

MARCH 2026 EDITION #227

FOREVER FREE



One of the visions for Central Pier by student Shuaiqi Wang – combining a working microbrewery with floating wetlands to create a sustainable, community-focused destination that produces craft beer while naturally filtering water and restoring urban ecology. For more designs see page 9 or visit docklandsnews.com.au

Students reimagine a “New Central Pier” as Docklands waits for its next act

“

With Central Pier now gone and Victoria Harbour sitting unusually open to the sky, a question lingers over Docklands: what, if anything, should come next?

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



While the state government’s financial constraints and the AFL’s long-term plans for the waterfront edge of Marvel Stadium mean any formal redevelopment is on hold, a group of University of Melbourne architecture students have spent the summer imagining bold futures for the site.

And in a sign that the conversation is far from over, Development Victoria’s executive general manager of precincts Niall Cunningham attended their final

presentations, offering feedback and probing questions. The speculative studio, led by Professor Donald Bates – co-founder of LAB Architecture Studio and a key figure behind Federation Square – asked 12 Master of Architecture students to consider a “New Central Pier” from scratch.

“We want them to be confronted with a quote unquote ‘real project’, but also to use it as an opportunity to propose something that’s never been, never existed before or even thought of before,” Prof. Bates told *Docklands News*.

Central Pier, built between 1916 and 1919, was closed in 2019 due to structural collapse risks and fully demolished by August 2025. As one student’s project timeline shows, the site has shifted from industrial dock to hospitality hub to absence – creating what the studio described as a “Tabula Rasa Aqua” (blank slate) moment.

For Prof. Bates, a Docklands resident, the absence itself became the catalyst.

“In a class when you have 12 students or more, you get 12 completely different responses to the same question,” he said. “There was no, ‘here’s what you have to do.’”

The first third of the semester was spent researching the 140-year history of Victoria Harbour – from the cutting of the Coode Canal to Docklands’ 1990s renewal

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BODY WORLDS exhibition to open at The District

One of the world’s most visited anatomy exhibitions is heading to Melbourne, with *BODY WORLDS: The Anatomy of Happiness* set to open at The District Docklands for a limited season from March.

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City of Melbourne touts cleaner streets as graffiti crackdown ramps up

“The City of Melbourne says its intensified approach to graffiti management is delivering tangible results, with stronger partnerships, improved reporting systems and a renewed focus on cost recovery forming the backbone of its strategy.”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



A detailed progress report was considered by councillors at the February 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, outlining actions taken since a February 2025 council resolution calling for improved graffiti management outcomes.

Presenting the report, the council's director of waste and recycling Vince Macolino said advocacy and partnerships would remain central to the city's approach.

“In addition to the actions and outcomes achieved as part of this resolution, we will continue to monitor the top taggers, with relevant data provided to Victoria Police,” he said.

“We'll seek to recover the cost of graffiti removal and report on this through the annual plan and budget process. We'll continue to have regular meetings with Victoria



Police to identify upcoming graffiti-related cases where council can supply evidence or victim impact statements.”

Mr Macolino said the council would also “work closely with Corrections Victoria to prioritise graffiti offenders to undertake their corrections orders within the municipality of Melbourne, look to establish new agreements and memorandums of understanding with third-party asset owners and stakeholders, and issue unsightly premises notices in accordance with the local law requirements.”

The report highlights several key agreements already in place, including memorandums of understanding with the City of Yarra and VicRoads, as well as an agreement with the Department of Justice and Community Safety to prioritise graffiti offenders completing community corrections orders within Melbourne.

Under this arrangement, offenders can be directed to undertake work within the municipality, reinforcing the council's “You Spray, You Pay” principle.

Mr Macolino also pointed to the rollout of the Snap Send Solve reporting app, which

has reduced duplicated work orders by more than 40 per cent.

“In addition to that, we've seen our customer service satisfaction rating go up by over 10 per cent, which is now at 88 per cent and our customer service score at 4.7 out of five, which is excellent,” he said.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece praised the progress.

“When I think about the things that we've made real progress on as a council in this term, this sits right at the top of the list,” Cr Reece said.

“The city is looking cleaner. And that hasn't happened by chance. It hasn't happened by magic. It's because there's a lot of hard work, effort and focus that is going into lifting standards here at the city.”

He acknowledged more work was needed but said the council was “definitely on the right trajectory”, singling out the one-hour removal policy for racist and hateful material as a “great initiative”.

Community representatives welcomed the strategic partnerships but urged the council to maintain focus on on-the-ground performance. Southbank Residents' Association president Tony Penna said residents continued to experience “persistent tagging in high foot traffic areas” and “slow response times to non-offensive graffiti”.

The report notes council currently spends more than \$200,000 a year servicing third-party assets but has recovered \$79,000 through new arrangements and trials. Civil proceedings against offenders remain an option, though the report cautions they can be resource-intensive.

With new victim impact statement guidelines now published online and ongoing monitoring of repeat offenders, councillors resolved to note the report and continue strengthening Melbourne's graffiti management framework. ●

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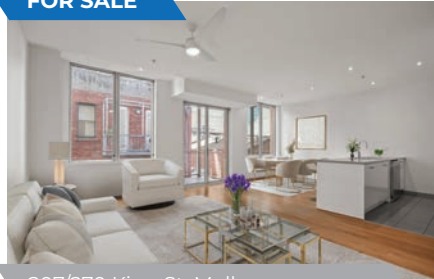


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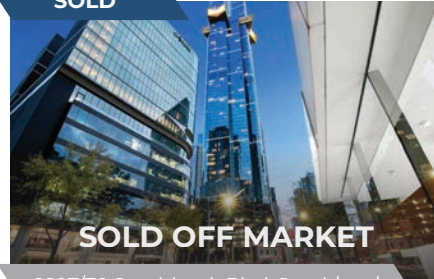


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Major healthcare hub takes shape at former Costco site

Progress is gathering pace on a major new healthcare hub in Docklands, with Melbourne Pathology moving forward on plans to establish a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence at the former Costco site.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The state government this week confirmed its support for the project, which will see Melbourne Pathology open a new Victorian headquarters and advanced laboratory facility, significantly expanding diagnostic and genomic testing capacity while creating hundreds of jobs.

Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing Colin Brooks visited the site to mark the next phase of development, describing the project as a transformational investment for both Docklands and Victoria's health technology sector.

Once complete, the centre is expected to create more than 200 jobs during construction and more than 250 ongoing roles, including positions for scientists, pathologists, biomedical engineers and geneticists.

The facility will more than double Melbourne Pathology's current operational footprint and deliver more than 10,000 square metres of laboratory space capable of processing up to 200,000 tests each day.

The expanded capacity is expected to play a critical role in strengthening the state's pathology and diagnostic services, which underpin day-to-day healthcare delivery across Victoria. In addition to traditional pathology services, the Docklands hub will offer advanced genomic testing, reflecting growing demand for precision medicine and early diagnosis.

One of the more distinctive features of the development will be a dedicated drone landing area, designed to allow time-sensitive pathology samples

to be transported quickly between hospitals and collection centres, including from regional Victoria. The technology is expected to improve turnaround times for urgent tests and support more responsive healthcare outcomes.

The centre's workforce of more than 700 staff is also expected to provide a broader economic boost for Docklands, injecting an estimated \$6 million into the local economy each year through daily activity, spending and services. The project is seen as a key anchor for revitalising the northern end of the precinct, which has undergone significant change in recent years following major retail and commercial departures.

Melbourne Pathology CEO David Pinkus said the project marked a major milestone for the organisation, which has operated in Victoria for more than a century.

"Melbourne Pathology has a long and proud history, serving the Victorian community for more than 100 years and we are delighted to commit to a project of this magnitude," Mr Pinkus said.

"The new facility will become the Centre of Excellence for pathology in Victoria and will allow us to significantly increase our testing capacity and broaden the scope of tests we can provide locally."

The Victorian Government has identified health technologies and medical research as priority sectors under its Economic Growth Statement, with the Docklands development aligning closely with that strategy. ●

Coles to bring new HQ and small-format store to Docklands

Supermarket giant Coles will relocate its Victorian Store Support Centre to 720 Bourke St in Docklands, with a gradual transition planned from mid to late 2027.

The move will see thousands of Melbourne-based team members shift from the company's long-time Hawthorn East headquarters to the Southern Cross precinct, in what is being viewed as a significant boost for Docklands and the western edge of the CBD.

Coles has confirmed that plans for the new site include a small-format Coles store as part of the development, aimed at servicing staff, visitors to the precinct and the broader Docklands community. While planning is still under way and further details are yet to be released, the inclusion of a supermarket will add to the growing mix of retail and amenity in the area.

A Coles spokesperson told *Docklands News* that the new location would support the company's long-term ambitions.

"Our new office space at 720 Bourke St will support Coles' growth ambitions into the future and help us attract and retain top talent," the spokesperson said.

"This move will deliver positive outcomes for team member engagement and culture, and ultimately our customers, while improving accessibility for our

Melbourne-based teams."

The 20-level tower at 720 Bourke St, owned by Cbus Property, is currently undergoing one of Australia's largest electrification projects ahead of Coles' arrival. Delivered in 2014 and certified net zero carbon in operations since 2022, the building is being fully electrified as part of Coles' 20-year lease for 30,000 square metres.

Cbus Property has confirmed that base building operations will be fully electric by the end of 2026, supported by a 99-kilowatt solar system and powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity under a power purchase agreement.

As previously reported by the *Australian Financial Review*, Coles' lease covers an initial 10 floors of the building, which was vacated by insurer Medibank. The AFR reported that the decision followed a review of new-build and retrofit options, with Coles determining that adapting an existing building was more cost-effective and lower risk than pursuing a purpose-built development.

According to the AFR, the relocation also aligns with the company's human resources strategy, with the CBD offering access to a significantly larger talent pool and better public transport connectivity than its suburban campus.

For local residents, the prospect of a new Coles store also adds another layer of convenience, complementing existing supermarkets and services in Docklands as the area continues to evolve. ●

Save the Date Bourne Local Market at Collins Square

Discover the Bourne Local Market at Collins Square, an ongoing market showcasing a carefully curated selection of handmade crafts, artisanal goods and bespoke pieces. Take a break from your workday, wander around the Main Retail Plaza, and enjoy an extravagant shopping experience.

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Thursday 26 March 2026

10:00am – 2:00pm

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Thursday 7 May 2026

10:00am – 2:00pm

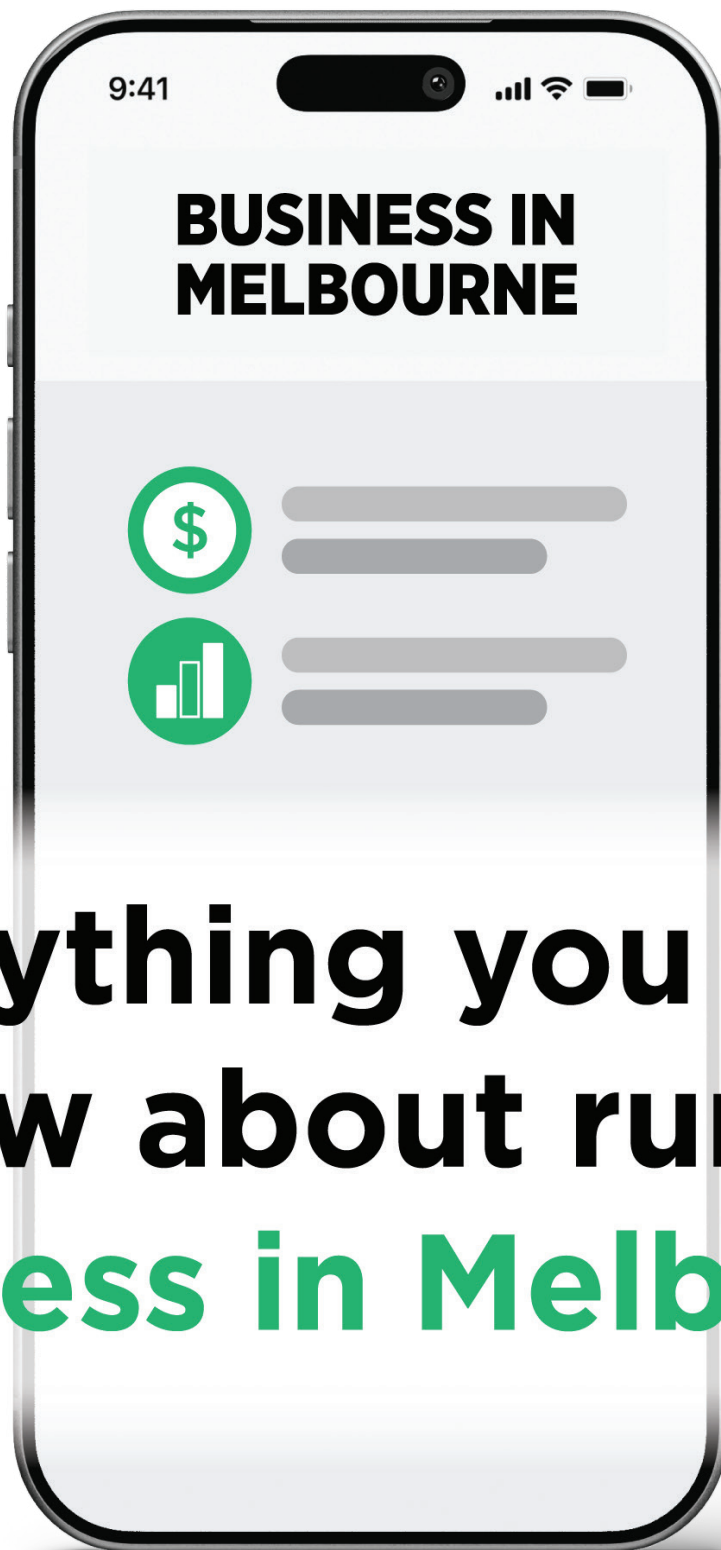
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CITY OF MELBOURNE

BODY WORLDS exhibition to open at The District Docklands

One of the world's most visited anatomy exhibitions is heading to Melbourne, with *BODY WORLDS: The Anatomy of Happiness* set to open at The District Docklands for a limited season from March.

Created by Dr Gunther von Hagens, inventor of the plastination technique, and curated by physician and designer Dr Angelina Whalley, the exhibition explores the human body through real specimens donated for scientific and educational purposes.

The Melbourne season follows successful runs in Brisbane and Perth, where the exhibition attracted nearly 140,000 visitors. Globally, *BODY WORLDS* has drawn more than 57 million visitors across 170 cities since debuting in 1995.

Housed at Level 1, 116 Studio Lane in Docklands, the exhibition invites visitors to "discover what lies behind the skin" and consider how lifestyle choices, emotions and environment shape both physical and mental health.

At its core are human specimens preserved using plastination, a process developed by Dr von Hagens that replaces bodily fluids with polymers, allowing tissues to be displayed in remarkable anatomical detail. According to organisers, all specimens have been willed by donors through an established body donation program for the purpose of advancing medical education and public awareness.

This edition focuses on what organisers describe as the "anatomy of happiness" – examining how emotions such as joy, love, fear and stress visibly manifest in the body and influence long-term wellbeing.



Dr Whalley said the exhibition aims to present the human body "in a memorable and beautiful way so that people can learn about anatomy, disease, and mental health," adding that visitors often leave with renewed motivation to live more consciously.

Highlights include full-body plastinates shown in motion and at rest, side-by-side displays of healthy and diseased organs, and interactive features such as the "Anatomical Mirror," which allows guests to visualise where their own vital organs are positioned.

Other elements include a documentary photo series titled *100 Years of Life*, exploring longevity and healthy ageing, as well as a "Save Your Spine" display offering ergonomic advice for everyday movement. Brain health is also a major theme, with diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's examined through plastinates, scans and multimedia presentations.

Organisers say surveys from previous exhibitions indicate many attendees adopt healthier habits after visiting, including improved fitness and dietary changes.

The arrival of *BODY WORLDS* adds to Docklands' growing reputation as a destination for large-scale exhibitions and immersive experiences. The District has increasingly positioned itself as an events and entertainment hub, drawing visitors beyond the CBD for cultural and educational attractions. With limited sessions scheduled from March, prospective visitors are encouraged to join the online waitlist to access pre-sale ticketing.

As Melbourne audiences prepare to step inside the exhibition, organisers say the central message remains clear: the body and mind are profoundly connected and understanding that connection is the first step toward living well.

Tickets and further details are available via bodyworlds.com.au/melbourne ●

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EVERLASTING LOVE IN THE GARDEN CITY

Melburnians have cast their vote for their favourite flower

The people have spoken, and Melbourne has a new floral emblem – the endangered swamp everlasting has won our hearts and the popular vote.

Melburnians cast almost 25,000 votes for our floral emblem, making it our most popular community engagement campaign ever. They chose from a field of 9 floral finalists.

After trailing behind billy buttons for most of the vote, the swamp everlasting rose up at the last minute to win by a paper-thin margin of just 200 votes. As it does in nature, the swamp everlasting defied all odds.

“Swamp everlasting is a beautiful flowering endangered species which was once abundant in our swampy wetlands,” our First Nations Garden City Ambassador, Margaret Parisi said.

When picturing a ‘swamp’, your mind may not conjure a field of paper daisies – but this formidable flower is a wonder of the wetlands.

“Seeing a flower which automatically says ‘Melbourne’ is a great way to create an immediate, recognisable identity ... grounded in place, respectful of Country, and distinct from any other city,” Margaret said.

HOW WILL WE USE OUR FLORAL EMBLEM?

With the winner now chosen, we’re rolling up our sleeves to embed the swamp everlasting into Melbourne’s identity. It’s all part of the plan to make sure Melbourne is known as the garden city – a city where nature is never far.

We’ll make sure the swamp everlasting is planted in our parks and gardens, and when in flower it will feature in planter boxes outside Melbourne Town Hall. Community plantings will be timed with the weather to help this local stunner thrive again.

We’ll also honour the swamp everlasting in paint, in print and maybe even on Melbourne merch.

Newly minted Aussies will receive swamp everlastings at our citizenship ceremonies, which according to Royal Botanic Gardens seed ecologist Megan Hirst is a beautiful way to show we care.



Melbourne’s floral emblem: swamp everlasting

“I’m rather fond of the idea that flowers can express our feelings. If someone were to give me a posy of everlastings well that would be saying quite a lot, florally speaking. Don’t you think?”

Megan is a self-confessed swamp everlasting superfan who is committed to finding ways to save the species from extinction.

“It’s likely the swamp everlasting was once common across our wetlands – some of the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet – and since colonisation it has been pushed into small, scattered pockets.

“And yet, it’s still here, holding on with steady resilience,” Megan said.

Like other Australian flora and fauna, the swamp everlasting responds deftly to unpredictable weather.

The plant will go dormant after flowering in summer in drier conditions, but continue to grow through summer if kept moist.

The swamp everlasting needs full sun and a well-watered garden bed or pot. It’s also the king of cut flowers. If picked when freshly opened, they can hold onto their vibrant colour for many months or even years.

You can find the swamp everlasting and other indigenous seedlings at specialist nurseries such as Bili Nursery in Port Melbourne – which is preparing to move into new digs in the City of Melbourne – and bring the floral emblem into your home.



Garden city ambassadors Margaret and Paul

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Rituals that make a community

Over the past few weeks, many in Docklands have been marking important moments in very different ways.

WORDS BY
JAMAL HAKIM



Some families gathered at sunset to break their fast during Ramadan. Others prepared for Easter through the season of Lent, reflecting, fasting or giving something up. Across the waterfront and around Melbourne, homes were lit with red lanterns and tables filled with dumplings to welcome the Lunar New Year, Year of the Horse.

At first glance, these occasions may seem separate. Different cultures. Different faiths. Different histories. But they share something powerful. They are rituals, and rituals are one of the oldest and most effective ways humans build community.

Long before modern cities and high-rise apartments, communities were built through shared rhythms. Harvest festivals. Religious observances. Weekly gatherings. Shared meals. These repeated practices created belonging. They reinforced shared meaning. They reminded people that they were part of something bigger than themselves.

Sociologists have long distinguished between two types of social life: close-knit communities built on shared bonds, and modern societies built on transactions and individual goals. In fast-growing urban areas like Docklands, we often default to the latter. We live side by side, but not necessarily together. Ritual changes that.

When we fast together. When we feast



together. When we light candles, lanterns or simply sit at a long table and talk, something shifts. We move from transaction to connection.

Ritual creates shared content. It gives us stories to tell. It creates emotional memory. It builds trust. And trust is the foundation of real community.

Docklands is still one of Melbourne's newest neighbourhoods. Many of us arrived here in the last decade. Some came from interstate. Some from overseas. Some from across the river.

Unlike older suburbs, we are still forming our traditions. That is not a weakness. It is an opportunity.

Ramadan reminds us of discipline, reflection and generosity. Lent reminds us of renewal and humility. Lunar New Year reminds us of family, prosperity and fresh beginnings. Each of these rituals carries centuries of meaning, but they also adapt to place.

What does it mean to celebrate these traditions in Docklands? In apartments overlooking the harbour? In shared barbecue areas? In local cafes and community spaces?

How do we honour heritage while creating something new together?

Community is not only built through large cultural or religious events. It is also

built through the small, repeated practices that become "just what we do". The Sunday morning walk around the harbour. The weekly dinner at the same local restaurant. The building WhatsApp group that checks in during storms. The annual gathering in the park. The shared Iftar invitation to neighbours, or at Docklands Den. The Lunar New Year dumpling night in a common room.

These are rituals too. They are the content of our community life. They give Docklands texture and memory. They move us from being residents of the same postcode to participants in the same story.

Docklands is a culturally diverse community. That diversity is not only something to celebrate. It is something to learn from. When we understand why a neighbour fasts, why another abstains, why another hangs red lanterns or hosts a reunion dinner, we deepen our own sense of belonging.

Belonging is not created by sameness. It is created by recognition. Ritual is a bridge. It says: this matters to me. Let me share it with you. And when that sharing is reciprocated, community forms.

A question for Docklanders

As our suburb continues to grow, I would love to ask: what rituals have you built here? What is the practice you repeat that makes Docklands feel like home?

Maybe it is a quiet one. Maybe it is public and joyful. Maybe it is cultural, spiritual, social or simply personal.

If we begin to name these rituals, we begin to see the invisible threads that connect us.

Docklands is still becoming. The question is not whether we will have traditions. The question is whether we will create them intentionally, and perhaps that begins with something simple.

An invitation. A shared table. A repeated act of generosity.

That is how communities are built. ●

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Premier Yachting brings Saxdor Fleet to Yarra's Edge for exclusive two-day event

“

Mark your calendar for March 13 and 14 and discover why Saxdor is redefining modern boating. Join us at Yarra's Edge Marina and step aboard a vessel where innovation meets adventure, and performance meets pure enjoyment.

”



Incorporated in 2009, Premier Yachting was built on the foundation of the long-standing Webster Marine Melbourne business and has grown into a recognised dealer and broker with both national and international partner networks.

The company offers professional yacht brokerage, new boat sales, valuation and market appraisal, and brokerage of marina berths across a variety of vessel sizes. Premier Yachting represents and sells a wide range of premium international boat brands, Saxdor, Sunseeker and North Pacific Yachts, to name a few.

Boating enthusiasts and lifestyle seekers are invited to experience the future of on-water performance when Saxdor arrives at Yarra's Edge Marina on March 13 from 12pm to 7pm and March 14 from 10am to 6pm. Set against the stunning waterfront backdrop of Melbourne, this exclusive showcase promises two days of innovation, performance, and unmistakable European design.

Saxdor has rapidly become one of the most exciting names in global boating. Designed in Finland and built with precision engineering, Saxdor boats combine cutting-edge hull technology with sleek, contemporary styling. The result is a range of vessels that deliver exceptional fuel efficiency, agile handling, and premium comfort – all without compromising on performance.

Visitors to Yarra's Edge Marina will have the opportunity to step aboard and explore the craftsmanship first hand. Every Saxdor model reflects a philosophy centred on versatility and intelligent design. Expansive deck layouts create seamless spaces for entertaining, relaxing, or enjoying water-sports. Clever storage solutions and adaptable seating arrangements ensure that every inch of space is maximised, whether

you're hosting friends for sunset drinks or heading out for a weekend adventure.

Performance is where Saxdor truly shines. Featuring advanced twin-stepped hull designs, these boats are engineered for stability and efficiency at a wide range of speeds. The ride is smooth, responsive, and confidence-inspiring – ideal for both seasoned boaters and those new to premium performance vessels. Whether cruising along the Yarra River or venturing further into Port Phillip Bay, Saxdor boats deliver a driving experience that is both exhilarating and refined.

The March 13 and 14 showcase at Yarra's Edge Marina offers more than just a viewing – it's an opportunity to imagine your lifestyle elevated. Picture early morning departures as the city skyline reflects off calm waters. Envision spontaneous weekend escapes, waterside dining excursions, and unforgettable days spent exploring Victoria's coastline. Saxdor boats are designed to make these moments effortless. On display will be the Saxdor 270 GTO, 320 GTO, 320 GTC, 340 GTWA and the 400 GTO.

Beyond performance and style, Saxdor's appeal lies in its accessibility. The brand has redefined what modern boat ownership can look like by delivering European innovation at exceptional value. High-end finishes, ergonomic helm stations, and smart connectivity features come together in a package that feels both luxurious and practical.

The setting at Yarra's Edge Marina makes this event even more special. With its vibrant waterfront community and easy access to the heart of Melbourne, the marina provides the perfect stage for showcasing boats that are built for both urban waterways and open-sea adventure. Visitors can enjoy a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere while speaking directly with product specialists who can guide them through model

features, customisation options, and ownership opportunities.

For those considering an upgrade or entering the boating lifestyle for the first time, this showcase is not to be missed. Experiencing a Saxdor in person reveals the subtle details that set the brand apart – from the precision stitching of the upholstery to the thoughtfully designed social spaces that transform every journey into an occasion. ●



Saxdor Yacht Showcase

Location: 52 The Esplanade, Yarra's Edge Marina, Docklands

Dates: March 13, 12pm to 7pm and March 14, 10am to 6pm.

For more information:
premieryachting.com.au



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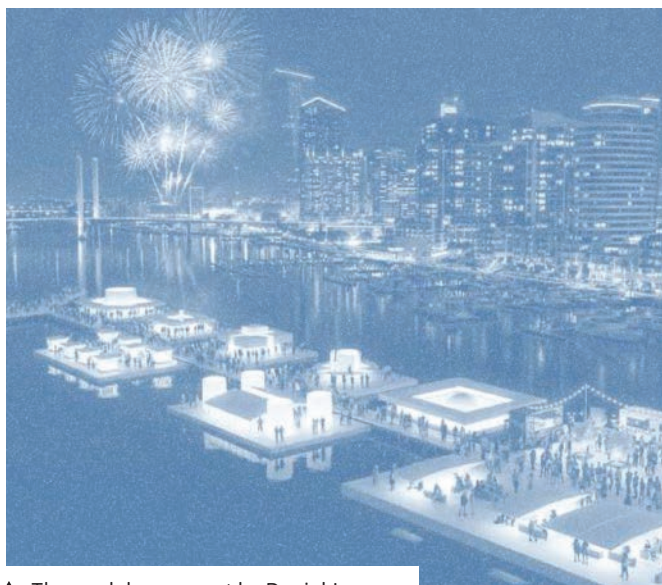
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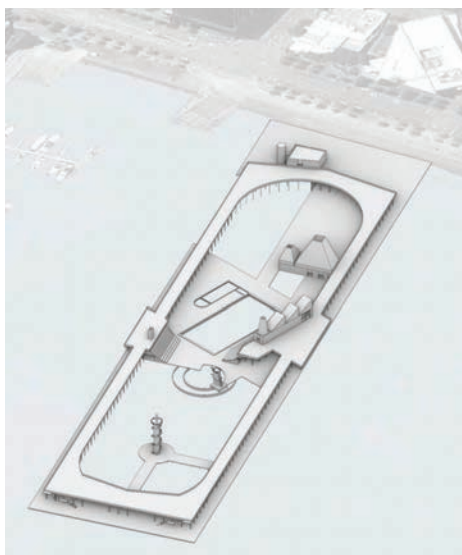
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premieryachting.com.au



▲ The modular concept by Daniel Lau.



▲ The Harbour Baths by Maisie Matthews.



▲ Maritime Museum concept by Thomas Sun.

Students reimagine a “New Central Pier” as Docklands waits for its next act

Continued from page 1.

– and examining global precedents, from Copenhagen’s harbour baths to New York’s Hudson River piers.

“Docklands are still a work in progress,” the studio brief noted, asking students to consider what essential element might be missing from the precinct.

Among the six projects highlighted, Daniel Lau’s proposal stands out for its modular logic. His floating pavilions, designed for events and cultural programming, could be towed to Williamstown, Princes Pier, St Kilda or even Point Nepean – physically linking Victoria Harbour to other waterfronts.

“They start to tell different kinds of narratives, almost sort of symbolic sets of relationships,” Prof. Bates said. “But importantly, linking Victoria Harbour itself as a physical space with other physical spaces.”

For a precinct often criticised for its isolation from the rest of Melbourne, that gesture feels particularly resonant.

Maisie Matthews’ project, The Harbour Baths, takes a different tack, envisioning a wellness precinct with a kilometre-long running track, outdoor pool, saunas and wetlands seeded with oyster beds to filter harbour water. In light of the City of Melbourne signing the swimmable cities charter, the idea of reintroducing swimming to the harbour no longer feels fanciful.

“There were questions around, well, what happens with global sea rise, and so what do you pick as a datum?” Prof. Bates said. “Is it completely floating on the water? So, if sea levels do rise, it doesn’t matter because it just rises with it?”

Other proposals include a working maritime museum with boat repair workshops and underwater galleries, a surf and swim park, a brewery-led activation hub, and a park concept that evokes New York’s Little Island. The Docklands Maritime Centre project, for example, combines heritage boat conservation, museum galleries and



▲ L-R: Maisie Matthews - student (standing), architect (common) Laura Martires, academic Craig McCormack, architect (NH Architecture) Hamish Lyon and Niall Cunningham - executive general manager - Precincts (Development Victoria).

hospitality spaces into what it describes as “a civic maritime infrastructure”.

Crucially, the students were not constrained by a development brief or cost envelope.

“They weren’t operating under a cost parameters. It was really about letting the students keep open,” Prof. Bates said.

Yet realism was not entirely absent. Students were required to document how their projects would be constructed, serviced and staged over time. The presence of Development Victoria added another layer.

Architects Hamish Lyon (NH Architecture) and Laura Martires (Common) also attended the presentations alongside several other academics.

“Being able to have people from the outside, from the profession, come in and look at the work and critique it, and say, ‘really? Are you sure you want to do that?’ Ask those kinds of tough questions,” Prof. Bates said. “But at the same time, you get

some amazing feedback from Development Victoria who go, ‘wow, we hadn’t thought about that.’”

That exchange is telling. With speculation swirling about whether Central Pier will return in any form, Mr Cunningham’s attendance suggests Development Victoria is still listening – even if formal plans are paused.

Docklands News understands that the State’s broader fiscal pressures, coupled with the AFL’s longer-term ambitions around Marvel Stadium’s waterfront edge, mean progress is unlikely in the short to medium term. For now, many residents are enjoying the openness of the harbour without the pier’s bulk.

But that openness is not necessarily a celebration of permanent absence. For some, it feels more like a clearing of the stage.

The risk for Docklands has always been locking in a future that creates new challenges rather than resolving old ones

– whether through under-activation, over-commercialisation or a failure to serve its significant residential population.

Prof. Bates sees value in asking difficult questions early.

“When they start sitting down and they have to work it through and make it make sense, means they have to really develop the kind of narrative of why you would do this and what does it provide and what are the consequences and what are the short-term and the long-term consequences of doing something like that?” he said.

Federation Square was once a controversial idea sketched in studios and competitions before it redefined Melbourne’s civic heart. Central Pier may never return in its former footprint. But as these students have shown, imagination remains one of Docklands’ most underutilised assets.

And sometimes, the most transformative ideas begin without bureaucratic strings attached. ●



▼ Central Pier Park by Hunhee Lee.

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Docklands actor Eliza Hall skating towards a screen career

“
For Eliza Hall, performance has always felt like home.

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The 27-year-old screen actor is carving out a place in Australia’s competitive television industry – even if she still finds it “surreal” to see her face appear during some of the country’s biggest sporting broadcasts.

“I’m still in disbelief that this is my life,” she said. “Every time I see my commercial on TV or receive a message from someone saying they’ve seen it, it feels so surreal.”

Hall’s recent credits include national campaigns for Coles, Carsales and Oz Lotto. The Coles Spring campaign aired during the 2025 AFL Grand Final, Carsales ran during coverage of the 2026 Australian Open, and Oz Lotto screened during major national broadcasts last month – high-profile placements that have given the emerging actor a strong start in the screen industry.

But her path to television began long before she stepped onto a commercial set.

Hall started training in dance and musical theatre at just five years old, developing an early love for performing. At 11, she transitioned into competitive figure skating, a move that would shape her teenage years and beyond.

“I loved the performance and media side of skating,” she said. “Even while I was competing, I knew I wanted to be an actor in film and TV.



Figure skating, with its blend of athleticism and artistry, offered a natural bridge between sport and storytelling. The discipline required to train, compete and perform under pressure laid foundations she now draws on in auditions and on set.

The leap into screen acting was recent, but deliberate. Hall immersed herself in training and began auditioning for national campaigns, navigating an industry known for its unpredictability.

“The reality is that building a career takes patience, resilience and a lot of training,” she told *Docklands News*. “There are far more auditions than bookings. You have to love the process.”

Behind the glossy final product of a 30-second television spot lies long days on set, multiple takes and meticulous direction. Hall describes the experience as both collaborative and intense, with dozens of crew working together to create a few polished moments of screen time.

While her commercial work has provided valuable exposure, her ambitions extend further.

“I’m focused on expanding my experience across film and television projects,” she said. “My goal is to develop my craft and pursue opportunities on an international scale.”

Balancing acting with her other passion keeps her grounded. Hall remains a competitive figure skater and works as a figure skating coach, mentoring young athletes on and off the ice.

“I really enjoy balancing my performance on screen with mentorship and coaching,” she said.

In her spare time, she also shares educational acting and figure skating content on TikTok, offering audition insights and training advice to aspiring performers. Some of her videos have reached large audiences, highlighting the growing role social media plays in the industry. ●

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An objection must state the reasons for the objection. All objections are treated as public documents.

Objections must be made in writing to:

Liquor Control Victoria
GPO Box 4356
Melbourne VIC 3001

Objections must be made no later than **30 days after the date of this notice**.

City of Melbourne veers back into nuclear debate ahead of national conference

Melbourne councillors have voted to back a suite of motions to be put to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in Canberra this June – including renewed calls for Australia to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The February 24 debate covered four proposed motions: a review of capital city productivity and governance; a national framework for responsible AI and data centre infrastructure; support for the National Anti-Racism Framework; and reaffirmation of ALGA's longstanding position in favour of nuclear disarmament.

The Lord Mayor described the annual gathering as "our opportunity once a year to shape the national conversation, not just respond to it", arguing that capital cities – which generate the bulk of Australia's GDP – needed governance and funding models that reflect their economic weight.

On artificial intelligence and data centres, he said national coordination was essential to ensure best-practice energy use, water management and sustainability standards as AI infrastructure expands rapidly across Australia.

Few would dispute that AI, productivity and anti-racism are squarely within the sphere of public policy that affects local government operations. It was the nuclear disarmament motion, however, that prompted the most spirited exchange.

Cr Dr Olivia Ball spoke at length in support of the motion, recounting Melbourne's history as a self-declared nuclear-free city and the role of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), founded in Melbourne and awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. She argued that nuclear weapons are "emphatically a local government issue", listing the functions councils would be forced to manage in the event of a nuclear attack – from roads and evacuations to waste, sanitation and mass burials.

Her description of the potential fallout was vivid and detailed, prompting Cr Owen Guest to push back.

"I do feel the third one regarding nuclear is one of the first things when you hear criticism of not just the Melbourne City Council but councils in general, you'll hear from people in the street going, 'what the hell is the council getting involved for issues like this?'," he said.

Cr Guest said that while he supported "75 per cent" of the package – particularly the productivity and AI components – the nuclear motion risked making the council look like "dills".

"It's a tough pill to swallow for Melbourne's rate-payers," he said, arguing the council should remain focused on local issues.

Other councillors defended the broader advocacy role of capital city councils. Cr Andrew Rowse noted that ALGA was where councils from across the

country agree on a national advocacy agenda to take to federal government, covering housing, infrastructure, disaster relief, cybersecurity and more.

"If you're not at the table, you are on the agenda," he said.

The Lord Mayor used his right of reply to reiterate Melbourne's historic links to ICAN and to correct what he described as a mischaracterisation of last year's budget. Cr Guest had referenced the council not honouring its "rates freeze", which in practice involved increasing rates by three per cent in line with the state cap and then rebating that increase – a move critics last year described as preserving the higher base for future increases.

Ultimately, the amended motion was carried unanimously, although Cr Guest indicated he only supported "three quarters" of it.

The second part of the item – nominating councillors to attend the Canberra conference – also passed, with Cr Mark Scott, Cr Andrew Rowse and the Lord Mayor set to represent Melbourne. Councillors were required to declare conflicts before the vote.

Attendance at the June conference will cost rate-payers approximately \$3600 per head, not including ancillary expenses. ALGA's annual assembly, while a high-profile gathering of local government leaders, is largely symbolic in nature and serves as the association's primary revenue source through registrations.

The latest debate also echoes last August's lengthy council discussion marking the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where councillors again wrestled with whether urging the federal government to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons fell within the City of Melbourne's remit.

On that occasion, Cr Gladys Liu attempted to strip out the call for the Lord Mayor and CEO to write to federal ministers, arguing the issue had "no direct relevance to the people of Melbourne", while Cr Owen Guest warned against "pestering" Canberra and urged councillors to "get back to the basics". The amendment failed, but not before nearly 40 minutes of debate that revived familiar tensions about the council's role in international advocacy.

None of which is to say that Melbourne should not advocate for issues that matter nationally and globally. Local governments are, after all, on the front-line of disaster response, infrastructure delivery and social cohesion.

But as the debate demonstrated, there is a fine line between principled advocacy and performative politics. When discussion of nuclear apocalypse begins to rival potholes and playgrounds for airtime, it is perhaps fair to ask whether some motions could be resolved with a nod rather than a lecture.

Still, in the end, councillors of all stripes agreed to send Melbourne's voice to Canberra – cold weather and all. ●

Council doubles down on India mission as job figures climb

The City of Melbourne has formally noted the outcomes of its November 2025 business mission to India, with councillors using the February 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting to defend the trip's economic credentials – and, in one case, the value of so-called "junkets".

Originally projected to deliver 520 new jobs and \$95 million in economic uplift, the mission's impact was revised upward during the meeting. Lord Mayor Nick Reece told councillors the trip had secured "more than 1000 new tech jobs for Melbourne" and "close to \$100 million in economic uplift with a strong pipeline of future investment behind it."

India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world, Cr Reece said, describing the mission as an "extraordinary, busy and productive trip" and the first business mission to India "of the modern era" for the City of Melbourne.

"It's fair to say we chased down every opportunity that we could identify in India," he said, adding he would be "hard-pressed to think of another business mission that has ever delivered the results that this one did."

The week-long delegation to Bengaluru, Delhi and Goa – led by Cr Reece, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell and Cr Andrew Rowse – focused on technology and innovation, higher education, sport, tourism and the creative economy.

Central to the reported job figures were engagements with major Indian tech firms with existing Melbourne operations. Deputy Lord Mayor Campbell highlighted Tech Mahindra as a key example, noting the company already employs around 900 staff in Melbourne and had announced a further 500 roles following the mission.

"That is a huge increase," she said, linking the expansion to the council's broader goal of revitalising Melbourne's CBD and office sector.

Cr Rowse added that the benefit of landing large tech employers extended beyond raw job numbers. In global knowledge economies such as San Francisco and

Boston, he said, experienced workers from major firms often spin off into start-ups, creating "momentum breeding momentum".

"That momentum is a really, really important part in maintaining our knowledge economy here in Melbourne," he said.

The delegation also strengthened civic ties, signing letters of intent with Delhi and Bengaluru to explore potential "Friendship City" agreements, while in Goa the Lord Mayor witnessed agreements aimed at expanding collaboration between Australian and Indian film and education institutions.

Cr Campbell described the trip as critical to ensuring Melbourne remained "on the world stage attracting the headquarters and the jobs that means Melbourne prospers now and into the future."

However, as with most international travel by councillors, the mission attracted scrutiny – and a familiar public refrain about overseas "junkets".

Cr Rafael Camillo used the debate to push back against that characterisation.

"I have a complete interpretation of that," he said, arguing that travel was an "investment" rather than a perk. "I think travelling and going overseas ... opening your mind and thinking different ways and models to operate is a very important element."

Cr Camillo added that councillors were elected to make complex decisions and that exposure to international markets and cultures could only strengthen that work.

In his right of reply, Cr Reece acknowledged the need for public scrutiny of councillor travel, saying it was "incumbent on the council and councillors to demonstrate clear benefits from that activity."

He reiterated that he had made a clear election commitment to aggressively pursue economic opportunities for Melbourne through engagement with fast-growing cities in the region.

"These are some of the fastest growing cities in the world and they are in our neighbourhood," he said. "We need to absolutely get out there and proactively seize the opportunities."

The motion to note the post-travel report was carried, with councillors signalling continued support for international engagement as a tool to drive jobs, investment and cultural exchange back home. ●

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Time for council and DV to “lift its game” for Docklands

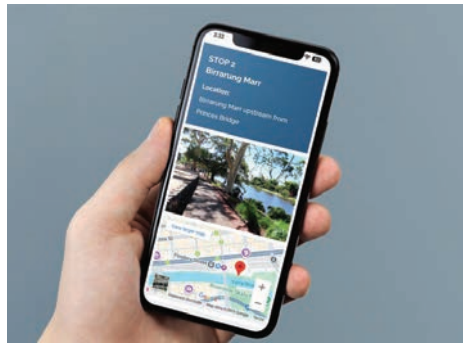
Earlier this month Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN), as a Docklands stakeholder, was invited to participate community consultations convened by the City of Melbourne and Docklands Chamber of Commerce.

MMHN takes such opportunities very seriously but as we were unable to attend in person we made a written submission outlining our concerns about the management of Docklands i.e. what we see as necessary changes or “solutions”.

First and foremost, the City of Melbourne must recognise that Docklands’ waterways are both an economic asset as well as a community asset currently hampered and severely under-utilised through the inept control of multiple responsible agencies or authorities.

Waterways drive both local economic activities, increase tourism and build stronger local businesses. MMHN has found that, compared to other port cities around the globe, specifically in relation cost-efficient and effective use of waterways, the council has been found wanting. It is also apparent that ill-informed, inadequate and competing state bureaucracies prevent the council from implementing necessary changes to enable it to “lift its game”.

To understand the extent of the opportunity, and to realise opportunities attached to Docklands waterfront MMHN recommends that:



- The council undertake serious research which compares its approach to waterways management (environment, community and economic) with that of four comparable cities (one in Australia and three overseas). The council actively lobby for greater control of its waterways, noting that Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and Development Victoria (DV), Visit Victoria, as agencies, all demonstrably fail to understand the concept that waterways are “economic drivers” and fail to optimise value of Docklands’ unique heritage waterways site.
- The council proactively pursue taking over control of Docklands, including the waterways) sooner than 2030 given that DV are now stating that their ONLY responsibility in relation to Docklands is addressing the state “housing” crisis.
- Greater activity on the waterways brings people and their spending power, to the precinct. The overly

bureaucratic event permits system must be streamlined.

- The council proactively advocate to state government to incorporate ferries into the public transport system. Docklands has the terminal and the population density and ferry companies are keen to expand services. Bureaucracy must “get out of the way”.
- The council proactively advocate for a Docklands Secondary School – a critical asset in any properly functioning community. Docklands has the connectivity and the population base to replicate the success of the primary school with a well-located secondary school. This will attract and anchor families and diversify Docklands with more families to offset the commuter office workers and “dormitory” apartment dwelling. Docklands has the added asset of Kangan TAFE nearby.
- The council proactively advocate for DV to replace the Central Pier, which was obviously an economic asset and a community asset in the precinct. DV abdicated its obvious responsibility to adequately compensate the Docklands community. MMHN has explored replacement options and determined that a floating pontoon pier built off site and towed into place on Harbour Esplanade presents a viable option for this site. This option is not only cost effective but environmentally appropriate in this densely populated precinct.

Please note that this MMHN submission was also sent to selected councillors.

Heritage Fleet gone: profound loss inflicted upon Docklands

The presence of the Heritage Fleet in Victoria Harbour was widely and fondly recognised as an enduring reminder of Melbourne’s rich maritime port heritage. In prioritising real estate construction, DV has now achieved dubious success in removing the Heritage Fleet. Just as was the case with Central Pier, Docklands has lost another unique heritage asset.

Victoria Harbour Waterways Trail

MMHN recommends that you access the Victoria Harbour Trail via the link on your phones to be reminded what has been lost. See mmhn.org.au/heritage-trails/victoria-harbour. Note that there are actually three MMHN Waterways Trails.

Invitation:

MMHN has invited Tim Stone to share his latest research into the fate of the brig *Cyprus* and its pirate crew – Australia’s first contact with Japan in 1830.

When: Wednesday 4 March at 5pm

Where: Waterways Branch, City of Melbourne, Suite 120 (upstairs) at 425 Docklands Drive, New Quay Docklands. ●

Jackie Watts

CHAIR

INFO@MMHN.ORG.AU



OWNERS’ CORPORATION LAW

New and amended legislation for owners’ corporations? Not anytime soon

It’s been three months since the expert panel appointed by the Victorian Labor Government finalised and provided its report to parliament in relation to the effectiveness of the current legislation, and any recommendations for amendments and new laws.

Over the course of the panel’s consultation and submissions phase that occurred between August and November last year, plenty of compelling case studies were provided by lawyers, not-for-profits, consumers groups and members of the public in relation to the ineffectiveness of the current legislation, and the great need to update and pass new legislation.

Despite the urgency, it appears this legislative review has now fallen back into the black hole that is Consumer Affairs Victoria.

It is envisaged that right now, policy makers are drafting the new legislation in the form of a Bill that can then be tabled in the lower house of parliament. However, there is absolutely no clarity or certainty over whether that process has even started. Nor is there even an indicative timeline provided either.

A draft Bill might be ready to be submitted to parliament later this year, or later next year, or later the year after that. Who knows?

What we do know is that we have a strata sector worth hundreds of billions of dollars in Victoria stuck and bogged down, left to navigate regulations and laws that

have been around (in some cases) since the 1960s.

On top of that, the much-vaunted rebrand of the Building and Plumbing Commission (the BPC) has been an abject failure. One only needs to read the Google reviews on the internet to know that the same organisational problems remain.

The BPC compliance team just isn’t interested in getting tough with plumbers, builders and insurers to make sure that buildings and structures are built properly in accordance with plans and in accordance with the Australian Standards and the National Construction Code.

We only have to look around the skyline to note that large apartment buildings are still being built in droves by developers and builders who know that no-one is watching over their shoulder to require them to do it properly.

These overdue legislative reforms are crucial and critical to the wellbeing of around one million people in Victoria who reside or own in an apartment building. These issues need to be priority number one for the Allen government, and the people of Victoria should demand it be so. ●

Tom Bacon

STRATA TITLE LAWYERS

TOM@STRATATITELAWYERS.COM.AU



STATE MP

Upcoming events to celebrate our wonderful multicultural community

We are so lucky to live in such a diverse, multicultural community.

In Melbourne’s inner city, it’s not unusual to hear three or four languages spoken on a single tram ride, or to see different cultural events happening side by side in our parks and public spaces.

The start of the year brings many important cultural celebrations, and each one is a reminder of the richness that multicultural communities bring to our shared home.

Earlier this month, I was honoured to celebrate Thai Pongal with members of our local Tamil community at Parliament. Thai Pongal is a harvest festival, and a time for gratitude, generosity and family. The celebration was filled with dance, music and incredible food.

Sadly, several Tamil women shared with me that wearing their beautiful cultural attire in public can sometimes make them feel unsafe. That’s heartbreaking. No-one should feel that expressing their culture – through clothing, language or faith – puts them at risk.

While Melbourne proudly calls itself multicultural, we know that racism and stigma haven’t disappeared. For some, they are a daily reality. At a time when divisive, far-right rhetoric is growing louder, it’s more important than ever that we actively show support for our multicultural communities by standing alongside each other and celebrating openly.

On Saturday, March 7 at 2pm, I’ll be hosting a Chinese New Year meetup at the Chinese Museum, and I’d love you to come along. It’s a chance to meet people in your local community and celebrate the Year of the Horse with exciting live performances and refreshments. Everyone is welcome. You can find out more and RSVP at ellensandell.com/event/chinese-new-year-meetup.



com/event/chinese-new-year-meetup.

And as the month of Ramadan comes to a close, I’m also proud to be co-hosting the Greens 13th annual Iftar, to share a meal with my community that symbolises reflection, gratitude and togetherness. This year’s event will be held at Collingwood Town Hall on Thursday 12 March at 6:30pm. If you’d like to join us, please RSVP at greens.org.au/vic/iftar.

Our diversity is one of Melbourne’s greatest strengths. Let’s protect it, celebrate it and ensure everyone feels safe and proud to share who they are. ●

Ellen Sandell

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM



Victoria Harbour Promenade and NewQuay Promenade refurbishments: an opportunity for collaborative and passionate infrastructure and community building

Docklands residents are optimistic people who look to build and enjoy a safe, healthy and liveable community.

WORDS BY

PETER LARDNER, CO-PRESIDENT – COMMUNITY3008 INC.



Out of the historical loss of dilapidated Central Pier, positivity has been found in the opening up of Victoria Harbour into a substantive waterway where the water itself, and the reflections of the surrounding infrastructure and activities, create an ever-changing panorama.

With the works that will be required on the surrounding promenades, the challenge is how do we, the collective community “we”, grab this opportunity to build an outcome that is not just about making the supporting infrastructure safe. How do we build infrastructure that is informed by a vision and purpose? Involving the various population

cohorts within Docklands, including families and people from all age groups, provides a foundation around which shared interest and further community building can also occur.

As a group that represents and advocates for Docklands residents, Community3008 plays a crucial role in influencing infrastructure and community building. The City of Melbourne and Development Victoria are the primary parties who hold

the actual responsibilities for progressing Docklands in the interests of both residents and Victorians more broadly. It is by working collaboratively and transparently with them that tangible outcomes can be achieved.

Community 3008 has engaged directly with the City of Melbourne and Development Victoria in relation to the Victoria Harbour Promenade and NewQuay Promenade issues. Similarly, Community3008 will look to influence all significant infrastructure activities that impact on Docklands’ vibrancy, amenity and family friendly liveability.

To ensure that the community have input into this engagement process, Community3008 has circulated requests for community submissions on “Strategic Infrastructure” and “Enhancing Docklands’ Waterways”. These submissions will be an input into a forum to be held on Wednesday, March 11 at the Theatre, Library at the Dock, which will subsequently inform development of a vision of what residents want to see right now in Docklands. Register to attend on community3008.org.au. This public forum will also include an update from the council, Victoria Police, and other community updates.

On the theme of “Enhancing Docklands Waterways”, there must be something in

the uniqueness of Victoria Harbour, as it is the default backdrop for much mainstream media reporting and it draws endless photography enthusiasts from across Melbourne to capture its sunsets.

During, February there were some lovely summer mornings where hot air balloons floated gently from the west up the heart of Victoria Harbour. Several of them deliberately dipped down low enough for basket occupants to get a bird’s eye view of this unique part of Melbourne. You can view some captivating photographs through the various local community groups’ social media pages.

Community3008 encourage all Docklands residents to be involved in building the future of Docklands, be it through innovative ideas for our waterways, infrastructure, activations or facilities that enhance the community’s social needs. Membership of Community 3008 can be made online at community3008.org.au

Let’s collectively ensure Docklands continues to be a place where people want to live and work and where visitors want to enjoy Victoria Harbour as the “water heart” of Melbourne.

You can contact Community3008 on contact@community3008.org.au and follow us on our new Instagram account [@community3008](https://www.instagram.com/community3008) ●

DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

Renewable energy in apartments: why this parliamentary inquiry matters for Docklands

The Victorian Parliament is currently conducting an inquiry into renewable and affordable energy for apartments and multi-unit dwellings.

For high-rise precincts like Docklands, the stakes are significant.

Docklands residents don’t need to be told that apartment living is different from detached housing – we deal daily with shared infrastructure, embedded networks and collective decision-making. But policymakers do need to clearly understand those differences.

This starts with a fundamental reality: apartment owners carry dual exposure to energy costs. We pay for electricity within our own apartments and, through owners’ corporation (OC) levies, we also fund

common property consumption – lifts, corridor lighting, car park ventilation, shared plant and, in some buildings, centralised hot water systems. When energy prices rise, both streams are affected.

Within our individual apartments, costs can arguably be managed to some extent through behaviour – purchasing efficient appliances and being mindful about heating and cooling. But building design and shared systems also shape consumption patterns. Many Docklands towers lack double glazing, meaning thermal performance is not just a comfort issue; it directly drives energy demand and cost. Individual choice can also be constrained. In buildings operating embedded networks, residents may have limited or no retail choice. Decisions about rooftop solar or shared battery systems sit with the OC and require collective approval. Special resolutions, debates about cost allocation and long-term maintenance implications are all part of that process.

The second part of the dual cost burden

comes from common property. Here, energy procurement adds another layer of complexity. Detailed consumption data is often limited – for example, how much energy are the chillers actually using? At the same time, OCs are typically treated as commercial customers when purchasing electricity. This requires periodic engagement in complex, multi-year supply contracts. Committees – time-poor and rarely specialists in energy markets – must negotiate with retailers and intermediaries who hold far greater information and bargaining power.

Owners’ Corporation Network (OCN) has made a submission to the inquiry highlighting these and many other issues that shape the apartment energy experience. The central message is clear: apartment communities need deliberate, strata-focused policy responses – not policies designed for detached houses and simply adapted. We need tailored options for shared solar (including emerging balcony or plug-in models), batteries, bulk procurement and

clearer governance pathways for sustainability upgrades. These solutions will only work if they are aligned with governance realities, ownership mix and the operational complexity of high-rise buildings.

This inquiry is more than a climate discussion. It is about fairness, affordability and whether apartment communities like Docklands will have equitable access to renewable energy and meaningful consumer protections. If policy gets this right, high-rise residents won’t be an afterthought in the energy transition – we’ll be properly included in it.

To subscribe to updates from Owners’ Corporation Network: ocn.org.au ●

Janette Corcoran

MEMBER

JCORCORAN@DOCKLANDS.ORG.AU



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SUZETTE HERFT ◦ VICTORIAN IRISH DANCE ACADEMY ◦ VICTORIA WELSH MALE CHOIR + MORE

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THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS 717 FLINDERS STREET, DOCKLANDS VICTORIA 3008 melbournecelticfestival.com.au f @

Quiz



1. Angora wool comes from which type of animal?
2. What name is given to the smell produced when rain falls onto dry soil?
3. For which film did Irish actor Barry Keoghan (pictured) receive an Academy Award nomination?
4. Which waterside pedestrian walkway has been indefinitely closed from the public due to safety concerns with the wharf?
5. Where did the state government recently approve a new AI data centre?
6. Which local park did the City of Melbourne recently take over management of from Parks Victoria?
7. A person who draws or produces maps is known as a what?
8. Who starred alongside Audrey Hepburn in the 1963 film *Charade*?
9. What major difference did recently revealed cabinet documents from the 1992 Labor Government envision for Docklands instead of a stadium?
10. True or false: Australia is the only continent without any current volcanic activity?
11. Which new build-to-rent project commenced construction in Docklands recently?
12. The Australian Open of which sport recently took place in Docklands?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Rabbit 2. Petrichor 3. The Banshees of Inisherin 4. Victoria Harbour Promenade 5. Fishermans Bend 6. Westgate Park 7. A cartographer 8. Cary Grant 9. A university 10. True 11. The District Living 12. Padel Tennis

5x5

No. 321

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

S		L		Y
	E		V	
A		G		L
	C		R	
M		L		S

SOLUTIONS

SPRAY, PEEVE, ANGEL, SCARP, MELTS

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March, 2026

Sudoku

No. 056

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

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Medieval Weapons

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- ARROW
- AXE
- BALLISTA
- CLAYMORE
- CROSSBOW
- FLAIL
- HALBERD
- LANCE
- LONGBOW
- LONGSWORD
- MACE
- MORNINGSTAR
- POLEAXE
- SHORTSWORD
- SPEAR
- WARHAMMER

Secret message: Sharp and pointy

Crossword

No. 056

ACROSS

- 1 Plant cultivated for its grain-like seeds (9)
- 6 Main actor (4)
- 10 Goop (3)
- 11 Anti-Communist era of politics (11)
- 12 Helpfully (8)
- 13 Overseas (6)
- 14 Nerd (4)
- 15 Waitstaff (7)
- 20 Mythical horse-man (7)
- 21 Scheme (4)
- 25 A spice (6)
- 26 Any place (8)
- 28 Extreme conservatism or rightism in politics (11)
- 29 Siesta (3)
- 30 Yin's counterpart (4)
- 31 The world's largest island (9)

1		2		3		4		5		6	7		8
									9				
10				11									
12								13					
14					15			16					
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						17							
22					20						21		
25								26					
							27						
28												29	
30								31					

DOWN

- 1 Resent someone's pleasure or good fortune (8)
- 2 Schools of a university (8)
- 3 Native American beads (6)
- 4 Capital (9)
- 5 Teaching period (4)
- 7 Greek sea-god (6)
- 8 Fix (6)
- 9 Reddish stalk used in pies (7)
- 16 Grant (9)
- 17 Token (7)
- 18 European country (8)
- 19 Dauntless (8)
- 22 Power (6)
- 23 Lineage (6)
- 24 Coloured wax pencil (6)
- 27 Shallow bell (4)

SOLUTION

G	N	V	T	N	E	B	E	G	D	N	V	A	G
I	I	O	E	N	O	I	G						
A	V	A	L	N	O	I	C	O	L	L	C	O	E
E	E	Y	S	B	N	W	E						
H	E	A	B	E	H	E	M	D	E	W	I	L	N
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WHAT'S ON March



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



COMMUNITY SOCIAL CRAFTING
 Have you been looking for an inclusive, supportive, creative community crafting group? The Cauldron is a fabulous creative community space in Docklands hosting weekly social crafting sessions.
The Cauldron, The District Docklands
EVERY WEDNESDAY, 5PM – 7PM



CRUSH, MELT, RECYCLE
 Learn about different types of plastics and what can (and can't) be recycled. Then get involved – sort and process PLA scraps to be transformed into new objects with our benchtop extruder.
Makerspace, Library at The Dock
THURSDAY 26 MARCH, 3.30PM – 5.30PM



MELBOURNE CELTIC FESTIVAL
 The Melbourne Celtic Festival returns on St Patrick's Day 2026 at the Mission to Seafarers, offering multi-stage live music, global artists, food, drinks, and a flexible, immersive experience.
The Mission to Seafarers, Docklands
TUESDAY 17 MARCH, 12PM – 11PM



MOOMBA PARADE
 Since 1955, Moomba's parade delights all ages with colourful floats, dance, music, and famous Monarchs like Caterina Mete and Sammy J.
Kings Domain, Alexandra Ave
MONDAY 9 MARCH, 10.45AM – 12PM



MELBOURNE CBD HOLI FESTIVAL OF COLOURS
 Melbourne's two-day Holi festival features vibrant powders, music, dance, food, and family-friendly celebrations of unity and joy.
Treasury Gardens, East Melbourne
14 – 15 MARCH, 12PM – 11PM



HERALD SUN / TRANSURBAN RUN FOR THE KIDS
 Run for the Kids in Melbourne features 14.4km and 4.7km courses, raising funds for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.
Harbour Esplanade, Docklands
SUNDAY 29 MARCH, 7AM – 12.30PM



BOURNE LOCAL MARKET
 Visit the Collins Square main retail plaza and explore a carefully curated variety of local market stalls, featuring handmade crafts to artisanal treasures.
Collins Square, 727 Collins St, Docklands
UNTIL 26 MARCH, 10AM – 2PM

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