

MAY 2025 EDITION #218

FOREVER FREE



Little India Traders' Association launches

Amid Lord Mayor Nick Reece's pledge to establish the city's first Little India precinct, a new not-for-profit association aiming to spotlight Indian entrepreneurship in Melbourne's inner-city has officially launched with the formation of the Little India Traders' Association. More on page 7.

Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

Is an ATET hangover holding Docklands back?

“

On June 23, 2023, Docklands farewelled ATET – a floating nightclub that had become the hottest topic in the area. Despite its closure, the impact of its operations continue to underline conversations surrounding Docklands' future.

”

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



ATET was shut down after the City of Melbourne revoked its permit, following a relentless wave of noise complaints from residents, and the club's alleged failure to comply with environmental regulations.

The matter is far from resolved. The club's owner, Jake

Hughes, has sued the City of Melbourne over the termination, and the issue remains front and centre whenever the council considers the future of the precinct.

In the council's revised Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), Docklands was encouraged to support 24-hour waterfront use and to become an attractive night-time waterscape. This was met with strong opposition from residents.

At the April 15 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, where the MPS was deferred due to ambitious housing targets set by the state government and the volume of public submissions, the vision for Docklands came under scrutiny.

One resident said in their submission to the council that, “the waterfront area is surrounded by a majority of residential buildings and the use of the waterfront has the greatest impact on residential amenity.”

“It was a long eight-month struggle for residents to have the health and wellbeing impact of noise pollution from the ATET nightclub resolved,” they said. “Residents still deal daily with party boats circling or operating stationary in the harbour.”

Another resident lambasted the strategy, claiming it is “totally inappropriate” in a residential area and suggested that a clause be added to limit noisy activities to resident-friendly time periods.

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Docklands athletes nominated for 2024 Victorian Sport Awards

The Victorian Sport Awards (VSAs) have announced their 2024 finalists, and two exceptional athletes from Docklands' Winter Institute are among the nominees.

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**The deadline for the June
edition is May 30**

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Reclaiming Docklands: a six-part series

Part one – Docklands at a
crossroads: rediscovering our
community purpose.

WORDS BY
JAMAL HAKIM



Once imagined as Melbourne’s water-
front frontier where liveability, design, and
vibrancy would meet, Docklands today
stands at a difficult crossroads.

It is a place of immense potential, with
thousands of residents, families, work-
ers, and small business owners. But it is
also a place where many feel increasingly
unheard, under-represented, and uncer-
tain about what their neighbourhood is
becoming.

When Docklands was first developed,
the promise was clear: this would be more
than a collection of high-rise apartments.
It would be a community. A destination. A
home. That promise, however, feels increas-
ingly hollow.

Over the past year, many residents have
expressed frustration about developments
being pushed through with little to no
consultation – most notably, the proposed
Marvel Stadium expansion. The expansion
may benefit big sporting events and the AFL,
but what about the needs of the local com-
munity? Where are the spaces for families
to gather, children to play, and community
to connect? The feeling among residents is
simple: we are being built around, not built
with.

This frustration is rooted in something
deeper: the erosion of a shared purpose.

What makes a neighbourhood more
than infrastructure? A sense of belonging.
A cause that unites people. A vision that’s



co-created, not imposed. Docklands has all
the ingredients for a great urban commu-
nity: diverse cultures, a rich maritime and
First Nations history, and stunning public
spaces, but without a central purpose, it
risks becoming a hollow, disconnected
precinct.

The City of Melbourne has spoken of
“neighbourhood planning” and “commu-
nity-led revitalisation”. But recent actions tell
a different story.

The dissolution of the Docklands
Stakeholder Group, without a replacement
or proper support for Community3008, has
left residents without a formal platform for
input. It’s not just a governance gap – it’s a
values gap.

During a recent council meeting,
Docklands was once again referred to as
a “24/7 neighbourhood” in the municipal
plan, without real consideration for how
the community has evolved, the growing
number of families who live here, the types
of businesses that are succeeding, and
the shifts needed to create a truly thriving

environment.

The community, however, is not giving up.
Grassroots leaders, parents, artists, entre-
preneurs, and long-time locals continue to
show up for each other. Docklands doesn’t
lack people who care, it lacks the platforms
and partnerships to channel that care into
lasting change.

What Docklands needs now is a renewed
sense of purpose. A way to reconnect with
its original vision and reimagine it for the
future.

This article is the first in a six-part series
exploring how we can reclaim Docklands
through the lens of community power. Over
the coming weeks, we’ll explore the ingre-
dients that make community thrive – from
the stores we tell, to the systems we build,
to the shared responsibilities we take on.

Because this isn’t just about Docklands
– it’s about democracy. It’s about how we
reclaim our place in a city that too often
forgets where community begins. It’s about
people having a say in the places they call
home. ●

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What should Melbourne be like in 2050?

Rome wasn't built in a day. It wasn't built in an election cycle either.

WORDS BY
LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE
NICK REECE



Great cities are built over generations. Each big decision and mighty effort builds on what has come before.

Melbourne finds itself at a historic juncture. We have had some challenging years, a once-in-a-century crisis. Now Melbourne is poised for rapid growth and transformation.

Melbourne is once again the fastest growing city in Australia, and the City of Melbourne was the fastest growing municipality in the country last year.

This change presents big opportunities and big challenges. Growth is not an end point in itself. It must be for a purpose: to create a better city and a better life for those who call it home.

That's why one of my first actions as Lord Mayor was to call for the biggest gathering Town Hall has ever seen – the Melbourne 2050 Summit.

On May 9, the voices of more than 1000 Melburnians will be asked to answer a big question: "What should Melbourne be like in 2050?"

What are the big ideas, the bold initiatives, that will secure Melbourne's place in the top league of world cities?

What should our homes, streets, and transport system look like? What sort of jobs will we do? What will Melbourne be famous for? What are the values that we stand for and bind us together as a city?

Everyone in Melbourne is invited to share their ideas.

For those of us of a certain age, 25 years is not that long. Consider what Melbourne was like in 2000.

The Bolte Bridge, Docklands Stadium and the new Melbourne Museum had only just opened. There was no Fed Square, ACMI or Eureka Tower. There weren't many Asian eateries beyond Chinatown. To find our way to them, we needed the Melway. And Melbourne's population was almost two million fewer than it is today.

2050 is the same length of time away. That poses the challenge: what can we achieve by then?

Here are some ideas. A conversation starter.

What if Melbourne became a city without homelessness? A city where every single person can find a home.

What are the industries where Melbourne can build a competitive advantage and can lead the world?

What if Melbourne was known for its beautiful environment, parks and gardens, clean air, water and food – a city where families can swim in the rivers and waterways, including the Yarra?

How do we build on Melbourne's reputation as a global sporting and events capital, or as a great education city? How do we take it to the next level?

What will be the values that define the people of Melbourne: freedom, respect, equality, dignity, mateship, a city for all?

All ideas are welcome. All are needed. The Melbourne 2050 Summit is a golden opportunity to cement our place as the world's best and fairest city for the long term.

Share your big ideas for 2050 at Participate Melbourne.

Please be part of Melbourne's future. You are invited. ●



Is an ATET hangover holding Docklands back?

Continued from page 1.

Despite the council returning to the drawing board to revise the MPS, which won't be tabled until November 2026, council management noted that the current active MPS continues to promote 24-hour waterfront use and an appealing night-time waterscape.

Not all residents are opposed, however. Long-serving executive officer of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC), Shane Wylie, said that for Docklands to thrive, it needs attractions that draw people into the area.

Mr Wylie believes ATET was "sabotaged" by a small number of residents. While he acknowledged the nightclub wasn't perfect, he said the agenda of those opposed to it resurfaces every time municipal planning is discussed.

"They have had far more impact than they deserve on the overall strategy for Docklands," Mr Wylie told Docklands News.

"It should be cosmopolitan," he added. "It should be a place where not only families can go, but revellers too – a place where

restaurants, nightclubs, and floating bars can survive."

Mr Wylie highlighted the significant decline in visitation to the area, largely due to the pandemic. He is particularly concerned about the impact remote work has had on local businesses.

According to Mr Wylie, if the city can't find ways to bring people to Docklands, the area will continue to languish.

With no clear vision yet laid out for Docklands' Central Pier, he sees a major opportunity to create a space that drives significant visitation through concerts and art exhibitions.

Mr Wylie quipped that he'd be far more inclined to see Dua Lipa on an outdoor stage – or Cold Chisel on a reunion tour – than go to a museum.

"It's [Central Pier] a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Docklands to actually create something spectacular," he said. "If something spectacular is created, property prices go up, and restaurants and bars become viable. You'll still have 25 people complaining, but the other 15,000 will be happy." ●

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Home-grown star Vinceman Chong chases gold at Oceania 2025

Australia's junior national champion, Vinceman Chong, will take centre ice this May as he competes for gold on home ground at the Oceania 2025 International Figure Skating Competition.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



From May 26 to 28, nearly 100 elite athletes from more than eight countries will descend on The District Docklands' O'Brien Icehouse for the Southern Hemisphere's premier figure skating event.

Entry is open to the public at \$3 a ticket, promising a breathtaking display of artistry and athleticism.

For 16-year-old Mr Vinceman, the event carries special meaning. He first fell in love with the sport at O'Brien Icehouse when he was just five years old.

"My older sister was invited to a birthday party there, and I went and attended with

her. Ever since then, I hopped on the ice and fell in love with the sport," he said.

Now, nearly a decade later, Mr Vinceman is back where it all began – only this time, as a national champion.

He trains six times a week, and often more, balancing a brutal schedule with school.

"I normally wake up at four every morning and then get ready and go to the rink. From there, I rush back home to get ready for school," he said.

"Usually straight after school, I come home and do some gym and workouts, and then rush straight into my homework."

Despite the sacrifices, Mr Vinceman says the exhilaration of skating makes it all worth it.

"My favourite part is going really, really fast around the rink or jumping. You get that rush of the cold wind, especially when you're going really fast – it's kind of exhilarating," he told Docklands News.

"When you land that jump for the first time, it's just like a rush of excitement."

As Oceania 2025 draws near, Mr Vinceman is ready to create another unforgettable moment – this time, with the home crowd behind him. ●

Port of Melbourne presses council on freight bridge

“

The Port of Melbourne has called on the City of Melbourne to include its proposed freight bridge over the Yarra River between Swanson and Webb Docks in its new Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS).

”



WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Ambitious housing targets and a swathe of new planning rules recently announced by the state government has seen the council defer further action in progressing the strategy until November 2026.

Councillors considered submissions to the MPS at its April 15 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, which were received from a range of stakeholders, including residents' groups, developers, government agencies and major property owners.

Prior to the meeting, council management had requested that the Minister for Planning appoint an independent planning panel and refer all submissions to the panel for consideration. However, this may not occur until the end of next year, putting the delivery of the MPS on hold while it is redrafted.

Despite the deferral, the Port of Melbourne's submission was one of 37 shared on April 15, with the port authority calling out the plan's omission of its controversial proposal for a freight bridge that threatens to suffocate Victoria Harbour.

While it acknowledged the plan's "safeguarding freight routes" surrounding the port, including Lorimer St as the only major link between Webb Dock and the Dynon Precinct, via Wurundjeri Way, the authority argued the freight link "must be included".

"The submitter notes that the proposed Webb Dock Freight Link has not been identified within any of the proposed mapping," a summary of the Port of Melbourne's submission published in the council's report stated.

"The identified alignment ... must be included ensuring its due consideration in determining any planning permit applications along the alignment."

The Port of Melbourne cited its 2050 Port Development and "Our Plan for Rail" strategies, along with the state government's plans for Fishermans Bend as planning justification for its request.

But in its response to the Port of Melbourne, the City of Melbourne said any move to include the freight link in its planning strategy was "premature".

"There is currently no formal proposal for the alignment of the Webb Dock Freight Link (WDFL). It is therefore considered premature to represent the WDFL alignment in the MPS," the council stated.

The Port of Melbourne also challenged the council's plans for new open space along certain areas on the western side of Moonee Ponds Creek, arguing that several areas affected was land the authority leased and operated.

It added that these areas had been "incorrectly labelled" and required careful consideration given their strategic importance to its operations. It called on the council to appropriately label them reflecting that they formed part of the Port of Melbourne.

The council responded by saying land within the Port of Melbourne lease area was shown in the plan's maps, and that open space shown adjacent reflected the council-endorsed Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan 2020.

"It is acknowledged that any proposed new open space located on land not owned or managed by the City of Melbourne, would require facilitation with relevant agencies to ensure it aligns with their strategic intent," the council stated. ●



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Brad Battin doesn't fit the mould of a typical politician – and he's fine with that

“

Dubbed the “bogan from Berwick”, Victorian opposition leader Brad Battin embraces his background as a former police officer, footy player and coach, and someone who still genuinely road-tests policy ideas at the pub.

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Having left school early and owned a Baker's Delight, Mr Battin, complete with tattoos, is quick to point out that he's not your typical pollie. From parliament to the pub, the father of two appears determined to bring politics back to the people.

“When someone talks about the pub test – I actually do the pub test,” he told *Docklands News*.

“If I've got an issue and I wonder whether it's any good, I'll literally go to the pub and have a few beers and have a chat to people – it's the best way to find out information and if they sit there and go, ‘you're an idiot’, they're probably right.”

Open about the fact that he “never wanted to get into politics”, it's this everyday appeal and connection to community that has underpinned the Member for Berwick's 15-year career in parliament, now rising to become Victoria's next alternative Premier.

The new opposition leader sat down with *Docklands News* to discuss his first few months in the job, the road ahead to the November 2026 state election, and how Melbourne must regain its edge as one of the world's best cities – and that's not without some advice for new City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Nick Reece.

It's still early days for Mr Battin who only took over from his predecessor John Pessuto at the start of the year following the high-profile defamation case between the former opposition leader and Liberal MP Moira Deeming.

While Ms Deeming won the case, she is now reportedly pursuing costs that threatens to both bankrupt Mr Pesutto and provide an unwelcome and lingering distraction for Mr Battin to contend with.

But he's naturally upbeat about the state of his party when asked by *Docklands News*, affirming that all his colleagues had “one thing on their mind now”, and that was to “win government”.

“What we read in the media versus what happens in real life is always a bit different,” Mr Battin said. “But overall, I've never walked into the party room and felt ‘oh this is going to be a long day.’”

“Over the next just over 600 days, you're going to have a group that have come together for the right reasons, to do the right things, to effectively win government. As long as they're concentrating on that then we're going to be in a good position.”

Mr Battin is now hoping to reconnect with voters by presenting himself and his team as a grounded alternative focused on restoring pride in Melbourne and delivering a “sensible” path forward on infrastructure, housing and safety.

While acknowledging that “obviously no-one wants to be in opposition”, he describes the past few months in the role as rewarding and energising, adding that the opportunity to lead the party was one that he seized with both hands.

“It's been a real challenge. You learn a lot about yourself and different leadership styles,” he said. “The team's positive, proactive, and I think we're in a good position moving forward.”

A longtime MP for the outer south-eastern electorate of Berwick, Mr Battin said his passion for the inner city stemmed from his time spent working in Melbourne and Prahran as a copper.

He says Melbourne was, and still has the potential to be the world's greatest capital city but believes the sense of civic pride in the CBD has waned.

“We've got nearly everything going for us – we used to have the best nightlife, we used to have the best and safest streets, but now we're just seeing too many places closed and businesses are struggling,” he said.

“We need to bring that pride back into Melbourne.”

Mr Battin says part of the solution lies in revitalising the city beyond major events. That means supporting smaller events and ensuring cafes, restaurants and retail can thrive all year round – not just during the tennis or AFL finals.

While his federal counterparts have come under scrutiny for their now scrapped election policy to force public servants back to the office, he believes in a much more “sensible, balanced approach” for Melbourne.

“My wife works from home a couple of days a week and it suits her, and her productivity is up, but I think we have to take productivity into consideration, as well as the impact across the whole state,” he said.

On crime and safety, he said concerns were widespread and had become the most commonly raised issue in the community, alongside cost-of-living pressures and the city's quieter weekdays post-COVID.

He called for more collaboration between Spring Street and Town Hall, and while acknowledging Lord Mayor Nick Reece's efforts to bolster street security, Mr Battin said some initiatives had overstepped.

“I've met up with him [Nick Reece] a couple of times. He's pretty dynamic.”

“I get what Nicholas is doing around trying to put security on the streets with people in knife proof vests, etcetera, but it should be the police's role, and I think that's really important,” Mr Battin said.

“Rather than trying to fix the problem of the state, he should be focusing on what he can do and actually encourage the state to fix that,” but added that “part of that too is we should work together on cleaning up the city”.

Mr Battin said he was open to working with the City of Melbourne on shared projects and pointed to cities like Ballarat, which he noted took “pure pride” in keeping its streets clean.

“There's a group up there [Ballarat] that goes around and cleans up the footpaths every morning. I haven't seen that in Melbourne other than those little trucks that drive around, which do nothing compared to the guy with the big high-pressure hose.”

With infrastructure shaping up as a key election issue, Mr Battin said the government's flagship Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) project would be reviewed and scrapped if the Coalition wins power, labelling it “unaffordable”.

Instead, he flagged targeted investment in rail electrification upgrades in growth corridors, and a greater focus on buses – including dedicated lanes and expanded networks in growth areas.

“Obviously, we know we want it [SRL] cancelled now but if that doesn't happen, we have to assess it. You don't want to be stuck



with a noose of something that we just can't deliver,” he said.

“If you can use buses in line with trams and align them better, I think that's a fantastic way that we can get more cars off the road without going out and promoting taking cars off the road. If people trust the system and it works, they'll use it.”

On housing, Mr Battin said high-rise developments alone wouldn't solve the crisis, suggesting that many Victorians wanted more space and would prefer outer suburb or regional options if properly supported.

He also criticised the government's rebranding of the SRL as a “housing project”, arguing it was a way to shift public attention away from cost blowouts.

“The evidence is in, not everyone wants to live in a high-rise,” he said. “We've got thousands of places available in Melbourne and if everyone wanted to live there, they would be full.”

“The housing plan that the government's got is dictating where you need to live rather than asking people where they need to live and then putting in place a longer-term plan.”

He said areas like Geelong offered major potential for long-term housing solutions, and that more should be done to unlock both brownfield and greenfield sites, especially those already tied up in state government planning in the inner-city such as Fishermans Bend, E-Gate and Arden-Macaulay.

While stopping short of committing to specific projects like Metro 2, Mr Battin said any future government would need to assess priorities based on return on investment and infrastructure gaps.

With less than two years until the next

election, recent polls suggest voters are tiring of Labor ahead of what will be 12 years of consecutive government. A recent Resolve poll finds Mr Battin leading Jacinta Allan as preferred Premier 36 to 23.

While his party will need to win at least 25 seats to claim government and hold onto what it has, he believes there's a growing appetite for change.

“I think people are sick of it. They're sick of Labor. It's not a person, they're just sick of Labor.”

He said people were increasingly talking about crime, cost of living, infrastructure and healthcare, with many raising concerns about Victoria's mounting debt and the financial strain on households and businesses.

“Labor can't manage the big projects; they can't manage a lot of things and Victorians are the ones who are paying. Our process now is about how can we fix that,” he said, adding that his party had already announced its intentions for “more gas”, “cutting waste”, and “getting rid of corruption”.

“Now the process is about what are our big policies moving forward. For example, how do we address things like crime – it can't just be lock them up and throw away the key. While that's the easy way out, there also has to be a preventative model where we guide the next generation away from the system.”

Asked why he was taking on the challenge of leading Victoria, Mr Battin doesn't hesitate.

“If we don't have change, it's only going to get worse. You need a responsible government in there to start the process of fixing the damage that's been done.” ●

Docklands athletes nominated for 2024 Victorian Sport Awards

The Victorian Sport Awards (VSAs) have announced their 2024 finalists, and two exceptional athletes from Docklands' Winter Institute are among the nominees.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Scotty James, a renowned snowboarding champion, and Jakara Anthony, an elite mogul skier, are both up for prestigious awards, each hoping to secure a third consecutive victory.

"Combined with the calibre of the nominations, these awards are a true showcase of the successes throughout the Victorian sport and active recreation community," Vicsport chair Jason Hellwig said.

Mr James, a multiple-time Winter Olympian, has once again been nominated for the Frank Wilkes Award, which recognises outstanding results in the male category at a national or international level.

He is competing against fellow Olympians Kelland O'Brien (cycling), John Peers (tennis), and world champion swimmer Sam Williamson.

Ms Anthony, who has excelled in mogul skiing, is also nominated for her third consecutive Kitty McEwan Award in the female category.

She faces fierce competition from athletes like Grace Brown (cycling), Emily Petricola (para-cycling), and Qian Yang (para-table tennis).

Both athletes have been instrumental in putting the Winter Institute in Docklands on the map as a hub for high-performance winter sports in Victoria.

Their dedication and achievements exemplify the institute's commitment to fostering elite talent.

The Victorian Sport Awards, which will be held on May 14 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, celebrate the achievements of individuals across 18 categories.



The event showcases the success of local athletes, coaches, and volunteers, and recognises contributions to both grassroots and high-performance sports in Victoria.

"It's fantastic to see this group of outstanding Victorians nominated by their communities for going above and beyond at all levels of sport," Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence said.

"We're delighted to shine the spotlight on these local icons at the 2024 Victorian Sport Awards." ●



Little India Traders Association Inc. launches to celebrate Melbourne's Indian business community

A new not-for-profit association aiming to spotlight Indian entrepreneurship in Melbourne's inner-city has officially launched with the formation of the Little India Traders Association Inc. (LITA).

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



LITA has been established to promote the visibility and vitality of Indian-owned businesses across a range of sectors, including retail, hospitality, education, finance and professional services.

The new body, inspired by the vision of City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Nick Reece to establish the city's first Little India precinct, aims to create a more inclusive and globally connected city by

supporting Indian-Australian entrepreneurs who have long played a key role in Melbourne's growth.

"Melbourne's vibrancy is shaped by the people who live, work, and celebrate here. Indian entrepreneurs are part of that journey – powering local precincts, supporting events, and enriching our collective story," LITA chairperson Gautam Gupta said.

LITA's objectives include driving precinct activations, supporting events such as Diwali and Holi celebrations, and building partnerships with other business precincts and community groups to promote cross-cultural collaboration.

The association will also advocate for greater access to business grants, tourism programs and city-led initiatives for migrant-led and Indian-owned enterprises.

Representing business owners, landlords and professionals within the CBD, LITA will seek to enhance Melbourne's cultural economy while celebrating the city's rich Indian heritage. ●

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Koreatown in Healeys Lane, Melbourne

Celebrate the historic launch of Melbourne's first Koreatown.

Home to nearly 25 Korean-owned businesses – including restaurants, cafes and shops – Healeys Lane in the CBD has long been known as Melbourne's unofficial Koreatown.

It is now time to seal the deal, with the official opening ceremony set to take place on 17 May.

To mark the occasion, four large traditional Korean totem poles, called jang seung, will be unveiled at the entrances to Koreatown.

In Korean culture the totem poles are traditionally placed at the entries of communities to ward off evil spirits.



Jang seung carving in progress



These sculptures were hand-carved by master artisan Jong-yeon Kim and funded by the Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea in Melbourne.

The Koreatown opening ceremony will feature vibrant performances highlighting Korean traditions. There will also be a bibimbap tasting.

Special guests and officials also will join to celebrate this historic moment.

The celebrations carry on the next weekend with the Korea Festival at Fed Square.

Visitors can enjoy Korean food, music, and performances, including a high-energy K-pop showdown on Sunday night!

Koreatown adds new flavours to Melbourne's rich multicultural scene, joining well-known precincts such as Chinatown and the Greek Quarter in the CBD, and Little Italy in nearby Lygon Street, Carlton.

More than 2500 Koreans live in the City of Melbourne, and more than 25,000 live across Victoria.

Don't miss this historic celebration of Korean culture, food, and heritage in the heart of the city.

KOREATOWN OPENING CEREMONY

Where: Healeys Lane, Melbourne
Date: Saturday 17 May
Time: From 11am

KOREA FESTIVAL

Where: Fed Square
Date: Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May
K-pop Showdown: Sunday 6.30pm to 8.30pm

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Are you looking to host a free event in Melbourne in 2026? Our Event Partnership Program supports free, accessible events that make lasting memories for locals and visitors across our municipality.

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Applications are open until 30 May.

Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au and search 'Event Partnership Program' to learn more.

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For the locals: Independent councillor Andrew Rowse charts a new path to Town Hall

“

Andrew Rowse has entered the City of Melbourne with a clear mandate for change – and a determination to do things differently.

”

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Elected as an independent and running a self-funded campaign, Cr Rowse brings a background in innovation and a strong community focus to his new role.

With no political affiliations and a pragmatic approach shaped by his work at the University of Melbourne, he aims to prioritise residents' needs and restore trust in local government.

"It's been really exciting. It is very much a new world for me, and so far, I've loved every minute of it," he said.

A familiar face in the city's startup and innovation scene, Cr Rowse heads the entrepreneurial centre at the University of Melbourne, where he works closely with researchers and emerging businesses.

Without financial backing and while managing a full-time job, his grassroots campaign turned into both an endurance challenge and an opportunity to log impressive miles on his Strava.

"I'd be working nine to five, I'd knock off at five o'clock, I'd drive to whatever suburb was next on my list, and I'd letterbox drop until two or three in the morning," he said.

"It was exhausting, but I absolutely loved it. I saw things that I didn't know we even had in the city."

The community response, he said, was overwhelmingly positive.

"I think people are just genuinely sick of the partisan fighting. Having someone who was outside of all that enabled me to come in and look at every issue on its merit."

Now in office, Cr Rowse is concentrating on amplifying the city's innovation ecosystem and returning to grassroots values.

"We've got so many great innovations, but we just haven't quite figured out how to crack into that and unleash the really cool things that are happening," he said.

"And I want to make sure we're delivering for our most important stakeholders – our residents."

"We all geographically live here within Melbourne, and the only other thing I believe we can all have in common is shared values. If we fail to establish those values, then a multicultural community like we have in Melbourne will never truly thrive."

A self-described "nerd" with an engineering background, Cr Rowse is relishing the behind-the-scenes view of council operations.

"To have the privilege of seeing how so many different areas work is just so intellectually exciting."

Cr Rowse has already made the most of his new role, highlighting his welcome speech at the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's free summer concert series as a particularly meaningful experience.



COUNCILLOR PROFILE

A long-time attendee of the event, he described the opportunity to address the crowd as a "childhood dream" come true.

"I've always been someone who has said 'yes' to opportunity. To me, this is a massive

opportunity and responsibility, and I don't take that lightly."

"Local politics should be about the locals – taking the party out of party politics. That's why I've loved my journey so far." ●



PICKLEBALL AT NMRC!

We now have Pickleball running on Tuesdays at North Melbourne Recreation Centre.

Pickleball is paddle sport that combines tennis, badminton and table tennis. All equipment will be provided and a coach from Pickleball FUN will be available at each session to teach you the rules and skills. Sessions booked through the Pickleball FUN website or app. **\$12.50 per session.**



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DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU

Community and stakeholder forum report at Docklands library on March 25

Triggered by alarm at Development Victoria’s intention to evict the heritage fleet from North Wharf, Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) convened a forum to enable the community and maritime heritage stakeholders to discuss the impacts.

Development Victoria (DV) declined multiple invitations to attend this forum, which would have been an opportunity to engage with the 70 stakeholders who did attend.

Forum report: As promised, MMHN produced a comprehensive forum report sharing the comments at the forum and later comments to MMHN.

MMHN provided this to DV and all other relevant state government authorities and the wider heritage community. We invite the Docklands community to access this report on <https://mmhn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/MMHN-HF-Forum-Report-25-3-2025.pdf>

Historic parallels: where is Melbourne Harbour Trust when Docklands needs it?

Parallels may be drawn between the 19th century real-estate development agenda of the Melbourne Harbour Trust (MHT) and

the 21st century real estate agenda of DV in Docklands.

Both government agencies were established by the state government to foster commercial real-estate development. That said, there is a regrettable difference – Docklands is literally paying the price. Whereas MHT invested in enhancing and building the economic capacity of Melbourne’s natural waterways assets, DV fails to display any such vision today.

The intent of DV’s agenda is clearly limited to real-estate development. DV has shirked its stated responsibility in relation to placemaking for the unique site of Docklands.

DV continues to squander heritage assets – overseeing the neglected structure of Central Pier, North Wharf, decades of wharf disrepair on Bolte West Precinct and NewQuay and failure to comply with re-erection of heritage-listed sheds along Harbour Esplanade.

DV’s agenda is characterised by community consultation in name only, inaction leading to demolition and delay after delay.

Docklands Railway Coal Canal: Docklands “vision” is absent today.

Never underestimate immense significance of direct water access for colliers from the coal port of Newcastle to the Victorian railway coaling facilities, which



served the Spencer Street Station railway yards that conveyed the all-important commodity of coal to drive maritime trade vessels and ferries, freight-handling (railways, cranes), street illumination and electrical power in the booming city of Melbourne.

Direct water access was needed for colliers from the NSW coal port of Newcastle to Victoria’s ports and railway expanding network. The state government of the day established the MHT in 1877 to foster commercial interests in a Melbourne that was largely reliant upon maritime trade, port infrastructure and, efficient access to coal cargo arriving by sea.

This triggered the construction in 1889

of first the Railway Coal Canal, which also served to redirect seasonal floodwaters from the Moonee Ponds Creek away from an inland saltwater lake or swamp.

As well as streamlining the access to coal, this canal also delivered commercial benefit in the form of new areas of dry land along the bank of the canal suitable for commercial development. This was a real estate based commercial benefit. It is hard to imagine any demand for such reclaimed land in the colony or of a state government investing so heavily in such commercial projects.

The gold rushes (1850s and ‘60s) attracted immense immigration to the booming colony. Then, as now, immigration increased demand for space and jobs in an economy which was dependent on a maritime sector. Unlike the Coode Canal (part of Birrarung/Yarra) or Victoria Harbour, the Melbourne Coal Canal (aka Railway Coal Canal), still exists towards the west of Docklands but is obviously no longer an operational waterway. ●

Jackie Watts
CHAIR
[INFO@MMHN.ORG.AU](mailto:info@mmhn.org.au)



COMMUNITY3008 INC.

Why volunteering matters – especially here in Docklands

Docklands is more than waterfront views and iconic buildings, it’s a growing community with a heartbeat powered by people.

At Community3008 Inc., we believe that the future of our neighbourhood isn’t just built by cranes and concrete, but by care, connection, and collective action. And at the heart of that? Volunteering.

Volunteering is one of the most powerful expressions of community. It’s how we show up for each other – whether it’s checking in on a neighbour, helping at a local event, or joining a community clean-up. It’s how we turn a postcode into a place of belonging.

In Docklands, where the pace of development sometimes outstrips the pace of connection, volunteering becomes even more vital. It fills the gaps. It builds the social glue. It’s how we create the kind of neighbourhood we want to live in – one that’s

vibrant, safe, inclusive, and kind. It’s this kind of community involvement that allows us to drive and shape our neighbourhood, because then it’s clear that our neighbourhood can’t be sold to the highest bidder.

Whether you’re new to the area or a long-time local, there’s a role for you. From supporting cultural festivals and family activities to helping shape future community spaces, every contribution counts.

So, this is a call; not just to lend a hand, but to be part of something bigger. To shape the Docklands we all deserve. If you’ve been waiting for a sign to get involved, this is it.

Join us at Community3008 Inc. to ensure our community isn’t forgotten, and that it’s shaped to benefit you, our community. It’s time to get involved. Because when we volunteer, we don’t just help others, we build a stronger, more connected Docklands for us all.

Wanttogetinvolved?EmailCommunity3008 Inc: contact@community3008@org.au ●

Docklands statues remain stuck in storage

Four out of five bronze statues of great Australian entertainers remain in storage nine years after being removed to make way for the Banksia apartment tower in NewQuay.

WORDS BY
RICKY SPROULE



The statues of Kylie Minogue, Dame Edna Everage, John Farnham, Dame Nellie Melba and Graham Kennedy were installed in 2006 as part of a public display called the Walk of Stars.

The public art project was delivered in 2006 by ING, a former developer in NewQuay, in association with the Variety Children’s Charity. The project was supported by the Docklands Art Fund, a pool of funds for public art that developers in Docklands are required to contribute to.

Since 2016 the statues have been held in storage by Development Victoria. The statues are in a warehouse in South Clayton according to Peter Corlett, the sculptor commissioned to create them.

“I’ve sort of given up on them. It’s so disappointing and even hurtful to see them treated this way,” Mr Corlett, who is now retired, told *Docklands News*.

Mr Corlett created many public artworks in a career spanning more than 50 years. His work can be seen in places like the National War Memorial in Canberra, Treasury Place and McClland Sculpture Park in Langwarrin.

Mr Corlett said he had never faced a situation like this, where completed work was sitting in a warehouse gathering dust.

The sculptor spent around six months working on each statue. He recalls a difficult working relationship with ING and Variety at that time as well as a legal battle with Barry Humphries over the use of his likeness.



The legal battle delayed the unveiling of the Dame Edna Statue for two years before the statue was eventually put on display in 2009.

Despite repeated calls for all of the statues to be put back on public display, only the Dame Nellie Melba statue has found a new home. It was moved to Melba’s home estate at Coombe Cottage in Coldstream in 2022.

“We are continuing to explore a range of options for the remaining statues,” Development Victoria’s Acting Group Head of Precincts, Imogen Lewis told *Docklands News*.

Mr Corlett has said he was no longer advocating for the statues after trying to help find a solution on numerous occasions.

He said he was doubtful that his statues will ever be seen in Docklands again. ●

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A fairer housing system must be a priority this election

We're in a housing crisis. Rental affordability in Melbourne is the worst it's ever been and the idea of owning a home is now completely out of reach for most young people.

For those who have been able to buy a home, many people are facing crippling mortgages, and the prospect that their kids will probably never be able to afford a home.

What is often missing from the debate though, is the fact that this crisis didn't happen for no reason. The system isn't just broken, it's rigged. Governments over the years have made choices and decisions that have led to the housing system we have today – and they can make choices to get us out of it, if they're willing to have a bit of courage.

One of the biggest barriers to young people buying their first home is the enormous tax handouts that make it easier for someone to buy their fifth, sixth or seventh home, and harder to buy their first home. These tax handouts include the capital gains tax discount introduced by the Howard Liberal Government, as well as negative gearing which allow investors to claim the costs of their investment properties against their other income, using housing investments to significantly reduce their tax.

Together, negative gearing and capital gains tax discounts to property investors cost us \$176 billion every 10 years.

But it doesn't have to stay this way. We can turn things around, if governments are willing to roll back the bad decisions of the past.

The good news is there is hope – and while these two policies can only be changed at the federal level, we've actually already made good progress at a state level in

Victoria.

In Victoria, the Greens and I have fought for and won important changes to move us towards a fairer housing system.

We campaigned for and secured new rights for renters – protections that give tenants more long-term security, so they can't be kicked out for no reason; that require minimum standards like working kitchens and bathrooms in rentals (the bare minimum!), and ability to have disputes dealt with fairly.

We also successfully pushed the government to take real steps toward regulating short-stay platforms like Airbnb, to make sure that more homes are being used as long-term homes, not hotel rooms.

And we fought for and won an expansion of the vacant homes tax – so people who leave homes empty during a housing crisis are encouraged to put them on to the long-term rental market.

But our work is far from over.



We need to phase out these unfair federal tax handouts. Doing so would not only give first-home buyers more of a fair chance, but free up billions in public funds that could be invested in directly building homes people can actually afford, or to spend on other important policies like getting dental care into Medicare.

We also need to stop the Victorian Labor Government's

ill-advised plan to demolish all our high-rise public housing towers and replace them with mostly private expensive apartments, making the housing crisis worse.

That's why I consider this federal election one of the most consequential in recent history. We have a unique chance to elect MPs like my Greens colleagues who will make reforming the housing system a priority in the next Parliament.

Housing should be a human right, not just a way for investors to get rich. We need a housing system built for people, not for profit. More Greens in parliament will keep Dutton out and put pressure on Labor to act to fix the housing crisis. ●

Ellen Sandell

STATE MP FOR
MELBOURNE

OFFICE@
ELLENSANDELL.COM



Welsh choir sings to save Docklands' maritime heritage

The future of Docklands' heritage fleet will be in the spotlight this month, with the Australian Welsh Male Choir hosting a special sing-along to raise support for the preservation of Melbourne's precious ships.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Locals are invited to join the free event at the Mission to Seafarers on Wednesday, May 14 between 7pm and 9pm, where the choir will perform traditional songs once sung by sailors to lift spirits at sea.

The *Alma Doepel*, *Enterprize* and steam tug *Wattle* have been iconic fixtures in Docklands for decades, but their futures remain uncertain amid ongoing

redevelopment of their current home at North Wharf in Victoria Harbour.

The choir said that the ships, all Australian-built, played a vital role in Melbourne's tourism economy, education, and community life, and it hoped the event would bring more attention to the need for a long-promised permanent facility in Docklands to house the fleet and safeguard its legacy.

The setlist will include the protest song *Where will Alma Go?* recently written by fellow mariner and former skipper of the *Lady Cutler* Melbourne Showboat Jeff Gordon.

Doors and the bar will open from 6.30pm, with no tickets required. Visitors can enjoy a fun and lively night while supporting the Mission to Seafarers and Melbourne's maritime history.

The Australian Welsh Male Choir, well known for its warm community spirit, also welcomes new members to its regular rehearsals at venues across Melbourne. For more information phone Geoff Selby on 0405 987 567. ●

Love Our Street 3008 returns to Docklands for first community clean-up since COVID

Docklands residents are being invited to take part in a special community clean-up later this month, as Love Our Street 3008 (LOS3008) returns to NewQuay for the first time since the pandemic.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The event will be held on Saturday, May 24 from 2pm to 4pm, with volunteers meeting at NewQuay Central Park. All equipment will be provided on the day, although participants are welcome to bring their own heavy-duty or gardening gloves.

The clean-up aims to tackle local litter, particularly plastic waste, while raising awareness about the broader impacts of rubbish on the environment. Organisers have reminded attendees to familiarise themselves with health and safety

guidelines and note that all children under 15 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

It will be the first official LOS3008 event held in Docklands since the group's launch in 2019, when around 50 residents came together for a "spring clean" of the suburb as part of World Clean Up Day.

That original event, spearheaded by Docklands Representative Group (DRG) member Janette Corcoran and supported by Docklands Rotary, the Country Women's Association (CWA) Docklands, YMCA, Neighbourhood House, and the City of Melbourne, was hailed as a major success in bringing Docklanders together.

Love Our Street 3008 is part of a broader network of community-led initiatives encouraging locals to take pride in keeping public spaces clean and welcoming.

Residents are encouraged to come along on May 24, stay as long as they can, and help continue building a cleaner and stronger Docklands community.

To sign up: events.humanitix.com/clean-up-docklands ●



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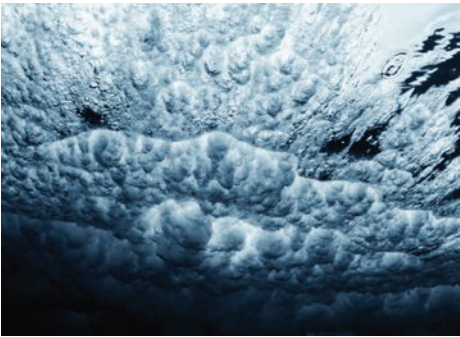
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Art meets climate science at Library at the Dock Gallery

A collaborative exhibition *Waves and Bubbles: Turbulent Waters* merges climate science, music and visual art to transform Library at the Dock Gallery into an aural-visual ocean world until May 25.

WORDS BY
ALEXANDRA RANDALL



This project, born out of collaboration between artist Elissa Goodrich and research scientist Richard Manasseh and his team at Swinburne University, combines science, art and music to bring the acoustics of bubbles breaking in ocean waves onto dry land.

Ms Goodrich crafted music interpretation of Professor Manasseh's finding on fluid dynamics – the study of liquids and gases in motion – to replicate the sound of bubbles breaking. His team examines ocean warming, using bursting bubbles as a key to understanding carbon dioxide absorption and water temperature.

She took this sound data, and produced an exhibition heavily based in collaboration to offer alternate ways of understanding the complex social and scientific issue that is climate change.

"My work is firstly trying to understand what these scientists are doing, but from a composer's point of view, and then making music and sound out of what they've found," Ms Goodrich said.

This project sits right at the intersection between new climate science and multi-disciplinary arts-making, offering a soundscape reminiscent of an ocean-world accompanied by 3D and video art spotted around the gallery.

For Ms Goodrich, scientists and musicians are not so far apart as many people believe.

"We both ask questions, we both test things. We discover things and then ask some more questions," she said.

"When scientists and artists listen to each other, that dialogue that emerges across what are perhaps traditional silos of knowledge is a beautiful thing."

The artist herself is a renowned composer, sound artist and percussionist. Often, she works with artists from other disciplines to create narrative through her music.

To process of combining music with data

was "tricky, but fun."

"I spend a lot of time in the laboratory," Ms Goodrich said, adding that "a lot of listening, a lot of observing, a lot of learning" was involved.

She and Prof. Manasseh have been working together to bridge the world between science and arts for six years now, joined on this occasion by other, internationally acknowledged, independent artists.

This includes video artist and dramaturg Michale Carmody and exhibition visual designer, visual artist and science communicator Gabby O'Connor.

Much of Ms Goodrich's past work has been heavily rooted in collaboration – between artist and artist, as well as between scientist and artist.

"It creates something bigger than yourself. The artistic energy that's there, and the trust you need to have with those you're working with, it's all shared – you never know what will grow from it," she said.

While the current exhibition offers a "freeze frame in time, beautifully supported by the City of Melbourne," her work with Prof. Manasseh is ongoing.

She hopes that, by interpreting data in unique ways across different mediums, knowledge is made more accessible for those struggling with the "bigness" of the climate crisis.

"Knowledge is power. Breaking down any barriers that we might have in relation to the science is key to allowing hopeful and optimistic understanding of our world," she said.

"Sometimes it feels like science is sort of separate from the world we're in. It's not. It's another way of exploring nature, asking questions, and trying to find some answers."

Opening nights for this production was last Thursday. The exhibition can be seen until May 25, Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. ●

Kelvin and Palz: guardians of the Yarra Riverkeeper's Puggle

At Docklands' Yarra's Edge Marina, a small solar-powered boat named *Puggle* plays an important role in protecting one of the city's most vital waterways - thanks to the work of volunteers Kelvin Gedye and Palz Vaughan.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Since late last year, Kelvin and Palz have been caretakers of *Puggle*, which belongs to the Yarra Riverkeeper Association (YRKA).

"I went along to the (YRKA) annual general meeting just to check them out," Kelvin said.

"At the end of the meeting, I mentioned I had a marine licence – and [operations manager] Karina Watson's eyes lit up. They had a boat but no one to look after it."

Since then, the couple has maintained and operated *Puggle*, carrying passengers including artists, postgraduate science students, and river enthusiasts, giving them a new perspective on the Yarra.

"The main purpose of the organisation is to be an advocate for the river," Palz said.

Kelvin and Palz are no strangers to life on the water. They've chartered sailboats across Australia and overseas, building a wealth of boating experience along the way.

In Docklands, they hand-built a 10-foot wooden sailing dinghy – fitted with an electric motor and shaded canopy – that went on to win three awards for its craftsmanship and innovative design.

In caring for *Puggle*, they've uncovered hidden corners of the river that most city-dwellers miss.

From spotting foxes near Hawthorn to watching swans nest on floating wetlands, they've had front-row seats to the river's secret life.

"There are parts where you feel like you're nowhere near a city, and you're only 20 minutes away," Palz said.

When they head out – usually weekly or fortnightly – they also collect floating rubbish.



"Polystyrene is a big problem. It lasts forever and it attracts a lot of growth," Kelvin told *Docklands News*.

Microplastics are another major concern, as they enter the food chain and harm aquatic life.

The YRKA's mission is to advocate for the river's health, raise awareness of the threats it faces, and promote better management practices.

With around 70 per cent of Melbourne's drinking water sourced from the Yarra's upper reaches, the river's wellbeing has far-reaching consequences.

Despite the challenges, Kelvin and Palz always enjoy their time on the water.

"You learn something every time you go out. It's always changing," Kelvin said.

Their favourite spots include the serene stretches around Yarra Bend Park and the bustling industrial edges near the Port of Melbourne – a reminder of the river's many faces, and the importance of keeping it alive and thriving. ●

"A little world of health and wellness": The Brace Shop opens in Port Melbourne

After operating his family business out of Abbotsford for 35 years, Erez Baron has brought Melbourne's best sports and medical goods retail service to Port Melbourne, right on Docklands' doorstep.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



As one of Australia's leading sports medical suppliers, The Brace Shop – the retail interface for the Bodyassist brand of sports medical and health products – has everything one needs to help sustain a healthy and active lifestyle.

Described by Mr Baron as a "feel good" business, The Brace Shop prides itself on offering "old fashioned service" and providing a

physical location for anyone wishing to get professionally fitted for any of its high-quality medical health products.

For any Docklanders recovering from an injury or dealing with any pain or discomfort preventing them from staying active, Mr Baron said the store, located at 269 Williamstown Rd, was likely to have a product to help you "fix it".

This could range from knee or back braces, moon boots and recovery shoes, mouthguards and head protection, compression socks and tapes, spinal cushions and back rests, postpartum products, its top selling "Squatty Potty", skincare and jewellery and everything in between.

"We live by the phrase 'we won't tell you what's wrong, we'll tell you how to fix it,'" Mr Baron told *Docklands News*. "That's really the basis of what we're doing here. We're not trying to cure anyone because we're not a medical clinic, but we will certainly provide products that make people feel less pain, and more comfort."

Having started his career in the IT sector in the early '80s,

the 67-year-old Mr Baron said he eventually found his way into the sports medical industry and since starting his own business previously based on Hoddle St, he's never looked back.

Today, the brand distributes to around 3000 outlets and pharmacies across the country, including through Chemist Warehouse, and offers a strong online retail service to its customers.

But in always priding itself as a strong, direct-to-customer business, Mr Baron said The Brace Shop was an ideal avenue for local customers to come in and enjoy a more personalised service.

"Retail outlets can only hold a small selection of such products due to space restrictions," Mr Baron explained. "However the beauty of The Brace Shop is that we display many braces from every category, thereby greatly boosting consumer choice."

"This can apply to tennis elbow, foot injuries, whatever you like.

But customers can come in, and our staff will take them through the whole range of options."

Helping people to feel better has become a passion for Mr Baron over his 35-year journey with the business, having even designed and manufactured some products on-site here in Melbourne.

With the business now located in his hometown of Port Melbourne, he said he had no plans yet of slowing down and felt fortunate to have been able to make a positive impact on so many customers for much of his working life.

"My staff and I have been doing this for a long time. I don't think one can do something for this long without feeling good about it and enjoying what you do," Mr Baron said. "The business continues strongly and it's nice to see the fruits of our labour for all these years and see what we've created – a little world of health and wellness, I suppose."

thebraceshop.com.au ●

DOCKLANDS
REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

Financial shake-up for owners' corporations

Following an announcement by Minister for Consumer Affairs Nick Staikos, significant changes are coming for Victorian owners' corporations (OCs) — and they may have far-reaching impacts on financial management.

The most publicised change relates to financial hardship procedures.

Minister Staikos stated, "we're making sure apartment and unit owners can get the advice and support they need — when they need it."

From the time of the minister's announcement, when issuing fee notices, OCs must now provide detailed advice on owners' rights, including clear information about payment plans, how to access dispute resolution, and where to seek financial counselling. For more details, visit consumer.vic.gov.au.

Also, part of the reform, owners can now access the National Debt Helpline for free financial advice (call 1800 007 007 or visit ndh.org.au). The National Debt Helpline — debt problems — strata levies (ndh.org.au/debt-problems/strata-levies) page provides a step-by-step guide.

Added to this, OCs need to be aware that late payment fees are no longer a tool in their arsenal for prompting timely payment from owners. This is because late fees cannot be passed on in full to lot owners. Instead, the amount recoverable must be based on the owner's lot liability. For example, if a lot owner holds a 10 per cent liability and the OC manager charges a \$33 late fee, the owner can only be charged \$3.30. The OC must absorb the remainder.

This reflects the view of Consumer Affairs Victoria that the management contract exists between the OC and the manager — not individual lot owners. Additionally, OCs are prohibited from charging other fees, such as "administration fees," for overdue payments.

For many OCs, these changes mark a major shift in managing arrears, as previous approaches for dealing with habitual late payers have been curtailed. With limited options to promote prompt fee payment, serious questions arise about how OCs can encourage timely payments. ●

Janette Corcoran

MEMBER

[JCORCORAN@DOCKLANDS.ORG.AU](mailto:jcorcoran@docklands.org.au)



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Toxic clouds: unveiling the persistent dangers of tobacco and vaping

In an era where health consciousness is increasingly prevalent, the enduring menace of tobacco consumption and the burgeoning popularity of vaping continue to cast a dark shadow over public health.

Despite decades of warnings and regulations surrounding traditional smoking, and the relatively recent emergence of e-cigarettes marketed as a safer alternative, a growing body of evidence underscores the significant and often irreversible harm inflicted by both habits.

Traditional tobacco smoking remains a leading cause of preventable death and disability worldwide. The act of inhaling combusted tobacco releases a cocktail of more than 7000 chemicals, many of which are toxic and at least 70 are known to cause cancer. These substances wreak havoc on nearly every organ in the body.

The lungs bear a significant brunt, with smoking being the primary driver of lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including emphysema and chronic bronchitis, and increasing the risk of respiratory infections.

Beyond the respiratory system, the cardiovascular system is also severely impacted. Nicotine, a highly addictive chemical in tobacco, constricts blood vessels, elevates heart rate and blood pressure, and contributes to the build-up of plaque in arteries. This significantly increases the risk of heart attacks, strokes, and peripheral artery disease.

Furthermore, smoking weakens the immune system, making individuals more susceptible to a wide range of illnesses. The list of smoking-related health issues is extensive, encompassing various cancers (including mouth, throat, bladder, kidney, and pancreatic), pregnancy complications, vision problems, and premature aging.

While often perceived as a less harmful alternative, vaping has unveiled its own set of serious health risks. E-cigarettes heat a liquid, typically containing nicotine, flavourings, and other chemicals, into an aerosol that users inhale. Although vaping products generally contain fewer toxic chemicals than traditional cigarettes, they are far from harmless.

The short- and long-term effects of vaping are still being extensively studied, but alarming trends are emerging. A significant concern is the high nicotine content in many e-liquids, often exceeding that of traditional cigarettes. Nicotine is highly addictive and particularly detrimental to the developing brains of adolescents and young adults, impacting attention, learning, mood,



and impulse control. Studies also indicate that youth who vape are more likely to initiate cigarette smoking later in life.

Beyond nicotine, the aerosol produced by e-cigarettes contains a concerning array of potentially harmful substances. These include ultrafine particles that can lodge deep within the lungs, various heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead, volatile organic compounds, and flavouring chemicals like diacetyl, linked to a serious lung condition known as "popcorn lung".

Emerging research also suggests that vaping can cause inflammation and damage to lung tissue, leading to breathing difficulties, chronic cough, and an increased risk of respiratory illnesses.

The misconception that vaping is merely inhaling harmless water vapour has been widely debunked. Health professionals are increasingly concerned about the potential for long-term respiratory and cardiovascular damage from vaping, even in the absence of the tar and carbon monoxide found in traditional cigarette smoke. Furthermore, the unregulated nature of some vaping products raises concerns about inconsistent ingredient labelling and the presence of undisclosed harmful substances.

The evidence is clear: both tobacco smoking and vaping pose significant threats to individual and public health. While the specific mechanisms of harm may differ, both habits introduce toxic substances into the body, leading to a range of detrimental health outcomes.

Public health campaigns, stricter regulations, and ongoing research are crucial in combating the harmful effects of both tobacco and vaping, particularly among vulnerable youth.

The pursuit of a smoke-free and vape-free future remains a vital goal in safeguarding the health and well-being of communities worldwide. This World No Tobacco Day (May 31), take a stand and spread the message on the dangers of tobacco and vaping. ●

Dr Mike Edgley

CHIROPRACTOR

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OWNERS' CORPORATION
LAW

Overdue levies are reaching tipping point

During the COVID pandemic, the Victorian Government introduced certain legislation that would have the effect of providing relief to those who could not pay their debts on time.

It also required debt collectors and suppliers to wait a longer period of time before debt recovery action in VCAT and the courts could be commenced.

However, several years on from the pandemic, owners' corporations (OC) that rely on owners paying their annual fees on time are still struggling to enforce owners to pay off their historical debts. And the interest on these overdue fees is mounting ever higher.

Taken from the Strata Community Australia (SCA) Benchmarking Survey, 6.09 per cent is the Victorian national average of strata owners who have their levies in arrears for greater than 30 days.

While this may not seem like a large number — what this does mean is that, in any given building in Melbourne, OCs ought to be setting budgets that are in excess of 100 per cent of planned expenditure to account for late payers and the prospects of paying (sometimes substantial) legal professional fees to chase the late payers in VCAT and the courts.

It can take between six to 12 months to obtain a judgment for levy arrears in VCAT, and to enforce that judgment via the Sheriff's Office Victoria (for individuals) or via the Federal Court (for companies).

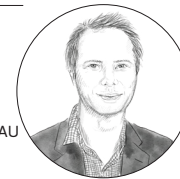
However, it occurs to me that OCs could be doing more to incentivise lot owners to pay their fees and levies as they fall due and payable. Apart from setting budgets at 106 per cent of actual planned expenditure, an OC could adopt a discount for those who pay on or before the due date. Similar to the methods employed by utility companies for gas and electricity bills, a prompt payment discount would reward those owners that do the right thing and pay their fees on time.

The other message is for the owners who do fall behind on their levies: the most common reason for non-payment of fees on time is because lot owners don't receive a copy of the quarterly levies in the post. Not surprisingly, this is no defence for not paying the fees. ●

Tom Bacon

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Quiz



- 1. Nicholas Hoult (pictured) will play which famous comic book villain in an upcoming film?
- 2. What bridge did the mini-maxi yacht *Alive* ‘limbo’ under recently?
- 3. How long ago was the Southern Cross Working Group established?
- 4. Which video game was originally titled *Puckman* in Japan?
- 5. Which band had a hit with the 2009 song *Little Lion Man*?
- 6. Which local received a commendation at the Victorian Community History Awards?
- 7. Portugal produces half of the world’s supply of what buoyant material?
- 8. Which popular British soap opera debuted on screens in 1995?
- 9. What European country was the first to allow same-sex marriage in 2001?
- 10. What was The District Docklands’ original name in 2008?
- 11. What was the *Alma Doepel* named after?
- 12. How many ports does Mission to Seafarers provide assistance to worldwide?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS
1. Lex Luther 2. The Bolte Bridge 3. 12 months ago 4. *Fac-Man* 5. Mumford & Sons 6. Graham Pilkington 7. Cork 8. *Hollyoaks* 9. The Netherlands 10. Harbours Town 11. The builder’s daughter, Alma 12. 200

5x5

No. 312

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

S		L		T
	R		N	
R		P		N
	D		P	
M		L		S

SOLUTIONS
SPLIT, CRANE, RIPPEN, ADEPT, MELTS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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May, 2025

Sudoku

No. 047

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

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Primates

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

APE	MONKEY
CAPUCHIN	ORANGUTAN
CHIMPANZEE	PROBOSCIS
GORILLA	RHESUS
HOWLER	SIAMANG
MACAQUE	SIMIAN
MANDRILL	SQUIRREL
MARMOSET	TARSIER

Secret message: A little too familiar

Crossword

No. 047

ACROSS

- 1 Clear (5)
- 4 Female killer (9)
- 9 Having a small piece broken off (7)
- 10 Examiner of accounts (7)
- 11 Turn to use (7)
- 12 Virgin Mary (7)
- 13 Inscribing onto a hard surface (9)
- 15 Paraphernalia (4)
- 17 Counterfeit (4)
- 19 Central American country (9)
- 22 Unopened rose (7)
- 25 Changed (7)
- 26 Continuing (7)
- 27 Strain (7)
- 28 Release (9)
- 29 Rate of progress (5)

DOWN

- 1 Orator (8)
- 2 Limit (7)
- 3 Copy (9)
- 4 Infuriating (9)
- 5 Kingdom (5)
- 6 Closed (5)
- 7 Baltic country; capital Tallinn (7)
- 8 Story in instalments (6)
- 14 Promise (9)
- 15 Signs of welcome (9)
- 16 Blue (8)
- 18 Appoints (7)
- 20 Travel business (7)
- 21 Actor, – Schwarzenegger (6)
- 23 Scottish child (5)
- 24 lsm (5)

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

SOLUTION

D	E	E	F	S		G	A	V	E		N	E	S	I	
E	N	G	E	N		N									
N	O	I	S	N	E	L	O	N	I	O	N				
E	T	I	N	O	V	E	I	N							
G	E	R	E	L	V	G	U	N	E	S	O	N			
D	I	E	R						S						
V	I	W	E	L	V	A	N								
S															
H	V	E	D												
L	I	O	E	T											
Y	N	N	O	G	V										
L	I														
W	O	L	I	D											
E	S														
L	U	D	E	R	E	S									

Codeword

No. 047

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

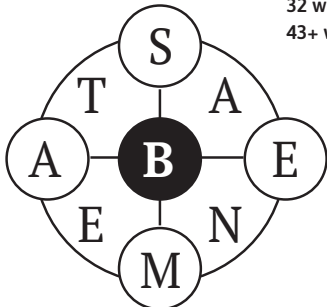
SOLUTIONS

K	C	X	E	L	E	B	X	E	H	F	I	R	O	D	P	R
92	52	92	52	52	52	12	12	12	61	81	11	91	51	51	51	51
V	A	J	W	G	V	G	V	O	P	I	O	S	N	I	M	S
51	21	11	01	01	6	8	8	9	9	5	8	5	2	2	1	1

9-Letter

No. 047

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”.

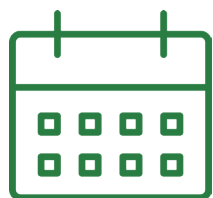


Reference:
Collins Concise
English Dictionary

Today’s Focus:
21 words: Good
32 words: Very good
43+ words: Excellent

SOLUTIONS
abase, ABASEMENT, abate, abates, abeam, abet, abets, absent, bare, bans, bant, bantam, base, baseman, basemen, basement, bast, baste, bate, bates, batman, batmen, bats, batsman, batsmen, beam, beams, bean, beast, beat, beate, beats, been, beet, bema, bemate, bent, beset, best, beta, bets, esbat, samba, stab, tabs

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UNTIL 29 JUNE, 11AM – 4PM



THE PRAHRAN LEGACY: BEYOND THE BASEMENT

A new exhibition at MAGNET Galleries Docklands will pay tribute to the enduring artistry of Prahran College's photography students from the 1960s to the 1980s.

Magnet Galleries, The District, Docklands

UNTIL 25 MAY



COLLINS SQUARE'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

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20 – 22 MAY, 8.30AM – 2PM



DOCKLANDS FARMERS' MARKET

The Docklands Farmers market runs on the first Sunday of every month, bringing fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, poultry and dairy from all over Victoria for the local community to buy.

Newquay Promenade, Docklands

UNTIL 4 MAY



MOSAIC MAKING WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS

In this workshop, you will learn the art of creating beautiful mosaics. Choose from a variety of colourful glass and learn how to design and grout your own unique piece.

Be-ras Creatives Art Cafe, Docklands

UNTIL 17 AUGUST



MAJOR GARDENING EVENT

On Saturday, May 10, the Docklands Community Garden and the Docklands Girl Guides welcome Docklanders to attend a special gardening event. Come along and find out how to become a volunteer.

Docklands Community Garden

SATURDAY 10 MAY, 10AM



MOTHERS DAY SEAFOOD BRUNCH CRUISE

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SUNDAY 11 MAY, 2.15PM – 3PM

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