

APRIL 2026 EDITION #228

FOREVER FREE



Arsenal legend inspires Docklands Athletic FC

Docklands Athletic FC enjoyed one of its biggest moments yet on March 17, hosting Arsenal legend Theo Walcott and the Premier League trophy after winning a national competition run by broadcaster Stan. More on page 10. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

COURTS, PAGE 03

ATET case due for Court soon

POLITICS, PAGE 07

"A win for sex offenders"

PLANNING, PAGE 08

Councillors back huge Lorimer St project

“Game-changer” for Docklands? Council backs BID pilot for waterfront precinct

“ Docklands could become the testing ground for one of the City of Melbourne’s most significant new economic development experiments, after councillors unanimously backed a Melbourne-first pilot for a business improvement district model.

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



At its March 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, the council approved voluntary co-investment pilots in both the Docklands Chamber of Commerce and the Collins Street Precinct as a first step toward establishing formal Business Improvement Districts, or BIDs, in Melbourne.

For Docklands, the decision is potentially more consequential than symbolic.

While BIDs are well established overseas, the concept has never properly taken hold in Australia. In Docklands, where businesses have long argued the precinct needs stronger activation, better coordination and more local investment, supporters believe the model could provide a new mechanism for getting things done.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Daniel Hibberd said BIDs offered a collaborative way of working that was new to Australia but backed by decades of international experience.

“BIDs can provide the impact of a collaborative way of working that is new in Australia, but with the assurance of decades of proven added value around the world,” he said.

“We think it could be a real game-changer for Docklands.”

In basic terms, a BID is a structured arrangement where businesses and landlords in a defined area pool money to fund improvements to their precinct beyond normal council services.

Overseas, that has included things like marketing, events, cleaner streets, better lighting, safety programs and public realm upgrades.

Continued on page 2.



LOCAL NEWS, PAGE 12

Docklands in focus in latest *Future Melbourne* podcast episode

Future Melbourne podcast series, produced by publisher Hyperlocal News is turning the spotlight on Docklands, with a new conversation exploring Melbourne’s much debated waterfront precinct.

THE DISTRICT
DOCKLANDS

WEEKDAY FOOD DEALS, CHEAP TUESDAYS,
THURSDAY TRIVIA NIGHT & HEAPS MORE OFFERS.

MELBOURNE'S ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

MORE INFO



HYPERLOCAL NEWS

CONTACT

Suite 208, 198 Harbour Esplanade
Docklands 3008
docklandsnews.com.au
Tel: 8689 7980

EDITOR
Sean Car

PUBLISHER

Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd
ABN: 57 623 558 725

ADVERTISING

Hyperlocal print works for advertisers in our digital world because local people are interested in local news.

To sell to the Docklands community, contact Sean Car on 0460 896 115 or sean@hyperlocalnews.com.au

Reader contributions are welcome. Send letters, articles and images to: admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au

The deadline for the May edition is May 1

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the publisher.

hyperlocalnews.com.au
admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au

Follow us on social media by searching @docklandsnews



“Game-changer” for Docklands? Council backs BID pilot

Continued from page 1.

In Docklands, the idea has previously raised some disquiet among smaller traders already doing it tough, particularly around whether a levy model could unfairly shift extra costs onto struggling businesses.

But those concerns appear to have eased during the early discussions, with the emerging expectation that in Docklands any future model would be shaped around the precinct’s larger employers, major landowners and institutional players doing much of the heavy lifting.

That is significant in a precinct like Docklands, where the business base includes some of the city’s biggest corporate occupiers, developers and asset owners, from ANZ and other office tenants to major property interests with a direct stake in the area’s performance.

The council report does not lock in any final levy structure, but makes clear that the immediate next step is not a compulsory charge. Rather, it is a voluntary co-investment pilot to test what sorts of projects businesses actually want, how funding could work and whether broad support exists for a future formal BID.

The City of Melbourne said both Docklands and Collins St had already shown an appetite to explore a special rate scheme after early engagement with their respective business associations. It is now proposing a year-long process of workshops, project design and on-the-ground trial activity before reporting back to the council in May 2027.

According to the report, engagement and co-design will run from March to June this year, trial projects will be delivered from July 2026 to April 2027, and a report on findings and next steps will then be prepared for councillors.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece described the



proposal as a Melbourne-first move that could help the city follow global examples such as New York, London and Singapore.

“We want to breathe new life into our high streets and business precincts. A voluntary co-investment pilot would allow local businesses to pool resources and deliver improvements that attract visitors, boost trade and create more vibrant places,” he said.

He added that the city was proposing to explore the model in Docklands and Collins St while putting “businesses firmly in the driver’s seat”.

The council’s city economy and business portfolio lead Cr Kevin Louey said the interest had come from the precincts themselves.

“Businesses want to explore this model – that’s why we’re proposing pilots in Docklands and Collins St. This model has transformed cities worldwide, now it’s Melbourne’s turn,” he said.

At the council meeting, officers said all of Melbourne’s precinct groups had been

contacted, but Docklands and Collins St were the two that felt able and willing to embark on the project first.

That is notable for Docklands, where local business advocates have often argued that the precinct needs a more tailored and ambitious model than the city’s existing precinct support arrangements can offer.

The report itself stems from a review of the city’s Business Precinct Program, which found that while the program offered value, its strategic impact was limited and a more transformative, place-based approach was needed. It said BIDs were an internationally proven model that could unlock stronger economic outcomes through collective investment.

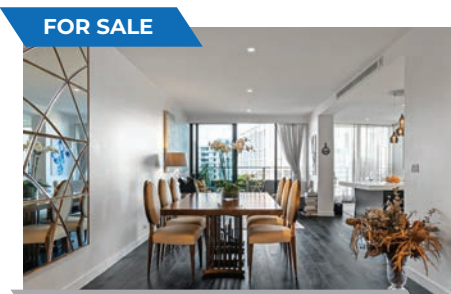
Potential focus areas for the pilot include public realm improvements, destination marketing, events, promotions and other activations. Crucially, the report says any initiatives funded through the pilot would be above and beyond normal council service levels.

For Docklands, that could mean a new vehicle to fund exactly the kinds of interventions businesses have long wanted, whether that be stronger identity and branding, better amenity, more foot traffic, improved lighting, more coordinated programming or sharper advocacy around the precinct’s needs.

It is still early days. Any future formal BID would require much more detailed consultation and, if it ultimately moved to a special rate model, legal processes under the Local Government Act. Council officers also warned that BID design needs to be carefully tailored to Melbourne’s local context rather than copied directly from overseas.

But after years of debate about how to better activate Docklands, the pilot gives the precinct something it has not had for some time: a potentially serious new mechanism for change. ●

INNER REAL ESTATE

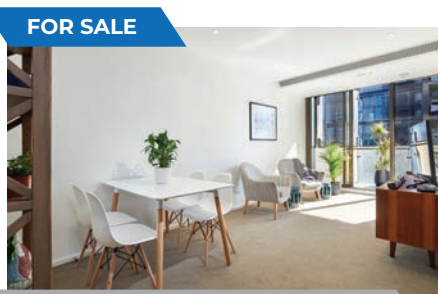


FOR SALE

1505/50 Albert Rd, South Melbourne

3 beds, 2 baths, 2 cars \$1,450,000 – \$1,550,000

Anthony Cimino
0400 500 903



FOR SALE

1507/118 Kavanagh St, Southbank

1 bed, 1 bath, 1 car \$430,000 – \$470,000

Anthony Cimino
0400 500 903



SOLD

11/114 Hardware St, Melbourne

2 beds, 1 bath, 1 car \$608,000

Gio Campagnaro
0447 894 467



SOLD

414/108 Flinders St, Melbourne

1 bed, 1 bath \$400,000

Matt Kunz
0477 006 125



FOR SALE

1401/8 Bowen Cr, Melbourne

2 beds, 2 baths, 1 car \$770,000 – \$830,000

Gio Campagnaro
0447 894 467



FOR SALE

34/632 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

2 beds, 2 baths, 1 car \$600,000 – \$650,000

Anthony Cimino
0400 500 903

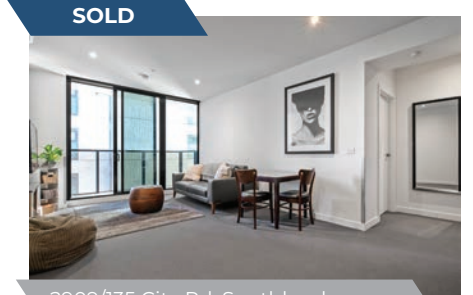


SOLD

15/213 Williams Rd, South Yarra

1 bed, 1 bath, 1 car \$386,000

Anthony Cimino
0400 500 903



SOLD

2909/135 City Rd, Southbank

1 bed, 1 bath, 1 car \$398,000

Anthony Cimino
0400 500 903

Head Office – Inner Real Estate \ 138 Thistlethwaite Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 \ 03 9804 5551 \ mail@ire.com.au \ ire.com.au

SALES | RENTALS | OWNERS CORPORATION

ATET case due for court soon as barge remains berthed at North Wharf

A trial date is expected to be confirmed soon for ATET's long-running legal case against the City of Melbourne, marking a significant step forward nearly three years after the Docklands floating venue was forced to close.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



ATET owner Jake Hughes said the matter was now due for a directions hearing on April 1, where a trial date is expected to be confirmed.

He said an outcome would likely take longer, with a decision expected sometime after the hearing concludes.

"It'll be a two-week trial and then we imagine it may be weeks or even months later that we'll get an outcome," he said.

The court date is a major development in a case that has dragged on since ATET was shut down in 2023 after noise complaints and council action brought the venue's short-lived operation at North Wharf to an end.

As previously reported by *Docklands News*, the Hughes family had invested more than \$2 million into the project, which operated for only eight months before closing. Mr Hughes has long maintained the venue was compliant and should never have been shut down, arguing that the council acted unlawfully in terminating its licence.

He continues to reject the claim that ATET was persistently breaching noise limits, stating that the venue had been publicly portrayed as a repeat offender despite independent acoustic advice later proving otherwise.

He also says ATET had put forward a range of operational changes to address concerns, including

reducing sound levels and cutting music entirely during more sensitive night-time periods.

He added that ATET also later offered to change the sound system, relocate to a site further from apartments, and enclose the venue entirely in acoustic glazing, noting that these "proposals all went well beyond the requirements for compliance, which had already been demonstrated". Despite this, he said none of these proposals were accepted.

"When these proposals were rejected, we then offered to operate at background music levels permanently, and even this was rejected," he said.

For Docklands, the case has remained one of the precinct's most contentious recent disputes, touching not only on nightlife, planning and governance, but on wider frustrations about how North Wharf has been managed during a period of major change.

The ATET barge remains berthed at North Wharf even as Lendlease ramps up development works along the wharf. While much around it has changed, including the recent forced exit of Docklands' heritage fleet from the same broader location, the former venue itself remains in place pending the outcome of the legal fight. ●

Farmers market set for Docklands return in May

A new-look Docklands farmers market is understood to be set for a return on May 17, with plans under way for a waterfront event that will place a strong focus on seafood as part of a broader push to activate the precinct.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



struggles to build foot traffic at its Marvel Stadium site. Organisers had previously flagged a desire to relocate the market closer to the water after finding the stadium location too quiet.

The latest effort is also understood to carry broader strategic significance.

Docklands News understands the event is being used as something of a test-bed for Lord Mayor Nick Reece's 2024 election pledge to establish a seafood precinct in Docklands, an idea pitched as a way to transform the waterfront into a destination for fresh seafood dining and food tourism.

That proposal, unveiled during the 2024 council election campaign, envisioned a new waterfront precinct featuring seafood stalls, restaurants, open-air dining and public space inspired by international seafood destinations such as Tokyo's Tsukiji Market and San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf.

While the proposed May 17 market is more modest in scale, its seafood focus is likely to be watched closely as an early sign of how that broader vision might begin to take shape.

For Docklands, the return of a market to Harbour Esplanade would also mark another attempt to find the right formula for regular activation in a precinct that has long struggled to build consistent street-level vibrancy despite its prime waterfront setting. ●

Looking for your next lunch-break getaway? Tired of the same pre-made supermarket salad?

Explore Collins Square's Retail Plaza, home to 40+ food and beverage options to mix up your next meal. From cold brew and matcha to sandwiches, sushi, curry, pizza, snacks, tap beers and cocktails, there's something for every craving.

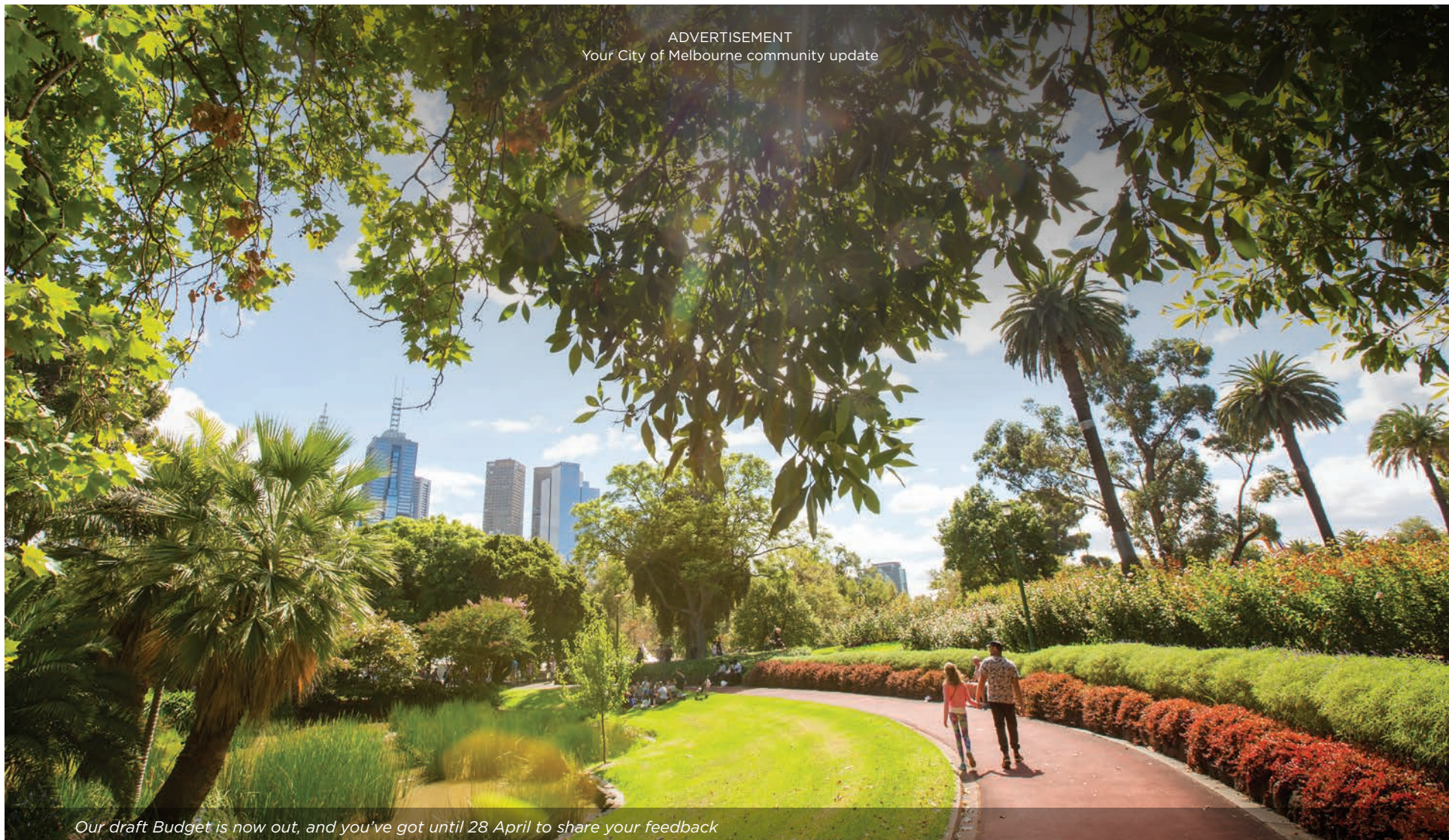
Discover more at
collinssquare.com.au

727 Collins Street, Melbourne




COLLINS SQUARE








Our draft Budget is now out, and you've got until 28 April to share your feedback


OUR BUDGET PLAN FOR A MORE LIVEABLE MELBOURNE


 Total budget:
\$804.8 million

 Capital works
program:
\$175.1 million

 Garden City:
\$26.4 million

 Surplus:
\$1.2 million

 Events, arts, culture,
activation:
\$41.2 million

 Safety and cleaning:
\$73.2 million

We know budgets aren't usually the most exciting time of year – especially when Melbourne has just squeezed in Moomba, the opening round of the AFL season and the Australian Grand Prix in one glorious weekend.

But this draft Budget really matters, because it sets out a plan to support a more liveable Melbourne.

It proposes investment in greener spaces, cleaner streets and more active laneways, and aims to make the city easier to get around and better connected.

It's supported by strong financial management, with this draft Budget delivering a third consecutive surplus and a path to being debt-free by 2032.

And because this is a draft Budget, we want to hear from you. Share your feedback using the QR code on the opposite page before 6pm on 28 April to help shape the final Budget.

There's a lot in it, but here are some of the ways you'll see the difference.



Feedback on the draft Budget 2026–27 can be provided on Participate Melbourne from 6pm on Tuesday 31 March until 6pm on 28 April.

BRINGING OUR STREETS TO LIFE



Our draft Budget invests in major events like NYE, which bring the city together

Melbourne's street life is part of what makes the city tick. This draft Budget strengthens that with a focus on lighting, precincts and events that draw people in and keep the city moving:

- **Lighting up Melbourne**
\$2 million to light up more streets and laneways, doubling last year's \$1 million investment, with upgrades in places like Hosier Lane, Collins Street and Hardware Lane to improve safety and support activity after dark.

- **Creating a new Little India precinct**
In Docklands, more than \$1.2 million will help bring Little India to life, with infrastructure, public realm upgrades, creative projects and events.
- **Backing the events that bring the city together**
Across the year, almost same as last year will support major events like New Year's Eve, Moomba and the Christmas Festival, driving visitation and backing local businesses.

GROWING THE GARDEN CITY

Greening Melbourne remains a priority in this budget, with faster delivery of parks and more trees across the city:



We're investing in more parks, trees and greener streets across Melbourne

- **More parks, closer to home**
We're fast-tracking the planning and delivery of 13 new or upgraded parks and green open spaces across the municipality, making sure nature is never far away in our Garden City.
- **3,000 new trees across the city**
We'll plant up to 3,000 new trees across the city, growing Melbourne's urban forest and bringing more shade and greenery to our streets. It will help make the city cooler, greener and more climate resilient.
- **A greener stroll to grab your groceries**
Design work is progressing on Market Square at Queen Victoria Market – the city's biggest new park in more than 50 years – alongside a greener, pedestrian-friendly Franklin Street connecting State Library Station to the market.



Keeping Melbourne active and connected

RESPONSIBLE RATES, PRACTICAL SUPPORT THAT GOES FURTHER

Keeping costs manageable while consistently delivering the services people rely on remains a clear focus:

- **Keeping rates as low as possible**
After we delivered a full rebate on the Victorian Government's 3% rate rise last year, ratepayers will see a 2.75% increase on their rates notice this year. Pensioners will again receive up to a 25% discount, and ratepayers can access support through payment plans and interest-free extensions.

- **Staying active, together**
To support community wellbeing, we're continuing our popular free fitness classes in the park, along with \$2 weekday summer pool visits and free summer swim lessons, helping keep people active and connected.



- **Helping put food on the table**
Rising food prices are putting pressure on households, and we're responding. This draft Budget invests in food security programs that rescue surplus food and deliver it to those who need it most. We will also expand our food rescue partnership at Queen Victoria Market, helping food relief providers reach more vulnerable people in our community.

CLEAN, SAFE AND EASY TO GET AROUND

A great city works well day to day, and this draft Budget focuses on the essentials that make Melbourne safer and easier to navigate:



We're investing in a cleaner and safer Melbourne

- **More Community Safety Officers**
The number of Community Safety Officers will double, with 22 CSOs providing a stronger on-street presence.
- **Streets designed for people**
We're exploring ways to make it easier for pedestrians to move through the heart of the city, including extending Bourke Street Mall. Flinders Lane will also get a major refresh between Swanston and Degrave streets, with wider bluestone footpaths and more greenery and more space for the community to enjoy.
- **FOGO goes high rise**
For the first time, we're rolling out food and garden waste recycling to high-rise apartments, making it easier for more residents to reduce waste and keep apartment living green.

A FAIR GO FOR EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD



We're supporting Melbourne's most vulnerable people

From local libraries to neighbourhood hubs, having community places close to home helps people connect and feel part of something bigger:

- **New spaces to connect, learn and come together**
A 6.3 million investment will see new and upgraded community hubs including Southbank Library and the North Melbourne Community Hub, offering modern spaces to connect and learn.

- **Supporting our most vulnerable**
For the first time, dedicated support will be introduced for people experiencing homelessness with complex mental health challenges. A \$2.3 million investment will expand services for those at risk or sleeping rough, building on the care and connection already in place.
- **Giving kids a strong start**
Giving every child the best start means supporting families early. This draft Budget invests \$500,000 in early childhood services, focused on those who need it most. These programs aim to boost literacy, physical activity, improve access to nutritious food, and provide family-centered support including early intervention and domestic violence prevention.



Projects like the Greenline are one way this draft Budget is investing in making Melbourne greener and more liveable

Residents are invited to meet City of Melbourne Councillors during our public consultation on the draft budget.

Residents can provide feedback on the budget and ask questions about issues that matter.

- 11am-1pm on 8 April at City Square (in conjunction with a 'fitness in the park' activity)
- 11am-1pm on 17 April at Queen Victoria Market
- 10am-12pm on 18 April at Young Husband Rose St Market
- 4-6pm on 24 April at Boyd Community Hub in Southbank
- 4-6pm on 27 April at Clayton Reserve dog park in North Melbourne



Feedback on the draft Budget 2026-27 can be provided on Participate Melbourne from 6pm on Tuesday 31 March until 6pm on 28 April.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

Connect with us

- [/cityofmelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmelbourne)
- [@cityofmelbourne](https://www.instagram.com/cityofmelbourne)
- [@cityofmelbourne](https://www.x.com/cityofmelbourne)



Preventing rubbish entering Victoria Harbour: it can and should be done

Momentum is building from concerned public and the broader business community to prevent rubbish from entering Victoria Harbour.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



A Docklands harbour representative is arguing that a relatively modest intervention would dramatically reduce litter flowing into the waterway and improve one of the precinct's most visible public assets.

Harvey Cleggett, who represents harbour boat owners, and says he is advocating more broadly on behalf of local residents, has been pressing government and agency stakeholders to support a trial floating boom near the Bolte Bridge pylons where litter enters Victoria Harbour from the Yarra River. According to Mr Cleggett, the problem is especially noticeable after heavy rain periods, and during easterly and southerly wind conditions.

He says the resolution of the litter influx has been identified for decades, citing a detailed consultancy commissioned by the former Docklands Authority in 2001. In it a recommendation was proposed for a low-level deflection rock wall to be installed near the Bolte Bridge pylons, spanning the 90 metres of open water through which the rubbish enters the harbour. Mr Cleggett said respective governments had never implemented this solution due to an estimated installation cost of \$200,000 to \$230,000.

Believing that a permanent rock wall is unlikely to receive immediate endorsement due to cost and because the concept remains untested in practice, Mr Cleggett has instead proposed what he describes as a 'proof of concept' floating boom. He says the boom would have a life expectancy of three to five years and would demonstrate whether a permanent structure was capable of preventing up to 95 per cent of daily rubbish from entering the harbour, while at



the same time capture the litter for collection. He said he obtained multiple quotations for the boom and the stabilising blocks required to secure it, with total installation costs in each quote less than \$30,000.

Mr Cleggett indicated the proposal was developed after months of direct observation at the Bolte Bridge assessing current flows, wind directions and rubbish movement, as well as having discussions with multiple engineers and Community 3008 co-president Jamal Hakim.

To build support, he sought and received letters backing the floating boom concept from the chief executives of the AFL, Gurner, Lendlease, MAB, Transurban and the Port of Melbourne, with each letter addressed to the Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos.

Despite that, he says his efforts to secure a government agency willing to champion the proposal have been frustrating.

Mr Cleggett said he initially presented the idea to the City of Melbourne environment portfolio head Cr Davydd Griffiths, who, while liking the concept, advised that the council was not responsible for litter entering the harbour. Mr Cleggett then referred to Melbourne Water, which was positive about the idea, but their Customer Escalations Coordinator advised him in writing that the Department of Transport and Planning (DT&P) was accountable for the Yarra River between the Charles Grimes

and Bolte bridges, as well as for Victoria Harbour.

He then approached DT&P and was advised by their Statutory Planning Services group, again in writing, to direct the matter to Minister Dimopoulos, which he did in October 2025. While waiting for a response, he also contacted Development Victoria, which he claimed, informed him it was fully occupied with the construction of six towers along Collins Wharf by Lendlease, and would be involved with that agenda for the next five years.

After contacting the EPA, he was told the agency was not responsible for litter entering the harbour, and that he should contact Melbourne Water.

Mr Cleggett realised at that point, "I had progressed full circle."

The matter then took an important turn. Mr Cleggett stated that the Parks Victoria, Chief Waterways Ranger, Stuart Lardner advised him that following his submission to the Environment Minister, he had been invited to present the proposal to Parks Victoria and a number of the agencies that had previously informed him they were not responsible for capturing the litter. He said the meeting took place on February 10, 2026, and a reply from the group was received on March 4 indicating they did not support his proposal.

According to Mr Cleggett, the response set out five reasons for rejecting the

concept, none of which he claims refuted the efficacy of a floating boom, something which has been proven time and time again throughout the world in multiple weather conditions. He said he subsequently sent a detailed rebuttal of those points to the meeting attendees and the minister.

He was sharply critical of the meeting and the response received, declaring that not once during discussions did any attendee state that reducing the amount of litter entering the harbour was a worthwhile objective that should be pursued. He also claimed that none of the attendees had personally visited the Bolte Bridge location to observe current and litter flows firsthand. According to Mr Cleggett, opposition was raised repeatedly despite the attendees lack of local knowledge. In short, the very departments that claimed in writing they had no accountability for the litter, were vetoing the 'proof of concept' boom from progressing.

The litter issue carries increased weight given the scale of residential growth still planned for Docklands. Mr Cleggett noted that Victoria Harbour is already home to almost 20,000 residents, and that once a further 18 high-rise towers are completed by developers, including Lendlease, MAB, Gurner, Salta and the AFL over the next four to five years, the waterfront population could rise to 30, even 35,000 people.

Mr Cleggett said he intended to continue pressing the issue. Among his intended actions he listed to the environment minister in his reply was to launch an online petition aimed at Docklands ratepayers, seek an interview with the Shadow Environment Minister (this has been accepted by the minister); approach 3AW's Tom Elliott and A Current Affair; and urge the major chief executives who have already written letters of support to contact the minister directly.

Having run major projects for Victoria Police for more than a decade, Mr Cleggett said he understood how progressing public projects could be difficult but maintained that Docklands residents and visitors deserved a clean, rubbish-free harbour, and that the solution was neither complex, nor especially expensive.

He declared he intends to keep pursuing this matter until a resolution is achieved. ●

Mirvac launches immersive virtual tour for Trielle at Yarra's Edge

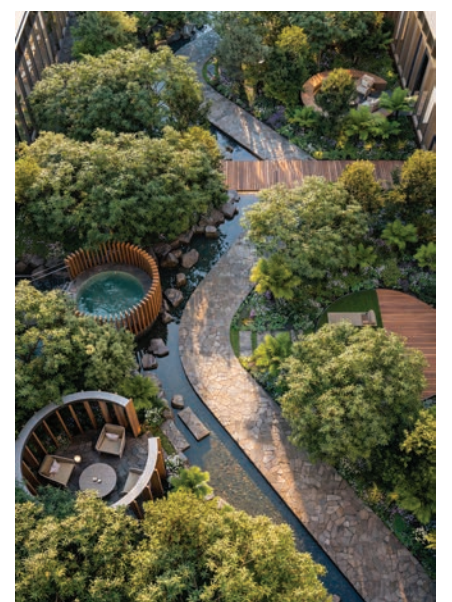
Property giant Mirvac has unveiled a new virtual tour experience for its luxury Trielle development at Yarra's Edge, offering prospective buyers a digitally immersive look inside the tower's signature wellness amenities while construction continues.

Announced on March 4, the Oasis Wellness Club virtual tour has been designed to "redefine" the off-the-plan buying journey, allowing purchasers to explore Trielle's residences and lifestyle spaces remotely in high detail.

Trielle, Mirvac's latest residential tower at Yarra's Edge, has been designed in partnership with Naomi Gregory and is currently under construction in Docklands. The virtual tour blends cinematic visualisation with architectural rendering, enabling buyers to navigate the building's sculptural design, riverfront vistas and curated communal spaces before completion.

At the heart of the experience is the project's centrepiece amenity: The Oasis. Spanning 900 square metres, the rainforest-inspired wellness retreat features a 25-metre indoor pool and spa, hot magnesium pool, sauna and ice bath. Additional facilities include day spa treatment rooms, a biophilic gym, yoga and Pilates studios and tranquillity pods set within lush greenery.

The lifestyle offering also extends to a private cinema, a games and pool room,



and an outdoor teppanyaki grill, underscoring Mirvac's ambition to position Trielle as a hotel-inspired residential address.

Mirvac's general manager for residential development in Victoria, Elysa Anderson, said the initiative responded to growing demand from buyers for greater accessibility and detail during the purchasing process.

"We know our customers lead busy lives, and this technology gives them the ability to immerse themselves in Trielle from anywhere in the world," Ms Anderson said.

She added that the virtual tour

particularly catered to interstate and international purchasers seeking confidence before committing to a high-value property decision, and positioned Mirvac as a leader in digital design storytelling.

The Oasis tour showcases one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom residences, presenting materials and spatial detail with what Mirvac describes as "exceptional digital detail" and offering global, 24/7 accessibility.

Mirvac said enquiry for Trielle remained strong across domestic and international

markets, with the virtual experience expected to deepen engagement and drive qualified traffic to its online sales platform.

The launch reflects a broader trend among developers embracing advanced visualisation tools to enhance buyer confidence in off-the-plan projects, particularly in the premium segment.

For Docklands and Yarra's Edge, Trielle represents another step in the ongoing evolution of the waterfront precinct into a high-end residential enclave, with wellness-led amenities increasingly central to its appeal. ●

Sex industry amendment defeated in Parliament, with opponents calling result a win for sex workers

A push to ban registered sex offenders from working in Victoria's sex and stripping industries has been voted down in State Parliament, with opponents of the proposed change hailing the result as a win for sex workers and a sign MPs were wary of reopening decriminalisation laws without broader review.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Libertarian MP David Limbrick introduced the amendment on March 19, arguing it would close what he and supporters described as a serious loophole created after Victoria decriminalised sex work in 2022.

The proposed change was narrow in scope. It would not have altered the rights of the vast majority of sex workers but would instead have imposed a blanket ban on registered sex offenders working in either the sex industry or the stripping industry.

The amendment was defeated 21 votes to 16, with Labor, the Greens, Legalise Cannabis and Animal Justice voting it down. The Liberals, Nationals, the Libertarian MP, One Nation and Shooters, Fishers and Farmers backed it, while three MPs were absent from the vote.

The failed bid follows renewed scrutiny of the issue since *Docklands News* reported last year on the case of registered sex

offender Albino D'Souza operating a massage business from a Docklands apartment. D'Souza, who previously served jail time in Western Australia for possessing and distributing child exploitation material, was placed on the sex offender register in 2023 for a period of 15 years.

That case sparked broader concern about the fact that registered offenders can, under current Victorian law, continue working in parts of the adult industry.

Supporters of Mr Limbrick's amendment said the change was a basic safety measure aimed only at people already found guilty, convicted and sentenced for serious sexual crimes, including rape and child sex offences.

Among them was legal expert and sex worker advocate Matthew Roberts, who said he had worked with Mr Limbrick on the proposal after months of consultation with stakeholders in the industry.

"I supported this amendment which, if passed into law, would apply a blanket ban on registered sex offenders working in the sex industry or stripping industries," Mr Roberts said.

He said the proposal was "targeted and specific to the registered sex offenders only" and would not affect the work rights of sex workers who were not on the register.

"As a law-abiding male sex worker who is not a registered sex offender, I am comfortable with this new law," he said.

Backers of the change argued that while police technically have powers to seek prohibition orders preventing some offenders from working in certain industries, those powers were rarely used and were too cumbersome to operate as an effective safeguard. They said just 13 prohibition orders were approved across Victoria last financial

year, representing only a tiny fraction of the state's more than 11,000 registered sex offenders.

Mr Limbrick was scathing after the vote, saying the Government and crossbench MPs who opposed the amendment had rejected a commonsense reform.

"The Government, Greens, Legalise Cannabis and Animal Justice Party voting to allow registered sex offenders to continue working in the sex industry is one of the worst judgment calls I have ever seen in my time in parliament," he told *Docklands News*.

"Sex workers have a right to be outraged about this. Matthew Roberts consulted far and wide and could not find anyone who wants sex offenders in the industry."

"They offered no reason for voting that way, but the government argued that they intend to review this after the election. But there is a very real risk that someone could be harmed in the meantime and no guarantee this will be put back on the agenda."

Mr Limbrick rejected claims that consultation had been inadequate, saying Victoria Police units, brothel owners, female and male sex workers, clients, outreach groups and mental health workers had all supported the change.

But MPs who opposed the amendment said the issue was more complex than its supporters suggested and warned against rushing in a change affecting employment rights in an industry that has only recently been decriminalised.

Labor MP Enver Erdogan said there was a "genuine need to consider how to balance the rights of individuals to engage in legitimate forms of work with the need to protect people who are accessing these services".

"I always talk in this chamber about how

employment is an important protective factor, so therefore prohibiting a registrable offender from engaging in lawful employment is potentially going to have adverse community safety outcomes, which we do not want," he said.

Greens MP Katherine Copsey said "there are a diversity of views amongst sex work community on this issue".

Legalise Cannabis MP Rachel Payne said stakeholders she had spoken to were concerned about the implications of singling out sex work compared with other adult personal services.

Animal Justice MP Georgie Purcell also cautioned against what she described as a rushed change of significance, saying stakeholders had raised concerns about "giving more opportunities for police intervention in an industry that has only just been decriminalised and has historically been overpoliced".

The Victorian Government has since confirmed that a statutory review of the *Sex Work Decriminalisation Act* will begin in late 2026, with issues of this nature to be considered as part of that broader process.

That means the debate is far from over. For supporters of the amendment, the vote was a missed opportunity to address a glaring gap in the law immediately. For opponents, however, the defeat was seen as a defence of the decriminalised framework and a refusal to make piecemeal changes without fuller consultation.

The parliamentary clash has thrown a sharp spotlight back on a question that Victoria's post-decriminalisation regime has not yet resolved: how to protect sex workers from known sexual offenders without undermining the rights and hard-won reforms of the wider industry. ●

CIRCA
NEWQUAY

STAMP DUTY CONCESSIONS APPLY

ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

OPEN-PLAN LIVING WITH GENEROUS BACONIES

1, 2 and 3 Bedroom Apartments, Townhouses, Terrace Homes and SOHOS now selling from \$595,000—\$2.6M.

Enjoy fresh sea air, lush parklands and a beautiful waterfront promenade. Residents will have access to a wide range of amenities, close proximity to schooling, public transport connections, and shopping.

Developed by
MAB

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 8899 9202
DISPLAY SUITE, BANKSIA APARTMENTS,
GROUND LEVEL, 2 GLENTI PLACE, NEWQUAY

DOCKLANDS HEALTH

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

- ▶ Physiotherapy
- ▶ Chiropractic
- ▶ Massage
- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Nutrition
- ▶ Bowen Therapy
- ▶ Pilates
- ▶ Kinesiology
- ▶ Exercise Rehabilitation

Shop 4/860 Collins St, Docklands, 3008
(03) 9088 3228 www.docklandshealth.com.au

BOOK ONLINE
DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU

Councillors back major Lorimer St project in huge vote of confidence in Fishermans Bend

A major new mixed-use development, including more than 1000 new homes, a park, supermarket and “arts hub” in the Lorimer precinct in Docklands has won unanimous backing from City of Melbourne councillors.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The council has endorsed a \$780 million proposal that would bring more than 1000 homes, a hotel, retail, office space, public open space and an arts hub to one of Fishermans Bend’s key gateway sites.

At the March 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors supported the project for 99-109 Lorimer St, subject to a series of outstanding matters being addressed before any final ministerial approval. The proposal will now go before Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny for final approval.

The 1.78-hectare site, currently occupied by the Cavalo Prestige motor vehicle sales operation, sits south of Lorimer St and is bounded by Hartley St, Boundary St and the West Gate Freeway. It lies within the Lorimer precinct of Fishermans Bend – Australia’s largest urban renewal area.

The development, submitted by applicant 99 Lorimer Street Project Pty Ltd and designed by Architectus, would comprise four towers across three podiums, ranging from 15 to 57 storeys. According to the council report, it would deliver 1054 dwellings, 200 residential hotel rooms, retail premises including a supermarket, office uses, a proposed arts and cultural hub, and 3075 sqm of public open space fronting Lorimer St to be vested to the council, along with a further 860 sqm of privately owned publicly accessible open space.

A major feature of the proposal is its



affordable and social housing component. Council planning officer Nick McLennan told councillors the scheme would provide 36 affordable housing dwellings leased at a discounted rate for 20 years, as well as 50 completed social housing dwellings to be transferred to a registered agency.

Deputy Lord Mayor and chair of the council’s planning portfolio Roshena Campbell said the scale of investment was “a major vote of confidence in Australia’s largest urban renewal area”.

“The four towers that are proposed will deliver a true mixed-use development in the heart of the Lorimer precinct with homes, jobs, culture, and public space for the entire community,” she said.

Cr Campbell said the proposal broadly aligned with the built form outcomes anticipated by planning controls for the precinct, including podium heights, tower setbacks and separation distances, and would

achieve a compliant overshadowing outcome for protected future parks. She also described it as a “placemaking development” because of its combination of housing, employment space, public open space and community infrastructure.

But the endorsement was not unconditional.

Council officers said the proposal generally satisfied key built form and land use requirements but still departed from the Fishermans Bend Framework in important ways, particularly in its layout and urban structure.

The council’s planning report identifies several “outstanding key matters” it says should be resolved before the amendment is approved. These include inserting a street or laneway link in line with the framework, improving access and permeability across the site, reworking and possibly increasing the public open space to ensure it is truly

unencumbered, and locking in the affordable housing outcomes through the incorporated document.

The proposed arts and cultural hub also remains a live issue. Council officers support the idea of a hub on the site, but say its proposed location at the Hartley St end of the site is not appropriate and should be shifted to improve its relationship with Lorimer Central (Rogers St) and future transport infrastructure. Mr McLennan told councillors the hub was currently “located outside of the investigation area within the framework” and said officers believed it would be better relocated elsewhere on the site.

The council’s planning report added that “the proposed design has not been considered through a robust design review process, nor has it been guided by a detailed design brief.”

“The provision of an arts and cultural hub should be investigated in the anticipated area outlined in the [Fishermans Bend] Framework and the space provided on the plans for the arts and cultural hub should be made available for an alternative land use.”

Cr Philip Le Liu, who seconded the motion, said the arts element was one of the most important parts of the discussion.

“It is encouraging that the proponent has been willing to explore incorporating the hub on their site,” he said. “However, the location fronting Lorimer St is not a preferred one due to its location on a busy principal freight network and away from Lorimer Central.”

The applicant, represented by Tract’s Joseph Indomenico, told councillors the development team remained fully committed to the affordable housing component and was open to continuing discussions about the arts hub, even though it still believed its current location was acceptable.

“It’s a voluntary contribution that we’re obviously very committed to,” Mr Indomenico said. “We think it would be a great opportunity for the site and the broader precinct.” ●

Docklands chef builds on family legacy with Latin steakhouse success

“A Docklands chef with deep Colombian roots is carving out a name for himself in Melbourne’s hospitality scene, with his Latin-inspired steakhouse earning growing recognition less than a year after opening.”



WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Juan Berbeo, owner and chef of Berbeo Bar & Grill on Merchant St in Docklands, says the journey to opening his own venue has been years in the making, shaped by family tradition, hard work and a determination to build something meaningful in Australia.

Mr Berbeo grew up in Colombia in a family with more than 50 years of culinary tradition, where food was central not only to daily life, but to the way people connected.

“I’ve been cooking for as long as I can



remember, long before I ever thought about becoming a professional chef,” he said.

After moving to Australia, he started again from the ground up, learning the local industry while adapting to a new country and language. Over time, he built experience in some of Melbourne’s best-known kitchens, including Rockpool and MoVida, before finishing his final role as head chef at Pastuso.

Those years, he said, were crucial in shaping his approach to hospitality, leadership and quality.

Mr Berbeo and his team eventually took the leap into their own business, first launching a Colombian street food concept

aimed at introducing traditional flavours from Colombia to a wider Australian audience. That early venture helped them grow a following and gain recognition, including media coverage in both Australia and Colombia.

In June 2024, they opened Berbeo Bar & Grill in Docklands, marking a major shift in concept.

The venue is now positioned as a Latin-influenced steakhouse, centred on premium cuts, fire cooking and a casual but refined dining experience, while still staying true to its Colombian roots.

One of the things Mr Berbeo told *Docklands News* that he was most proud of

was the restaurant’s direct relationship with Sher Wagyu, which he says gives the team full confidence in the quality of the product being served.

The restaurant has already begun attracting broader attention. Berbeo Bar & Grill has been listed in the *Good Food Guide*, where it received a score of 14 out of 20, and was also featured in Qantas’ in-flight magazine as one of the places serving one of the best steaks in Australia.

For Docklands, the story is another sign of the precinct’s growing food identity, with local operators continuing to invest in distinctive hospitality experiences rather than generic dining offers.

Mr Berbeo is also candid about the pressures of running a business, saying the work takes resilience, long hours and constant effort.

But he says the commitment remains strong.

“We’re putting everything we have into this project, and we’re committed to growing, improving, and building something meaningful within the Australian hospitality scene,” he said.

As Docklands continues to evolve, Berbeo Bar & Grill is helping show how personal stories, cultural heritage and local ambition can come together on the plate.

Berbeo Bar & Grill is located at Shop 7/850 Collins St (main entrance on Merchant St).

berbeobarandgrill.com ●

Labor Cr Davydd Griffiths to challenge Ellen Sandell for Melbourne

City of Melbourne councillor Davydd Griffiths has announced he will run as a Labor candidate for the seat of Melbourne at the upcoming state election in November.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



The 51-year-old, who was elected to the council in 2020, has been a member of the Labor Party for 30 years, and said there had been "a long, slow fuse" to his upcoming tilt at parliament.

He had put up his hand for Labor pre-selection because of the opportunity it offered to address issues that he was passionate about, Cr Griffiths said. "And obviously the lessons and things I've seen, being a local councillor have helped inform that," he told *Docklands News*.

The Flemington resident will face a significant challenge lining up against incumbent Ellen Sandell, who has held Melbourne since she won it for the Greens in 2014.

In 2022 Ms Sandell received 37.29 per cent of the primary vote compared to Labor candidate Rebecca Thistleton's 30.65 per cent, and after preferences were distributed had 60.19 compared to Labor's 39.81 per cent.

The seats of Melbourne and Prahran were the first Greens lower house wins in Victoria.

Before that Melbourne had been held by the ALP since 1955 and for much of the first half of the 20th century.

Cr Griffiths said he wasn't motivated by the idea of winning the seat so much as a belief in the "real need for a strong local voice".

He sees "services for residents and locals, particularly as our population grows locally" as the key issue for the electorate.

While every level of government worked together, he said, "certainly some of those big things, like schools and hospitals and public transport, obviously fall into the bailiwick of the state government".

Born and raised in Bendigo, Cr Griffiths moved to Melbourne when he was 18 to study teaching and spent six years working at Glen Waverley Secondary College and Mac. Robertson Girls' High before moving into politics – first as an electorate officer, then a policy advisor in health, mental health and education to ministers in the Victorian parliament.

After leaving policy work and spending a few years as a stay-at-home dad, he made the unusual shift to hospitality, setting up a beer and burger bar in Macaulay Rd with a friend, which they operated for just under two years, before buying and running the Royal Mail Hotel on Spencer St for another two-and-a-half years.

As a councillor he has been involved in a broad range of areas, including education, infrastructure and economics, and is currently the portfolio lead for environment and deputy for community, health and city services.

Cr Griffiths said his family – wife, former councillor and former Labor member for Melbourne Jen Kanis, and 14-year-old son, Blake – had played a genuinely meaningful role in the council work he had done, with Blake also providing a constant, very real link to the future.

As for the unusual Welsh spelling of his first name, Davydd, "it doesn't cause me any grief at all," Cr Griffiths said.

"It makes you stand out, so people don't forget you, and that's why you've got to make sure that you're always delivering, because they can track you down pretty easily."



Asked if he would remain on the council until the state election in November, Cr Griffiths said he would be following the appropriate protocols.

If there is a need to replace him, it's highly likely that his fellow Labor candidate at the 2024 election Zainab Abdi Sheikh – who ran second on the group's councillor ticket – would replace him on council.

With the 2024 Labor ticket having received more than 0.5 quotas and preferences from other teams, it's anticipated that if Cr Griffiths were to defeat Ms Sandell, Ms Sheikh would become the first woman of African descent to serve on the City of Melbourne.

Ms Sheikh is a dedicated and passionate senior community development worker who currently serves as operational manager at Somali Women's Development Association Inc. and as a community

advisory committee member at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

And there could be more appetite for change in Melbourne. Cr Griffiths will take a lot of heart from last year's federal election, where new Labor MP Sarah Witty claimed the seat of Melbourne from Adam Bandt, who had held the seat for the Greens since 2010.

A beer lover and the president of the Flemington and Kensington Bowling Club, Cr Griffiths said that being pre-selected for the Labor Party was an opportunity "lots of really good people don't get" and was something he was "genuinely really honoured" by.

"To have that chance is really meaningful to me, it's meaningful to my family and I want to make every post a winner now that that's happened," he said. ●

INNER
OWNERS
CORPORATION

Property experts.
Inside and out.

Proudly crowned Victoria's Best Strata Team



It's honour to receive the 2025 Strata Community Management - Medium Business Award.

We've been recognised for setting the benchmark in transparency, trust, and an open-door policy that provides our clients with full access to the information they need. As an award-winning owners corporation management team, we remain committed to putting people first.

Thank you to our clients, partners, and local community for choosing us as your trusted strata experts.

Your support makes achievements like this possible.

Call 9804 5551 today for a confidential, obligation-free discussion about how we can add value to your building and community.

Head Office - Inner Owners Corporation \ 138 Thistlethwaite Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 \ 03 9804 5551 \ mail@iocm.com.au \ iocm.com.au

SALES | RENTALS | OWNERS CORPORATION

Theo Walcott and Premier League trophy thrill Docklands youngsters

“

Docklands Athletic FC enjoyed one of its biggest moments yet in March, hosting Arsenal legend Theo Walcott and the Premier League trophy after winning a national competition run by broadcaster Stan.

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The special event at the club's Docklands home on March 17 brought a burst of Premier League glamour to the waterfront, with young players getting the chance to meet Mr Walcott, see the trophy up close and take part in mini-games on their home ground. For Docklands, it was a rare and memorable spectacle, and one sure to leave a lasting impression on the club's next generation.

Docklands Athletic vice-president Rafael Jabuonski said the night had exceeded expectations.

"It was really good," he said. "The parents and the members of the club and the community were also very happy. So overall, a very good day for the club."

The visit came about after one of the club's junior coaches Steven Cox entered a Stan competition asking clubs to explain in 25 words why they deserved to host the Premier League trophy. This is what Mr Cox wrote:

"We are 'Premier League' in terms of our community, enthusiasm, inclusivity, positivity, development, friendship, vibrancy, and love of the game! The world in one club!"

To the club's surprise, they won.

"They liked our response, and we were very surprised when they told us that actually we won," Mr Cox said, "because it was completely out of nowhere."

Mr Jabuonski said Docklands itself had



also helped clinch the prize.

"They chose us because, one, our response was good, but two, they looked at the ground and the Docklands and the location and they said, 'this place looks really cool. I think this would be a good place to come,'" he said. "So actually, being where we are and having the best ground in Melbourne has definitely helped us win."

The event was deliberately kept low-key, allowing Mr Walcott to move around freely and spend meaningful time with the children.

"We wanted it to be enjoyed by the people that are actually part of the club and the community," Mr Jabuonski said. "That turned out to be excellent ... it was small enough that he could walk around, he could talk to the kids. There was no hassle, there was no discomfort."

Mr Walcott watched the club's junior teams, joined huddles, offered tips and signed memorabilia. According to Mr

Jabuonski, the former Arsenal forward would usually have got even more involved but was managing a hip injury. Even so, he stayed for around an hour and made a clear impression.

"Being such a young club with lots of kids and having the opportunity of someone that has succeeded at the highest level is definitely a boost of morale for the season," Mr Jabuonski said. "It was just a little taste of what does it mean to bring everyone together and have a good time."

The timing also gave local Arsenal fans a little extra reason to smile. Arsenal currently sits top of the Premier League table, ahead of Manchester City, making Mr Walcott's appearance alongside the trophy feel like a hopeful omen for Gunners supporters in Docklands.

Above all, though, the visit was a win for the precinct itself. For the kids lucky enough to be there, it was the kind of night that could inspire years of football dreams. ●



Viking ship makes Docklands stop in time for royal visit

A reconstructed Viking ship built in Melbourne made a striking appearance at Docklands, berthing at NewQuay near the Melbourne City Marina ahead of the arrival of Denmark's King and Queen in Melbourne.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The vessel, *Mjølner*, is a handcrafted reconstruction of a Viking ship built in Melbourne by Danish shipbuilder Asbjorn Pedersen using traditional Danish shipbuilding methods and historic designs.

According to material circulated before the royal visit, the ship was created as a tribute to Danish maritime heritage and the enduring cultural links between Denmark and Australia.

Having sailed from Martha Cove on the Mornington Peninsula with a Viking crew on board, *Mjølner* arrived in Docklands last month and remained there until the royal visit.

Organisers hoped the vessel will help to create a memorable welcome for the Danish royals when they visited the Port of Melbourne's Education Centre at Pier 35 on Tuesday, March 17.

As part of the planned spectacle, the ship was set to sail around Pier 35 at about 4pm in a bid to catch the attention of Their Majesties during their brief visit. A Viking reenactment group, The Joms Viking, was also expected to take part.

The invitation prepared for the royal visit describes *Mjølner* as "a meticulously reconstructed Viking ship" and says it includes authentic iron rivets specially forged in keeping with traditional Viking shipbuilding techniques.

The document also notes that the vessel was built to reflect the craftsmanship and engineering of Viking maritime culture, while offering "an opportunity to recognise the enduring cultural connections between Denmark and Australia and the contribution of Danish migrants who have preserved and shared their heritage abroad".

Its temporary stay in Docklands has provided an unusual sight on the waterfront, with the longship adding a touch of Nordic history to the modern harbour setting. ●



Port Phillip pushes for acoustic camera trial to tackle hooning around Beacon Cove

“The City of Port Phillip is stepping up pressure on the Victorian Government to trial a new acoustic camera in Port Melbourne, as residents around Beacon Cove and Station Pier continue to battle hooning, dangerous driving and extreme vehicle noise.”

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



At its March 4 council meeting, Port Phillip unanimously backed a Notice of Motion calling for Victoria's first acoustic noise camera trial at a local hotspot, with the council proposing a partnership involving Victoria Police, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and local residents.

Under the proposal, the camera would be funded and managed by the EPA, with the council contributing to installation costs. The final location would be informed by police and affected residents.

The move comes amid ongoing frustration for Port Melbourne residents, particularly around Beacon Cove, Beaconsfield Parade and Station Pier, where hooners are said to gather late at night on weekends.

Port Phillip Mayor Alex Makin said the problem remained severe, noting that over one recent weekend alone he had received around 148 hoon-related emails and phone calls from residents.

“Council has been advocating for anti-hooning measures since 2022 as our residents shouldn't feel scared and sleepless by this dangerous behaviour,” Cr Makin said.

He said acoustic camera technology offered a chance to test whether another

enforcement tool could help reduce dangerous behaviour while restoring some peace to nearby homes.

The technology being proposed is different from ordinary CCTV. According to the council, the fixed-post camera uses algorithms and AI to detect and record noisy vehicles by capturing exhaust noise levels along with audio and visual data. That information can then be used by the EPA to determine whether a vehicle has exceeded regulated sound limits and whether a Vehicle Testing Notice should be issued.

If approved by the state, the trial would be reviewed after 12 months to assess whether it had reduced both vehicle noise and hoon behaviour, and whether the technology might then be rolled out more broadly.

The push has been strongly backed by the Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association (BCNA), which has released a position paper calling for stronger deterrence measures and government leadership on what it says is a persistent quality-of-life and public safety issue.

The group says hoon driving and illegal vehicle noise remain major concerns not only around Beacon Cove but across surrounding Port Melbourne areas, especially Station Pier, Waterfront Place and Beaconsfield Parade. It describes burnouts, racing and excessive engine and exhaust noise as behaviours that are often organised via social media and which undermine sleep, wellbeing and residents' sense of safety.

BCNA's position paper argues that acoustic cameras offer significant promise because they can record both vehicle noise and number plates, and points out that the technology is already being used in Europe and North America. It also notes that New South Wales and Queensland have trialled the technology with local councils, while Victoria has yet to do so.

The issue is not confined to Port Phillip.

Similar frustrations have simmered for years just across the municipal boundary in Docklands, particularly along Lorimer St and the Yarra's Edge area, which links directly into Port Melbourne and Fishermans Bend. Residents there have long complained of burnouts, revving engines, illegal parking and antisocial behaviour associated with late-night car and motorcycle gatherings.

As previously reported by *Docklands News*, state government community engagement into hooning in 2022 and 2023 heard calls from inner-city residents for more cameras, more coordinated enforcement and technology-based responses rather than simply relying on police attendance after the fact.

In that sense, Port Phillip's push may carry significance beyond Beacon Cove. If the state was to back a trial in Port Melbourne and it proved effective, it could open the door to similar technology being considered in other inner-city hooning hotspots, including those affecting Docklands residents.

Port Melbourne Ward councillor Heather Cunsolo said the council's position was not anti-car, but anti-noise and anti-dangerous behaviour.

“We're not anti-car, we're against noisy vehicles exceeding EPA sound limits,” she said.

For residents around Beacon Cove, that distinction is important. The area is no stranger to car-related events and waterfront activity, but locals say the line is crossed when modified vehicles, excessive revving and dangerous driving begin disrupting homes and putting people at risk.

BCNA is now calling for a broader, coordinated response from all levels of government, including stronger hoon laws, targeted patrols, acoustic monitoring, CCTV, better lighting and even by-laws to penalise spectators at illegal driving events.

Trialling the technology now rests with the state government. ●

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Mental health support returns to Docklands: new specialist joins local health hub

For many residents and professionals in Melbourne's waterfront district, the departure of a long-standing healthcare provider often leaves a gap that is hard to bridge.

Following the recent retirement of the esteemed Dr Malcolm Winstanley-Cross – a fixture of the local medical community who provided years of dedicated psychological service – there was a palpable void in the availability of mental health care within Docklands.

However, the wait for local, high-quality psychological support is over. Docklands Health has officially announced the arrival of Paige, a dedicated psychologist who is set to revitalise the clinic's mental health department. Her arrival marks a significant turning point for the community, ensuring that residents no longer need to commute outside the 3008 postcode to find expert therapeutic care.

A modern approach to personal growth

Paige joins the team at Docklands Health with a reputation for a flexible, client-centred approach. In an era where “one-size-fits-all” healthcare is increasingly viewed as outdated, Paige's methodology is a breath of fresh air. She draws upon a sophisticated toolkit of evidence-based modalities, including Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), ensuring that every session is tailored to the specific needs, goals, and preferences of the individual.

“The goal is always to create a

collaborative and safe space,” Paige said in speaking of her practice. “I want to empower individuals to cultivate resilience and foster emotional well-being that lasts long after they leave the clinic.”

Her commitment to inclusivity is a cornerstone of her practice. Paige brings a wealth of experience in supporting a diverse range of clients and is particularly noted for her research contributions within the LGBT and polyamorous communities. This expertise underscores her commitment to providing affirming care to populations that have historically felt underserved or misunderstood by traditional clinical settings.

Whether dealing with the high-pressure environment of corporate Docklands or the personal transitions of urban living, Paige's primary focus remains on helping her clients achieve meaningful, lasting change. Her arrival ensures that the legacy of care established by Dr Winstanley-Cross continues, evolved for a modern, diverse community.

Expanding the support network

The return of psychological services is part of a broader commitment by Docklands Health to offer a holistic approach to wellness. In addition to Paige's psychological services, the clinic is proud to remind the community that specialised counselling is also available with Khunsha Khan.

Khunsha brings a unique and vital perspective to the Docklands Health team. As a counsellor, Khunsha is known for her empathetic and non-judgmental approach, focusing on the “here and now” while helping clients navigate the complexities of life's many transitions. With a background that emphasises the importance of cultural

sensitivity and the impact of systemic issues on individual mental health, Khunsha provides a supportive environment for those dealing with anxiety, relationship issues, and the stresses of modern life.

Together, Paige and Khunsha offer a comprehensive mental health “safety net” for the Docklands area. While their methods and specialties differ, they share a common goal: providing a sanctuary where Docklanders can explore their personal growth without judgment.

A hub for community wellbeing

The reinstatement of these services comes at a critical time. As the Docklands continues to grow as a residential hub, the demand for accessible mental health care has never been higher. The convenience of having both a dedicated psychologist and an experienced counsellor located right in the heart of the district cannot be overstated.

For those who were long-time patients of Dr Winstanley-Cross, the transition to a new provider can feel daunting. However, the team at Docklands Health is confident that the new energy brought by Paige, complemented by the established expertise of Khunsha, offers a robust future for local healthcare.

The clinic invites residents, workers, and families to reach out and reengage with their mental health journeys. With Paige now on board, Docklands Health is once again a complete destination for physical and emotional well-being.

Paige and Khunsha Khan are currently accepting new patients. For appointments and more information on their respective backgrounds: docklandshealth.com.au ●



Dr Mike Edgley

CHIROPRACTOR
DOCKLANDS HEALTH



Docklands in focus in latest *Future Melbourne* podcast episode



The latest episode of Hyperlocal News' new *Future Melbourne* podcast series is turning the spotlight on Docklands, with a new conversation exploring one of Melbourne's most debated waterfront precincts, now live online.



Hosted by Docklands News publisher and editor Sean Car, the episode takes listeners to Melbourne's harbour edge to examine how Docklands has evolved over the past two decades, and what may lie ahead as the city continues to grow. Joining the discussion is Docklands resident, former City of Melbourne councillor and Community3008 co-president Jamal Hakim, who brings both local and civic insight to a precinct that continues to provoke strong opinions.

Once former port land, Docklands is now home to more than 18,000 residents, thousands of workers and some of Melbourne's most recognisable waterfront public spaces. Yet despite its rapid growth and prominent location on the edge of the CBD, the precinct remains a place of ongoing debate about identity, amenity and long-term direction.

In the new episode, Mr Hakim reflects on Docklands' history, the challenges it has faced in recent years, and the opportunities that could shape its future.

The conversation comes at a timely moment for the precinct, with renewed discussion around community life, activation, public space and how Docklands fits into Melbourne's broader urban story.

Produced by Hyperlocal News, publisher of *Docklands News* and its sibling papers across the City of Melbourne, *Future Melbourne* is a new podcast that aims to provide a platform for deeper discussions about the major civic, planning and economic issues shaping the municipality.

The series is hosted by Sean Car and supported by Good One Creative, with episodes released weekly on Wednesdays.

Previous episodes have featured Queen Victoria Market chief executive Matt Elliott on the future of the historic market, and



former City of Melbourne councillor and Crikey founder Stephen Mayne discussing the post-pandemic city economy and the future of the CBD.

The next episode will turn to housing challenges in the City of Melbourne, with Housing All Australians founder Rob Pradolin joining the podcast to discuss affordability, supply and the pressures facing the inner city.

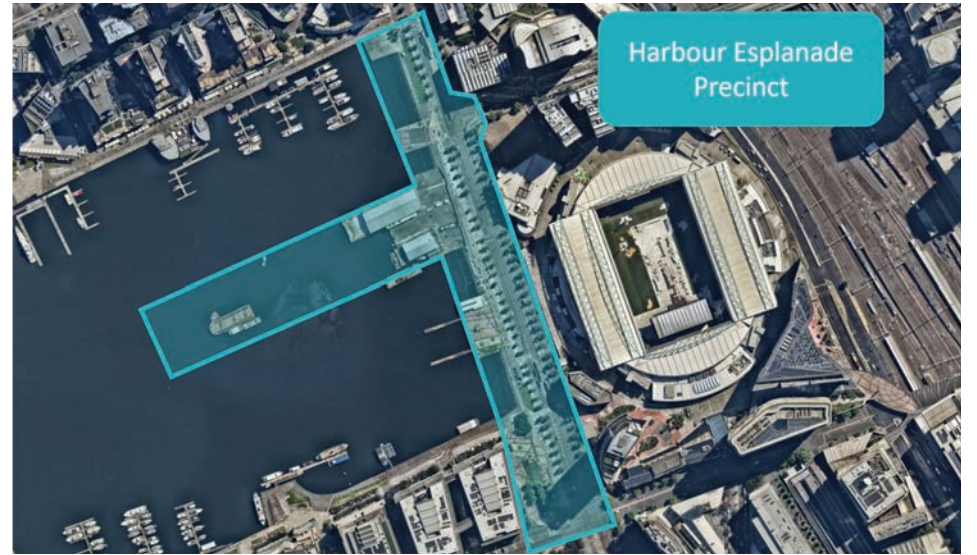
The following week will see former City of Melbourne councillor and planning expert Rohan Leppert unpack another local urban renewal story in the neighbouring Arden and Macaulay precincts.

Other episodes in the series will explore Melbourne's Art Precinct, Lygon St, city safety, Fishermans Bend, the Yarra-Birrarung and much more.

For Docklands residents, the new episode offers a chance to hear one of the precinct's best-known local voices reflect on where the area has come from and where it may yet be heading. ●



Momentum building for Harbour Esplanade revitalisation project



Progress! The Maritime Museum Heritage Network (MMHN) in collaboration with CBRE has proceeded to the next stage of assessment for the Harbour Esplanade Revitalisation Project.

This is an encouraging step forward in reinstating the integrity and status of Harbour Esplanade and in particular its unique capacity to generate longer-term permanent economic activation to benefit the entire Docklands community.

In mid-2025, MMHN with CBRE property advisory group made a formal submission to the Federal Government's Urban Precincts and Partnerships Programs (UPPP). The specified aims of the grants program are to revitalise underutilised urban areas, strengthen local economies and create vibrant public places.

Having gained eligibility status, the submission will now be reviewed by an Independent Assessment Panel, which will make recommendations to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King. Decisions on UPPP project funding proposals are expected in mid-2026.

A key element in the Harbour Esplanade Revitalisation Project is a Maritime Experience Centre (MEC) on the site of the demolished Central Pier. Located at the centre of Harbour Esplanade, the MEC will be a new community, cultural and educational destination celebrating Australia's

maritime heritage while showcasing the growing opportunities associated with the blue economy, i.e. our maritime past, present and future. The MEC will be a community infrastructure asset and a permanent venue for education, events and engagement with Australia's maritime industry.

As one Docklands stakeholder recently observed, "Docklands has enormous potential and projects that can bring people, activities and purpose back to Harbour Esplanade can play an important role in shaping the precinct's next chapter."

As the UPPP assessment process continues, MMHN encourages Docklands residents, businesses and organisations with an interest in the future of Docklands to express their support for the Harbour Esplanade Revitalisation Project and the MEC. You can do this by emailing the office of Minister King at Minister.King@mo.infrastructure.gov.au

Help us strengthen the Docklands precinct and, importantly, reconnect people with the unique waterfront of Victoria Harbour.

To read MMHN/CBRE's submission: mmhn.org.au/maritime-experience-centre
To read MMHN's MEC concept: mmhn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MMHN-Objective-1-MEC-May-2025.pdf ●

Jackie Watts

CHAIR

INFO@MMHN.ORG.AU



OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Victoria's Building & Plumbing Commission set to get a new stronger set of teeth

In past columns, I have been critical of the newly renamed and reformed Victorian Building & Plumbing Commission (BPC).

My critique has been that it may have adopted a new name, but its enforcement powers and "willingness" to act as a strong regulator in the building and plumbing industry had not improved, and that it was at risk of being seen as indistinguishable from the old Victorian Building Authority (VBA).

However, credit where there is credit due. In March, the government introduced the *Building and Plumbing Administration and Enforcement Bill 2026* into Parliament.

If passed the BPC's current powers to discipline, prosecute, issue directions and rectification orders, accept enforceable undertakings, issue infringements notices

and seek injunctions will be bolstered by additional powers and tools.

For instance, the BPC will have new powers to issue improvement notices, civil penalty proceedings, embargo notices, prohibition orders, adverse publicity orders, compensation orders, and commercial benefits penalty orders.

There will also be a new directive to pursue company directors for breaches of building legislation by their companies, and for the failure by their companies to comply with directions and rectification orders.

All of this sounds great, in theory. Whether the BPC will have the wherewithal to hit the industry hard and start to use their powers remains to be seen. It is a very positive step though, to have these new powers up their sleeve.

Maybe, just maybe, builders and developers might start to sleep a little rougher, knowing that any dodgy building works

being done could be inspected by the BPC during and after the works have been completed, and have orders issued against them to rip it all up and start again.

The numbers seem to be backing this story up too. The BPC released their list of builders and plumbers that have had their registrations cancelled or suspended.

In the 2024-25 financial year, 49 builders and plumbers had their registration cancelled and suspended – up 40 per cent from the year before.

In the financial year ending July 2026, the regulator has so far suspended or cancelled 41 registrations.

Court prosecutions rose by 60 per cent in the 2024-25 financial year compared to the year before, with 16 cases reaching courtrooms.

This number has nearly doubled this year, jumping up from 16 last year to 31 this year with three months remaining.

The *Cladding Safety Victoria Repeal Bill* was also introduced. It will transfer all CSV powers, functions, assets and staff to the BPC. It also replaces the cladding levy with a new levy that will be used to fund the activities of the BPC.

All this together with the new first resort warranty scheme and developer bond scheme has the potential to significantly shift the dial in favour of consumers and encourage building practitioners who maintain high standards of work and integrity. ●

Tom Bacon

STRATA TITLE LAWYERS

TOM@STRATATITELAWYERS.COM.AU



Community 3008 – capturing the views of the Docklands community

Retaining Victoria Harbour as an open waterway, expanding the floating wetlands on the Yarra River, reflecting Docklands' maritime history and greening Docklands were some of the key themes emerging from recent Community 3008 community consultation.

WORDS BY
PETER LARDNER – CO-PRESIDENT

Community 3008 facilitated a community forum on March 11 in relation to Enhancing Docklands Waterways and Strategic Infrastructure. The forum was well attended by passionate residents and community members. This consultation was in addition to a written submission process that Community 3008 had facilitated in February.

Development Victoria, City of Melbourne and Parks Victoria were also in attendance. All three provided updates on their relevant themes and participated in general discussions. This was important as Community 3008, as Docklands' community representative, is working across different levels of government to drive positive enhancements that are consistent with the needs of the Docklands community and a shared strategic vision.

There was a significant focus by attendees on the Yarra River along Yarra's Edge and Victoria Harbour, including the waterway interfaces of Victoria Harbour Promenade, New Quay Promenade and Harbour Esplanade. Our waterways were emphasised by attendees as a unique point of differentiation between Docklands and other parts of inner-city Melbourne.

The removal of Central Pier has provided an opportunity to see what Victoria Harbour was like without such a major piece of infrastructure impacting on the waterway's footprint. And in many ways, the community like it. Community attendees were strong in their shared view that Victoria Harbour should remain a broad open waterway.

Recreational activity on our waterways was seen to be a critical component to the sense of vitality in the precinct. There was



especially a passion for the dragon boats, their presence in Victoria Harbour being a unique spectacle for visitors and locals alike. The existence of Central Pier had previously hampered the ability for dragon boat regattas. With that area of the waterway now being open there is an opportunity to showcase the dragon boats, much like the rowing boats that are showcased on the Yarra River.

Victoria Harbour was recognised as a busy waterway utilised by commercial ferry services, recreation boats, casual hire boats, dragon boats, small sailing vessels and others. The greater usable area of the harbour increases the level of safety for these users. It was noted that plans are already in place for increased docks near the mouth of the harbour which will adversely impact on navigation safety. Any further encroachment would exacerbate safety concerns.

The expanded Victoria Harbour waterway footprint is also seen to enhance the visual amenity of the area. This being evidenced by the increased number of people now seen sitting around the harbour, and the many social media posts of photographs at sunset or of balloons coming across it at sunrise.

Recognising the need for balance and other waterway infrastructure opportunities, there was strong support to retain the size of the floating wetlands within Victoria Harbour and to expand them within the restricted vessel transit areas of the Yarra River around Webb Bridge. The City of Melbourne indicated they would explore this opportunity and how to improve welfare protection of the associated birdlife.

Attendees expressed disappointment in the loss of the heritage fleet and believed there was a need for Docklands to have a

precinct that reflects its maritime history in some manner. There was also a strong view of the need for more green areas, canopy cover for heat protection, dog parks and children's playgrounds across the neighbourhood.

There were many more issues explored at the community forum which can be found detailed in the forum minutes for Community 3008, so make sure to sign up as a member to get more information on www.community3008.org.au.

Community 3008 will continue to engage with City of Melbourne, Development Victoria, Parks Victoria and other relevant departments, on these and other matters, to progress the interests of the Docklands community.

If you have any other matters you would like Community 3008 to address, email us at contact@community3008.org.au ●

DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

Apartment sustainability: turning attention into action

Last month, this column highlighted the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Renewable and Affordable Energy for Apartments. Since then, Owners' Corporation Network (OCN), drawing on its submission, appeared before the Inquiry.

Viewed positively, there is clearly growing – if somewhat belated – attention to the fact that apartments must be part of the energy transition. With a significant and rising proportion of Victorians living in strata communities – note the proposed Activity Centres – there is simply no credible pathway to a sustainable future that leaves apartments behind.

However, the Inquiry process also

revealed an ongoing gap in understanding of the residential strata sector. Many presenters took a “doing unto buildings” approach – portraying apartments primarily as sites for technology deployment, led by suppliers or energy advocates.

In so doing, there is a tendency to overlook the financial and social dynamics that shape collective decision-making in owners' corporations – and at times, to cast them as barriers rather than key participants.

Against this backdrop, OCN's appearance – combined with representation from Haines Street apartment residents and owners – sought to bring balance by emphasising the lived reality of apartment residents as energy consumers navigating complex energy systems. The Inquiry's report, due later this year, will be an important opportunity to ground this conversation.

Encouragingly, closer to home, there

is practical work under way. The City of Melbourne is developing a new Apartment Sustainability Service aimed at directly supporting apartment residents and owners' corporations to reduce energy use and costs, improve waste management and build overall resilience.

Importantly, this initiative recognises that effective solutions must be shaped with the people who live in and manage these buildings.

Apartment residents and owners' corporations are invited to help design this service by sharing their experiences – *what's working, what's challenging, and what support is needed*. This input will directly inform programs that are more relevant, accessible and effective.

Survey participants can also nominate for pilot opportunities, which may include sessions with sustainability experts to help

address specific priorities.

You can participate by completing the survey here: <https://72lwow8634g.typeform.com/to/J9lBUBeH>

The survey closes on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

While state-level conversations are still gaining momentum, local engagement like this is how real progress will be made.

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

Janette Corcoran

MEMBER

JCORCORAN@DOCKLANDS.ORG.AU



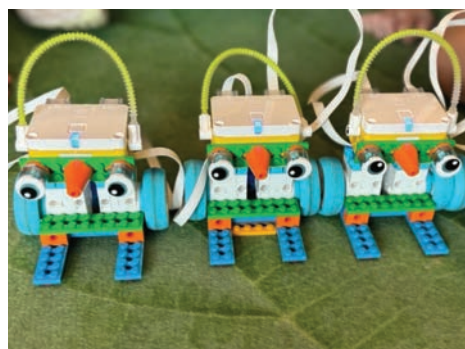
WHAT'S ON April



From movies to markets and festivals, you'll find something to float your boat this April 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



LEGO ROBOTICS AND CODING HOLIDAY PROGRAM
 LEGO Robotics workshop for ages 6–12 teaches coding, engineering, and problem-solving through hands-on, creative, story-driven challenges.
The Hub at Docklands
8 – 14 APRIL, 9.30AM – 3.30PM



JAPAN: PHOTOS BY AUSTRALIANS - SELECTIONS BY JAPANESE
 XYZ Photo Gallery showcases Australians' Japan photos, exploring cultural perspectives, travel motives, and authentic versus curated experiences.
XYZ Photo Gallery, Docklands
UNTIL 19 APRIL, 1PM – 5PM



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL
 Celebrating 40 years, with a month-long, citywide program featuring favourites, rising stars, international acts, family shows and hundreds of performances.
Melbourne Town Hall
UNTIL 19 APRIL



TOTE BAG BLOCK PRINTING WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS
 A three hour, beginner-friendly workshop teaching tote bag block printing techniques, perfect for hands-on creativity and personalised designs.
Be-ras Creatives Art Cafe, Docklands
UNTIL 30 APRIL, 9AM – 3PM



DEEPER MELBOURNE WALKING TOURS
 Explore modern Melbourne's origins and First Peoples' heritage on a 90-minute inclusive walking tour from Southern Cross to Flinders Street, blending history, culture, and reflection.
Southern Cross Train Station, Docklands
UNTIL 30 MAY, 10.30AM – 12PM



SONGBIRDS
 Interactive songs, rhymes, and stories engage newborns to 18-month-olds, introducing language, rhythm, and early literacy. Programs run during school terms only.
Library at The Dock
UNTIL 9 DECEMBER, 10.30AM – 11AM

Business Directory

ACCOUNTING

rubix
 business accountants
 Maximising your profits by minimising your tax
 PH 9603 0066
 www.rubiixbusinessaccountants.com.au

HEALTH & BEAUTY

DOCKLANDS HEALTH
SERVICES:
 ▶ Physiotherapy ▶ Massage ▶ Psychology
 ▶ Chiropractic ▶ Pilates ▶ Podiatry
HOURS
 Mon-Fri 8am-7pm | Sat 8am-12pm
 4/860 Collins St, Docklands, 3008
 (03) 9088 3228 www.docklandshealth.com.au

REAL ESTATE

CityResidential
 REAL ESTATE PTY LTD
 T: 03 9001 1333
 818 Bourke Street, Docklands VIC 3008
SALES Glenn Donnelly m: 0419 998 235
LEASING Lina D'Ambrosio m: 0430 929 851
 www.cityresidentialbourkestreet.com.au
SELLING | LEASING | PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

KITCHEN RENTAL

WATERFRONT KITCHEN
 Turn your passion into profession! (03) 8849 0429
Premium kitchen space, available for hire!
 At Waterfront we offer competitive pricing, 9b-approved premises, fully equipped kitchens and flexible contracts.
Ideal for:
 ▶ Takeaway Kitchen Space ▶ Short-Term Kitchen Rentals
 ▶ Catering Services ▶ Long Term Kitchen Rentals
 ▶ Cloud Kitchen Space ▶ RTO/CRICOS Training Kitchen
 Kitchen 1: 10 Newquay Promenade, Docklands VIC 3008
 Kitchen 2: 18-38 Sideley Street, Docklands VIC 3008

DENTAL

docklands DENTAL STUDIO
 a different dental experience
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS
 Mon-Fri 8:30-5pm (Tue, Thu until 6pm)
 Sat: 8:30-1pm
 57 Merchant St, Docklands
 T (03) 9021 9487 | mob 0488 799 487
 (opposite Victoria Harbour Medical Centre)
 www.docklandsdentalstudio.com.au

www.victoriaharbourmedicalcentre.com.au
VICTORIA HARBOUR MEDICAL CENTRE
Victoria Harbour Medical Centre Telephone 9629 1414
 2-3/850 Collins Street Docklands 3008 After Hours 13 74 25
 Entry via Merchant St Fax 9629 4265
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 9am-12 noon

LUCAS
 WE KNOW VERTICAL LIVING BETTER THAN ANYONE.
 THAT'S YOUR ADVANTAGE.
 9091 1400 | lucasre.com.au

ESCORTS

THE MOST EXCLUSIVE ESCORT AGENCY
Paramour
 OF COLLINS STREET
 CITY CENTRE
 Melbourne's exclusive entertainment service. Highly recommended for our interstate and overseas visitors
 • Dinner Companions
 • Social Escorts
 • Sensual Ladies
 Scan QR code for pictures of ladies
TEXT: 0477 291 058
(03) 9654 6011
 CBD - 5 MINUTES TO YOUR DOOR
 たくさんの美しい女性 日本語を話します
 We have survived COVID-19 AND ARE STILL HERE TO HAVE BEAUTIFUL LADIES PRIVATELY TO YOUR DOOR 24/7

LEGAL ADVICE

Rothwell Lawyers
 Suite 1518, 401 Docklands Drive, DOCKLANDS VIC 3008
 Tel: (03) 9329 3500
 Mob: 0447 449 779
 W: www.rothlaw.com.au
 At Rothwell Lawyers we deliver exceptional legal advice, and always focus on achieving the best outcome for our clients.
AREAS OF PRACTICE
 • Business Structuring
 • Commercial Law Issues
 • Conveyancing
 • Debt Recovery and Alternative Dispute Resolution
 • Family Law
 • Insolvency Advice
 • IVOs
 • Wills, Estates and Probate

PHARMACY

victoria harbour pharmacy+news
 Hours: Mon to Fri 8am-8pm & Sat 9am-1pm
 ☒ Pharmacy ☒ Giftware
 ☒ Magazines & Papers ☒ Tatfslotto
 ☒ Same day dry cleaning
66 Merchant St, Docklands (opposite Safeway)
 Ph: 03 9629 9922 Fax: 03 9629 9933
 Email: vicharbourpharmacy@ninet.com.au

SIGN WRITER

OH MY SIGN
 Your local sign solution
 www.ohmysign.com.au
 Chris 0411 581 166
 info@ohmysign.com.au
 1017/ 401 Docklands Drive, Docklands

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE. GLOBAL REACH. RIGHT HERE IN DOCKLANDS.

Visit our new street-front office.



Sales | Leasing | Property Management

41 Caravel Lane, Docklands | 03 9124 7306

docklands.century21.com.au

CENTURY 21® City Dock