tasmanian yacht Alive, is scheduled to leave last on March 28. So, while it waits to start the race, the magnificent mini-maxi yacht Alive will be sailed to Victoria Harbour and moored at Melbourne City Marina at NewQuay. Its entry into Victoria Harbour beneath the Bolte Bridge promises to be an exciting logistical feat even before the race even starts!

The mast on Alive is actually higher than the Bolte Bridge so it will need to be tilted at low tide to pass under the Bridge – we hope! We recommend that all in Docklands try to watch this rare event.

Details of this dramatic entree and other M2O events will appear in the media. When moored, daily maintenance in readiness for the tough voyage will be happening.

About Alive

A very successful racing yacht – normally crewed by 12 people so Tasmanian yachtsmen competing in the M2O, Duncan Hine and Glen Myler, will be tested handling this 66ft vessel.

For more detail on Alive and various races see alveyachting.com. An amusing aside – Duncan Hines's rather fitting nick name is "Dunk". Let's hope not!

About the 9th Port of Melbourne – Port of Osaka Yacht Race (M2O)

A unique race between port/sister cities first held in 1987 to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the opening of the Port of Osaka.

Former City of Melbourne Lord Mayor, the late Trevor Huggard, sailed in the first race. The City of Melbourne has provided hospitality support to competitors in the past. This is Australia's longest Category 1 yacht race, the equivalent of eight back-to-back Sydney to Hobart races but with only two crew on board. Double-handed yacht races commenced in the UK in the 1960s and '70s. See: melbourneosakacup.com/en/about-the-race

Turning back now to our rich sailing heritage

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) is seriously aghast by recent moves from Development Victoria (DV) to in effect oust the heritage fleet from Victoria Harbour.

DV continues to ignore strong Docklands community support for the presence of the heritage fleet in Victoria Harbour.

Instead DV continues to pander to the accelerating demands of commercial property developers on North Wharf overriding the modest needs of the heritage fleet valiantly restoring vessels in the unique heritage site Victoria Harbour.

MMHN understands that discussions continue between the heritage fleet and DV. We live in hope that common sense and respect for maritime heritage prevail. ●

Jackie Watts

CHAIR

INFO@MMHN.ORG.AU



What's in a name? Community3008 and the future of Docklands

When Community3008 was formed, the name was chosen with intention.

Unlike many community groups that focus solely on residents, our aim was to create a space where both local businesses and residents could come together, fostering a more inclusive and connected Docklands.

Unlike other suburbs, where resident-only groups tend to dominate, Docklands presents a unique opportunity – and challenge – to build a thriving community that includes all who call this waterfront precinct home, whether they live here or run a business.

Docklands is distinct not just because of its adjacency to Melbourne's CBD – many suburbs including West Melbourne, East Melbourne, Southbank, and Carlton, share this trait – but because of its geography and structure.

To a large degree, Docklands is a collection of cul-de-sacs, separated by waterways and large developments. This presents both opportunities and difficulties when it comes to forging a cohesive community.

Docklands is often thought of as a



singular entity, but those who live and work here understand that it consists of several distinct precincts. From the vibrant waterfront of NewQuay and the commercial hub of Victoria Harbour to the tranquil residential pocket of Yarra's Edge, each area brings its own character and concerns.

The Stadium Precinct thrives on major events and foot traffic, while Batman's Hill and City Harbour serve as growing

business and technology centres. These diverse spaces make Docklands a dynamic suburb, but also present unique challenges in connectivity, liveability, and economic sustainability.

Bringing these elements together under a single community banner is no small task – but it's one that Community3008 is passionate about tackling.

With 40 per cent of Docklands yet to be built, and the precinct still governed under the Docklands Act 1991, the suburb remains in a state of transformation. Unfortunately, Docklands has long been plagued by an undeserved negative reputation, largely fuelled by media perceptions and those who have never truly explored what it has to offer. Overcoming this and building a strong, connected community is not easy, but it is essential.

Residents and businesses alike know how incredible Docklands can be, but there's always room for improvement. We need to advocate for better public transport, such as an accessible tram along Harbour Esplanade to enhance connectivity. Green space preservation and creation must be prioritised to ensure that as development continues, public spaces are protected and enhanced.

Addressing gridlock concerns, particularly during major events at Marvel Stadium, is essential for smoother traffic flow and accessibility. Supporting retail and local businesses through increased foot traffic and commercial space activation will help sustain a thriving economy.

Finally, fostering community engagement through events such as markets and festivals will create more opportunities for social interaction and help establish a stronger local identity.

Docklands is an underrated gem with boundless potential but realising that potential will require collective effort. By strengthening the ties between residents and local businesses, advocating for essential improvements, and pushing back against outdated perceptions, we can shape Docklands into a vibrant, thriving, and fully integrated community.

It all starts with coming together. Whether you're a long-time resident, a business owner, or someone just discovering Docklands, we invite you to be part of the conversation.

Join us at Community3008, become a member and help us shape the future of our suburb, because together, we can make a difference. ●

OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Sign up today for solar panel grants for apartment buildings

If you live in an owners' corporation (OC) with between three to 50 residential units, your building can sign up for a grant of up to \$140,000 to fund the installation of solar panels on the building's rooftop.

Solar Victoria is currently offering grants of up to \$2800 per apartment (\$140,000 max per building) as part of an initiative to get more apartment buildings to reduce emissions and reduce their electricity costs.

Applications are currently open on the Solar Victoria website, but the grants are being taken up quickly.

Building eligibility now includes strata townhouses and units under the control of an OC and sharing a common property rooftop.

By adopting solar, an average household in a multi-unit development can save up to \$500 a year on their energy bills.

However, to access this rebate, participating OCs must bear the upfront costs, which can then be reimbursed through the government rebates. More importantly, OCs must follow proper legislative procedures under the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006* when deciding to install solar panels, as this may involve an upgrade of the common property roof. Nevertheless, the recent government changes to the Act have meant that the approval processes for participating OCs have become somewhat less stringent.

A decision to approve the installation of solar panels will sometimes be one for the committee and will sometimes be a special resolution of the entire OC depending on certain circumstances.

For instance, a special resolution will

be needed if the solar installation is an "upgrade" to the common property. In other words, the solar installation will be considered "upgrading works" if it meets either of the following criteria: (a) the cost of the installation is estimated to be more than double the OC's annual fees; OR (b) the installation requires either a planning permit or a building permit before the solar panels can be installed.

In summary, the committee of an OC would be empowered to make a decision about installation of solar panels in the following scenarios:

- if the committee has not been limited when it was appointed to expenditure as to a dollar amount, or in relation to specific subject matters;
- no planning permit or building permit is required;
- the proposed system is not so expensive as to be twice the amount of the annual fees of the OC;
- the addition is not a "significant alteration to the use or appearance of the common property"; and
- the OC has sufficient funds in its administrative fund and does not need to borrow from its maintenance fund, raise a levy or enter into a loan to pay for the solar panels.

That's a lot of ifs, buts and maybes. OCs should take some tailored legal advice about their own situation. But one thing is for certain – \$140,000 is nothing to be sniffed at. OCs should jump at this limited opportunity, before it is too late. ●

Tom Bacon

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HEALTH & WELLBEING

Celebrating women in healthcare

Women play a critical role in the field of healthcare, with their contributions being nothing short of invaluable.

As we mark International Women's Day (Saturday, March 8), it is important to recognise the significant impact that women have had on the health and wellbeing of people around the world. According to a report by the World Health Organisation, women account for an impressive 67 per cent of the global health and social care workforce.

This means that women provide essential health services for around five billion people worldwide. The report also revealed that 53 per cent of senior healthcare roles are occupied by women, which is 18 per cent higher than all other sectors. This demonstrates the pivotal role that women play in leadership positions within the healthcare industry. In addition, women have been driving much of the growth in the healthcare field.

Since the turn of the century, women have been responsible for 80 per cent of the overall growth in this booming sector. Their dedication, expertise, and commitment to improving the health outcomes of individuals and communities have been truly remarkable. Furthermore, women have made significant strides in pursuing higher education in healthcare-related occupations.

Over the years, there has been a notable increase in the number of women entering professions such as dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, medicine, and veterinary medicine. In fact, women now make up the majority of veterinarians and pharmacists and have more than doubled their representation in other occupations such as dentistry and optometry.

One of the largest healthcare occupations is that of registered nurses, with more than 2.4 million workers. Women make up more than 85 per cent of workers in this field, highlighting their substantial

contribution to this critical aspect of healthcare. Additionally, nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides employ more than 1.2 million individuals, with a majority of them being women.

Although there are still challenges to overcome, women have made significant progress in traditionally male-dominated professions within the healthcare sector. For instance, there are around 763,000 doctors and surgeons working full-time, year-round, and a third of them are women.

Women have also been instrumental in shaping healthcare policies, conducting groundbreaking research, and championing public health initiatives. Their expertise and leadership have been critical in advancing healthcare systems and improving health outcomes for individuals and communities.

As we celebrate International Women's Day, it is essential to acknowledge and honour the significant contributions of women in the field of healthcare.

Women have made remarkable progress in the healthcare industry, and their impact continues to be felt in various aspects of healthcare delivery. Their representation in leadership roles, their pursuit of higher education in healthcare-related professions, and their invaluable contributions to the provision of essential health services are just a few examples of the vital role that women play in healthcare.

Here at Docklands Health, we are no different, with our team being made up of 81 per cent women, a trait we are proud of, and feel enhances the care we provide to our local community. Please join me in thanking your local health icons on this International Women's Day. ●

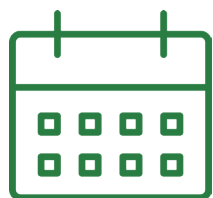
Dr Mike Edgley

CHIROPRACTOR

DOCKLANDS HEALTH



WHAT'S ON March



From movies to markets and festivals, you'll find something to float your boat this March in Docklands.



DOCKLANDS FARMERS' MARKET

Enjoy a walk by the harbour, grab some fresh summer veggies, baked goods and more award-winning produce.

Newquay Promenade, Docklands

SUNDAY 2 MARCH, 10AM – 3PM



AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY LEAGUE (AWIHL) FINALS 2025

Watch Australia's best female ice hockey talent battle it out to take home the Joan McKowen Memorial Trophy as winners of the 2025 Grand Final.

O'Brien Icehouse, Docklands

SAT 1 & SUN 2 MARCH

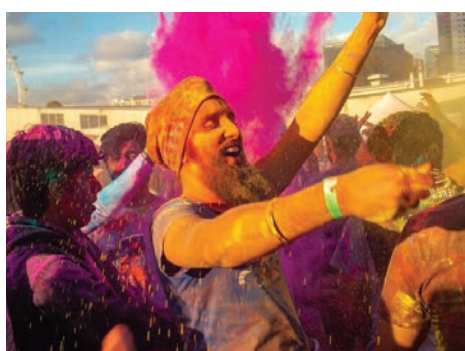


MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

Comedy is taking over the streets of Melbourne, with laughs around every corner! There's something for everyone.

Melbourne Town Hall, 90/130 Swanston St

26 MARCH – 20 APRIL



HOLI FESTIVAL MELBOURNE

Enjoy two days and evenings of celebrating with plant-based, non-toxic colours, song and dance, food and drinks, culture, live music, DJs, multicultural performances and much, much more.

Ron Barassi Snr Park (West)

29 – 30 MARCH, 11AM – 10PM



STOMPERS

Stompers is a weekly program held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Library at The Dock. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, and fun with your toddler.

Library at The Dock, Docklands

4 FEBRUARY – 3 APRIL



POLYMER CLAY WORKSHOP

Looking to unleash your creativity and get your hands dirty? Join for a practical polymer clay workshop where you'll learn the ins and outs of this versatile medium.

Be-ras Creatives Art Cafe, Docklands

UNTIL 9 JUNE



MELBOURNE CELTIC FESTIVAL

Enjoy a stacked international and local line-up of Celtic music across three intimate indoor stages.

The Mission to Seafarers Victoria, Docklands

MONDAY 17 MARCH, 12PM – 11PM

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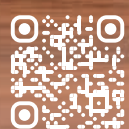
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