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Photo by John Tadigiri.

While some businesses in Docklands haven't been able to weather the economic storm brought on by the pandemic, William Comley of Harbour Coffee House is showing that new life is emerging. *Continued on page 18.*

North Wharf safety concerns

WORDS BY Sean Car
CAPITAL WORKS

Development Victoria's (DV's) recent decision to fence off the pier at North Wharf Rd to the public without notice has added to existing uncertainty among the Docklands boating community.

More than a year since its sudden evacuation of Central Pier amid safety concerns, in October DV erected fencing around the northern edge of North Wharf, which is used as a berth for a number of charter boats, as well as heritage vessels *Enterprize* and *Alma Doepel*.

While operators and workers have been granted access to boats since the fencing went up, it's understood many, including the Docklands waterways managers at Melbourne City Marina, were given less than a day's notice of the closure.

DV told *Docklands News* that the wharf, which is normally well-used by local residents and office workers for

walking and cycling, would be fenced off to the public for around five months while engineers carried out remediation works.

While the works are believed to be part of a routine maintenance and assessment program ahead of future high-rise development by LendLease along North Wharf Rd, the extent of damage to piles underneath the pier isn't known.

Workers from one charter boat told *Docklands News* that they'd been granted padlock access to their berth, but that vehicle access for deliveries and refuelling along the wharf's edge had been restricted due to safety concerns. Passenger access at the pier is also not permitted while works are undertaken.

While those working on the *Alma Doepel* restoration and staff at the *Enterprize* are able to access their boats via the Ocean Education Centre, operator of *Victoria Star* Leigh Doeg told *Docklands News* he had initially

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Stadium designs revealed, but scant details on harbour-side plans

A \$225 million Marvel Stadium revamp is set to feature a new "town square" and an expanded eastern side to overlook the CBD after plans were finally revealed in November. But what's in it for Harbour Esplanade?

WORDS BY David Schout
PLANNING

The upgrades, revealed by the state government and stadium owner the AFL, will look to transform the area from a match-day precinct into a "seven-day-a-week community meeting place".

However, it is still unclear how the government and league will redevelop the harbour-side area of the stadium concourse, despite a previous pledge by league chief Gillon McLachlan of "opening it up to the water".

The designs by architects Grimshaw with Smartform feature a revitalised southern and eastern entry points to the precinct, but little detail on the western — or Harbour Esplanade side — of the stadium.

Both the government and AFL however remained confident the new town square, which they termed the "signature" aspect of the revamp, would play a strong role in changing the stadium's dynamics. The square, which would welcome pedestrians arriving on the Bourke St footbridge from Southern Cross Station, would see parts of the stadium walls removed to provide a visual connection to the field of play.

"Markets and community gatherings will fit naturally in the space while hospitality businesses on two levels will be open to the public and able to be converted to ticketed areas for AFL matches and concerts," the government's announcement read.

Along the stadium's eastern side, a "City Edge" stadium extension

would refurbish public and function areas and provide views overlooking Wurundjeri Way and back towards the CBD.

Development Victoria, which is jointly managing the stadium redevelopment with the AFL and Sport and Recreation Victoria, did not comment on plans for the harbour side of the ground when asked by *Docklands News*.

Group Head of Precincts Geoff Ward simply said the revamp "offered the potential to reposition Docklands as Melbourne's key waterfront destination".

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula maintained the upgrades — announced 20 years on from the stadium's opening — would be a win for locals.

"This project will turn Marvel Stadium into a true community asset — a fantastic place to watch the footy or catch a big act but also a place to gather and enjoy being part of Melbourne," he said.

"It's a win for sports fans, for people who will come to the precinct to meet family and friends and for the hundreds of workers who will draw a wage working on another major stimulus project for Victoria."

The AFL purchased Marvel Stadium (then Etihad Stadium) in 2016, and earlier this year the asset proved a crucial safety net when securing a reported \$500 to 600 million assistance package from the banks to help it navigate through the COVID-19 downturn.

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North Wharf safety concerns

Continued from page 1.

been locked from his boat. “The first notice I received was that it had been locked off,” he said. “Access was a complete afterthought but it was worked out within a day or two. The first person to work it out was myself.”

“I’ve got a combination padlock and there are about six padlocks so that the people who need to get on the wharf can do so. I had to buy my own lock.”

Currently undertaking maintenance works on his boat along North Wharf in preparation for a return to service by March from his home berth near Dock 5, Mr Doeg said the fencing wouldn’t impact his business. But while noting the issues caused by the sudden fencing off of the pier had been easily resolved, he said that people in the boating community were “pretty annoyed” by what was a “completely avoidable” situation.

Group head of precincts at DV Geoff Ward told *Docklands News* that it was undertaking repair work on “a number of timber piles” underneath the concrete deck at North Wharf as part of its overall maintenance of water infrastructure in Docklands.

“We have had ongoing communication with tenants of the sheds and boat operators to facilitate safe access to allow them to continue their work during the maintenance and will continue to keep them updated,” he said.

“While the work is being undertaken, there will be no public access to North Wharf to allow the maintenance and repair work to continue safely. Signage and fencing have been installed to prevent unauthorised access.”

DV said that while timber piles were a small component of the overall concrete structure of North Wharf, which had recently been assessed as being in good condition, they had recently been assessed and required remediation to “ensure longevity”.

But what specific engineering advice or works carried out to date leading to the sudden



▲ Fencing erected along the edge of North Wharf Rd.



▲ Hoarding blocks access to North Wharf Rd.

fencing off to the public remains a mystery, with boating operators still unclear about what exact areas were of concern.

President of the Melbourne Passenger Boating Association and operator of the *Lady Cutler* Jeff Gordon said the actions of DV showed that charter boats in Docklands were “invisible”.

“It’s just another step in the easing out of charter boats out of Victoria Harbour,” he said. “They’d rather have plastic fantastics growing weeds at marina berths.”

“During COVID times it [North Wharf] was everybody’s walk but it’s like they [DV] don’t see the boats.”

“It’s part of the amenity to walk along there to enjoy the boats and the harbour. You can do that in any great harbour in the world but they just don’t get it. They’re only focused on high-rise and marina berths.” ●



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Stadium designs revealed, but scant details on harbour-side plans

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Government committed \$225 million to the stadium upgrade.

In return, the AFL committed to hosting the Grand Final at the MCG until at least 2058, quelling strong interest from rival AFL states.

The uncertainty around the Harbour Esplanade edge of the stadium's upgrades plans could be linked to a reported move of AFL House to land at NewQuay in Docklands near Ron Barassi Senior Park, which was believed to be floated as part of the deal with the state government.

McLachlan thanked the government for its "continued partnership".

"By renovating the existing Marvel Stadium structure, it will provide a more environmentally sustainable way of building as well as ensuring minimal disruption to fans," he said.

Inside the stadium itself, the designs include plans for renovated food and beverage areas, new video display boards and other technology upgrades that will "further enhance the stadium experience".

Players will also benefit from change room upgrades.

A town planning permit application for the redevelopment is "shortly" due to be lodged with the City of Melbourne and, if approved, construction could start in the middle of 2021 ●



▲ A render of Marvel Stadium's city edge looking from Wurundjeri Way.

“

This project will turn Marvel Stadium into a true community asset.

”



▲ New entrance for fans.



▲ South entrance.



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NAB, ANZ workers to return in the new year

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

Office workers at two of Docklands' biggest employers will begin returning to work early next year in a boost for local businesses that rely on their presence.

Major banks NAB and ANZ, which both house large office headquarters in Docklands, each confirmed a staggered return of employees in 2021.

Their absence has been particularly felt in and around Victoria Harbour, where a busy corporate office environment helps stimulate the local economy.

And while the move indicates another step towards normality, office numbers are unlikely to reach pre-pandemic levels.

NAB confirmed with *Docklands News* that it would look to reopen its two Docklands offices at 700 Bourke St (between Southern Cross Station and Marvel Stadium) and 800 Bourke St (on Victoria Harbour promenade) in "early 2021".

A significant proportion of NAB's 34,000 employees work from the two buildings.

It had already begun returning workers at its CBD office at 500 Bourke St, and would initially aim for 40 per cent capacity.

Similarly, an ANZ spokesperson confirmed that workers would likely return in "late January or early February" to their headquarters at the west end of Collins St.

Pre-pandemic, the bank had almost 10,000 workers in Docklands.

"We are keeping the commitment we made to our people in September and will begin returning to the office in the New Year," the spokesperson said.

"We are initially aiming for capacity of about one third in order to ensure social distancing, with plans to gradually build up numbers from there."

In July, NAB notified staff it would temporarily close both Docklands offices at 700



Bourke St and 800 Bourke St, as a majority of employees worked from home.

At the same time, NAB's group executive people and culture Susan Ferrier wrote to local businesses informing them that the move was not permanent, reiterating it had been a "proud part of the Docklands community for the past 16 years".

"We appreciate this is a difficult time for many small businesses and recognise the business that NAB colleagues bring to the Docklands precinct," she said at the time.

The bank confirmed it would now look to reopen the large office buildings in the New Year. "This will be a phased return and managed

with an abundance of caution and care, both for our colleagues and the community," Ms Ferrier said on November 27.

But while the planned return of workers was a positive step, the bank stressed that things would be different.

"Importantly, this will not be a return to how things were previously – especially with the amount of time spent in the office – as we move towards a hybrid model that balances working from both the home and our commercial buildings."

CEO pledge

NAB and ANZ were two of 10 major organisations that committed to a City of Melbourne "CEO pledge" that vowed to return 70 per cent of their workforce when safe to do so.

In a meeting with the council, representatives from the firms such as Metro Trains, PwC and Telstra also made the commitment.

While the 70 per cent pledge is a targeted number rather than a binding agreement, it indicates that the exodus of office workers post-pandemic perhaps won't be as large as some have predicted.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the city needed some form of reassurance for when work-from-home guidelines would be lifted by the state government.

"City workers and students provide so much life and energy to our city," Cr Capp said at a November 17 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting.

"They are a pulse and a lifeblood to our city economy, and we are missing all of those factors in our city at the moment."

Cr Capp said the council had both a hopeful and realistic outlook on workers returning.

"We of course don't expect 100 per cent of workers to come back to work on day one; it's unrealistic and it's unsafe ... [it is] about coordinating staggered days, staggered start times and ensuring an orderly and safe return for workers. It's in everyone's best interests to see that happen."

Voucher scheme in the works

And in a move that could replicate the UK's "Eat Out to Help Out" scheme, the council will also explore the possibility of a voucher program for businesses.

Under the scheme, the UK government offered a 50 per cent discount off bills at restaurants, up to the value of £10 per person, to eat out on certain days of the week.

And Cr Capp confirmed the council was looking at a similar scheme, whereby a venue would receive full value for the meal, subsidised by the council.

While the UK scheme focused purely on hospitality, the council was also exploring vouchers for retail and entertainment outlets.

During the stage four lockdown, Cr Roshena Campbell said daily entertainment spending including hospitality dropped by 95 to 97 per cent.

While the easing of restrictions had seen a bounce-back, it was still 30 to 50 per cent lower than the corresponding period last year, something that was "untenable".

"It is vital those business owners who have struggled under restrictions are thrown a lifeline as our city reopens," Cr Campbell said.

"Hospitality in particular is a sector that has been on its knees due to COVID, yet it's at the heart of our city's vibrant culture. A voucher program would provide a much-needed incentive to visit city venues and provide a drawcard to those Melburnians who live outside the city to spend their dining and entertainment dollars within the City of Melbourne."

The Lord Mayor will propose the scheme in a letter to Premier Daniel Andrews ●



David Schout
JOURNALIST

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More hoon stings planned

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
SAFETY & SECURITY

As hoon activity continues escalate in Yarra's Edge since the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, local police will ramp up efforts to stamp out the behaviour.

In late November, *Docklands News* received more correspondence from affected residents in the precinct following reports of burnouts and drag racing taking place along Lorimer St on Friday and Saturday nights.

One resident said the past two weeks had been "particularly bad".

"The police attended this week, at least three police vehicles, but as soon as they left the hooning began again," the resident said.

"The amount seems to be growing, arriving for hours and leaving with so much noise for hours. There have also been packs of motor bikes, around 20 or so bikes at a time."

But *Docklands News* understands local police and Melbourne Highway Patrol will continue to closely monitor the situation with a number of targeted "stings" planned to mitigate the growing issues.

“

There have been packs of motor bikes, around 20 or so bikes at a time.

”

In July, more than 50 local residents met with local police and the City of Melbourne at Point Park to discuss solutions to the issues caused by weekend car meet-ups in the precinct.

Residents in NewQuay said the issues were becoming increasingly bad at their side of Docklands as well, with cars and motorbikes known to frequent Docklands Drive and streets surrounding Ron Barassi Senior Park.

The council and local police continue to work with residents on a range of preventative measures ●

To report any issues email:
yarra.action@gmail.com



U-turn on cars

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

The City of Melbourne is encouraging motorists back to the inner city during the Christmas period by offering free on-street parking, despite existing policy that seeks to turn cars away in favour of pedestrians and cyclists.

Amid concerns of post-lockdown hesitancy among public transport users, drivers are being lured back with free parking throughout the municipality until January 3.

Motorists displaying a "parking voucher", available in selected newspapers or the council website, would avoid receiving a fine.

Time limits, disabled parking restrictions, clearways, no standing zones and residential permit restrictions still apply.

It is hoped the scheme, which is set to cost the council \$1.6 million assuming a 50 per cent take-up, will see motorists spend their dollars at struggling retailers and hospitality outlets, providing a "sugar hit" to the local economy at the busiest period on the calendar.

On-street parking within the central city is normally \$7 an hour, and \$4 an hour outside the central city.

Councillors eventually voted eight to three in favour of the cheap parking move; those "for" included Lord Mayor Sally Capp who argued the short-term policy shift was both necessary and justified.

Cr Capp said feedback from CBD small businesses suggested the council should make returning to the city as easy as possible for potential consumers, particularly those apprehensive about the current environment.

"We need to do everything we can do to overcome any barriers, real or perceived, to people choosing to come into the city for their work, for their dining, for their shopping or entertainment," she said at the November 17 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting.

The Lord Mayor said that the "extraordinary situation" due to COVID-19 meant they simply

had to try new strategies.

"As a city and community, we need to be considering all options, some of which will work, and some may not. But certainly, at the moment, many are worth trying as we try to revitalise our city economy and revitalise our city community."

The move represents a sharp U-turn for years' worth of council policy that sought to rid the CBD of what it viewed as space-inefficient cars.

Last year the council released a 10-year transport strategy that primarily sought to widen footpaths for pedestrians and drastically increase cycling lanes. To do this, they have already begun reducing and even closing car lanes into and around the Hoddle Grid.

Research for the strategy revealed nine in 10 CBD trips were taken on foot, despite the fact 80 per cent of space was taken up by cars.

Both Greens councillors, Rohan Leppert and Dr Olivia Ball, and councillor Jamal Hakim voted against the cheaper parking move, arguing the city should instead look to COVID-safe public transport, cycling and walking.

Cr Leppert tweeted that it was "hard not to feel like years of hard-won policy is unravelling".

"I am very concerned that the COVID-induced recession is being used as an argument that the economics of the city have fundamentally changed since the adoption of the Transport Strategy 2030, and that new times call for a temporary car-led recovery," he added.

"The law of supply and demand hasn't been suspended in a recession. I sincerely hope that before the council adopts a fee structure that may risk the congestion of the Hoddle Grid with people looking for free car parks that just aren't available, compromising the excellent plans for people-focused streets and places in the central city that the council is rolling out, that the economics of parking are genuinely considered."

Under the move, drivers need to display the vouchers on their dashboard, and will still need to observe the green sign time limit ●

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Should council step in to regulate short-stay operators?

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

With the majority of the City of Melbourne's (CoM) 180,000 residents living in apartments, residents' groups across the city are proposing that the council forms a dedicated unit focused on the needs of apartment-dwellers.

One of the major concerns cited during a Resident's First meeting in October was the lack of regulation around short-stay operators, which has resulted in decreased amenity and security in apartment buildings around Melbourne.

Docklands resident Dr Janette Corcoran, who recently ran for the CoM as a councillor candidate on the Residents First ticket, said that without council intervention, residents remained powerless to stop short-stay operators from over-running residential buildings.

"We don't have a unit that understands our way of living and our challenges," Dr Corcoran said. "This can make representations on our behalf to other levels of government difficult. The City of Sydney has [addressed the issue]," Dr Corcoran said.

"Residents have the right to feel safe and secure in their home, get a good night's sleep and not subsidise the business operations of others."

CEO of Strata Title Lawyers Tom Bacon said that councils around Australia and the world had short-stay regulations in place for years and the CoM "needs to be doing more".

"As we come out of COVID every government is going to be wanting to cut the red tape, stimulate the economy and get rid of bureaucracy – particularly in Melbourne," Mr Bacon said.

"But in this space, we do need some bureaucracy, databases, and for short-stay operators to pay commercial rates and obtain town planning permits, upgrade their fire safety plans and go through the proper process."

In New South Wales, the state government has a database which requires all short-stay

"Residents have the right to feel safe and secure in their home, get a good night's sleep and not subsidise the business operations of others."



operators to register and residents are able to consult the government if they have any issues.

This regulation also exists internationally, with London requiring a planning permit for short-stays in residential buildings and New York having banned them outright for stays of less than 30 days.

But Mr Bacon said as the CoM didn't require short-stay operators to have a land-use permit, it's difficult to keep track of how many there were and how they operated.

"The regulation here is very light-touch and basically endorses short-term letting so you can do it 365 days a year and you can have one night minimum stays," Mr Bacon said.

"It's very disappointing regulation compared to other cities around the world."

With regulation decided by individual building managers and owners' corporations (OCs), there is no uniform policy for how many short-stays can operate.

Residents also have no peak body to consult when breaches occur, including building damage, noise complaints and suspicious activity.

Barbara Francis of resident lobby group We Live Here said that this was particularly an issue from a public health perspective, as short-stays could be a breeding ground for COVID-19 in residential buildings.

"Short term letting is completely at odds with having a COVID-safe plan, it actually creates a potential health hazard," Ms Francis said.

"When residents were concerned in the past about short-stays spreading the virus, COVID-19 and police hotlines were of little help because they did not have the authority to step in." Although short-stays were badly hit by Melbourne's lockdown, Ms Francis said that with restrictions easing now was the time for the council to step in and strengthen apartment communities post-COVID-19.

"Permanent residents, owner occupiers and long-term tenants who have been putting up with the rampant, out-of-control, short-stay industry for so long are now rediscovering the

amenity and security of our homes that we thought we had lost forever," Ms Francis said.

"The challenge now is to reclaim the title of the most liveable city in the world and make sure all stakeholders have a say as things go back to normal."

Currently, the CoM doesn't have the power to issue land use permits to short-stay operators.

To do so, the Minister for Planning would need to amend the Victorian Planning Division to distinguish between different types of residential accommodation.

Although it would present a significant task for the council, Cr Rohan Leppert said that The Greens fully supported amending the legislation to better regulate land use.

"Council has an important role to support owners' corporations and apartment residents navigate a complicated legal framework, and I support the creation of a dedicated 'apartment living' team or function in the council," Cr Leppert said.

"This cannot, however, be a substitute for genuine reform. We are never going to address the tensions between short and long stay accommodation until we clearly distinguish between them in planning and building law."

"That needs state government intervention, and redefining types of accommodation in law is an enormous undertaking. But with interstate and international visitation at record lows, now is the least worst time for the state, council and strata community to tackle genuine reform and work with all property owners fairly." ●



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Council passes motion to build a city with Aboriginal focus

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne (CoM) has unanimously passed a motion to implement a new Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) from 2021.

The comprehensive three-year plan outlines strategies to increase awareness of indigenous issues, commemorate the Stolen Generation, and employ more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the council.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that the plan would bring Melbourne one step closer to being “a city with an Aboriginal focus”.

“We are absolutely committed to our reconciliation journey here at the City of Melbourne because at its heart reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples,” the Lord Mayor said.

“We know that at the CoM we can do better and this plan starts us on that journey.”

The key goals of the plan are to personally engage CoM staff in reconciliation strategies, develop relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and drive reconciliation through council activities, services and programs.

Some of these activities will include events to acknowledge National Sorry Day on May 26 and a public National Reconciliation Week Oration with a high-profile speaker every year in July.

Director of Aboriginal Melbourne and author of the plan, Hans Bokelund, said that educational events were the key to bringing cultures together.

“We were the first local government to endorse a reconciliation action plan back in 2006, so this is part of our journey to live up to the motto of City of Melbourne and gather strength as we go,” Mr Bokelund said.

The CoM’s reconciliation plan is different from others around the country because of its commitment to “truth-telling”.

This involves a series of public talks to enable

Docklands resident and Cr Jamal Hakim also commended the truth-telling activities as an important step in reconnecting to the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: “Everything in Australia starts and ends with us being able to reconcile our past so we can create a better future.”



a greater understanding of Aboriginal people’s experiences and their present realities.

Cr Olivia Ball said that truth-telling activities were vital to educate the wider public about Australia’s history and would provide an opportunity for Aboriginal people to share their heritage and culture with the broader community.

“Truth-telling can be difficult to do and difficult to hear,” Cr Olivia Ball said.

“But for reconciliation to succeed we need to understand and acknowledge the past and the consequences for the present and work together to end racism and racial inequality in this country.”

Docklands resident and Cr Jamal Hakim also commended the truth-telling activities as an important step in reconnecting to the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“Everything in Australia starts and ends with us being able to reconcile our past so we can create a better future,” Cr Hakim said.

Another major focus of the plan is to increase the percentage of Aboriginal staff employed at CoM.

Currently there are only 12 people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander out of 1400 CoM staff, despite the council setting up a separate Aboriginal Melbourne branch in 2019 to improve this.

The RAP will also involve establishing a Local Aboriginal Secondment Program for four CoM employees to be seconded for a period of at least six weeks to Traditional Owner Groups to better educate council members.

Cr Rohan Leppert said that the plan would serve as an example for the whole city and encourage the community to be active participants in the reconciliation process.

“It’s not the easiest document to implement but we’re looking to lead by example and make CoM a leader for Aboriginal employment and extend that out to the whole of Melbourne to make it a better place for its first peoples,” he said.

The council will report the progress of the plan to Reconciliation Australia in September each year.

The Lord Mayor said that a major sign of success would be when “Aboriginal people feel that their ambitions can be realised.”

“Our ambitions as a city, a community and an organisation must have Aboriginal Melbourne and Aboriginal considerations at its heart,” Cr Capp said.

“We can do better, we must do better, and we will.” ●

Activation “still on track”

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PLANNING

Details of the long-awaited Docklands Activation Strategy won’t be publicly revealed until 2021 but plans for stakeholder engagement this side of Christmas remain “on track”.

In response to the closure of Central Pier and the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on Docklands, Development Victoria (DV) has engaged the services of events and activations company Alto Cibum to come up with a specific strategy for reenergising the area.

Consultations with key local stakeholders began in July and *Docklands News* reported last month that a final report by Alto Cibum was due to DV and the council by the end of the year.

While the strategy is believed to have been presented to the City of Melbourne, details of what is included won’t be known publicly until the new year as major Docklands employers hold off returning staff to the precinct amid easing COVID-19 restrictions.

In the meantime, Docklands can look forward to the Christmas Twilight Sunday Market on December 6 from 12pm until 8pm along NewQuay Promenade hosted by the Docklands Sunday Markets and supported by the Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC) and MAB Corporation.

There will also be chocolate workshops and other events in the weeks leading up to Christmas, as well as Christmas Carols hosted by The District Docklands and Melbourne Star on December 20, which will support Kids Under Cover ●

For more information:
docklandsc.com.au or the
districtdocklands.com.au

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New Year's feasts in Docklands

BUSINESS

This year, the City of Melbourne's New Year's Eve celebrations will revolve around a COVID-safe celebration of Melbourne's food and wine culture – with a focus on Docklands' venues Cargo and Berth.

The City of Melbourne announced in November that fireworks would not form part of the celebrations, instead revealing the New Year Street Feasts – a two-day "dining experience" delivered in conjunction with the state government and the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.

"Melbourne's New Year's Eve fireworks display usually draws up to 400,000 people to the city, which would put both members of the public and Police and Emergency Services members at risk during a pandemic," the announcement read.

The New Year Street Feasts will run from December 31 to January 1 across more than 50 venues and 11 precincts. The Docklands chapter will be held at waterfront venues Cargo and Berth at NewQuay Promenade.

The City of Melbourne took inspiration from the piazzas and square of Europe in setting up the initiative, which was designed to bring people into the city across two days without drawing mass crowds at once.

The Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council wanted to mark the end of a tough year by celebrating.

"We are tailoring a program to safely encourage more patrons into our incredible and deserving hospitality businesses that have struggled through lockdown restrictions," the Lord Mayor said.

"This will be an opportunity to say goodbye to 2020, look forward to a brighter 2021 and thank every Melburnian for their efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic."

John Scardamaglia, owner of Docklands restaurants Cargo and Berth, said he hoped the initiative would help make the New Year special.

"Without fireworks across Melbourne this year we wanted to do something different – with outdoor, waterfront dining – to help people celebrate a year none of us want to see again," he said •



For more information:
melbournefoodandwine.com.au



Community services return

COMMUNITY

Following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, Victoria Harbour developer Lendlease and the City of Melbourne have reopened the outdoor exercise gym and provided safe circles for outdoor picnics at Buluk Park.

Inspired by other big cities such as New York, San Francisco and London, the safe circles are an initiative of the City of Melbourne and have been created in all popular inner-city parks across the municipality.

With restrictions easing in Victoria heading into summer, Buluk Park at Library at the Dock has seen locals making the most of its green space and seating areas, with nearby café Saluministi providing great coffee and food next door.

With regular cleaning scheduled, the outdoor exercise gym opposite the park has also been reopened.

The Wellness Union has also restarted its sunset yoga classes in Buluk Park and more information about sessions times and how to book can be found online •

For more information:
thewellnessunion.com

Glenn Harvey answers your legal questions

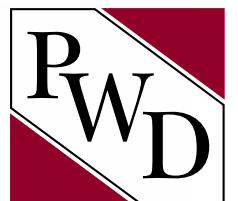
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Tram stops for bees?

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
ENVIRONMENT

City greening has become an influential idea in recent years. But what can it look like in Melbourne? How can we green our built-up CBD and its unique spaces?

A focus group set up by the Committee for Melbourne (CfM) is pushing for the greening of tram stop roofs to make new homes for bees.

Dr Clare McCausland is a member of the “MelBees” focus group – a project aiming to install green roofs on tram stops to assist the regeneration of the stingless honey-generating bee population in Melbourne.

“When we first got together to form the group, we had about 24 ideas floating around and one of my colleagues in the group pitched the idea of the green roofs – he said it would be a ‘bee superhighway’ along the city,” Dr McCausland said.

“Imagine the entire transport network with the greenery and the native plants to bring the bees back into the city and help restore that part of the ecosystem.”

“We knew it had been done successfully before and we really wanted to give it a Melbourne identity, which is why we’re looking at tram stops.”

Dr McCausland said the idea was based off a project that was successfully completed in the Netherlands.

The city of Utrecht in the Netherlands completed wide-scale installation of green roofs on its bus stops last year. The initiative was taken to help cool the city and promote biodiversity, including bees and other insects.

Colony collapse disorder and varroa mite have affected bees in every continent except Australia. The havoc wreaked on bee populations, and by extension the ecosystem, has been severe.

But Dr McCausland said our cities still posed problems for bees, and Australian populations were vulnerable to the same threats as bees



▲ One of hundreds of green roofed bus stops in Utrecht, the Netherlands (Picture: the City of Utrecht).

elsewhere through the overuse of pesticides, habitat loss and climate change.

“Australia has over 1600 species of bees and eleven species of stingless native bees,” Dr McCausland said.

“We know that the bees are dying, we know that populations are collapsing, and urbanisation plays a significant role in that. There’s a lot of concrete in any CBD and that’s just not appealing, so getting the plants in is a real priority,” she said.

“In addition to attracting the bees they have other benefits. For example, they help to filter the water – storm water that moves too quickly isn’t cleaned by vegetation.”

“And all greenery in the city reduces that heat

island effect that we get in built-up areas.”

The MelBees project is in the process of finalising designs and aims to wrap up in the middle of June. In May 2021, during which World Bee Day is scheduled, the project aims to launch a demonstration shelter.

“I think it would set us apart,” Dr McCausland said.

“It would really highlight to people outside of the city what a progressive, liberal, sustainable city we are. It would be a nicer city, transport shelters would be nicer to look at, people would have a stronger understanding of the value of insects to the ecosystem and of what the Melbourne ecosystem looks like.” ●



Voyager tops out

BUILDING

Mirvac’s latest \$300 million residential tower at Yarra’s Edge Voyager has topped out as it draws closer to completion.

Rising at more than 130 metres tall, the “topping out” of the 43-level residential tower at 172-190 Lorimer St in Docklands, which includes 315 apartments, is expected to be celebrated with a formal ceremony before the end of 2020.

Mirvac CEO and managing director Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz said Voyager’s construction program had not been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing for the topping out to occur on schedule, despite a reduction in the number of workers allowed on site due to state government restrictions.

“Although this remains an area of focus as Melbourne recovers from its extended lockdown period, our team has been able to effectively and efficiently manage these constraints and deliver on overall program timeframes for an anticipated settlement in spring 2021,” she said.

Ms Lloyd-Hurwitz said that despite the economic uncertainty, apartment sales had remained consistent with an increased demand from local owner-occupiers.

Development Victoria’s CEO Angela Skandarajah said it was proud of its partnership with Mirvac and had been great to see Voyager come to life at Yarra’s Edge.

“This has been a challenging year for the industry and we congratulate Mirvac on the milestone and on its commitment to Docklands,” she said ●

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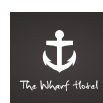
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Double the Docklands Probus!

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
COMMUNITY

Probus clubs are associations that retired and semi-retired people use to facilitate social and interest opportunities. Their popularity among Docklanders means that the suburb now has two.

Docklands got its second Probus club this year, after the first had filled up with more than 100 members, forcing the overflow of interest onto a waiting list. It held its first meeting in March, a few days before our first lockdown.

Dubbed the Bearbrass Probus – to differentiate itself from the first Docklands group, the Sunrise Probus – the group of now 52 members have been meeting fortnightly on Zoom since the start of the pandemic.

But now, with a Victoria that appears virus-free, the group is beginning to resume face-to-face activity.

Julie Cookson has lived in Docklands for almost six years and joined the new club in March when it was set up.

“I was actually in the first club. When I saw that the second was being set up, I thought it would be a really good opportunity to start in a group from the ground up and help build it,” Julie said.

“To get to know people from the beginning makes a difference.”

Julie said the second club had attracted members from a larger area, while the first mainly

consisted of Docklands – but some were attracted because of an interest they had in moving to the area.

“We have one member who lives in Berwick, but her intention is to eventually move to Docklands or the CBD,” she said.

Julie’s “moving to Docklands story” is not dissimilar, in a way. She spent her career working as a nurse and living in Bundoora. After her son had grown up, she decided it was time for a move.

“I always had this yearning to live in either St Kilda or the city. I chose St Kilda, and it was a bad mistake,” she said.

“I don’t know what it was but I only lasted there 18 months and I never felt part of a community, so then I moved in here.”

She had used Probus clubs, and others like them, since living in Bundoora to help foster a sense of belonging to a community.

“Somebody said to me when I wasn’t happy in St Kilda, that when you live in the city you’re never alone – and I hate being alone and I like to keep myself busy,” Julie said.

She said the club was still looking for new members to join and engage in its variety of activities, which were now gearing up with restriction ease ●

For more information:
bearbrassprobus.org

▼ *Bearbrass Probus members at their first picnic post-lockdown.*



Massive sound stage to break ground

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PLANNING

The construction of Docklands Studios’ \$46 million sixth sound stage is preparing to break ground, with the closure of a section of the Moonee Ponds Creek trail on November 23 to enable the work.

The 3700sqm stage – which will be one of the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere – was announced in October 2019 by the state government as a major investment into the state’s creative industries.

A further announcement was made in November this year, as part of the state government’s budget release, that an additional \$1.3 million would be allocated to create a trade and technical hub close to the studios for screen crews and support businesses.

Docklands Studios CEO Rod Allan said the project was a milestone for the state.

“The start of construction on Stage 6 in the near future will be a milestone day for Victoria’s

screen industry, allowing Docklands Studios to attract bigger productions than ever before while giving more space to local film and TV projects,” Mr Allan said.

“Vastly expanded studio capacity will bring benefits to the whole economy including many local businesses such as accommodation, hospitality, transport and equipment suppliers.”

The studios were fully booked in November with production of Netflix and NBC thriller *Clickbait*.

Work on the new stage is expected to be complete by late 2021. The five existing sound stages will remain operational while the project is under construction.

While the section of Moonee Ponds Creek Trail is closed, trail users will be diverted to Pearl River Rd via the path between Docklands Studios Melbourne and the O’Brien Icehouse. The trail will also be diverted near the Ron Barassi Senior Park.

The diversion route was determined in consultation with the Bicycle Network, the City of Melbourne and the state government ●

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Meet the teachers!

With the Docklands Primary School opening date fast approaching, Docklands News is introducing some of our community's new teachers ahead of Term One, 2021!



▲ Praew Paramo has taught for three years in both junior and primary schools. Before teaching, she worked as a district nurse in the Eastern suburbs



▲ Lucy Anderson grew up in Melbourne but has spent years living in country Victoria. She said she couldn't wait to meet all of the new families and grow together.



▲ Lauren Gledhill grew up in country Victoria and moved to Melbourne to study. She said she couldn't wait to meet the new school community in Docklands.



▲ Jaylee Waters will be joining the school as the arts teacher. She grew up in Mount Gambier in South Australia and has been living in Melbourne for the past four years.



▲ Emina McLean will join the team to focus on student achievement and professional learning for staff. She has been a lecturer in language and literacy and is a researcher.



▲ Bethany Tonkin has been teaching for several years and has just completed further study in learning intervention. She said she loved the creativity and joy that came with teaching, and seeing the "lightbulb moments" that students have every day.



▲ Romy Sujica began teaching after a career in the private and government sectors. She said she was looking forward to getting to know the new school community and working together to create a supportive and creative learning environment.



▲ Shevani Moodley grew up in Durban in South Africa and in the western suburbs of Melbourne, spent her graduate years teaching at an international school in the United Arab Emirates, and has taught in various schools in Melbourne since.



For more information:
facebook.com/DocklandsPrimarySchool



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MPavilion returns to Docklands

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
ARTS & CULTURE

In 2020 the MPavilion is expanding its program, to be hosted across its six original pavilions – including one in Docklands.

Each year since 2014, an architect has been commissioned through the Naomi Milgrom Foundation to design a pavilion for the Queen Victoria Gardens in the Southbank Arts Precinct. The MPavilion then hosted a free program season of cultural events and interventions, lively talks, performances, workshops, installations and kid-friendly experiences.

At the end of the program, it's gifted by the Naomi Milgrom Foundation to the people of

Victoria and relocated to a new, permanent home in a public space. One of those is permanently located in Docklands (pictured).

In November, the Naomi Milgrom Foundation announced that a new pavilion would not be built this year.

"In light of the uncertainty facing the arts community in 2020, we are prioritising the most important part of our cultural sector: our creatives. With more funding than ever going directly to creators, we are commissioning people from all walks of life to create, debate and share their knowledge," the announcement read.

"We're so excited to launch the program for our forthcoming season, expanding the program outside of the Queen Victoria Gardens. Visitors

will be able to enjoy free events popping up across the city, from the inner-city Docklands to the Monash University campus in Clayton. Events will be staged in new ways to enable social-distancing and we will be implementing capacity restrictions where appropriate."

The program runs from November to April, with themes "related to the here and now" assigned to each month:

- **November - Re-emerge:** a remix
- **December - IRL:** Exploring social spaces
- **January - Preservation:** Propagating knowledge
- **February - 1-1:** Who are we together?
- **March - Space:** Experiments in time

Docklands is home to the 2015 MPavilion, which is now located in Docklands Park. It was designed by award-winning British architect Amanda Levete.

The Docklands MPavilion 2020 program includes a talk on the Hong Kong protests as creative social spaces, an open house dance event with Chunky Move, and a BLAKitecture talk on "first principles" •

Find the Docklands program:
mpavilion.org

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“Christmas is not cancelled”

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
EVENTS

The City of Melbourne’s annual Christmas Festival will help bring Melbourne back to life with a range of COVID-safe events and entertainment for all ages.

From socially-distanced photos with Santa to a Christmas-themed picnic area at Argyle Square, the 2020 festival will run from November 27 to December 25 with the help of the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that this year’s festivities would encourage Melburnians to safety rediscover the city and support local businesses.

“Christmas is not cancelled in 2020,” the Lord Mayor said.

“I am absolutely delighted to announce this program of Christmas offers and events that will be irresistible in enticing people back into the city for their Christmas shopping, celebrations and family traditions.”

The festival will kick off on Black Friday with the “Shop the City” event which will run in partnership with Melbourne Fashion Week.

The Lord Mayor said the four-day shopping festival would provide an opportunity to support local businesses while taking advantage of great deals and enjoying the Christmas events.

“It’s been a challenging year for retailers, and residents across Melbourne can show their support by shopping local in the city, and enjoying the pop-up street runways, food and drinks, freebies and music while they’re at it.”

Last year the festival generated more than \$64 million to the city’s economy and the council is predicting city retailers will enjoy a much-needed boost again this year.

One way this will be achieved is through the Christmas Collective business grant initiative which supports 24 events throughout the city.

These include Christmas markets in Docklands, the 12 films of Christmas at Kino Cinemas, and “A Very Victorian Christmas” which will celebrate local producers and winemakers at a pop-up cellar door at Garden State Hotel.

To get into the Christmas spirit, the city will also light up with Christmas projections, including a “Thank You” to the city’s frontline workers at the State Library Victoria.

Christmas Square will again pop up at Federation Square, with a 16-metre tall Christmas tree adorned with 30,000 energy efficient lights and a COVID-safe Santa’s workshop.

The Lord Mayor said protocols would be in place to ensure families could meet Santa in a socially-distanced way.

“Everybody will be able to tell Santa what they want for Christmas, walk around the workshop and take photographs, but you won’t be sitting on Santa’s lap,” the Lord Mayor said.

To avoid large crowds and queues, this year’s festival is “always on” instead of having events on at specific times.

“Whenever you turn up, we’re offering as range of events than are always on so we can avoid queues and ensure people don’t feel



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp strolls down Hosier Lane with Santa and Mrs Claus on November 18.

pressured to come into large, crowded environments,” the Lord Mayor said.

“We are also holding most events outside to make it more COVID-safe.”

Along with old favourites, the city has also organised new events including Deck the Streets, which will see Melbourne-based artists paint a series of festive murals in Hosier Lane, Carlton, North Melbourne and Kensington.

One featured artist is *CBD News* Street Art columnist Adrian Doyle, who said that street art was a great way to express the Christmas spirit in a uniquely Melbourne way.

“It’s outdoors, you can bring your kids and enjoy the city and all the Christmas artwork it has to offer,” Mr Doyle said.

Argyle Square in Lygon St will also be transformed into a Christmas-themed picnic area in partnership with Piazza di Natale, and there will be a range of augmented reality experiences displayed throughout the city.

The Lord Mayor said that as the city ended a difficult year, Melburnians deserved to come together and celebrate Christmas with the ones they loved.

“It’s a celebration of the resilience and community spirit of Melbourne, and we hope that Melburnians will join us in the city to enjoy all that it has to offer,” she said ●

“It’s been a challenging year for retailers, and residents across Melbourne can show their support by shopping local in the city...”



For more information:
melbourne.vic.gov.au/Christmas

No tram funding in budget

PLANNING

Despite a huge injection into a range of major transport and infrastructure projects in the state government’s recent 2020/21 budget, public transport to Fishermans Bend missed out.

While the impacts of COVID-19 to the state’s economy will see Victoria in debt for years to come, the state budget on November 24 saw a swathe of major projects given funding as the state government chooses to invest in productivity in response to the downturn.

But despite the 2019/20 state budget allocating \$5 million over two years for a business case to explore options for a tram route linking the city to Fishermans Bend by 2025, many had hoped the project might be brought forward in this budget.

The original Fishermans Bend plans, which are in the planning scheme, still have a new tram bridge linking Collins St in Docklands to Yarra’s Edge over the river despite fierce opposition from local residents and many businesses.

But with the state’s increasing debt issues escalating even further due to the impacts of coronavirus, *Docklands News* reported in September that all tram route options were understood to be back on the table.

While public transport will have to wait another year, a \$2 billion “Breakthrough Victoria Fund” was included in this year’s budget, of which Fishermans Bend’s employment and innovation precinct will be a beneficiary of.

The University of Melbourne has purchased land in the heart of the employment precinct for a new engineering and design campus which it expects to open in 2025. RMIT is having similar conversations about a campus of its own.

With the campus establishing in the heart of Fishermans Bend it will be surrounded by the likes of Boeing, the Australian Department of Defence’s Science and Technology labs and the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB). The Breakthrough Victoria Fund is expected to aid in bolstering connections in the precinct to leverage it as a world-class employment and innovation cluster focussed largely on advanced manufacturing.

“This fund gives our research and development sector the certainty they need to keep striving for the next discovery and the next innovation that will change lives, save lives and drive our economy,” Premier Daniel Andrews said on November 26.

But Fishermans Bend Business Forum (FBBF) executive officer David Weston said the impacts of COVID-19 and the state government’s delays to delivering public transport meant the assumptions of its original plans should be revised.

With the state government still forecasting 80,000 residents and 80,000 workers to Fishermans Bend by 2050, Mr Weston said these forecasts were becoming increasingly unrealistic.

The state budget also included \$66.1 million for the continued planning and purchasing of land for new community hospitals, one of which will be in Fishermans Bend ●

Celebrate Christmas in Style

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Your City of Melbourne Community Update



The City of Melbourne has welcomed its newly-elected Council. Here is a brief introduction to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and councillors at the City of Melbourne. To find extended biographies and contact details for councillors, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil



**Lord Mayor
Sally Capp**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in May 2018

Sally began her career as a solicitor and was the first woman to hold the post of Agent-General for Victoria in the UK, Europe and Israel. She has also served as the CEO for the Committee for Melbourne and COO of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Sally has held senior roles at both KPMG and ANZ, and she took the small business she co-founded to the ASX. Most recently she was Victorian Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia. A passionate Magpies supporter, in 2004 Sally made history as the first female board member of Collingwood FC. She is involved in a number of charities.

Sally is the first woman to be directly elected as Lord Mayor.



**Deputy Lord Mayor
Nicholas Reece**

Elected Deputy Lord Mayor in November 2020, after having previously been elected Councillor in 2016

Nick is an executive in Chancellery at the University of Melbourne and holds an academic position of principal fellow and teaches at the Melbourne School of Government. Nick is the chairman of global men's health charity Movember and, for more than 10 years, he was a director for the street newspaper *The Big Issue*.

Nick has considerable experience in government and policy making, having worked as a senior adviser to Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Victorian premiers Steve Bracks and John Brumby. He is a commentator for SKY News and a regular columnist for *The Age*.



**Councillor
Olivia Ball**

Olivia has lived, worked and studied in the City of Melbourne for most of her life. With a Masters and PhD in human rights, and experience working in women's, children's, refugees', workers' and older people's rights, she brings human rights expertise to the diverse activities of Council, from the affordability of housing to the accessibility of our city and democracy.

A published author, Olivia also has a science degree, giving her skills in assessing evidence and applying research. Most recently, she has been studying urban planning.



**Councillor
Roshena Campbell**

Roshena is a barrister with expertise in commercial law and corporate governance. Prior to that she was a solicitor with a leading national law firm for nearly a decade. She has represented some of Australia's largest companies as well as state and local government bodies.

Roshena has put down deep roots since moving to Melbourne as a 20 year old and has lived, worked and studied in the City of Melbourne. She has three young children. She is passionate about contributing to Melbourne's re-emergence as a vibrant, thriving city. Her priority is ensuring that Melbourne is Australia's greatest city to do business in and the destination of choice for families to live and visit.

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Your City of Melbourne Community Update



**Councillor
Jason Chang**

Jason is co-founder and CEO of Calia, a restaurant-to-retail brand created in Melbourne specialising in quality products and ingredients. His hospitality and retail group employs hundreds of people across his stores in Melbourne and Asia, and for his online store operations.

Born and raised in Melbourne, Jason knows all too well the devastating impact that COVID-19 is having on Melbourne's beloved hospitality, retail, international student and tourism industries.



**Councillor
Elizabeth Mary Doidge**

Elizabeth was born, raised, and has lived her entire life in Melbourne. She has a proud career in the trade union movement, playing a key role in communication and stakeholder engagement. Elizabeth currently works in the construction sector engaging with a diverse range of industry and community stakeholders.

Elizabeth recognises the important role Council will play in the recovery of our city and the opportunity presented to Council to contribute to the design of a more productive, inclusive and enriched city for all.



**Councillor
Davydd Griffiths**

Davydd moved to Melbourne to study in 1993 and since that time has lived or worked in the City of Melbourne. Davydd worked as a school teacher for many years and remains passionate about the power of education to transform lives and connect communities.

After leaving teaching he worked as a policy advisor in both education and health with a particular focus on community health provision, men's health and mental health. Addressing the impact of loneliness, particularly in rapidly transforming urban communities, is another of Davydd's key interests. In recent years, Davydd has owned and operated hospitality venues in Kensington and West Melbourne and has experienced first-hand the impacts of COVID-19 on business.



**Councillor
Jamal Hakim**

Jamal is Managing Director of a national health non-profit that has safely and successfully navigated COVID-19. Having worked in complex, challenging global organisations his entire career, he is both an entrepreneur and business person at heart. Jamal is a GAICD and holds a number of board roles, including with Democracy in Colour, Marie Stopes PNG and previously with Midsumma Festival.

A resident of Docklands for 12 years, Jamal is passionate about ensuring a thriving community that is physically, emotionally, culturally and environmentally safe for everyone. Jamal is also an advocate for representative and evidence-based decision making.



**Councillor
Philip Le Liu**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in 2016

Philip is a local resident and a long-time worker within the City of Melbourne. With more than 10 years of experience across a variety of sectors, including government, utility, telecommunication, and financial services, Philip is a trusted adviser to many in the community, business, and government sectors.

Philip is a regular speaker at conferences and on panels across Australia and Asia, and he speaks on key issues in the media. In 2019, he was recognised as one of 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians and winner of the Public Sector/Government category. Outside of council, Philip is an entrepreneur and heavily involved in helping local communities.



**Councillor
Rohan Leppert**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in 2016 and 2012

Rohan is a member of the Victorian Greens. He has lived in the City of Melbourne his entire adult life and currently lives and works in Kensington. He has worked as a musician and teacher for more than 15 years, and more recently as an urban planner.

Rohan is a board member of the Municipal Association of Victoria, where he also chairs the Planning Committee, an associate of the Planning Institute of Australia and a member of the National Trust (Victoria).

Rohan's priority and passion as councillor is planning Melbourne in the public interest, for a more economically just, environmentally sustainable, accessible and creative city for future generations.



**Councillor
Kevin Louey**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in 2016, 2012 and 2008

Kevin has extensive experience across the business, government and community sectors and spent seven years at the City of Melbourne as Chief of Staff to the former Lord Mayor John So, before being elected as a councillor in 2008.

Kevin has been the City of Melbourne's appointment to the advisory committees including Enterprise Melbourne Pty Ltd and Business Partner City Network.

Kevin is passionate about working with small business and activating the city to increase visitation.



ABOUT COUNCIL

To find out more about the Council, including meeting dates and decision-making, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

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▲ Quest NewQuay co-owner Stacy Andronikos.

The Quest for excellence

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
BUSINESS

The team at Quest NewQuay is again jumping for joy after taking out Oceania's Leading Serviced Apartments at the 2020 World Travel Awards.

The award caps off an outstanding year for the Quest NewQuay team, after winning Best Emerging Business at the inaugural Docklands Business Awards in February and taking out Quest Apartment Hotels' top franchise business in Australia for local marketing activity.

Although 2020 has been far from the perfect year for the travel industry, Quest NewQuay co-owner Stacy Andronikos is delighted to be acknowledged for his team's hard work in such trying times.

"The past six months have been really tough for the team, but to get some recognition that we kept the doors open, we were here for our loyal guests and kept a safe place to do business, it is fantastic," Mr Andronikos said.

"It is so hard to start back up after closing down; for us, that wasn't an option. We made known as best we could that we were still open for business. It would've been incredibly deflating having to lose the momentum we built over the last year since opening."



We are starting to see a lot of Melburnians coming through the door.



"It wasn't just about keeping our business afloat; it was about keeping our team safe and in work."

The Quest brand also took home the award for Oceania's Leading Serviced Apartment Brand.

Mr Andronikos said while it would take some time to return to pre-pandemic levels, he was seeing an increase in visitation and was optimistic for what 2021 held.

"We are starting to see a lot of Melburnians coming through the door. It has been that staycation market, where people want to come into the city from the suburbs and have a nice night out," he said.

"It's great, not just for our team, but for the rest of Docklands to know we have a world-class facility sitting in our backyard." ●

New business in trying times

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
BUSINESS

While some businesses in Docklands haven't been able to weather the economic storm brought on by the pandemic, William Comley of Harbour Coffee House is showing that new life is emerging.

Having kept his café open right throughout the pandemic, Mr Comley will soon launch a brand-new restaurant in the shop right next door in January in what comes as a positive show of faith in business returning to Docklands.

Melbourne Bay Restaurant will offer a Chinese-Australian fusion menu specialising in handmade dumplings where diners can watch them being made from freshly-made dough and all locally-sourced ingredients, including from the Queen Victoria Market.

Initially open for lunch with an eye to dinner as more workers begin their return to Docklands next year, Mr Comley said his new venue was licensed for up to 90 people and was able to cater for 35 people for outdoor dining. It will also offer an extensive drinks menu, with off-tap beers, locally-distilled spirits, cocktails and wines.

In a precinct that is usually buzzing during office hours with workers, Mr Comley's Harbour Coffee House has provided an important boost for what has been a quiet Digital Harbour precinct in 2020.

While he said the pandemic had meant his usual commercial trade had largely been wiped out, the downturn had given his business the opportunity to connect with Docklands locals and come up with new ways of doing business.

"It's [2020's] been so different. In the morning we didn't have time to talk to anyone, even the workers. We didn't have time to do anything – it was just making coffee flat out."

"Straight after COVID struck it [Docklands] was dead. But then suddenly so many locals have come in."

"I knew very little about Docklands. I didn't know Docklands people knew each other but everyone seems to know each other. All the buildings have their own communities so I'm getting to know all of the Docklands people and it's been great."



▲ Harbour Coffee House owner William Comley.

"It's given us so much time to think about what we're doing. Normally we'd be so busy I would have never done this many Christmas decorations. We're just going to keep changing and bringing new things to the area."

With Lord Mayor and Docklands resident Sally Capp pencilled in to cut the ribbon on the new Melbourne Bay Restaurant, Mr Comley said he was excited to be bringing new business to Docklands as it slowly recovers from the economic shock of COVID.

"It was hard in Docklands before and it's harder now but I think it's [the new business] for the best. Our standards are going even higher now," he said.

"Now we're getting all the workers coming back and things are starting to return to normal."

The new restaurant is expected to open at 198 Harbour Esplanade in mid-January ●

"Straight after COVID struck it [Docklands] was dead. But then suddenly so many locals have come in."



For more information:
harbourcoffeehouse.com



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Support for Think Pink goes sky high

COMMUNITY

The Melbourne Star Observation Wheel turned pink last month in a show of support for the Docklands-based Think Pink Foundation's latest fundraising program "Mask Up with Think Pink".

Melbourne Star created a glittering kaleidoscope of pink on Thursday, November 19, 2020 just one day after it reopened to the public following the easing of coronavirus restrictions in Victoria.

By lighting up in pink, Think Pink Foundation chairman Ron Smith said the Melbourne Star was helping raise awareness and help the foundation maintain its free services to women with breast cancer across Victoria at the Think Pink Living Centre at Yarra's Edge.

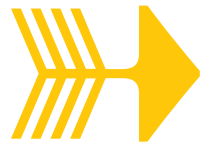
With demand for its services increasing by 300 per cent during the lockdowns, Mr Smith said the pandemic had hit the charity hard by drying up its usual sources of fundraising, which make all of its free breast cancer support services possible.

Breast care nurse consultant and Living Centre manager Andrea Cannon, who initiated the Mask Up with Think Pink fundraising campaign, said despite being forced to temporarily close the new Think Pink Living Centre, it had managed to pivot and expand the support services online via Zoom.

"This has allowed many women and their families from country and regional areas to take part, breaking down the tyranny of distance," Ms Cannon said.

Head of sales and marketing at Melbourne Star Observation Wheel Nicole Hill said, "Melbourne Star Observation Wheel is an iconic part of Melbourne, we've continued to light up the skyline as a beacon for the community throughout COVID-19 and are delighted that we can continue to support foundation's like Think Pink."

The Think Pink Living Centre at Yarra's Edge will reopen its doors to the community in February, 2021 ●



This has allowed many women and their families from country and regional areas to take part, breaking down the tyranny of distance



For more information:
thinkpink.org.au

Melbourne Star is back in the sky

BUSINESS

After a turbulent 231 days grounded the Melbourne Star is flying again in what comes as welcome news for Docklands to have one of Melbourne's iconic attractions taking guests back on board.

Since reopening on November 18, guests have been rekindling with their loved ones in the comfort of their own chilled private cabin, exploring the sights stretching from Melbourne's CBD and Port Phillip Bay through to Mount Macedon and the Dandenong Ranges.

Throughout the closure the Melbourne Star continued shining on as a proud member of the community with a nightly illumination of the city skyline with some of their brightest and most inspiring shows as a testament to Victorians' spirit of endurance, and to give those in our community much-needed bursts of joy.

Most recently lighting up pink for Docklands own Think Pink Foundation (read story on this page) and displaying the colours of the Victorian winning sporting teams.

Melbourne Star's attractions team have been working hard behind the scenes, collaborating with its new neighbour Peter Rowland to bring delectable bites sky high.

Since 1962 Peter Rowland has been dedicated to crafting special celebrations, whether it's a birthday, anniversary, or a gathering of friends and recently made The District Docklands their new home.

Since reopening to the public Melbourne Star has implemented a new COVID-safe policy, where all



▲ Melbie Bear at the Melbourne Star.

guests who fly on Melbourne Star are automatically get upgraded to a private cabin, with a cap of 10 guests per cabin ●

For more information:
melbournestar.org.au

Melbourne City Council elections

Declaration of results

The following candidates were elected to the Melbourne City Council at the general elections held in October 2020:

Leadership Team

Lord Mayor
CAPP, Sally

Deputy Lord Mayor
REECE, Nicholas

Councillors

LOUEY, Kevin (1st elected)
LEPPERT, Rohan (2nd elected)
CHANG, Jason (3rd elected)
GRIFFITHS, Davydd (4th elected)
CAMPBELL, Roshena (5th elected)
BALL, Olivia (6th elected)
LIU, Philip Le (7th elected)
HAKIM, Jamal (8th elected)
DOIDGE, Elizabeth Mary (9th elected)

Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au

Bill Lang
Election Manager
Wednesday 4 November 2020

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

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Victorian Electoral Commission

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Keeping clearways clear

We're introducing changes to existing clearways to keep traffic flowing smoothly on Melbourne's busy roads.

From 1 December 2020, we're making existing clearways on major roads within 20kms of Melbourne's CBD tow-away zones – so vehicles blocking roads during peak times can be removed, reducing congestion and keeping you moving.

Drivers who park illegally in tow-away zones during restricted times will have their vehicle towed and receive a fine on top of the vehicle release fee.

Find out more

Visit: The VicRoads website and search 'Clearway and tow-away zones'

Email: clearways@roads.vic.gov.au

vicroads.vic.gov.au

Collins St creatives return to offices

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
PROPERTY

A local investor has paid \$1,128,000 for three suites in a four-story office building, heralding the return of a more confident approach to work culture at the Docklands end of Collins St.

With tenants at the Paris end of the city's premier street still being cautious about returning to work, 838 Collins is promoting its facilities.

Colliers has sold four suites in the building since inspections restarted a month ago.

Facility manager Peter Vince reports that tenants have been in this week arranging for the return of their workers.

Natural ventilation and staircase access to all of the 120 suites was a deciding factor in the return, Mr Vince said.

When 838 Collins Street was built in 2013 it tapped into the demand for co-working space in a low-key, sustainable building that was Australia's first with a five-star green rating.

That forethought suits the COVID age and guidelines for increasing the safety of buildings.

"There are two atriums with fresh air flowing from both ends of the building – one of the recommendations," Mr Vince said.

All offices have louvre windows and instead of a water-cooling tower for air-conditioning, potentially dangerous in high-rise buildings because the virus can spread between floors, the suites share a bank of units with just two others.

George Davies of Colliers sold the three suites to a local investor plus a fourth to an architectural firm from South Yarra for \$610,000. The firm would be moving in to set up practice, he said.

The price achieved for the single suite was \$7625 per sqm, above the typical range for A-grade office space in Docklands of between \$5000 and 7500 a sqm.

Colliers started the campaign at the beginning of February then sold the suites as soon as Stage 4 restrictions were lifted.

"We had a backlog of groups," Mr Davies said. "It [the three suites] sold very quickly for the asking price."

He said that in Sydney, the Colliers strata team had seen transaction rates return to pre-COVID levels.

"I think once the public sector comes back, Melbourne will likely follow the same path. I think it's easier in this building. There are only four levels. People don't feel unsafe using these offices."

Many of the suites are currently owned by overseas investors. "Thirty are vacant as a result of COVID," Mr Vince said. "People have hit hard times."

But those firms that have survived are mov-



▲ Colliers agent George Davies pleased with sales at 838 Collins St.

ing back.

"We've had an influx this week of management to prepare for next week. They're asking for new fobs for access clearance and for air-conditioning settings," he said.

"The building attracts architects, designers, building surveyors and others connected with the development industry.

Suites overlooking the park at the back are particularly popular, with an active café life, including cocktails, at ground level.

The building was designed by tenants Nettleton Tribe ●



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
RHONDA@CBDNEWS.COM.AU



▲ Enterprize at the Appleton Dock slipway last month.

Preparing for a return to Docklands waters

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
MARITIME

After a turbulent year for Docklands heritage and charter boat operators, historic tall ship *Enterprize* has returned to the slipway at Appleton Dock for routine maintenance ahead of a full return to service in 2021.

More than a year-a-half since the ship last made its way to the slipway, its general manager Michael Womack said the maintenance works were the first sign of things slowly returning to normal for the boat's staff and crew.

With the pandemic putting a halt to all training and sailing programs, Mr Womack said many crew members were now looking forward to returning to the waters this side of Christmas, with an eye to a full return by March.

In the meantime, the ship's crew and workers from F J Darley Shiprights Williamstown were busy in late November carrying out important safety works with the boat elevated out of water at the slipway.

"While we're at the slipway we'll have our year three out of water inspection done by our ship's surveyors," Mr Womack said. "That's a requirement by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority"

"The work that is going on is inspecting parts of the hull and replacing oakum in caulking of the vessel so that makes it nice and watertight and a section of ship will be done every time it comes out of water. They're doing the port side



▲ A shipwright works on the ship's hull.

this side because that's a side that is closest to where we moor along North Wharf."

"We haven't sailed since the third week in March so it's been a long time for the crew and for the ship to have not been actively operating and working. The crew of course have missed out on the experience. Some crew only signed up two days before the lockdown in March so they'll be keen to get back into their training." ●

For more information:
enterprize.org.au



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Docklands SPICE LAB

We Docklands Spice Lab Pty Ltd applied to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation on 28th October 2020 for the permit of a packaged liquor licence at/to Shop 2G, 427 Docklands Drive, Docklands VIC 3008.

Any person may object to the grant of this application on the grounds that:

- it would detract from, or be detrimental to, the amenity of the area in which the premises are situated, and/or
- it would be conducive to or encourage the misuse or abuse of alcohol.

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

Objections must be made in writing to:
Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation
GPO Box 1988
Melbourne VIC 3001

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



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Smiles all the way

The District to host a series of Christmas activities

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
EVENTS

The District Docklands is celebrating the festive season with a series of light displays, shopping offers and giveaways throughout December.

Kicking off on December 13, the District Makers Market will receive a Christmas makeover to showcase all of the local businesses who have been doing it tough this year.

The market will feature a pet portrait station where you can create a one-of-a-kind Christmas present, as well as live music, workshops and a Christmas neon installation by artist Carla O'Brien.

More light installations will also be featured as part of the District's IMAGINARIA display, which will showcase a giant inflatable bubble, a futuristic light maze and an interactive play experience which will run until January 31.

On Sunday, December 20 The District will host A Day of Carols – an all-day event which will feature singing, dancing, music and entertainment from artists including Thando, Emily Rose and Crystal CLVB DJ band.

The carols event will raise money for Kids Under Cover, a charity which aims to prevent

youth homelessness.

As part of The District's shopping offers, customers who spend more than \$100 at any store on weekends in December will get to spin a wheel to win an instant store gift card and go in the draw to win one of two \$1000 shopping sprees.

CEO George Karabatsos said that The District was looking forward to celebrating the festive season after a trying year.

"After a challenging year for everyone, we are delighted to host live entertainment and activities for the whole family, alongside our wide range of shopping and dining options," Mr Karabatsos said.

If you're looking for a family-friendly New Years, the District will be hosting an evening of entertainment on December 31 including roaming street performers, fire performers and DJs.

Free 90-minute parking will also be available to all visitors during December •

For more information:
thedistrictdocklands.com.au



▲ Alicia and Claudia taking the air on Harbour Esplanade.

Face to face with baby Alicia

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
COMMUNITY

Baby Alicia and her mum were out promenading last month picking up a bit of culture from buskers.

Alicia was born on July 7, which was only two days before Victoria went back into lockdown.

She hasn't been to playgroup and her mum Claudia De Alba has only met up with one other mum.

"It's a bit sad," she said. "My baby is half French and half Mexican. Our families are back home."

The isolation hasn't bothered them too much but the birth was quite stressful.

"It was hard. She was born at 8.45am and we left hospital the same day. The less people in

hospital than better," Claudia said.

This was not a desirable situation for having a baby and some mothers have experienced even worse situations.

One mother came down with a cold the day after she had the baby and was discharged from hospital and was unable to see him until she returned a negative result.

Claudia is on maternity leave from RMIT and she's spent the lockdown doing a Masters in Rehabilitation Counselling, talking to friends and going to church.

"There's not a lot of people on Harbour Esplanade," she said. She and her partner have been living here for five years.

"I think I have to make the best of it. It's been a tough time but I'll always be grateful. We now value our jobs a lot more, our friends more and meeting people face to face."



Docklands Community Christmas Twilight Sunday Market

In conjunction with the Docklands Chamber of Commerce
NewQuay Promenade

6th December 2020, 12pm-8pm

Lots of Market stalls with beautiful gift ideas for Christmas.

Entertainment all day. Santa will be there all day. German Silva singing Latin American music and Alejandro Aguanca on Classical Guitar from 12pm till 3pm. Christmas Carols with the Open Door (limited) Choir from 3pm until 4pm. Music on stage with DJ Perri Lee and Alex Rose at Cargo/Berth from 4pm. Please follow all Covid Safety requirements.

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DOCKLANDER

From Malaysia to Docklands

Recently graduated occupational therapy student Min Kang was overjoyed that things were opening up in Docklands after many months of lockdown.

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

From the vantage of her Harbour One apartment where she has lived for seven years, Ms Kang has watched the suburb return to its former glory over the past few weeks of November.

"It's so nice to see Docklands come back to life again and see crowds walking around after such a difficult lockdown," Ms Kang said.

Now 28, Ms Kang moved from Malaysia to Melbourne when she was 18 with plans to study.

After a few months she fell in love with Melbourne.

"I like the accessibility of Docklands. It's close to everything, particularly Footscray where there's great food," Ms Kang said.

"It's a really peaceful place to live."

Initially Ms Kang trained to be a pastry chef, but quickly realised that career wasn't for her.

"I felt like my personality traits did not fit the kitchen scene," she said.

Ms Kang said she started looking into occupational therapy when her aunt started seeing one after breaking her finger.

"I loved how versatile the role is," she said.

"You can work with seniors, children, in a hospital or in the community. And I love how the role is to get people back to the activities that are meaningful to them to increase their overall wellbeing."

“

"It's a really peaceful place to live."

”

Having just finished a seven-week placement at St Vincent's Hospital on the Park in East Melbourne, Ms Kang is celebrating the end of her degree.

Along with continuing her pottery hobby, she'll also be spending time with her partner who she met through online dating during lockdown.

Ms Kang said that it was a unique experience finding love during lockdown but one she was grateful for.

"You have to get really creative with the dates you go on and make sure you keep communication open," Ms Kang said.

"It was really a COVID miracle finding him during this time." ●



HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS

Housing benefits every level of society

“

Welcome to the fifth article of our 12-part series which will attempt to explore the role that housing can and should play within Australian society and why it is important to our economy that we house all Australians, rich or poor. This series intends to draw on a range of perspectives centred around housing and homelessness. We will hear a range of views from business, the not-for-profit sector and hopefully government, as to why they believe housing is an important social and economic building block for Australia's future prosperity. This month we have asked Cameron Harvey, a partner at lawyers Norton Rose Fulbright, to share his thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians should be considered an economic imperative for Australia ...

”

There are many causes for homelessness in Australia but, to date, as a society we have been unable to force the right government policy settings to promote solutions to one of the most pernicious of conditions that plague our society.

The pandemic has shown us that we can move quickly to house the homeless when it is prioritised as a community concern. The speed with which Melbourne's homeless community was temporarily housed in all manner of accommodation throughout the greater CBD, whether it be vacant hotels, emergency accommodation and the like, was revealing.

The drivers for this were a desire to protect a vulnerable group of people from infection, but also to meet the societal need of ensuring there were no gaps in the isolation and lockdown of our community in order to try and manage the spread of the virus.

Those short-term measures are unravelling as I write, but that doesn't mean we cannot still make progress. The government, private sector, local government and the community at large should combine to create solutions. This was shown, at least in the short term, by the response in Melbourne at the time of the pandemic taking hold. The challenge now is to create the appropriate conditions to allow the right government policy levers to be pulled and the engagement of the business community to be encouraged, such that long term, acceptable solutions to homelessness in this country can be implemented.

It is incumbent on any fair-minded, reasonable and considerate community such as ours, to apply itself to delivering solutions to this problem.

To date it is apparent that:

1. The market has failed to provide affordable housing for those at the lower end of the income scale or who are unemployed;
2. There is a chronic shortage of government housing (particularly compared with countries such as the United Kingdom);
3. Data supports the proposition that long-

term homelessness creates a cost in excess of the cost of supporting these homeless people into affordable housing;

4. A stable and safe home environment creates a platform where support systems can be built, and remunerative employment sought; and
5. There is a tension between the federal and state governments as to which government should bear the burden for funding major social housing projects.

Good communities, particularly those with relative high levels of wealth and education, should and must look after those within their community who, for whatever reason, find themselves without the most fundamental of needs, a safe home.

This is a unique moment in our history. We are starting to emerge from a pandemic, we have a government that appears to be willing to engage in Keynesian-style intervention in the market place to force economic growth (in particular through the infrastructure sector) and we have historically low costs of finance which not only provides great investment incentive to the private sector but also allows the government to continue to spend and increase its deficit without major financial risk in the short to medium term.

A structured program between federal and state government should seek to:

1. Increase the stock of public housing;
2. Engage with the private sector to develop appropriately funded public/private partnerships for the construction of affordable blended housing projects which include public housing, the "build-to-rent" apartment style market and private housing at secured long term rental fixed as a percentage of income (with tax incentive to smooth out a market return for private investors); and
3. Active government intervention in the reduction of regulatory delays in the conception and execution of the

development of affordable housing projects.

In late November the Victorian Government announced a \$5.3 billion public housing program of some significance if it is delivered as promised. A substantial number of public houses supporting those on no income and those on low incomes in a regulatory fast-tracked environment is certainly a positive step forward. The economic multiplier effect of this type of investment through the broader community will be very well received as well.

There has probably not been a time quite like this when the political, social and economic environments have collided in a way that allow an atmosphere of genuine collaboration between the public and private sector to ensure that major programs are undertaken to dramatically increase the supply of government and privately affordable housing for not just this generation but for generations to come. The benefits will impact every level of society.

I hope you found the above perspective by Cameron interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our own view of the world, we all need to listen and digest what is said by others in order to find common ground.

This is why we are focusing on the fact that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need (not human right) and without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that will span generations.

As I said in my first article, doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act, and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts ●



Rob Pradolin

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ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

A very merry virtual Koorie Krismas

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

Although there'll be no sweaty crowds packed into Federation Square this year, the Koorie Heritage Trust's (KHT's) Koorie Krismas will go ahead as a one-of-a-kind online event.

From dance performances by Djirri Djirri Dancers, to a special appearance by Koorie Klaus, the online show will take place on December 12 and will be hosted by award-winning playwright and actor John Harding.

Curatorial manager Gail Harradine said that while the show would look different this year, the Trust was putting in the work to make it as engaging and interactive as possible.

"There's still some anxiety around elders being out in big crowds during COVID, so to meet the challenge we felt it was best to go ahead with an online event," Ms Harradine said.

"We're pre-recording the performances at the River Terrace, so you'll be able to look out over the Yarra too."

The free event will be held online between 11am and 2pm and feature performances from The Merindas, Bumpy, Aaron B and a range of others to be announced later this month.

Ms Harradine also said there would be interactive presentations from elders who would pass on their thoughts to the community during Christmas time.

"It's going to be a full day of activities – we usually get swamped at the end when Santa comes," she said.

The virtual Krismas event will be nothing new for the Trust, as all of their workshops and exhibitions have been online since COVID hit in March.

Ms Harradine said that based on the positive community response, the Trust had decided to continue with the online format going into 2021.

"I'm really pleased with how our collection has been travelling during this time and how we've kept all of our public programs going," Ms Harradine said.

"It's helped people who can't go anywhere, especially when you're used to going to galleries

it's a highlight for a lot of people."

A key event coming up in December is the 8th Koorie Art Show, which boasts a display of 125 artworks submitted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who reside in Victoria.

The artists range from emerging to professional and all of the artwork will be available to view and purchase online and in the gallery.

"It will be an array of contemporary of traditional styles and mediums including painting, photography, sculpture, fibre and digital mixed media works," Ms Harradine said.

"It will be really interesting to see what people have produced during such a trying year."

Included in the exhibition will be work submitted by artists under 17, as well as work sent in by indigenous offenders and ex-offenders in Victoria as part of a program to reduce the rate of reoffending.

"The Torch is a really amazing program for people who have left prison which encourages the exploration of identity and culture through art," Ms Harradine said.

The show will run from December 5 to February 21 2021 and artists will go into the running to win \$32,000 worth of prizes, including the Creative Victoria Award and the Metro Tunnel Creative Program 2D Award.

As a Wotjobaluk artist herself, Ms Harradine said working as the Trust's curatorial manager for the past two years had been an uplifting experience.

"I used to work at the Trust in the mid-90s, so it's exciting to see how it has evolved and improved over time," Ms Harradine said.

"It has always been about reconciliation so it's great to have a space where indigenous art can be showcased." ●

For the latest information about Koorie Krismas and the 8th Koorie Art show:
korieheritagetrust.com.au



▲ *Gail Harradine.*

Photo credit Sandy Hodge.

MISSION TO SEAFARERS



Activity returns to the Mission

Opening to the new normal is like waking slowly in a new place that you don't recognise where you are and you don't speak the language.

We are all familiar with the inside of the supermarkets, as they all look the same in each suburb around the country. Easy to navigate, comfortable, recognisable.

Now we are able to emerge from our familiar to explore what we have missed, to gather together to catch up with friends and family, and gain new experiences. When was the last time you explored Melbourne? Travel is back, but to where? Melbourne has so much within walking distance to explore – and is free!

Have you thought about a lie-down and look up tour? Take yourself on a journey around the city of the best dome/ceiling structures where you can lie down and study the roof. It might be the beautiful stained glass roof at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV); the former banking hall of 333 Collins St; the friezes in the arcade at Manchester Unity Building; the Reading Room dome or Queens Hall glass roof in the State Library; and the great churches and cathedrals of Melbourne are all looking forward to visitors.

The last stop should be the Mission to Seafarers for a look though the oculus in the top of the Dome. You might find an exhibition on, a performance, or just stare at the clouds.

You can then explore the rest of the place or stop for a drink in the bar, courtyard or our secret garden.

Join us at the Mission as we reward the seafarers who have kept working all through the lockdown and continue to be confined to their ships without leave. We have goodie bags for them to enjoy on board, but what would make it truly special would be a phone card to call home with. Drop in and buy one for a seafarer and we will ensure it goes directly to a sailor in need. Just like the one who is at a local hotel as he had an accident on board while in the bay. He is waiting to go home after being discharged from hospital after crushing several fingers. We can visit him to comfort him (when we get through all the DHHS protocols), but being home with his family would be better.

During this summer, we are open every day from 12pm for you to venture in, discover our history, or just hang out. Sunday sessions start in January with more to be announced on our website and social media.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, God bless everyone with prosperity and happiness for everyone, and Happy New Year ●



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HISTORY

Sky high over the Yarra

By the 1920s, Australia was embracing the age of aviation. The England-to-Australia exploits of Keith and Ross Smith were inspiring future pioneers of the sky, while in far western Queensland, a small company known as QANTAS was taking off.

Aircraft also revolutionised the way Melbourne could be photographed as seen with this 1925 image featuring the Flinders St extension and Southbank. On this particular day the photographer would have had to bring their camera on board a plane (that seated two or more men), then brave the high velocity winds, the roaring engine noise, and vertigo to take this picture.

Aerial photography was hardly new: from the mid-19th century airborne photographs were taken from gas balloons and box kites.

However, with World War I forcing the progression of photographic technology for reconnaissance work (particularly in cartography), it was inevitable that these advancements would soon apply to commercial use. By the 1920s, aerial photography was being used for many purposes due to its speed, access to otherwise inaccessible terrain and cost. In cartography, it was assisting in the creation of accurate maps of Victoria. In 1923, surveyor R. McGregor collaborated with a Major G.A.C. Cowper (of Shaw-Ross Aviation Co.) to take an aerial map of Coburg for town planning, while braving 80mph speeds and awkward tilting. *The Herald* also recognised its benefits in fire prevention, forest preservation and irrigation (January 9, 1922).

While the exact purpose of this photograph is unknown, it does give us a birds-eye view of the ports along the Yarra. At the middle right of frame (where the Exhibition Centre now stands) are two graving docks that were owned by the Duke and Orr Amalgamated Dry Docks Ltd, which had merged from two separate companies in 1910. During this time, both their timber-made dry docks could hold boats up to 6000 tons for repairs, painting and cleaning. The dry one with a ship inside is the Orr dock, which had been in existence since 1878. The longer dock filled with water is Duke's Dock. Initially built in 1875, after reconstructions in the 1900s it stretched as far as 520 feet. However, on this day it was out of commission due to floods in 1923 when water rushed through two holes at the gate. Despite estimates it would take a year



to repair and the erection of a coffer dam, further flooding would sideline it until 1926.

Above the graving docks, one gets a view of the streets of Melbourne, as well as what would become Southbank, in the years when ships were free to sail past Spencer St to the wharves along Flinders St. The diagonal bridge cutting between Princes Bridge and Queens Bridge is Sandridge Bridge. Starting as a wooden bridge in the 1850s, the current incarnation was opened in 1888, carrying a railway that took tourists and civilians from Flinders St to the seaside at St. Kilda and Port Melbourne. Further up Southbank, are the factories of Allen's sweets and J. P. Summit and Son's ice cream, which created confections that generations of children enjoyed.

Finally, there is the left bank below the Spencer St viaduct, the Flinders St extension. During the early 1920s it had a reputation for being a dusty thoroughfare, which was prone to become muddy in wet weather. Sometimes the mud got so bad that according to *The Herald* (July 19, 1923) it was "almost impossible to cross over without sinking over one's shoe tops in the ooze." On the far left, is a brick wall

dividing the goods yards of Spencer Street Station from the road. Known as the "Wailing Wall", it was common to see men rejected from the nearby stevedores office standing along the structure as they waited for another chance to earn their daily bread at the docks. At the bottom right of Flinders St is the Victorian Mission to Seamen, now known as the Mission to Seafarers. Designed by architect Walter Butler and constructed in 1916, the church and its domed-shaped gymnasium assisted in the moral wellbeing of wharf workers and sailors (especially those at the nearby Sailors' home, seen top right of the neighbouring Siddeley St). Along the bank of the extension are various sheds, where steamships from various companies would pick up cargo and deliver interstate or overseas.

As we know, there have been huge changes to this part of Melbourne in the ensuing 95 years. By the Great Depression a bridge linking Spencer St and South Melbourne would block off large ships from Queens Wharf. The Depression would claim Orr's Dock in 1932, while Duke's Dock would soldier on until the inability to meet demands of larger ships saw it

end business in 1975. Today it's the home of the *Polly Woodside*. The Sandridge Bridge carried its last train in 1987 and was redeveloped into a walkway with monuments to our multicultural history. Even the factories and sheds that lined the banks are gone for casinos, shopping complexes and hotels.

But the more things change the more they stay the same – the Mission to Seafarers is still in use as a heritage site, and the Wailing Wall (give or take some modifications) still lines Flinders St beyond the viaduct. Then there's the Yarra, which continues to snake through the city to this very day.

And if you see a hot air balloon fly over the river, it's a sure bet that a tourist will take a snap of this view once more ●



Ashley Smith

RESEARCHER
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
VICTORIA

CHAMBER UPDATE

Docklands events in December

We've been allowed to plan for our first events since COVID struck us all into lockdown.

We've organised a plethora of entertainment for the Docklands Christmas Markets on Sunday December 6 starting at 12pm and continuing all the way through until 8pm.

Santa will be making appearances all day and the Docklands Choir will be singing their Christmas favourites from 3pm to 4pm. We've sourced some of the busking talent currently performing along NewQuay Promenade and they will be entertaining the eastern end of the promenade (city side) from 4pm. We've also brought in the very talented DJ Perri Lee and vocalist Alex Rose to entertain from Cargo restaurant from 4pm until the markets close.

This will be followed up the week after with Christmas Chocolate Workshops with Kep Whitley. Partnered by us and the City of Melbourne, Kep will be hosting six workshops in total with two being for the kids and four for the adults. All participants will be able to take their creations home and if you want to see how talented she is, head to Instagram @kepwhit-

ley for some of her creations.

It's free to register for this opportunity and the best way is to head to our Facebook – [fb.me/melbdock](https://www.facebook.com/melbdock) for the event details and link. The draw will be held on December 7 and the workshop will be covered in our socials on the December 14, 15 and 16.

Leading the way in events and activations have been the hard-working crew at The District Docklands as well. In late November we saw entertainers throughout the entire centre to welcome in Black Friday sales and then the gorgeous District Doggo Market on the Sunday. Head to our Instagram for some of the images – [instagram.com/docklandsmelb](https://www.instagram.com/docklandsmelb)

Our focus over the holiday period

One thing has become very clear to me coming out of restrictions and that is the world has changed forever. In line with this we're going to be focusing our efforts in the next two months on profiling every single one of our member businesses and just what they are doing post restrictions. Last year our social media reached in excess of 10 million views. It's an asset we have invested in with time, money and staffing and we're going to put it to our members advantage even more than normal.

We've also just redesigned our website to be more reflective of what is happening as of right now.

So, if you'd like to take advantage of our socials and our website to ramp up your business exposure – [docklandsc.com.au](https://www.docklandsc.com.au) – then the already minimal annual fee is being waived until February.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting (AGM)

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce AGM was held at last on November 12 via Zoom. Financials are posted on our website for 2019/20 detailing a loss for the financial year due to a heavy investment in profiling the case for permanent activation of Victoria Harbour and hosting the very first Docklands Business Awards. The executive committee now consists of:

- Johanna Maxwell - returned unanimously as president
- Daniel Hibberd - returned unanimously as vice president
- Mo Hamdouna - returned unanimously as secretary
- Glenda Archibald - returned unanimously

as treasurer

- Ahmad Trad – returned
- Peter Kelly – returned
- Wei Xiong - new member (Sebel Docklands)
- Mark Scholem - new member (New Energy Physiotherapy)
- Vanessa Muggianu - new member (Berth Restaurant and Events)

I'd like to personally thank our outgoing executives - Stacy Andronikos, Nicole Hill, Mark Sutherland and Athol Hodgetts.

And on that final note, have a safe festive period everyone. Look after your locals and share a smile when your mask comes off ●



Shane Wylie

MEDIA DIRECTOR
[DOCKLANDSC.COM.AU](https://www.docklandsc.com.au)

DOCKLANDS
Chamber of Commerce

Returning to Batman's Hill



Hello again all. My first two columns on the Batman's Hill precinct aimed to get you out and about and exploring the area, particularly during lockdown when engaging exercise could otherwise be hard to come by.



As a kid I was a fanatical fan of the superhero Batman. I lost count of the number of times my family would be driving over the Batman Bridge in Tasmania and my father would say to me, "No, Tim. It's not the 'Bat-Man Bridge'. It's the Batm'n Bridge". At that age I would have wet myself with excitement had someone told me I'd one day live in a place call Bat-Man's Hill!

I'm sure many of you know that the Batman part of the name Batman's Hill refers not to the superhero but to John Batman who in 1835 travelled from Tasmania to Port Phillip where he negotiated a (controversial) treaty with the local Aboriginals for land which he thought, "would be the place for a village". He named the land Batmania but it is better known today as Melbourne. The Hill part of the Batman's Hill name refers to the hill which used to stand in the precinct and on which John Batman's house was built. There is still a marker for the hill which you can see from the western side of the Melbourne Quarter sales office near the top of the Collins St overpass. Look for a very long pole sticking out of the ground not too far from Bunjil the Eagle; it was actually quite a tall hill. Unsurprisingly Batman's Hill Drive was also named for the same reasons as the precinct.

Two of the streets around the Village V1 building are named Georgiana St and McCrae St. Georgiana McCrae was a fascinating woman. She was the illegitimate daughter of a marquis who eventually became a portrait painter. She reluctantly married a not very successful lawyer, Andrew McCrae who moved to Melbourne in 1838 where Georgiana followed in 1840. They built a house near the Yarra River where they lived until financial difficulties forced them to move to a pastoral lease near Arthur's Seat. There they lived very simply with their seven children, and became self-sufficient. Georgiana was well-connected socially and entertained people across a wide social gamut. She also gained a local reputation

as a "medicine woman". When Georgiana and Andrew again suffered financial problems, they split and she returned to Melbourne to rent a house in Latrobe St where she enjoyed an active social life especially in the world of arts and literature. When her father's wife died, Georgiana had expected a bequest and was shocked to find she'd been left nothing. Georgiana spent a number of years living with her children in various suburbs around Melbourne before she died in 1890 aged 86. Despite the numerous setbacks in her life, she was described as a woman of great courage, personality and ability. Her cottage in Arthurs Seat is now owned by the National Trust.

Moving on, can anyone tell me what a fishplate is? Anyone? It's a flat piece of metal used to connect adjacent rails in a railway track. Stand on many station platforms and you'll be able to see one. There were once lots of railway tracks in the area to move goods around between ships, warehouses and so on. Hence the name Fishplate Lane.

Brentani Way is another street adjacent to the Village V1 building and again is named after an interesting character. Charles Brentani was a silversmith who was transported to Australia in 1835 on the ship *Aurora* as a convict after stealing some silver instead of smithing it. An interesting article on Charles Brentani was published in *Docklands News* on July 2, 2019 (docklandsnews.com.au/editions/article/the-gold-rush-jeweller_15404/). Briefly, Brentani obtained his freedom in 1841, was central to the discovery of gold in Victoria and became a jeweller, silversmith and gold purchaser operating on Collins St during the gold rush. It was his business that made the original Melbourne Cup. He died a wealthy man in 1853 from alcohol withdrawal; presumably as a result of top shelf tastes.

Not far from Brentani Way is Aurora Lane. The City of Melbourne tells me the lane was

named by Vic Urban in 2004 after the *Aurora Australis* and the Southern *Aurora* train. I can't help wondering if that is completely correct given the ship *Charles Brentani* was transported on was named *Aurora*. It seems a little too much of a coincidence given the streets' close proximity. In any case, for those who don't know, the *Aurora Australis* is the southern hemisphere version of the *Aurora Borealis*. Pity you can't see it from Aurora Lane, although it is visible from Tasmania! The Southern *Aurora* train was an overnight express passenger train that operated between Melbourne and Sydney between 1962 and 1986.

Lastly, I shall mention Village St. I'm not actually certain where this name came from. I'm guessing it was named around the same time as Aurora Lane, that is 2004. The Village V1 building was opened in 2005 so I'm not sure which came first; the chicken or the egg. Until the land around it was sold due to the GFC, the Village V1 building was supposed to be one of four towers, each connected by a skybridge at the podium level. I understand the idea was that with the laneways and connected buildings sharing facilities, the area was supposed to have a village-like feel to it, which makes me suspect it was the development which led to the street name rather than vice versa. If anyone happens to know the answer, I'd love to hear.

On that note, I shall sign off with a thumbs up to all Docklanders who have done the hard yards in getting us to the point where life is returning to something resembling normalcy. Until next time. ●



Tim Martin

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Five tips to unplug and unwind this Christmas

Part of achieving a healthy work-life balance is allowing yourself to take a break. Whether you are going away for a short weekend away, or a longer trip, it is easy to unplug from a constant state of connectivity and unwind – with a little self-discipline!

Technology and social media have made it easy to connect with friends and family, know what is going on in the world at any moment, and search and purchase whatever we need instantly. The negative impact, however, is that it can limit our attention span, memory, mood, energy levels and our ability to feel ourselves and live in the present moment.

There are many benefits to stepping away and taking time to actively disconnect. You will be giving your body, mind, and emotions the time to unwind and recharge, from the constant stimulation of electronic devices.

It is well known that the blue light from computers and phones leads to fatigue, stress and strain. When you are on alert constantly, waiting for the next message or notification, your nervous system cannot fully unwind, which affects your ability to rest deeply at night.

If you take the time to have a break and unwind, you will be more productive; a break can bring in higher levels of thinking, reflection, and creativity. This in turn will help you connect more to you and be in the present.

Being in beautiful open spaces in nature gets you earthed and at one with nature. Exploring new activities opens your heart and mind, creating new memories, as does enjoying being by yourself and/or in the company of others.

1. Start by planning when you will be away and for how long, and what level of connectivity you will need.

2. Set clear expectations

3. Set the expectation that you will be unreachable until you return, so fewer people will try to get in touch. This will allow you time and space to unplug completely. If you do need to attend to work-related matters, create a few ground rules and stick to them. E.g. Pop into your inbox once a day, for no more than 15 minutes.

4. Filter your email inbox

5. Set up an automated out-of-office responder email to inform people you are away and include the date of your return. Set incoming emails to automatically be filed in a folder, so you do not have to deal with them until you return. Unsubscribe from emails you do not read.

6. Limit your phone access

7. When you are at home, turn your phone on silent and put it in a drawer in another room. Set no-phone zones in your home e.g. the dining room, or an entire living space. Create time to sit down with friends and family in person versus communicating with them on your phone. If you are going out visiting, leave your phone at home. If you are away, leave your phone in a drawer for as long as you can, and try not to take it out with you. Set a time limit of under 10 minutes for scrolling in the morning or evening.



8. Plan your return

9. Often people fail to take a break, because the thought of returning to work means there will be an overwhelming number of tasks to complete. Plan your return by blocking out a couple of hours to respond to emails the day you get back. Also, schedule times to connect with colleagues to get updated on anything you may have missed.

10. Commit to unplug and unwind

11. To unplug and unwind you need to commit, follow through and disconnect from technology. Notice how grounded, centred, and settled you feel when you do not spend your day responding to text messages, or reacting to social media posts.

Essential oils can be supportive in helping you re-connect to your senses as they trigger many healing responses. At Docklands Health, we have a popular selection of pure therapeutic grade essential oils for purchase. Our in-house therapist has created a wonderful uplifting "Christmas Cheer" blend, that contains pure Australian Native essential oils with lovely citrus notes and the rare honey myrtle that smell like a burst of sunshine. These can be purchased at our clinic at Shop 4/860 Collins St, Docklands.

Massage is another way to stay connected to your body and take that all important pause and time out to de-stress and unplug. Our three therapists have a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Call us on 9088 3228 or book online at [Docklands Health](https://docklandshealth.com.au) ●



Claire Lamicela

MASSAGE AND AROMATHERAPY

[DOCKLANDSHEALTH.COM.AU](https://docklandshealth.com.au)

State cladding group splits from VBA

Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) is splitting off from the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) to become the world's first standalone agency for combustible cladding rectification.

CSV has kindly provided We Live Here with a report card on its progress this year:

- 460 individual owners' corporations (OC) have met with CSV.
- CSV has inspected and facilitated remediation plans for 310 buildings.
- CSV has helped 200 funded buildings to appoint independent project managers (IPMs). The manager's role includes assisting OCs through the rectification process and to ensure that works run smoothly.
- 200 remediation works will be in progress by July 2021.

Absent from the report was data on the extent of the financial support being provided to buildings. We have followed this up with CSV and are awaiting an answer.

"A danger to life, safety or health"

CSV told We Live Here that "combustible cladding detected on the exterior of your building doesn't necessarily mean that your building is unsafe. However, once a fire starts combustible cladding may contribute to the spread of fire."

The CSV advice conflicts with what most of you are reading on your council building order, which uses legally mandated language that is much less comforting.

How are we supposed to manage the risk? CSV's advice includes instructions to OCs not to use barbecues and not to smoke on balconies.

What about short-stays? The CSV has not provided any advice on how to deal with transient guests who are more likely to be ignorant of fire safety issues.

What happens with guests with mobility issues and other medical needs? When the fire brigade attends an alarm, one of the first actions is to check the list of residents with special needs. Short-stays rarely if ever, keep the building manager informed on occupancy. The short-stay industry needs to fall into line on this issue and CSV could assist.

DHHS unresponsive

Both the Minister for Health and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) are washing their hands of responsibility for the pandemic risks associated with short-stays.

We asked Minister for Health Martin Foley what his plans were for protecting residents from the health risks posed by the short-stay industry, given that we are overrun with short-stay platforms and Australia is the most penetrated market outside USA.

The galling answer from the minister's office was risible:

"Your enquiry has been referred to the Ministerial Office, who are the appropriate people to answer these questions. Our office also recommends contacting Airbnb itself to enquire as to the health and safety measures it requires hosts to undertake."

So, there we have it – Minister Foley's beneficent blessing for self-regulation by behemoth multinationals accused of having no regard for local communities in any country. Australia now has the distinction of being the most penetrated market for short-term letting outside the USA.

Vision for 2021

So, when the pandemic is under control and we return to some semblance of normality – whatever that is – we will be emerging into a new landscape, one created by a microorganism.

How we live and work could be vastly different from what we have known in the past and we must use the opportunity presented to us to get it right.

All stakeholders need to have a say in how Melbourne should look in the future including, planners, developers, businesspeople, all levels of government, and all those that live, work, and visit the city.

Reset now

We need a reset now – we'll never get a better opportunity.

The new norm for the Melbourne accommodation industry must include proper provision for students; those needing social housing, or medium-priced housing; residents-owner occupiers and long-term tenants; and visitors – business and holidaymakers.

The hotel industry must not be ignored in all this. The accommodation must be fit-for-purpose. We all must have a seat at the table.

Residential apartments and short stays

Residential Class 2 Buildings in which 83 per cent of the population of Melbourne currently live should be for residents only – except for individual owners renting out a room in their own apartment for short-stays when they are also present.

Commercial operators leasing many apartments for their own gain, not contributing to the wear and tear on the buildings they operate in should be banned forever.

Buildings that are segmented into hotel, apartments for short-term letting and apartments for permanent residents, are okay

provided they have separate management, entrances, car parks, etc. and must be tightly controlled – with severe penalties for breaches.

There needs to be more purpose-built apartment hotels to accommodate short stays.

In other words, there are ample options for accommodating visitors instead of greedy short-term operators being allowed to cram them into Residential Class 2 buildings never designed for the purpose; especially now that our buildings have become COVID-safe since the Stage 4 lockdown and should remain so.

Reclaim the title of "World's most liveable city"

So, when the pandemic is under control and we start to move into a new landscape please can the city planners have a vision that will accommodate all those who live, work and play here so we once again reclaim the title of the most liveable city in the world?

For this to happen there must be a level playing field in which all stakeholders have a say.

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, please visit our website at welfare.net. We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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OWNERS' CORPORATION LAW

Watch out, not all liability insurance policies are created equal

Do you sit on the committee of your owners' corporation (OC)?

If you do, are you sure that you and your personal assets are adequately protected if the committee and the OC have proceedings filed against them?

The good news is that adequate and reasonably affordable insurance coverage is readily available. The bad news is that most OCs do not have adequate coverage.

The problem very often occurs because the directors and officers (D&O) liability coverage is not the focus of the OC's insurance package. The reason it is often not the focus is that most brokers are not intimately familiar with the coverage, and to be honest, this is not a big-ticket item for most brokers. Although it is not the main generator of premium, it is a coverage that requires careful thought. In fact, the OC manager, who is usually delegated the responsibility to renew or obtain the insurance, should demand that the best available insurance coverage be presented.

The second problem is due to the fact that, most often, the main insurers of OCs are the direct insurers like the big, nationally-known insurance carriers (this is not to say that some of these carriers may not have a more comprehensive product available). These carriers may provide a great product from a property and general liability standpoint; however, they generally do not provide a comprehensive directors and officers liability product. Everyone assumes that they have full coverage. The reality is that "full coverage" and "appropriate coverage" are not the same thing.

There is no question that you get what you pay for in insurance.

In summary, if you cannot answer yes to virtually all of the following questions, your D&O coverage is probably not adequate:

- Does the definition of insured extend

beyond the actual committee members and office bearers?

- Does the definition of insured protect past, present, and future members?
- Does the definition of insured include employees (such as caretakers or building managers and cleaners if employed by the OC)?
- Does the policy provide a defence to claims and proceedings (as opposed to just reimbursing for such costs)?
- Does the policy cover defamation?
- Does the policy defend claims seeking non-monetary loss?
- Does the policy cover wrongful termination or other employer liability claims?
- Does the policy cover discrimination?
- Does the policy defend you where there is a claim or lawsuit for failure to maintain or obtain adequate insurance?

The potential claims against OCs and committees are only limited by the creativity of plaintiffs and their lawyers.

In these times when people have no qualms or concerns about suing their neighbours, let alone their own committee or building, the proper protection is worth its weight in gold.

My advice is that each committee should review their policy and ask your broker and the OC manager to obtain the maximum possible coverage, relative to the size of the building and the complexity of its issues (and occupants for that matter). It is better to be safe than to be sorry ●



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10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands News - 10 Years On

DECEMBER - JANUARY 2010 | ISSUE 60

DOCKLANDS NEWS

North Wharf to stay low key

The State Government has selected a sympathetic "local" bid to redevelop North Wharf.

WORDS BY *Shane Scanlan*

Under the successful bid by a consortium comprising Asset 1 and the World Trade Centre (WTC), Seafarers Park will be retained in full and enhanced.

A real estate agent's prospectus calling for registrations of interest sparked outrage in April when it said the Government was willing to rezone the park from "public park and recreation" to "capital city zone 1" to allow development.

Local MP Bronwyn Pike subsequently assured Flinders Wharf residents that this was not the case, and denied intervening in the process.

The historically-protected Shed 5 and crane will be restored as part of the successful bid and a modest commercial building of 10 to 12 storeys will be built on the land between the shed and Wurundjeri Way.

WTC director Phil Hill said an "ultra-luxe" hotel would also be part of the development.

He said the 40-room hotel would be incorporated into the shed and could sit above the river. Mr Hill said the hotel would set new standards for luxury in Melbourne.

The rest of Shed 5 would most likely have an "epicurean" function, he said.

WTC has separately entered into an agreement with the Mission to Seafarers to establish a building restoration foundation for the heritage-listed charity in Flinders St.

Mr Hill's consortium signed a memorandum of understanding with the State Government in October. But there is a fair way to go before actual plans are revealed.

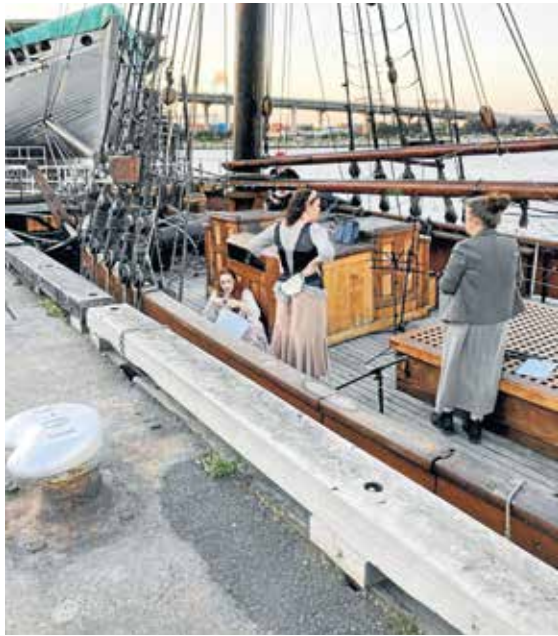
Mr Hill said the agreement reached with the Government was "high level" and research and design would continue until early 2011 when a proposal would be ready for public comment. He declined to say what he offered to pay for the long-term leasehold.

He said it was unlikely that work would start within the next two years and it was likely to be a further two years before completion.

It is understood that the WTC bid beat more robust proposals for residential towers.

"Ours is a mixed use, medium-density bid which we believe is the right blend of uses for the site," Mr Hill said ●

MARITIME



Calling all shipping enthusiasts!

Now that we are unmasked and strolling about unencumbered by compulsory mask-wearing, Docklands residents are literally very well placed to enjoy a bit more ship “spotting”.

It's a fun pastime enhanced by knowing more about what you are seeing around the waterways of your Docklands neighbourhood. The World Ship Society (Victorian Branch) produces a wonderfully informative monthly newsletter about all sorts of vessels to be seen regularly around at Docklands. For example, the record-smashing CMA CGM vessel *Ural* container ship built in 2015 which departed Melbourne in late September having recorded the largest container exchange to date (8094 TEU) from Webb Dock from September 22 to 26, eclipsing the former record holder, the vessel *Maersk Sydney's* (7430 TEU) a few weeks earlier at East Swanson Dock. (For your information – a “TEU” is a measure of volume in units of 20-foot long containers, which stands for twenty-foot equivalent unit. Very Large container ships are able to transport more than 18,000 TEU (a few can even carry more than 21,000 TEU)). Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) encourages you to follow ships online with shipping news updated hourly! See: vicports.vic.gov.au/operations/Pages/ship-movements.aspx#4

Turning from huge ships to charming heri-

tage vessels, did you hear the cast of the Good Girl Song Project singing sweetly while filming their production on vessel *Enterprize* on Collins Wharf on a warm still night recently? Listen to this and see plenty of Docklands images: thegoodgirlsongproject.com. The project offers a female perspective of an early Australian immigration story set in Australia's complex colonial past. Amid the convict boats arriving each week from Britain, another boat carrying a different “cargo” set sail for Australia. On board the boat are 287 single and free women heading off to the “end of the world” where a “better” life awaits. These “good girls” have been promised good wages, good work and good marriage prospects in the new colony. However, to reach this new and “better life” they had first to survive the long dangerous voyage and then survive the prejudice and poverty in the colony. The Good Girl Song Project is the work of Helen Begley and based on the book *Single and Free* by MMHN board member Dr Liz Rushen.

Moving now from the versatile ship to stage *Enterprize* to a more recent heritage vessel literally undergoing repair at your Docklands doorstep at Southbank.

The *MV Grower*, built in 1924, for the Kincumber Grower' Co-operative in NSW to transport produce from the many market gardens around Brisbane Water – an estuary located in the Central Coast region. In 2002 she was brought to Melbourne in a very sad state of disrepair. Fortunately for those of us concerned about maritime heritage, the current owners, Classic Steamboat Cruises, has gradually and very comprehensively restored her over the years by replacing all of the ribs, 60 per cent of the planking, installing a new stem post, wheelhouse, deck and deck beams, sponsons, rudder and engine. Maritime heritage stakeholders everywhere are pleased to see she has been given such meticulous care and attention – and a lot of the work has been visible from the banks of the CBD at Berth 3 Southbank lower Promenade. Classic Steamboat Cruises is expanding the Yarra heritage “flotilla” in 2022 to include the *SL Protector* built in 1917, currently under restoration. See classicsteamboatcruises.com.au.

Leaving the waterways now, the MMHN is delighted to discover that the long-awaited Docklands Primary School has plans to embrace the spirit of its unique Docklands location and

its new school logo indicates this.

MMHN hopes to develop an ongoing supportive relationship with this brand new school and that all students, teachers and parents come to understand the significance of Docklands in our past and in our present. Melbourne's prosperity in the past originates from our Docklands and continues today. Melbourne is the largest port in the nation. Melbourne is indeed a great maritime city and pupils at the new school will be at its heart. May all of those involved in establishing this Docklands school, and all the new students, have great fun and become the maritime heritage enthusiasts of the future ●



Jackie Watts

CHAIR OF MELBOURNE MARITIME HERITAGE NETWORK
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SKYPAD LIVING

Vertical village energy consumption

The Victorian Government has announced \$797 million for energy improvements – how much of this might our energy-hungry vertical villages access?

Our vertical villages are considered “expensive energy guzzlers”.

In particular, our common areas are accused of comprising – or exceeding – 20 per cent of our building's total administrative fees as they account for up to 60 per cent of our building's total energy consumption.

Naturally then, there was great anticipation that the Victorian Government's super-splurge of \$797 million on energy efficiency would bring good news for apartment-dwellers. And on November 17, the Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio announced that this multi-million dollar energy efficiency stimulus package would deliver:

- \$335 million to replace old wood, electric and gas-fired heaters with new energy-efficient systems in 250,000 homes;

- \$112 million to upgrade the comfort and efficiency of 35,000 social homes;
- \$14 million for appliance upgrades under the Victorian Energy Upgrades program; and
- New minimum energy efficiency standards for rentals homes to ensure that they are fit for habitation will be in place from 2022.

Anything for residential apartment buildings?

While apartment residents can potentially access funds for appliance upgrades, missing from this scheme is any focus upon redressing the specific challenges encountered by apartment buildings. This was a view echoed on a recent Energy Efficiency Council session where both guests, Nick Aberle from Environment Victoria and Kellie Caught from Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), agreed that apartment buildings did not really benefit from this scheme because “apartment buildings are difficult”. Kellie Caught proceeded to comment that the government was addressing social housing in the scheme, and that as some social housing is high-rise, residential buildings might also draw some benefit.

Such comments again underscore the lack of understanding about residential strata.

As was evident in the COVID-19 discussions with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), government decision-makers appear to consider similar high-rise public housing, high-rise student accommodation and high-rise residential strata. This perception might also go some to explaining why our vertical villages are typically not included in other residential assistance programs, such as the Victorian Government Solar Homes Package – because residents in high-rise public housing, student accommodation or residential strata “do not own their roof”. However, the difference is that in residential strata, we collectively own our roof.

There is, however, a light on the hill.

CSIRO, in conjunction with Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, is undertaking a project aimed at profiling the energy consumption of our common areas.

According to Michael Ambrose, Senior Experimental Scientist, Energy at CSIRO, it is vital to have a greater understanding of how, when and where high-rise residential apartment buildings consume energy – because without this detailed data, energy efficiency

improvements typically take a “hit-and-miss” approach. For the initial stage of the project, a small number of residential buildings located in the City of Melbourne have been engaged. Over the coming year, energy consumption monitoring equipment will be installed to capture energy consumption data.

While the ultimate aim is to build the capacity of high-rise apartments to improve their energy consumption, the specific aim of this project is to test tools for profiling energy consumption in different high-rise residential buildings.

Over the coming year, this column will report upon this project's progress – and in the meantime, thanks to CSIRO and the federal government for recognising the needs of our vertical villages! ●



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/
SKYPADLIVING/

Growing the next generation of Docklanders

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

“To leave the world better than when you entered it” is an ideology many strive for. It is also one that underpins all teaching at Gowrie Docklands.

Gowrie Docklands, which is to become Gowrie at The Harbour when a second location partnering with Docklands Primary School opens in early 2021, has been an integral part of early childhood education in the area for more than a decade.

Specialising in long day care programs for children aged between six weeks and five years and an integrated kindergarten program for three- and four-year-olds, the team at Gowrie at The Harbour place an ever-present emphasis on connecting their children with the broader community with the aim of preparing generations of socially- and environmentally-conscious children.

Hidden away on Seafarer Lane, Gowrie at The Harbour occupies the entire first floor of what would easily be misconstrued as a regular Victoria Harbour office building; however, one step outside the elevator doors will show this building is anything but regular.

Centred around an enormous multi-space playground with fully established flora, Gowrie at The Harbour is an educational oasis for children, staff and parents surrounded by high-rise living and working.

Gowrie at The Harbour executive manager of early learning Nicole Pilsworth said it was imperative the nine classrooms horseshoed the outdoor area to allow for connectivity and development among children of all ages.

“To create such a beautiful space, that people wouldn’t necessarily know about until they saw it, it is quite unique,” Ms Pilsworth said.

“It is part of who we are as an organisation. Docklands is one of five, soon to be six, Gowrie early learning services whose philosophies all centre around natural play spaces and connecting children with nature.”

Without alignment to a formal educational philosophy, Ms Pilsworth said all Gowrie centres used a combination of learning theories such as the Reggio Emilia Approach.

The Reggio Emilia Approach is an educational philosophy based on the image of a child with strong potentialities for development and a subject with rights ... and grows in relations with others.

“Our educational philosophies are about empowering and enabling children at a young age to become active decision-makers and members in their communities,” Ms Pilsworth said.

“If we can educate these children that there

is more than their own two- or four-year-old perspective, then by the time they become adults, they have a broader and more informed understanding of the world.”

“In non-COVID times, you would regularly see Gowrie children out in the community, visiting the library or going for walks and observing different parts of the bigger wider world. It is something we hold very close with our teaching to ensure children are becoming active citizens in their communities.”

According to Ms Pilsworth, during her three-and-a-half years at Gowrie at The Harbour she had seen a marked increase in the number of children attending the early learning centre based in Docklands.

“We’ve remained that one constant in a world of uncertainty. We have worked incredibly hard for our staff to stay connected throughout lockdowns and have grown our communication to let families know we are here for them,” Ms Pilsworth said.

“We’ve become an important conduit for families to stay connected, not only with our services but to other families.”

With the impending opening of Gowrie Docklands Kindergarten in early 2021, Ms Pilsworth welcomed the news from the state government announcement of free kindergarten for three- and four-year-olds.

The \$169.6m scheme would offer free kindergarten for three- and four-year-olds in funded programs, and reduced fees for three-year-olds in unfunded, sessional kinder.

“It’s an exciting initiative. We have been part of advocacy through several different avenues to get that through. It will mean there will be no-cost kindergarten for a lot of families in Docklands and, those accessing longer day kindergarten programs, their fees will be subsidised too,” Ms Pilsworth said.

“It gives families the flexibility in terms of whether they want short- or long-day kindergarten programs, which will be offered throughout the year, rather than just school terms.”

With a turbulent 2020 now behind them, Ms Pilsworth and her team at Gowrie Victoria are looking ahead to an exciting 2021.

“We are looking to rebuild and re-establish the connection with our community partners such as the library and community gardens. It has been a huge detriment to our children that we have not been able to immerse them with the wider community.” ●

For more information:
gowrievictoria.org.au/docklands



Spicing up your life at Spice Lab

Docklanders now have a new state of art sub continental supermarket for all their culinary and grocery needs.



Spice Lab, opposite The District Docklands on Docklands Drive, was the idea of owner and creator, Kiran Aryan, and is the fulfilment of a dream five years in the making.

A proud Indian and an Australia resident, Kiran has long felt the need for Docklands to have its very own sub-continental supermarket.

The shop he felt always needed to be big enough to supply the vast array of varied items in demand by locals and sub-continental residents alike.

The site, formerly a fashion showroom, offered the size and profile ideal for the venture. Excited by the size and space Kiran had to work with, he decided to add additional aspects to the original idea.

They included a coffee window with an outdoor seating area immediately outside the shop, liquor licence to be able to supply sub-continental alcohol the likes of which are found in very few places within Melbourne, and in the near future a website that will support click and collect and free home delivery.

The Docklands Spice Lab is located at 2/427 Docklands Drive ●

For more information:
facebook.com/spicelab2020/



Income solutions for today's investor

In a world that is always changing, investors are constantly searching for high-quality, consistent income solutions.

WORDS BY *Daryl Hill*
LA TROBE FINANCIAL

La Trobe Financial's performance record in times of volatility has proven popular with investors for almost seven decades.

Established in 1952 and now with \$11 billion of assets under management, La Trobe Financial is one of Australia's leading diversified wealth managers, specialising in funding and investment solutions.

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La Trobe Financial's investment options provide a regular monthly income, and its range is set to expand in the coming months with new offerings designed to provide investors with even more choice and opportunity.

La Trobe Financial prides itself on transparency, being externally audited, externally rated and having received numerous Australian and international awards.

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service to make investing easier, with investors ranging from household name global banks, Australian banks, large international pension funds and local managers right through to everyday Australians.

An investment account with La Trobe Financial allows access to a suite of products, including its flagship 12-month term account, which alone has more than \$3.5 billion in assets under management. The 12-month term account is both the highest-rated fund in its sector, and also the most diversified. It has an incredible track record of performance, including zero investor losses since it commenced as an investment offering in October 2002, and returns a current variable rate of 4.35 per cent per annum (determined monthly).

Investors have benefited from the consistency of its income profile for many years, zero losses, all income being paid each month, on time and in full, and all maturity redemptions also being made on time, and in full.

If you would like to discuss La Trobe Financial's range of income generating products I am a local dedicated authorised representative based in the Docklands, available to provide you with direct personal services ●

For more information:
0408 566 524 or darylhill@dwhillar.com.au

ABBY'S ANGLE

It is time!

It is time to celebrate! It is time to deck the halls with boughs of holly, it is time to chill the champagne and peel the prawns, it is time to rejoice!

The year that we never thought we would have, is nearly finished and what an absolute gift it is that we can spend Christmas and New Year with the people we love, with (at the time of writing) the increasing relaxation of restrictions. The fight has been worth it, the sacrifice and discipline we have seen across our country, has made us one of the most fortunate through this "unprecedented" year. And it's almost over.

The year is almost over and many of us have a wonderful belief that come January 1, 2021, everything will just return to normal. A new year, a new start. I love this overt optimism and I wholeheartedly believe that being positive is a far better approach than being consumed by scepticism.

I have been thinking about the new year, and with a slight giggle, thinking how wonderful it would be if it was all "back to normal". And I've been thinking that we really don't appreciate what we have – our freedom, our (national) health, our security – until it's been threatened. 2020 has been the year that not only threatened but compromised our freedom and our sense of security.

As the restrictions ease and we excitedly head to events and dinners, drinks and gatherings, it's easy to feel that all the "bad" is behind us. And it is wonderful to embrace the opportunities to reconnect, to reengage with all aspects of our life; with family, friends, business, health and travel. And yet, as I return to host or participate in more and more events for clients

and charities, I am hearing something being reinforced again and again ... "I don't want things to 'go back to normal'".

I have heard this from guest chefs at a recent event, who were busy showing me photos of their young children with whom they unexpectedly had more time. I have heard this from young mothers, who have unexpectedly worked from home and found juggling the commitments of work and home to be far easier. I have heard this from students who have enjoyed a break from the relentless activities they have been overwhelmed by. I have heard this from families who now have chickens and pets, and their new rituals of tending to their additions has been liberating.

So, as we excitedly move toward 2021, and as we embrace all that we hope it will deliver – I also pray that we carry with us the learnings of 2020. In the words of Albert Einstein, "adversity introduces a man to himself". And it would appear, that perhaps adversity has also reintroduced us to some of the priorities we used to hold dear, and possibly had lost through the hectic pace of our lives that we were living "back when it was normal".

My Christmas wish for us all, is to cherish each other. To find peace, to find calm. To uphold our values, and prioritise how we spend our time. It is time for us to celebrate, it is time for us to look forward to 2021. But it is also time for us to find a "new normal".

With much love, and best wishes ●



Abby Crawford

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CRITIC

Parody of rich Asians a local hit

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

You can say a lot more in fiction than you can in other genres and novelist Kevin Kwan is free and easy about lampooning rich Asians and their pretensions.

His latest novel *Sex and Vanity* is so popular that it has 48 reserves on it at Library on the Dock.

Librarians have tried to remedy the situation by creating a "play list" of similar reads.

It's still not possible to browse in person at City of Melbourne libraries so their efforts should be appreciated by borrowers searching online.

Sex and Vanity has been classified as a romantic comedy and readers can find a list of 14 read-alikes on the library site.

But it has to be said that it's difficult to imagine how anything could really compare to the audacity of this 2020 parody of Chinese/American culture by the author of *Crazy Rich Asians*.

Kevin Kwan is famous and a confident commentator who loves wealth, New York, fashion and labels of every kind, and every page is a who's who of designers, boutiques and restaurants, with footnotes for the uninitiated.

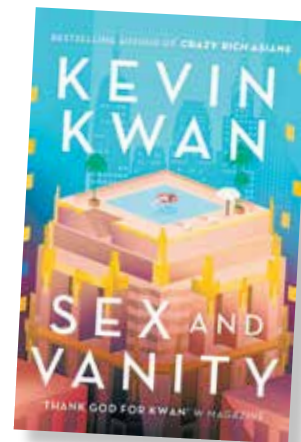
The story takes a while to emerge through the constant patter and name-dropping but it is there, and eventually brings the book alive.

Lucie, the young confused protagonist, is part Chinese and part US "old money" and she has to make a choice between playing the status game and herself.

She has an inexplicable attraction to George, a mix of Hong Kong Chinese and Aussie, who wears Speedos, is relatively modest and surfs.

Where will Lucie's heart lead her when she also hooks a "billionaire", short for millennial billionaire, with flamboyant tastes?

▼ *Sex and Vanity*, Kevin Kwan, Penguin, 2020



Kwan has a lot of fun with privilege, leaving nothing up to the reader's imagination.

In fact, this could be the major selling point of this study of "hapa" (mixed Asian and other racial heritage) culture – the author's confidence when it comes to flinging around names.

He quite knowingly "rips off" scenes from E.M. Forster and enjoys the appropriation, and this literary reference segues into an analysis of how the rich flaunt while gallivanting overseas for lavish weddings.

The plot is great, involving a number of drones recording secret liaisons, and the Chinese mums witty, conniving and supportive compared to their stuck-up "old money" in-laws.

"I'm sorry I raised my children too white. They don't know how to appreciate authentic Chinese food," says Lucie's mum when her brother refuses to try stinky tofu.

"Hiyah, you're telling me. George refused to eat chicken feet," replies George's Hong Kong mum.

The Chinese mums sort out the situation of the romance and the pressure on their kids to conform to Instagram personas.

This is Kwan's fourth novel and he does a good job of uncovering the importance of self-parody in hapa culture ●

“圣诞节活动不会取消”

为了庆祝一年一度的圣诞节，墨尔本市政将举办一系列老少皆宜的COVID安全活动和娱乐活动，使墨尔本市恢复生机。

Katie Johnson

从保持社交距离与圣诞老人拍照到Argyle 广场的以圣诞节为主题的野餐区，墨尔本市政将从复苏基金中拨款1亿澳元，帮助举办于11月27日至12月25日的2020年圣诞节。市长萨利·卡普 (Sally Capp) 说，今年的庆祝活动将鼓励墨尔本人安全地重新发现这座城市，并支持当地的商业。

市长说：“2020年的圣诞节庆祝活动不会取消。”

“我非常高兴地宣布这次圣诞节活动计划，它将吸引人们回到这座城市，进行圣诞购物、庆祝活动以及家庭传统活动。”

这次节日将在黑色星期五与墨尔本时装周合作举办的“购物城市”活动中拉开帷幕。

市长说，为期四天的购物节让人们在享受圣诞节购物和庆祝活动的同时，提供一个支持



当地商家的机会。

“对于零售商来说，这是充满挑战的一年，墨尔本各地的居民可以通过在市内购物，在弹出式的街道服务、食品和饮料服务、

免费赠品和音乐欣赏的过程中表达自己的支持。”



电车站筑蜂窝?

Meg Hill

近年来，城市绿化已经成为一个有影响力的想法。但是对墨尔本城市来说会是什么样子呢？如何绿化我们的中央商务区及其独特的空间？

墨尔本委员会(CfM)成立了一个焦点小组正在推动电车站台顶棚的绿化，为蜜蜂建造新家。

克莱尔·麦克考斯兰德 (Clare McCausland) 博士是“MelBees”焦点小组的成员，这个小组项目是在电车站台上安装绿色顶棚，以帮助墨尔本的无刺产蜜蜂群繁殖。

麦克考斯兰德博士说：“当我们第一次聚在一起组成这个小组时，我们大约有24个想

法，其中的一个成员提出了这个绿色站台顶棚的想法，他说这将是沿着城市的‘蜜蜂高速公路’。”

“想象一下，整个交通网络带有绿色和本土植物，可以把蜜蜂带回城市，帮助恢复这一部分的生态系统。”

“我们知道这种项目以前有成功的例子，但我们很想把它建成一个墨尔本的特征，这就是为什么我们看中了电车站台。”

麦克考斯兰德博士说，这个想法是基于一个在荷兰成功完成的项目。

荷兰Utrecht市去年完成了公共汽车站台绿色顶棚的大规模安装。这个项目旨在帮助城市降温，促进生物多样性，包括蜜蜂和其他昆虫。

国民和澳新银行员工新年返城上班

Docklands港区最大两家企业的办公室员工将于明年初开始重返工作岗位，以推动依赖他们的当地商业。

David Schout

澳洲国民银行(NAB)和澳新银行(ANZ)在港区都设有大型总部办公楼，两家银行都证实了其员工将在2021年交错返回上班。

由于缺少了这些上班族，明显影响了维多利亚港及其周边地区，繁忙的企业办公环境有助于刺激当地经济。

尽管此举标志着又向正常化迈进了一步，但办公室上班人数不太可能达到疫情爆发前的水平。

澳洲国民银行向本报证实，打算在“2021年初”重新开放在Docklands港区的两个办公楼，一个在Bourke街700号(在南十字车站和Marvel体育场之间)，另一个在Bourke街800号(在维多利亚港长廊上)。

该银行的34000名员工中有很一部分在这两栋大楼中工作。

他们在中央商务区位于Bourke街500号的办公楼的员工已经回办公室工作，其最初的目标是有40%的员工返城上班。

同样，澳新银行的一位发言人证实，其员工很可能将在“一月下旬或二月初”返回位于Collins街西端的总部上班。

疫情流行前，该银行有近10000名员工在港区上班。

这位发言人说：“我们将信守9月份对员工做出的承诺，让他们在新年开始重返办公室上班。”

“我们最初的目标是让大约三分之一的员工来办公室上班，以确保社交距离，然后计划逐步增加人数。”

今年7月澳洲国民银行通知其员工，由于大部分员工在家工作，因此将临时关闭Docklands的两个办公处，分别位于Bourke街700号(在南十字车站和Marvel体育场之间)和Bourke街800号(在维多利亚港长廊上)。

与此同时，主管人员和文化的集团高管苏珊·费里尔(Susan Ferrier)写信给当地商企业，告知此举不是永久性的，重申这两个办公处是“过去16年来Docklands社区引以为豪的一部分”。

她当时说：“我们意识到这对许多小商业来说是一个困难时期，并认识到国民银行的员工给港区带来的业务。”

国民银行证实，现在打算在新年重新开放办公大楼。

费里尔女士在11月27日说：“这将是一个分阶段的返回上班，并要以非常谨慎和关怀的方式管理好我们的同事和社区。”

尽管计划员工返城工作是迈出了积极的一步，但银行强调情况会有所不同。

“重要的是，随着一个混合模式的趋势，平衡在家工作和在办公楼工作，我们将不会回到以前的状态，尤其是在办公室工作的时间上。”



新年盛宴

今年，墨尔本市的除夕庆祝活动将围绕COVID安全的墨尔本美食和美酒文化庆祝活动，重点放在Docklands港区的Cargo and Berth餐馆。

墨尔本市政在11月宣布，这次庆祝活动将不燃放烟花，而是让人们体验一个为期两天的“街头盛宴”，整个活动将与州政府和墨尔本美食美酒节联合举办。

市政公告称：“墨尔本的除夕烟火表演通常会吸引多达40万人聚集在市中心，这将给公众、警察和应急服务人员在疫情期间带来风险。”

新年街头盛宴将于12月31日至1月1日在50多个场所和11个区域进行。Docklands港区的庆祝活动将在New Quay Promenade滨海长廊上的Cargo and Berth餐馆举行。

墨尔本市政所发起的这项街头盛宴活动，其灵感来自于欧洲广场，让人们在两天之间进入市中心，而不是同一时间聚集大量人群。市长萨利·卡普 (Sally Capp) 说，市政希望通过庆新年标志着这艰难一年的结束。

市长说：“我们正在制定一个计划，在安全的情况下鼓励更多的顾客去那些非凡的、值得光顾的餐饮服务场所，他们在这次封锁限制期间，一直艰苦努力地工作。”

“这将是一个告别2020年的机会，期待一个更光明的2021年，并感谢每一位墨尔本人为战胜新冠疫情所做的努力。”

Cargo and Berth餐馆的老板约翰·斯卡达玛利亚(John Scardamaglia)表示，他希望这一举措使新年庆祝更加特别。

他说：“今年墨尔本没有烟花表演，但我们想做些与众不同的事情，以户外用餐、临海用餐来庆祝，并送走这不再复返的一年。”

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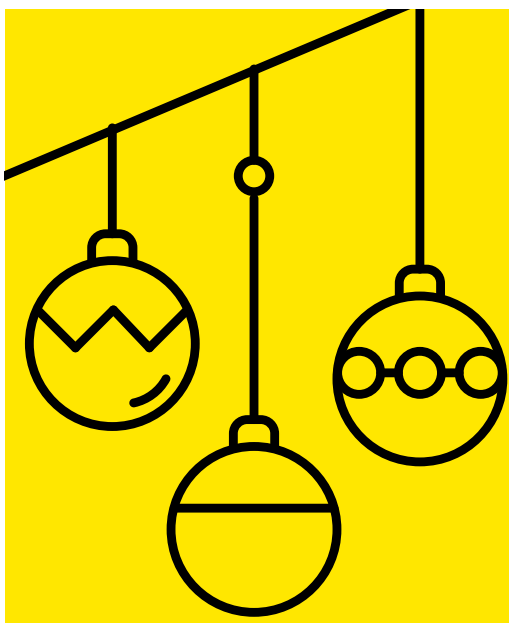
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