



▲ Yarra's Edge residents gathered at Point Park in June calling on the state government to abandon plans for a tram bridge through their community and instead consider adding a new train station for the growing Lorimer precinct as part of plans for Metro 2. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

New Docklands Station under Metro 2 plans, but what about Yarra's Edge?

“The state government has revealed its preferred route for the long-awaited Metro 2 underground train to Fishermans Bend, but locals in Yarra's Edge are pushing for the inclusion of a dedicated station of their own.”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



On June 8, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) announced that it had endorsed a preferred route for a possible future rail tunnel through Fishermans Bend and Docklands.

In a surprise move away from the route previously mooted under the 2018 Fishermans Bend Framework,

the new plans include a dedicated station for Docklands at Bourke St next to Marvel Stadium.

Under the previous route, the Metro 2 project, which will connect Clifton Hill to Newport via Fishermans Bend, was proposed to travel underneath Wurundjeri Way with an underground station constructed parallel to Southern Cross Station.

But under the government's endorsed plans revealed in June, commuters will travel from the soon-to-open Parkville Station to Docklands before continuing to new stations in Fishermans Bend's Sandridge (Fennel St) and employment precincts (Salmon St).

The news has been widely welcomed by various stakeholders in Fishermans Bend, Australia's largest urban renewal project estimated to host 80,000 residents and 80,000 workers by 2050, despite Metro 2 expected to take some decades to complete.

While also welcoming the DTP's announcement, Yarra's Edge Action Group chair Keith Sutherland said, "it's such a pity an underground station was not proposed at Yarra's Edge in the Lorimer Precinct."

The group led by Mr Sutherland has long opposed the state government's plans for a tram bridge over the Yarra River between Collins and Hartley streets, arguing that a new Lorimer train station would nullify the need for the "destructive" bridge proposal.

Continued on page 5.

PLANNING, PAGE 02

Hobart's floating pier engineer to visit Docklands

HOUSING, PAGE 07

Council scraps short-stay rental cap plan



At long mast! *Alma Doepel* takes a giant step towards setting sail once again

Specialist crews assembled on June 5 to install the historic tall ship's masts during a six-hour process, marking another significant milestone in the restoration project's pursuit of returning to the water.

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The deadline for the August edition is July 26

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Central Pier afloat? Brooke Street Pier engineer to visit Docklands

The engineer behind Hobart's renowned floating Brooke Street Pier will be hosted at an event in Docklands in July, fuelling speculation of what could be coming to the precinct following the demolition of Central Pier.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) has invited the designer of the "immensely successful" floating pier Jim Gandry to an event being hosted at AFL House this month "to share his insights and expertise".

MMHN chair and former City of Melbourne councillor Jackie Watts said Brooke Street represented an "exciting concept" and "potentially a solution on a number of levels for the Docklands precinct. Also, a first for Victoria!"

The event has attracted interest from many notable figures within government, including Development Victoria (DV), which has responsibility over redeveloping Central Pier once the current demolition is complete in "several years".

Brooke Street Pier has helped transform Hobart's waterfront since it was officially opened in 2015, providing a gateway to some of Tasmania's most unique experiences, including the popular MONA gallery.

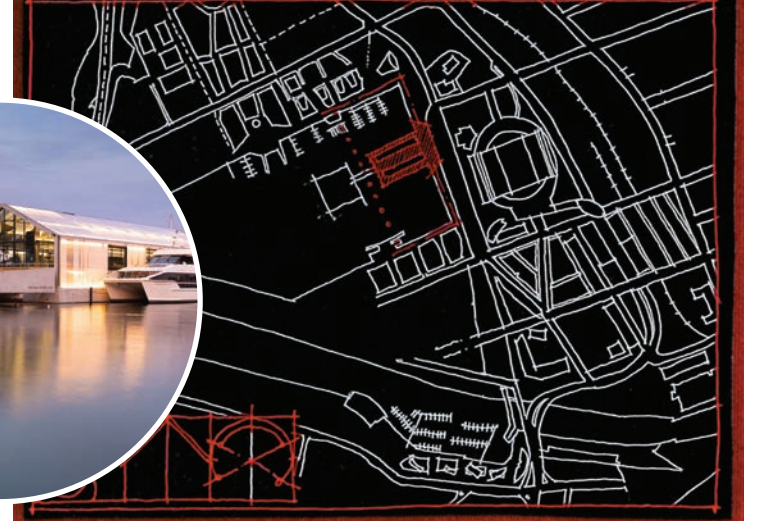
According to its website, it remains Australia's only multi-storey floating pier and the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, measuring 80 metres long by 20 metres wide.

The structure's foundation, consisting of 4200 tonnes of floating concrete, much of which sits below the waterline, was built locally and towed into place by two tug-boats. The project's total cost was around \$13 million.



▲ Brooke Street Pier in Hobart

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Since completing public consultation into the future of Central Pier in December 2022, DV has yet to reveal any further plans following the release of its engagement summary report in August last year.

DV's head of precincts Niall Cunningham told *Docklands News* in August that it would release a Place Principles and Vision Strategy "in coming months" reflecting the feedback from community and the input from experts in tourism, heritage, place

making, sustainability and design.

"This strategy will guide us through the redevelopment to create a special place we can all celebrate," Mr Cunningham said.

As the community still awaits the release of the strategy, could information gathered from Mr Gandry's presentation this month be about to inform its direction in a significant way? Whatever the direction, *Docklands News* cartoonist Michael Lindell believes it must "create a heart". ●

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Elders share Wurundjeri history through new Docklands walking trail app

Development Victoria and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation have launched a new walking trail app for Docklands in celebration of the area's rich Indigenous history.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



Docklanders and visitors to the precinct can now immerse themselves in a new cultural experience, which takes users to places of historical significance through the eyes of Wurundjeri people – the Traditional Custodians of these lands.

Created in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, The Wurundjeri Docklands Trail takes people on a self-guided tour of culturally significant sites within Docklands, accompanied by audio recordings from Wurundjeri community and Elders.

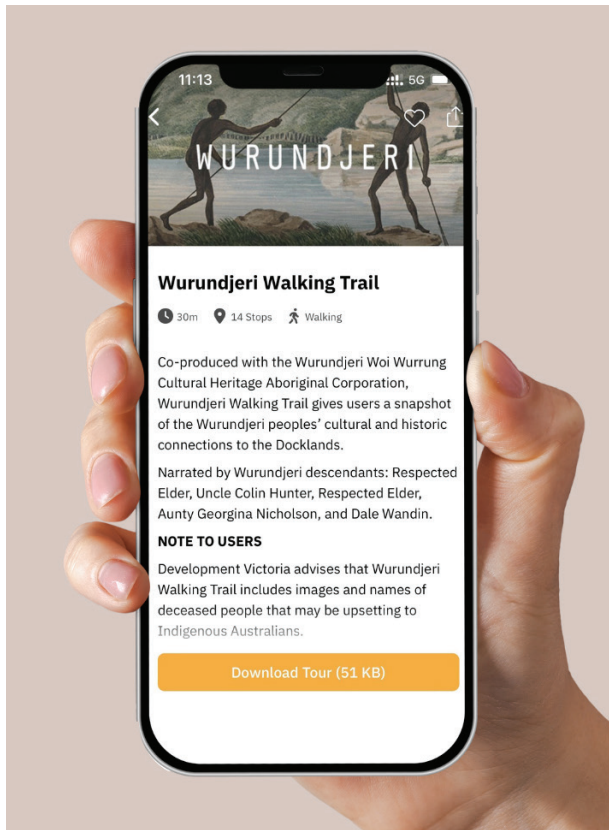
Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Bill Nicholson Jr said he hoped the app would help listeners peel back the layers of the urban environment to understand the history and connection of the Wurundjeri people to the land for thousands of years.

Minister for Development Victoria Colin Brooks encouraged residents, workers, and visitors to take the time to experience the trail and, to "learn about the rich history of the Wurundjeri people and their connection to the Country now referred to as Docklands."

Available on the Docklands Tours app, the trail tour offers an insight into the cultural and historical connections to the land that the Wurundjeri share.

Beginning and ending at Harbour Esplanade, the tour takes about 30 minutes and includes geo-tagged locations and audio recordings for all 11 stops.

Member for Northern Metropolitan Region Sheena Watt said the app provided yet another reason for people to head down to Docklands and learn about its cultural significance to the Wurundjeri people. ●



The Docklands Tours app can be downloaded on mobile phones or tablets from iTunes App Store or Google Play:



Meet Anikesh Sasmal

"When I landed in Melbourne it was a Friday night, around 9pm. I was put up in an Airbnb and the view of Docklands and the city from my bedroom was mesmerising."

Anikesh Sasmal, originally from India, relocated to Australia in 2016 to work for NAB. Stationed in Docklands, he has since made it his home.

By day, Anikesh serves as a senior product owner in digital space at MLC Life Insurance. By night, he transforms into DJ Antidope, Melbourne's pioneering YouTuber DJ.

He said that it was the first time seeing the Yarra River and surrounding cityscape when, "right there I fell in love" with Docklands.

"I said to myself, 'This is the place to be, this is where you need to retire.' I mean, where else do you need to go? You don't need to go anywhere else in the world if you are in Docklands." ●

Read Anikesh's full profile: soulofdocklands.org.au



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關於如何登記成為選民的資訊設有多種語言版本可供查閱。

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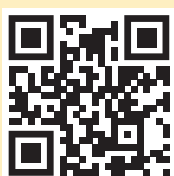
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New Docklands Station under Metro 2 plans, but what about Yarra's Edge?

Continued from page 1.

"I have been suggesting the continuation of Metro 2 for some years instead of the ridiculous, expensive, and destructive tram bridge proposal over the Yarra from Collins St to Lorimer St," Mr Sutherland said.

"The only sensible proposal is the current one, which will provide up to 1200 passengers to the Fishermans Bend renewal area. The maximum amount trams can carry [is] approximately 220 people."

A DTP spokesperson didn't respond to questions raised by *Docklands News* regarding whether a new station would be considered for Yarra's Edge or in the Lorimer Precinct, only saying the preferred route and station locations were now confirmed.

"As Australia's largest urban renewal precinct, Fishermans Bend is targeted to accommodate 80,000 residents, 80,000 jobs and deliver 37,000 dwellings by 2050 and we're working with the community and industry to activate the precinct," a DTP spokesperson said.

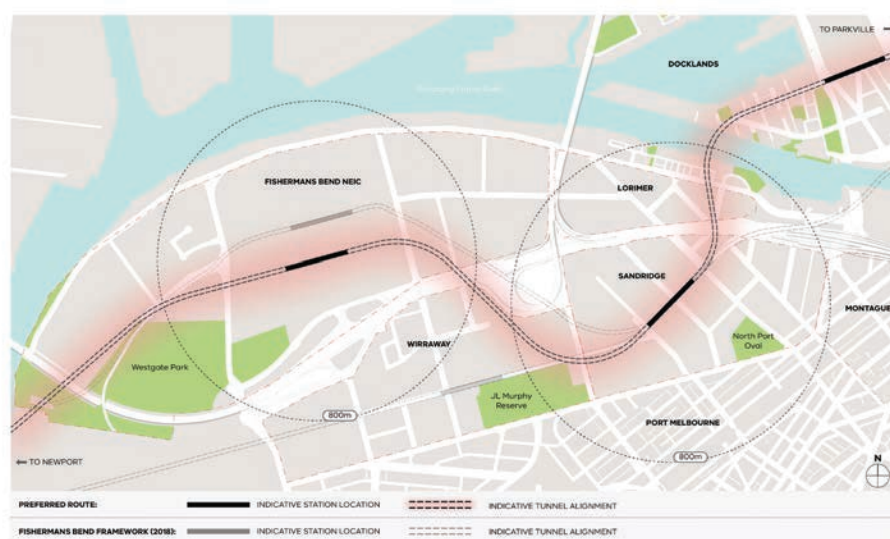
"With an eye on the future, we're continuing to refine plans for Fishermans Bend, including investments in public transport, to ensure we can meet the needs of the community for decades to come."

However, with the University of Melbourne due to open its new engineering and design campus at the former General Motors Holden (GMH) site in 2026, the government remains under pressure to deliver a new tram service to the area.

In June, the City of Melbourne reiterated its desire to see the rail network extended between Fishermans Bend and the CBD, listing it as a priority as part of its 2024-25 advocacy plan.

While the tram bridge is included in the

FISHERMANS BEND AND DOCKLANDS FUTURE HEAVY RAIL



▲ The state government's preferred route for the Metro 2 alignment, with one of the new stations (highlighted in black) to be located on Bourke St in Docklands.

Melbourne Planning Scheme under the Fishermans Bend Framework, the DTP also didn't answer questions from *Docklands News* regarding whether it was proceeding with the plans.

Instead, the DTP said it recognised the important role that trams played in meeting the travel needs of people living in Melbourne's suburbs and was continuously reviewing the entire tram network.

It added that as the state continued to grow, it would be important to plan for a second cross-city tunnel to unlock network capacity in growing parts of the state to the west and north-east.

In the meantime, the government has focused its efforts on boosting buses to Fishermans Bend, having added almost 1500 extra services a week to the precinct since 2022.

This includes the delivery of more weekday services on Bus Routes 235 and 237, to provide a turn-up-and-go 10-minute frequency across the day on weekdays, on average, to connect Fishermans Bend with the CBD. In May, Minister for Public Transport Gabrielle Williams announced Route 606 Elsternwick Station to Fishermans Bend bus services would also operate for longer all week.

While also welcoming the government's announcement of its preferred Metro 2 alignment, City of Port Phillip Cr Marcus Pearl said he remained deeply frustrated by the "agonisingly slow pace" for funding "this critical initiative".

Cr Pearl also said he was disappointed that the plans excluded a Plummer St alignment for a Port Melbourne Station, which would have "ensured that thousands of residents had access to efficient public transport".

"While there is still a long way to go in bringing Metro 2 to fruition, I harbour significant doubts about the state government's ability to fund such an enormous project," Cr Pearl said.

"The current state economy and budgetary constraints pose serious challenges to securing the necessary investment for Metro 2. It is imperative that we see not just plans and promises, but concrete actions and financial commitments to ensure this project doesn't remain a mere aspiration but becomes a reality for Melbourne's future."

"I call upon the state government to fund the project fully and ensure that the necessary planning and overlay covenants are put in place to protect where the train stations are proposed to be located. Only through real action can we secure the long-term benefits of Metro 2 for our community and city." ●

Sean Car

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Council awaits answers on Moonee Ponds Creek trail

The City of Melbourne is still seeking clarity from the state government as to when the Moonee Ponds Creek trail in Docklands will be reinstated, despite Development Victoria (DV) saying it was working to “identify options”.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Councillors were scathing at their May 21 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting after renewed efforts to gain information and updates from the state regarding all-important plans for the creek corridor and neighbouring Macaulay continued to fall on deaf ears.

In considering the next steps of the City's advocacy plan and improvement projects for Moonee Ponds Creek, Cr Rohan Leppert lashed the government for failing to respond to any of its requests for information since March.

At their FMC meeting on March 19, councillors criticised the state government for its lack of progress in revitalising the city section of the creek and called for answers as to when the trail in Docklands would be reopened to the public.

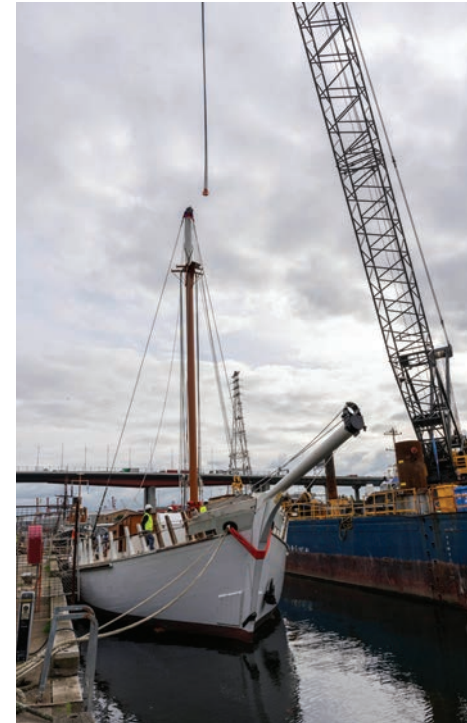
As part of a motion calling for the immediate release of the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan, Lord Mayor Sally Capp wrote to Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny shortly after the meeting seeking answers for the five-year delay.

The Lord Mayor had also sought answers from Minister for Development Victoria Colin Brooks regarding the ongoing closure of the creek trail in Docklands, which closed in November 2020 to enable the construction of Sound Stage 6 at Docklands Studios.

Speaking in May, Cr Leppert said despite the council's “very best” efforts to get more information from the state government, it hadn't received a single response to any of its enquiries.

But Group Head Precincts at DV Niall Cunningham told *Docklands News* in June that it was “working with City of Melbourne to identify options to reinstate the portion of the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail next to the Docklands Studios.”

Docklands News can confirm that following its enquiries, Lord Mayor Sally Capp did receive a letter from Minister Brooks on June 25 in response to the council's enquiries regarding the ongoing closure of the trail in Docklands. ●



At long mast! *Alma Doepel* a step closer to setting sail

The restoration of the *Alma Doepel* celebrated a significant milestone in June as crews worked seamlessly during a six-hour process to erect the historic tallship's masts.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



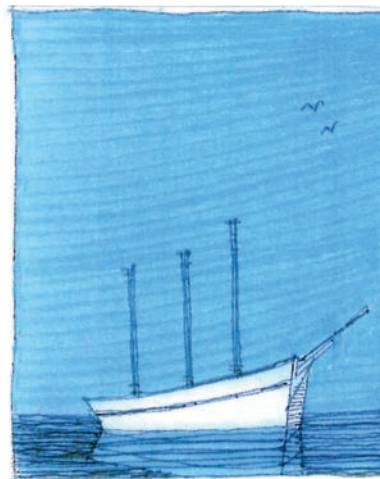
Under the unwavering and meticulous leadership and guidance of the *Alma's* passionate restoration director Dr Peter Harris, each of the ship's three 18-metre masts were carefully installed without any hiccups on June 5.

With the assistance of crews from Bhagwan Marine, which kindly provided the 60-metre-long barge complete with a 250-tonne crane required to lift each mast into place, Dr Harris told *Docklands News* that the day couldn't have gone more smoothly.

Around 25 people worked on the installation, including the barge team, shipwrights, riggers, and volunteers, as small crowds gathered throughout the day to witness each three-tonne mast being craned into place.

Dr Harris said the team was relieved to have been blessed with perfect weather on the day.

“The weather was really good,” Dr Harris said. “We were a bit worried there because they had forecast Wednesday [June 5] to be pretty windy with quite a lot of rain, which is not good for heavy lifting with a very accurate target in a particular direction, but it all went perfectly.”



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With the masts now in place, the *Alma* is now starting to look like a complete ship again, which Dr Harris said had already attracted new interest in the project throughout the community.

“It's certainly raised the profile,” he said, adding that the team was working towards sailing again and launching its youth training programs by early December 2026.

“Now having got the masts in we've got to finish the rigging, we've pretty well finished the deck and then we've got a deck house to build,” Dr Harris said.

“There is quite a lot of rigging work that will go on and things will gradually build on the deck, and we've got a pretty comprehensive schedule for finishing the engine room.”

“Then the next highlight will be starting the engines up, which will be a couple of months away.”

The restoration of the *Alma Doepel* is a \$5.5m project and more than \$4.3 million has been raised in the 15 years to date since the project began.

For more information or to donate: almadoepel.com.au/donate-now ●

Watch aerial footage of the *Alma Doepel's* mast installation:



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Council short-stay rental cap plan scrapped as government to introduce levy

The City of Melbourne will call on the state government to provide concrete evidence of how its policy to introduce a short-term accommodation rental levy would address the housing crisis.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The move comes as the council had no option but to pause moving forward with its proposal to cap the number of days a property can be rented out for short stays as it would be trumped by the state government's plan to implement a 7.5 per cent levy on short-stay bookings in Victoria starting January 1 next year.

The council had been working on its own policy since last year amid growing concerns that short-term rentals, which involved more than 4100 residential properties in Melbourne (the biggest short-term rental market in the country), was significantly impacting housing supply.

But the proposed policy was put on the backburner at the council's June 11 Future Melbourne Committee meeting after recognising the state government's levy on short-stay accommodation would effectively remove the power of local government to make laws to also regulate the same residential properties.

A motion was, however, unanimously supported by councillors to continue to engage with the state government as the levy was finalised and to monitor its impact in achieving the council's goal of relieving a tight housing rental market.

In addressing the meeting, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said short stays were having a direct effect on housing

affordability, noting "renters across Melbourne are feeling the squeeze of higher living costs [with] only four per cent of rentals costing less than \$400 a week."

"We recognise something needed to be done and we developed a local law that's almost ready to go, which, if enacted would see the City of Melbourne bring about a charge for short stays as well as implement a cap on the number of days that a property can be used," he said.

"There are fundamental issues with the housing market across this country, and Melbourne is no exception. A significant portion of the short stays are listed for month-long stays at inflated prices well above market rent, which then puts extra pressure on their traditional rental market."

Cr Reece said the council's research had shown that a regulatory approach, not a taxation approach, was "the better way to go to get the public policy outcome, which is more houses coming back into the rental market, meaning more Australians will have a roof over their head."

"We encourage the state government to release the policy work that they've done on this in this field ... let's put their policy evidence alongside the work we've done and see which is the most compelling and so then Victorians can have certainty that the approach that is being taken by the government is the right way to go."

Cr Reece added, "in the event the Victorian Government does get the passage of the new tax through the Victorian Parliament, we would ask that any revenue raised in this municipality is returned to this municipality to help us with housing."

The council's motion will also see Lord Mayor Sally Capp write to Treasurer Tim Pallas to ensure the levy legislation included a register of the location of short-stay accommodation properties and the days each are rented out.

Airbnb Australia and New Zealand head of public policy Michael Crosby said it supported a sustainable and evidence-based regulation of the short-term rental sector.

"Something needs to be done about housing – more homes need to be built – and we believe a small levy, paid for by the guest, that is funnelled into affordable housing infrastructure projects is a fair measure to help address the issue," he said.

"There is no evidence of caps or bans working – you only need to look to New York where we have seen short-term rentals effectively banned without any improvement in rental availability or affordability while costs of hotels have soared."

Mr Crosby added the state government was best placed to manage the sector "rather than 79 local government areas around Victoria coming up with their own approach."

"It is important to get the balance right, so the core issue of housing affordability is addressed, without jeopardising the economic benefits that flow from short-term rentals, with Airbnb contributing billions to the Victorian economy and helping support tens of thousands of jobs."

Also speaking last year, Strata Title Lawyers principal Tom Bacon said the new levy did nothing other than "further legitimise and entrench the practice of short-term letting in Victoria for 365 days of the year."

"Let's not mince words here – the new tax does nothing to curb the popularity of Airbnb, nor does it do anything to improve the liveability of neighbours and owners' corporations (OCs) that have a desperate problem with the noise and disruption of amenity that short-term stays bring with them," Mr Bacon said. "The new 7.5 per cent tax will be passed on to guests staying in the accommodation. The tax is modest enough to not be too expensive to dissuade customers. Airbnb know this, as do the hosts. As does the Labor government. It will

simply be business as usual."

RMIT's Centre for Urban Research Dr Liam Davies, an expert in affordable housing, primarily in rental policy, said he had reservations about whether a proposed levy on short-stay accommodation would impact the rental market or affordability, particularly in the CBD.

"Even if you got all 4000 into the system, that's not going to flood the market enough to reduce prices," he said.

"I guess we've got a question of how do we regulate this, and I think that the current approach has been we don't regulate it and we just assume that it'll sort itself out. And I don't think that's good enough - I don't think that is actually working."

Dr Davies said another question was how the government wanted to use residential housing stock, and if it was "for housing people on permanent secure basis, should we be allowing this in a free market way at all?"

"I think that maybe we should change the planning regulation and say if you want to open a bed and breakfast like any other form of business, you need a planning permit and that we're not going issue planning permits in areas that have a rental shortage," he said, adding it would be a "more legible, longer-term approach".

In Victoria, businesses covered by accommodation regulations are those accommodating more than five people, including bed and breakfasts, hotels and motels, guesthouses, self-contained accommodation, and farm stays.

Dr Davies said in terms of the City of Melbourne there would be a "variety of impacts on to the residents and the local housing markets" if short stays were to remain.

"We probably don't want them here. We have a really strong hotel sector, we have hostels. Maybe that's what we should be trying to encourage people to stay at." •



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DAM Busters and Think Pink join forces to support those with breast cancer

Docklands' DAM Busters Breast Cancer Survivors Dragon Boat Club has formed a partnership with the Think Pink Foundation, which aims to enhance the lives of survivors and raise awareness about breast cancer.

By joining forces, the DAM Busters hope to drive their membership with a come and try night having been held on June 18 on Victoria Harbour where both organisations celebrated in joining forces.

"Think Pink and DAM Busters are both based in the Docklands and can assist with the physical and emotional recovery after breast surgery and cancer treatments," the DAM Busters president Sue Mason said.

"This community relationship led to a special come-and-try dragon boating evening on Victoria Harbour where DAM Busters were able to invite Think Pink clients and Probus members into the boat."

"For breast cancer survivors and their families needing support, why not try dragon boating. You can register for a free dragon pass and join us on the water."

Think Pink Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation providing free professional and caring holistic support to patients, families, and carers at any stage of breast cancer.

Both organisations were invited to speak last month at the Melbourne Bearbrass Probus Club's general meeting. ●



Advocacy plan sets vision to make Melbourne "a city of possibility"

The City of Melbourne has endorsed its Advocacy and Partnership Plan 2024-25, which aims to build a more liveable city, attract investment, and improve the overall quality of life for residents and businesses.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The plan outlines the city's priorities and goals including delivering facilities, open space and infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing and diverse community, as well as advocating to all levels of government to create opportunities to revitalise the Moonee Ponds Creek.

One measure will also be to amend the Melbourne Planning Scheme and set a vision for how the council guides strategic growth and change across the city for the next 10 to 20 years.

"We will act immediately to mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote sustainable development and design excellence," the advocacy report stated.

"There will be a focus on reducing inequality and ensuring everyone feels safe and able to participate in city life. We will encourage housing diversity and the delivery of affordable housing with high standards of amenity."

As part of its future investments, priority outcomes include extending the rail network to provide high-frequency public transport connections between Arden, Fishermans Bend and the CBD.

The council will also seek to establish a ministerial advisory committee "to identify and overcome barriers to constructing approved developments in Melbourne's central city".

Speaking at the May 28 council meeting where the advocacy document was endorsed, the council's planning chair Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council had "great ambitions" to make Melbourne as "a city of possibility".

"In our recent budget annual draft, we set out our plans for the delivery to make Melbourne unbelievable, prosperous and inclusive and resilient," he said.

"We know that in order to be able to achieve those goals and those plans, we are not able to do it by ourselves. We cannot go it alone. We must collaborate between all levels of government, private sector and the community to help us get the job done. And the advocacy and partnership plan help pave the way for us to achieve that."

"Melbourne has a place for investment, putting our communities in the best position for investment and innovation, boosting employment opportunities and precinct connection."

At present, the City of Melbourne has

approved 71 active permits for 90 buildings for new office accommodation as well as 17,000 residential dwellings.

Cr Jamal Hakim said, "it's necessary for us to be able to capture some of our major advocacy positions and themes in a way so we can ensure we better advocating on behalf of our community – and this is just that".

"There are other times when we advocacy to other levels of government and institutions is required because they have the power to make decisions. And ultimately, all what we need to or can do is actually speak up on behalf of our community," he said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said advocating to other levels of government in the interests of the community was an essential role of council.

"This document provides a way of organising focusing efforts across our organisation to really amplify and accelerate and ensure the effectiveness of our advocacy efforts," she said. ●

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Now or Never launched at Docklands Studios

The City of Melbourne's newest major festival Now or Never will return to Melbourne this August, with the 2024 program launched at Docklands Studios on June 19.



WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



From August 22 to 31, the adventurous festival is set to make a stunning comeback with a vibrant program of more than 100 free and ticketed events and sessions exploring art, ideas, sound, and technology.

More than 250 local and international creatives, musicians, artists and thought leaders will take over iconic venues across Melbourne – presenting immersive digital art experiences, cutting-edge performances, ground-breaking music, and captivating talks.

This year's festival theme, "Look through the image", invites audiences to interrogate what's in front of them "to explore deeper meanings and contemplate the

layers of symbolism and hidden messages within".

NantStudios in Docklands Cinema Studios, which is home to the largest LED volume screen for virtual production in the world, will host one such momentous work performed by artist Marco Fusinato in an Australian debut.

After premiering at the Venice Biennale 2022, Fusinato will present *DESASTRES* – a radical live noise-guitar performance project that synchronises sound with image in the form of a durational solo performance installation.

"Melbourne, it's Now or Never! The return of this extraordinary festival will enrich our events calendar, boosting visitation for our traders and stoking our economy during the traditionally quieter winter period," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"From thought-provoking performances to late-night cultural experiences, the festival supports



artistic talent and encourages knowledge, curiosity and creativity."

"Now or Never is set to draw over 200,000 visitors to the city – welcoming audiences with a variety of events across some of Melbourne's most iconic venues, including the renowned Royal Exhibition."

Other Now or Never 2024 program highlights include:

A return to the Royal Exhibition Building (REB) – featuring large-

scale live music and audio-visual projection works across four nights. The line-up includes multi-instrumentalist, composer, and vocalist, Eartheater, techno pioneers Sandwell District, Portuguese-born Danish singer, songwriter and record producer Erika De Casier, an Australian debut from COUCOU CHLOE, renowned Australian-born musician Ben Frost, electronic artist and First Nations Wiradjuri woman Naretha Williams and promi-

nent British electronic musician Clark. Globally celebrated Italian techno DJ Donato Dozzy will also headline a night co-hosted by Untitled Group.

French artist Joanie Lemerrier from Studio Lemerrier will present *Constellations* – a large-scale celestial formation which will hover above its own shimmering reflection on the Yarra River's surface along Southbank after dark.

Commissioned by Now or Never in a world-exclusive, iconic Melbourne act HTRK and British electronic musician Actress will come together to perform at the Melbourne Recital Centre for an incredible one-night-only collaboration.

Tickets are on sale now. ●

For more information:
nowornever.melbourne.vic.gov.au



Docklands: Australia's next Hollywood?

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of touring Docklands Studios, a cornerstone of our city's thriving film industry.

This incredible investment by the state government is located just a stone's throw from the city centre and major transport routes. Docklands Studios is a world-class facility that has become a magnet for both international and Australian productions.

During my visit, I was particularly impressed by Studio 6 which is equipped with a state-of-the-art LED volume screen – the largest of its kind in the world in fact, with 6000 LED panels stacked 12m high and 30.7m wide. This is transforming how movies and TV shows are made and is operated by cutting-edge technology company Nant Studios.

Docklands Studios has a fascinating history and has hosted an array of notable productions since its inception in 2004. The studios have been the backdrop for blockbuster films such as *The Dressmaker*, starring Kate Winslet, *Ghost Rider* with Nicolas Cage, and *Where the Wild Things Are*. More recent productions include the TV series *La Brea* and the sci-fi thriller *Upgrade*. These productions not only highlight the studio's



cutting-edge facilities but also its ability to attract major international projects, putting Melbourne on the global map as a premier destination for film and television production.

The film industry is a significant driver of economic growth, providing jobs for a multitude of trades and professions. From set designers and carpenters to costume designers and caterers, the ripple effect of film production extends far beyond the studio gates.

For instance, the production of Liam Neeson's film *The Ice Road 2: Road to the Sky* alone is expected to inject more than \$30 million into Victoria's economy and employ nearly 600 workers. This demonstrates the

vital role the industry plays in job creation and economic stimulation.

I envision Docklands becoming known as the "Hollywood of Australia," a hub where the magic of film can be felt throughout the community. This vision includes not just the production studios but also a vibrant interaction with the public environment through film-related businesses and cultural experiences, as well as educational experiences with the local schools.

Imagine walking through Docklands and stumbling upon film-themed cafes, interactive exhibits, and street performances that celebrate our local screen industry.

The groundwork for this transformation is already under way.

The District Docklands is evolving into a family entertainment precinct with attractions designed to cater to all ages.

The local cinema is truly top notch, and the development of a technology hub in Docklands supports innovative projects and start-ups, as well as the tech infrastructure to bring the magic to life, further integrating the creative and tech industries. That's why the investment in education for film making is also key and the natural home should be Docklands.

This is what I think – but it's crucial to involve the community every step of the way.

I encourage residents to share their ideas and feedback on how we can continue to make Docklands a welcoming and vibrant place. Together, we can create an environment where families and individuals of all ages can enjoy world-class entertainment and cultural activities.

The potential for Docklands is immense. By harnessing the power of the film industry and integrating it into the fabric of our community, we can foster a unique cultural identity that attracts visitors from around the world. Let's embrace this opportunity to turn Docklands into a beacon of creativity and innovation, a place where the film industry thrives alongside a dynamic and engaged community.

For more updates and ways to get involved, follow me on Instagram. Together, let's build a future for Docklands that shines as brightly as the stars on the big screen. ●

Cr Jamal Hakim

CITY OF MELBOURNE

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MELBOURNE.VIC.GOV.AU





The Docklands Neighbourhood Partner at a community pop-up

What would you like to see in your neighbourhood?

Is it better roads and public transport, or cleaner streets? Perhaps it's housing support, more trees and city greening, or more cultural events.

For people in Docklands, the most common response is creating better open spaces and increasing the number of plants and trees.

Across our city more than 4000 people took City of Melbourne's neighbourhood survey, sharing the issues they want prioritised in their community.

It was a record response for community consultation by City of

Melbourne, demonstrating how much our communities care about the future of the neighbourhoods they live, work, study and play in.

We ran the pulse check survey in our 10 neighbourhoods to find out what mattered most to each community – giving you the chance to help shape the future of your area and guide the Council projects and services you and your neighbours value.

In Docklands, as well as Southbank and West Melbourne, the majority of people said increasing the number of plants, trees and better open spaces was the top priority in their neighbourhood over the next four years.

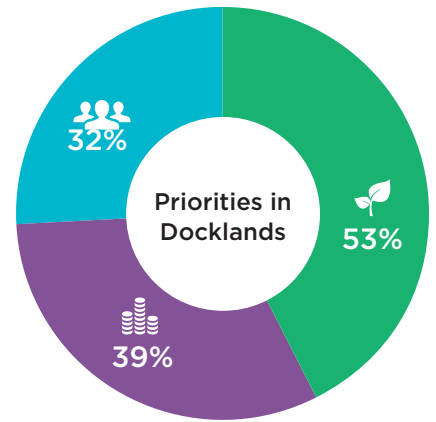
This priority was closely followed by the community's call for support for the local economy and jobs, as well as an increase in the number of creative and cultural events to connect community in Docklands.

Some of the work that is already underway includes our Urban Forest Strategy which guides our planting of more trees to increase canopy cover – and we know there's always more we can do.

We also support local creative and cultural events through innovative programming at creative venues and libraries. Our Connected Neighbourhood Small Grants program will also continue to support local community-led events and activities in 2025.

Knowing what's important to our Docklands community will help us focus our efforts on these services and projects.

We'll now use your priorities, ideas and feedback to inform Council's future budgets and the next four-year Council Plan 2025-2029.



- More plants, trees and improved open spaces**
- Support for local economy, jobs and places**
- Creative and cultural events to connect community**

* Survey participants were asked to pick their top three priorities.



City of Melbourne staff supported pop-ups across our neighbourhoods

What we heard across the neighbourhoods

Affordable housing and homelessness support emerged as the highest priority across all neighbourhoods. Better roads, paths, public transport and parking was also a popular priority across the board.

For more insight into the Neighbourhood Survey results, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/docklands

Discover your Neighbourhood Portal



Find local news and events in Docklands and read more about the Neighbourhood Survey results at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/docklands





Take a dip in one of our heated pools

Nurture your mind, body and spirit during the cooler months by making the most of the City of Melbourne’s free and low-cost facilities and activities.

Physical activity is more than just organised exercise. Little changes like riding to work, walking to a meeting or taking the stairs can make a huge difference to your physical and mental health.

National guidelines tell us that adults should ideally be active every day. Every week, we should undertake at least 2.5 to 5 hours of moderate-intensity activity, or 1.25 to 2.5 hours of vigorous activity, or a combination of the two.

Here’s how to move it your way in your neighbourhood:

WALKING OR CYCLING

Rug up and explore our parks and gardens on a leisurely walk, jog or fast-paced run. You can find maps of popular tracks, plus 135 km of on and off-road cycle paths on our website.

POOLS AND GYMS

Our recreation centres in the CBD, Carlton and North Melbourne offer a unique community vibe with friendly staff members to support your fitness journey. Explore them all to discover heated pools and top-notch gyms.

GROUP FITNESS CLASSES

Take your pick from classes for all ages and abilities including reformer pilates, circuit training, spin, dance, boxing,

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne

HIIT, BodyPump, yoga, meditation, AquaFit, tai chi and more at your local recreation centre.

ACCESSIBLE EXERCISE

Whether you’re seeking a female-only gym session, accessible change rooms, or swimming pool hoists, our services and facilities are designed to offer everyone a welcoming workout.

Reach out to explore inclusive programs like adult swimming lessons, all-abilities touch football, tennis and cricket for people with vision impairment, and the FitSkills program for people with Down Syndrome.

TEAM SPORTS, MARTIAL ARTS, SWORDCRAFT AND MORE

Did you know there are regular swordcraft sessions in the city, with live-action battles? Search our Active Melbourne directory to find team sports galore, including basketball and volleyball.

You can even try your hand at martial arts, ultimate frisbee and dragon boating, or have a round of golf in the beautiful surrounds of Royal Park.

ACTIVE MELBOURNE MEMBERSHIP

We have affordable options to suit you, whether you want to enjoy casual entry, unlimited swims, personalised gym consultations or reciprocal access to all our recreation centre locations.

Members can also access hundreds of virtual classes, tailored programs, daily workouts, progress-tracking and bookings on the **Active Melbourne app**.

How to get your flu vaccine

Bookings for flu vaccinations are now available for our community sessions, individual appointments and workplace immunisations.

Vaccination is the most important measure to prevent influenza and its complications and avoid passing the virus to family, colleagues and friends. It is recommended for all people six months of age and over.

For more information visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/flu vaccine or book via the QR code.

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Local ski coach recognised at 2023 Victorian Sport Awards

Docklands-based ski coach at the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia (OWIA), Peter McNeil, was among the winners at the 2023 Victoria Sport Awards (VSA) held on June 12.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



The event celebrates and acknowledges the accomplishments of local sports heroes across Victoria, honouring individuals and teams who have made significant contributions to the Victorian sports industry as athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers, media, and clubs with the annual ceremony.

Peter McNeil was awarded this year's Leaseexpress Coach of the Year Award, which recognises coaches in Victoria who have achieved outstanding results with Victorian athletes or teams during the year.

As the coach of the mogul skiing program at the OWIA, Peter guided athletes Matt Graham and Jakara Anthony to a remarkable 13 World Cup medals in 2023, including a notable double-gold medal win at the FIS World Cup.

Matt also individually secured two medals, becoming only the second Australian to do so, while Jakara finished the season ranked number one globally, earning her third Crystal Globe trophy.

"It's always nice to get a little bit of recognition. It's not my reason for coaching and it's not my priority, but it is nice to be recognised for the effort that you put in to helping people achieve their big goals, and hopefully helping athletes produce inspirational and aspirational performances that have an impact on the greater community,"



Peter told *Docklands News*.

In addition to his coaching duties, Peter plays a crucial role in developing future coaching talent and organising training camps and events within the mogul skiing pathway.

"I really enjoy the process of going on a journey with an athlete and helping them be the best that they can be," he said.

"Two years on from coaching my first athlete, I'm sitting here coaching the Australian national team – it's pretty exciting."

At the awards ceremony, Jakara also received the prestigious Kitty McEwan Award, honouring her outstanding achievements in the female category on national and international stages.

"For me, the awards are additional recognition that they're having an impact in the sport and that they're working towards achieving their goals. I'm proud of being a part of that journey," Peter said.

"I'm grateful for being nominated, and for the ongoing recognition of athletes who are out there twelve months of the year, doing their best to become great and to inspire young Australians to do the same." ●

STATE MP

Brisbane and Sydney are cracking down on Airbnb, Labor should do the same here

Melbourne is a great place to live, but the lack of affordable housing is making it harder and harder for us to live here.

WORDS BY ELLEN SANDELL
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

The Greens' plan to crack down on Airbnb is an effective way we can get more affordable homes onto the long-term market for renters and owner-occupiers. Brisbane and Sydney have taken on our plan, so why won't Victorian Labor do the same?

We can't go a single day without seeing news headlines of skyrocketing rent and house prices. And a huge reason is the ever-increasing short-stay accommodation dominating our suburbs, turning homes into hotels.

The proliferation of short-stays is also having a profound effect on our communities - with residents living in apartment buildings that are sometimes 20, 30, or 50 per cent filled with short-stays – eroding our sense of community, creating safety risks, and pushing the burden onto long-term residents to deal with the consequences.

Right now, there are almost 50,000 entire dwellings listed on Airbnb in Victoria. In the middle of a housing crisis, Labor must take real action to free these homes up for people to actually live in.

Labor's only plan, however, is to put a

7.5 per cent levy on Airbnb stays. However, we know a levy alone won't free up homes to become rentals. The Greens released a Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) report revealing that the levy would only make a marginal difference to property investor behaviour and would only help build around 100 homes a year.

Our plan to cap the number of days an Airbnb can be rented out would free up 13,000 homes! This plan for a 90-day cap would effectively push investors to put their properties on the long-term market.

Sydney and Brisbane, and many other cities around the world, are introducing reforms to crack down on short-term accommodation. Brisbane's latest local law mandates mean landlords will soon be required to obtain council-approved permits before listing their properties for short-stay accommodation. The City of Sydney is calling for major reforms, including a 90-day annual cap and a levy of up to 10 per cent to be applied to all bookings.

A day limit cap on short-stay accommodation is a sensible and effective way to help alleviate some of the pressure of the housing crisis we're in. It would mean you can still rent out a room or rent out your home when you go on holiday but would prevent investors from buying up multiple whole apartments just to make mega-profits and never renting them out long-term.

Labor will need the Greens votes to introduce any Airbnb laws – and we will only support a plan that effectively deals with the problem. We will continue advocating for real solutions to the housing crisis. ●



The missing fine grain

Melbourne's Docklands has many events that bring buzz and large crowds, but everyday street life tends to lack the vitality that high-density neighbourhoods can have.

WORDS BY
DR ELEK PAFKA



If there is a key structural reason for this, it is the lack of fine-grained architecture and urban design.

It has been long established by the American urbanist and journalist Jane Jacobs that there are four key pre-conditions for urban vitality: a mix of uses that attract people at different times – or simply put, a “functional mix”; short blocks that enable easy walkable access through the neighbourhood – or “permeability”; sufficient concentration of buildings and people – or “density”; and a mix of new and old buildings – or a “fine grain” property structure that enables social diversity.

Victoria Harbour and NewQuay tick the first three pre-conditions, but mostly fail on the fourth – they lack “fine grain”. This is in part due to the ambition in the 1990s to redevelop a very large area within a short time, leading to land sales in large chunks – a hectare or more at a time. It led to homogeneity of built form and a lack of opportunity for residents to express themselves, or for their small entrepreneurial endeavours to develop.

The current demolition of Central Pier further aggravates this. It was a distinct structure with tall internal spaces, a mix of uses, and a wood and steel materiality that enriched the sensory experience of the place. The street activation the pier

provided for Harbour Esplanade has been a significant loss since it was cordoned off in 2019. Its demolition can become a long-term loss of a pocket of finer-grain diversity.

In contrast stands the latest large-grain development proposal around the Stadium by Development Victoria. It is the opposite of what Docklands needs if it is to become a thriving neighbourhood. The proposed large monolithic structures would not increase diversity and would not add vitality. Such proposals may have been accepted in the 1980s but are seen as anachronistic in the 21st century.

Now that the demolition of the pier is under way, let's consider some scenarios for the future. Isn't it a prime site for many Docklanders' desires: a public pool, affordable housing, a bakery, a wine cellar, a fish & chip shop? A survey of residents would likely add hundreds of more desires. If each is kept small, then many of these could fit on one site.

What if the now inevitable redevelopment of Central Pier would be done differently than the antiquated “business as usual”? Maybe integrating a dozen or more desired functions, with separate owner-



ships and control, allowing continuing adaptation and differentiation. That would also orientate these towards the street and the water, rather than towards yet another internalised foodcourt.

The redevelopment will be also an opportunity to improve connectivity between Victoria Harbour and NewQuay, which is key for harnessing the potential synergies between the various parts of Docklands. It could significantly contribute to making Harbour Esplanade more walkable and lively, with “eyes on the street” throughout the day, and safe for all, including children.

For the above to happen, local residents and businesses should be engaged, and the public debate about possible futures would have to shift from ad-hoc singular proposals to a spectrum of scenarios proposed by, for and to the public. This could be enabled by open design competitions, such as for the old Flinders Street Station or Federation Square. While the pier is of high relevance for being at a bottleneck, the same principle of increasing “fine grain” can apply elsewhere too. Not just the undeveloped sites, but many of the under-utilised

public or private lands could contribute towards finer grain diversity.

Enabling excess car-parking to be used for different functions on a temporary basis, is one opportunity. Issuing free permits for small temporary stalls along Harbour Esplanade is another. The free lease of land for a florist kiosk in front of Melbourne Town Hall has been a trigger for the now globally celebrated transformation of a mono-functional CBD to a buzzing city centre.

Docklands as a mixed-use suburb is more than three decades old, and it is time for some self-reckoning of this maturing process. Is time to shift from quantitative to qualitative growth. Paradoxically that means recovering and reproducing some of the fine grain that's been lost. ●

Dr Elek Pafka

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City of Melbourne and Citywide sell waste business to Cleanaway

The City of Melbourne and Citywide have announced their decision to sell the cleaning operator's waste management business to Cleanaway Waste Management Limited (Cleanaway).

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Lord Mayor Sally Capp appeared alongside Citywide CEO Chris Campbell and Cleanaway's CEO and managing director Mark Schubert on June 24 at the Dynon Rd Waste Transfer Station in West Melbourne.

The council, which owns Citywide, said it had worked with the company's board to identify a buyer for the business, with Melbourne-based Cleanaway chosen as the best operator to deliver world-class waste collection services.

The deal includes Cleanaway's \$110 million purchase of Citywide's waste and recycling business and assets, and a \$35 million investment to redevelop the aging waste transfer station at Dynon Rd in West Melbourne. The redevelopment will be boosted by a further \$10 million from the City of Melbourne.

The sale is subject to customary conditions precedents, including Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) regulatory approval.

The council said the surplus proceeds from the sale to Cleanaway would provide “a once-in-a-generation opportunity” to establish a City of Melbourne Future Fund,



which will deliver strategic projects that benefit the community for decades to come.

The Lord Mayor said the creation of a future fund was “a milestone for our city – a fund that will help deliver intergenerational city projects.”

“High-quality waste and recycling management is essential for our city – and we're confident Cleanaway can ensure that Melbourne remains a clean and welcoming place for our community,” Cr Capp said.

“Through this sale, we will partner with Cleanaway to build the best state-of-the-art waste transfer hub in the country to

meet the needs of the fastest-growing city in Australia.”

“We don't take this decision lightly and have undertaken extensive analysis to ensure that benefits will flow back to the community.”

As a condition of the sale, Cleanaway will enter into a 35-year lease of the Dynon Rd waste transfer station and partner with the council to deliver a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility with environmentally sustainable design.

The Dynon Rd waste transfer station is one of the largest of its kind in Victoria – and the City of Melbourne said it is working

to ensure it remains at the forefront of waste management and recycling in Australia.

Cleanaway specialises in managing municipal, commercial, and industrial waste services in Melbourne, and the council said that services for residents would be improved through investments in new technology to “better accept and consolidate waste”, including general household rubbish, organics, glass, and electronics.

“We are looking forward to welcoming the Citywide waste team to Cleanaway and building strong partnerships with their customers and councils,” Mr Schubert said.

“As Australia's largest resource recovery and waste management business, we will support these efforts through our extensive experience, commitment to safety, advanced facilities, and technology.”

“Redeveloping the Dynon Rd site into a modern, community-friendly waste transfer station in partnership with the City of Melbourne will create a best-in-class facility. This will serve residents and businesses while enhancing sustainability and waste circularity in the Melbourne area.”

Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the City of Melbourne, which was established in 1995.

Its CEO Chris Campbell said its waste and recycling business had been an integral part of the company and its culture since it was formed, with a number of the current team transferring from the City of Melbourne then as inaugural employees.

“We are pleased that employees will be able to continue their career, and bring their experience, know-how and commitment to servicing Melbourne's inner-city amenity, with a leader in the sector,” Mr Campbell said. ●

QUESTION:
What is your winter escape?

Faces of Docklands



Ruby

During winter I prefer to go to some parks and special events in the city.



Gehan

Just relax and spend time with family; that's the best thing I can do.



Jay

Usually just running on the track or going to the gym.



Richard

I don't have one, but if I could get away I think I'd go overseas to Thailand to get some warm weather, and I love spicy food.



FEDERAL MP

Dutton's nuclear dead cat

The climate crisis and power prices have been back in the news lately.

Let's get one thing straight. The reason we're paying too much for power is because big corporations are making massive profits, at our expense.

Peter Dutton announced that he would pursue nuclear power. In reality, it's an attempt to lock in profits for coal and gas corporations. It's not serious.

It is a dead cat. It's a distraction being peddled by the coal and gas corporations that are trying to keep mining and burning their deadly products. It will lock in expensive coal and gas for decades, so they can

keep making billions in profits and you can keep paying record energy prices.

It's a distraction because Dutton has no chance of winning the next election. Even if he did, he would never be able to get his dangerous plans through the Senate.

The debate about targets and nuclear power is about little more than hot air. Neither Labor nor Liberal targets will meet Paris climate goals, with both committed to coal and gas.

While all that was happening, it's possible you missed some of what we have been able to achieve in Parliament. We were able to force Labor to shelve their plans to fast-track offshore gas.

In Parliament, you get used to seeing

the government walk in and demand the Parliament back whatever changes the coal and gas industry demands, so it was significant for us to be able to use our numbers, take them on and prevent more offshore gas from being accelerated.

Labor's plan ignored the concerns of First Nations people who were opposed to the offshore gas developments.

Now we need to make coal and gas corporations pay more tax.

Fifty-four coal and gas corporations made more than \$100 billion in revenue in the last financial year and didn't pay a single cent in tax.

We're in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, people are being forced to choose

between eating and heating their homes, and Labor is refusing to make coal and gas corporations pay their fair share of tax.

And we're in the middle of a climate crisis, but emissions still keep going up. The latest data shows pollution has risen since Labor came to office. The massive support for more coal and gas is putting a safer future for us all out of reach. ●

Adam Bandt

FEDERAL MP FOR
MELBOURNE

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Government keeps council waiting on liquor licence guidelines

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said he was frustrated by the Victorian Government's continued delays in providing clarity for central city residents following its decision to end a 13-year freeze on new late-night venues in the CBD.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



trade beyond 1am had required a special ministerial exemption – a move implemented by the former Brumby government to tackle alcohol-related harm and crime in inner-Melbourne.

But since July 1 in 2023 no such exemption is required after Premier Daniel Andrews vowed to "supercharge the creation of new venues" prior to re-election in November in 2022, part of which included a removal of the ban.

Councillors voted in favour of a recommendation that the planning minister introduce a more concrete definition on March 21 last year, arguing that this would give "greater clarity to the community and businesses".

The resolution supported by councillors requested that the minister facilitate these necessary changes to the planning framework by June 30, 2023 – the timeline set by the government

for the freeze to expire.

Councillors also urged management to write to the planning minister for clarity on why the freeze was lifted in the first place. Notably they also requested that the government, as part of the impending changes, amend the planning scheme to require a permit of all new late-night venues in Docklands – as is required in the CBD – rather than being granted one "as of right".

The council argued that there was no strong rationale behind this, which also hampered its ability to enforce the rules.

But this month at the June 4 Future Melbourne Committee meeting following a question from Docklands resident Jo Bacon asking whether the council had received any updates from government to date, Cr Reece said it was still waiting.

"I do note that the council approved that amendment back in March 2023. The work was duly followed up and it was lodged

with the planning minister in June 2023. So here we are one year later, and we have not received a response. That is frustrating," Cr Reece said.

Ms Bacon also asked the council whether it had other measures available to protect Docklands from issues such as "ATET repeating itself" given licences for new venues didn't require council planning approval.

Cr Reece said all members of the public could still lodge an objection through Liquor Control Victoria, and that Victorian "noise and other regulations" continued to apply to manage impacts on residents "even where there is no planning approval required".

"I do note that the ATET matter is before the courts currently and so I am quite limited in what I can say about that, but I do hope that case showed that this council is prepared to step in and protect community amenity, and we would absolutely do so again," Cr Reece said. ●

Here today, and gone tomorrow

“

More builders and developers will choose to “go bust” instead of being held accountable to owners’ corporations (OCs) for dodgy building defects.

”

More consumer protection is required for Victoria’s \$343 billion property sector in these uncertain times, as higher construction materials costs begin to bite, and higher interest rates continues to take the wind out of the sails of the booming property market.

More than 1.6 million Victorians (25 per cent of the population) now live or work in

an OC building. However, light-touch building standards and the Victorian Building Authority’s failure to use its enforcement powers over the past 20 years has led to a decline in building standards for high-rise apartment buildings.

An OC recently found out the hard way, when the builder it had taken to VCAT for building defects slipped into voluntary liquidation shortly before the hearing commenced, leaving the OC out of pocket and unable to chase any other wrongdoers in the matter.

In my view, this is a cautionary tale for consumers and investors of apartment buildings and the lessons ought to be heeded by other OCs, otherwise the same thing could happen to them.

Ascot Constructions Pty Ltd [In Liq.] constructed a three-storey residential apartment building at Caroline Springs in 2011. Soon after the occupancy of the brand-new building, complaints about defects, including water leaks, blocked pipes and

flammable cladding emerged.

It took the OC three years to bring proceedings against the builder for damages in respect to the defects and a further three years before the claim was finally set to be determined at a hearing in VCAT.

The architect and building surveyor had also been joined to the claim but had ultimately acted to settle their share of the liability before the hearing outside of the proceedings.

The OC was left with around \$2 million in out-of-pocket costs, and the building company tipped itself into voluntary liquidation shortly before the commencement of the VCAT hearing.

This meant that VCAT was left with no option but to strike out the OC’s claim, leaving it with no way of recovering the outstanding costs from the builder.

In any building defects dispute with a builder, the homeowner should ensure to file proceedings as soon as possible, and to prepare all expert reports so as to be ready

for a final hearing as soon as possible too.

However, it is important during the proceedings to be open and flexible in negotiations and settlements because of the unavoidable danger of the respondents going into liquidation.

In the meantime, if a defect arises in your building be sure to use the small window of opportunity to bring a claim, do your due diligence on the ability of the builder and other concurrent wrongdoers to meet the costs of the claim, and remain open minded and practical when conducting negotiations and settlements. ●

Tom Bacon

STRATA TITLE LAWYERS

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DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

HighLife Expo: listening to the voices of residential strata

The recent HighLife Expo featured a range of activities, including webinars, stalls, and forums – along with a Listening Post.

Operated by the Owners’ Corporation Network (OCN) and Strata Community Association (SCA) Victoria, this initiative gathered insights from expo attendees – owners, tenants and committee members – regarding their most pressing issues and desires for change within the residential strata sector.

Attendees were invited to complete the statement, “If I could change one thing in residential strata, it would be ...”. The responses highlighted a variety of challenges and aspirations that resonate across Melbourne’s residential strata sector, ranging from improved governance to better education.

One recurring theme was the call for greater transparency in strata management. Many attendees expressed frustrations with opaque financial dealings and the lack of accessible information regarding expenses, particularly compliance costs like fire management.

“It’s about knowing where our money goes,” remarked one attendee, reflecting a widespread sentiment that clarity in financial matters would alleviate mistrust and empower owners to make informed decisions.

Another critical concern was the need for better education. Whether educating new committee members on their roles and responsibilities or informing new apartment owners about the complexities of strata living, there was a consensus that knowledge gaps contribute to misunderstandings and inefficiencies.

“We need more than just volunteers; we need educated volunteers,” noted a participant,

underscoring the importance of structured learning to effectively navigate the intricacies of strata governance.

Sustainability also emerged as a pressing issue, with calls for initiatives (such as rooftop gardens and solar energy solutions) purposely tailored to residential strata. Attendees expressed frustration over bureaucratic hurdles and inadequate support from government bodies at both the state and council levels.

“We want to contribute to sustainability, but the system isn’t accommodating,” said one resident, highlighting the desire for streamlined processes that support environmentally friendly initiatives in multi-owned properties.

Governance issues within strata communities were also addressed. Concerns ranged from the influence of powerful individuals to the challenge of achieving a quorum at meetings. “One person shouldn’t wield

so much power,” emphasised a resident, advocating for fairer decision-making processes that reflect the collective interests of all.

Emergency preparedness in high-rise buildings was another critical topic. Several residents expressed unease over the lack of comprehensive evacuation plans and training. “Safety should be a top priority,” remarked a concerned owner, urging for standardised protocols to ensure residents’ safety during emergencies.

As discussions continue and recommendations are collated, there is hope that these voices will be heard by policymakers, who can help create conditions for a more harmonious and well-informed strata living experience in Melbourne.

As one participant aptly summarised, “It’s not just about changing one thing; it’s about creating a framework where transparency, sustainability, and

community wellbeing thrive together.”

While the Listening Post was just one component, the expo’s success lies in helping pave the way for constructive solutions that enhance the quality of life within Melbourne’s diverse strata communities.

Congratulations to event organisers, Amy Brand and Kate Nicolazzo of Let Me Be Frank, for delivering such a vital forum for dialogue on residential strata. ●

For more information:
highlifeexpo.au



Janette Corcoran

MEMBER

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Where has the “vision” gone in Docklands?

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) often bemoans the fact that Melbourne has “amnesia” about the significance of its rich maritime heritage. We wonder – is a similar “amnesia” taking hold in relation to Docklands?

Is all that is unique about the precinct now simply being ignored by Development Victoria (DV) – the agency responsible for implementing the ‘90s optimistic “vision” for Docklands?

It seems to have completely vanished – or perhaps the most appropriate phrase – been vanquished. What we’ve seen (or have not seen) in Docklands recently is in depressing contrast to the plethora of visionary plans for the area, which emerged in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The “vision” for Docklands back then was about ambition, opportunity and prosperity for Victoria literally flowing through the wharves and waterways of our critically important maritime trade sector.

In stark contrast, “vision” in the late 20th century as we see in Docklands today is limited to prosaic real estate development and the often-baffling sculptures dotted about Docklands streets. Any coherent Docklands Precinct Plan presenting any

“vision” is still to emerge. Has the political will to complete the Docklands project now waned? We wait and wonder.

Wharves matter in Docklands “vision”

The Docklands community will be more aware than most waterside communities, that wharves should be understood as critical community assets.

Just like open space and pathways are community assets in Docklands, its wharves form the interface between the land and the waterways.

Sad but true for Docklands, this connection has been ignored and degraded for decades. Highly valued and repurposed elsewhere in port cities around the world, DV apparently saw no value in preserving maritime heritage infrastructure and wharves here.

All around this unique waterways precinct, DV has demonstrated little “vision” for optimising the value of wharf infrastructure they are tasked with managing, leaving aside the incremental demolition of the western end of Central Pier, which was left crumbling for years in Victoria Harbour. This was followed by the ongoing debacle of Central Pier.

Questions arise – despite the acute shortage of open space in the precinct, why has DV permitted MAB to fence off a large area of New Quay from Wattle Rd to the Bolte Bridge for years and not instead required

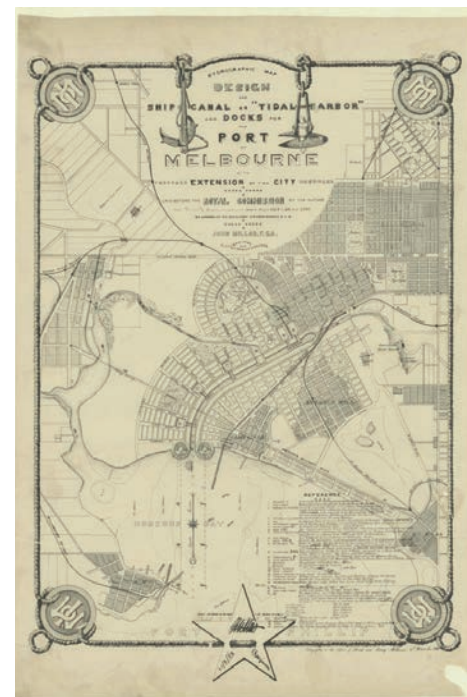
the re-instatement of the long stretch wharf adjacent to their development site? This would provide the community access to a substantial waterside linear park.

It was not always so.

Delving into the archives of the Public Records Office (PROV) and University of Melbourne, Sebastian Gurciullo, a professional archivist, curator, editor and writer, has researched maps and plans from PROV’s collection, to explore the myriad of plans and decisions associated with the Yarra River and the developing Port of Melbourne from the 1850s to 1973. These plans reveal ambition and optimism, a depressing contrast to the absence of any “vision” for the Docklands community today.

The question arises – will we look back at Docklands in 2024 as yet another in the long list of fanciful schemes which “never eventuated, either because they were too fanciful or because circumstances changed, rendering them unfeasible, undesirable or otherwise invalid”.

For the sake of those making their lives in Docklands, MMHN sincerely hopes not. We hope “visioning” Docklands returns soon and that it includes such essentials as open space, permanent activation, wharf repair, and a secondary school before the primary school reaches capacity. Not rocket science, is it? ●



Jackie Watts

CHAIR

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Port Phillip Ferries: Taylor’s Version

Are You Ready For It? Port Phillip Ferries is gearing up to make Melbourne Swifties *Wildest Dreams* become reality, with two Taylor Swift singalong cruises sailing away during the winter school holidays on July 2 and 9.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Dig up your Eras Tour outfit and have *The Best Day* on the water while enjoying the music of Taylor Swift, performed piano-bar style by the talented Lauren Barrett and Josh Russell.

Shake It Off to Ms Swift’s greatest hits, including her latest release *The Tortured Poets Department*, and embark on a stylish cruise along Melbourne’s Yarra River with your fellow Swifties.

Call It What You Want, but with a variety of affordable family bundle tickets available, the event promises an engaging day out for all. ●



For more information:
portphillipferries.com.au/events/taylor-swift-singalong-cruises



10 YEARS ON

JULY 2015 | ISSUE 110 |

DOCKLANDS NEWS



Victory for short-stays

Short-stay operators breathed a sigh of relief last month, when the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) found owners’ corporation (OC) rules prohibiting the practice were invalid.

VCAT member Linda Rowland on June 29 found that the Watergate OC did not have the power to make a rule prohibiting stays of less than 30 days.

The VCAT decision paves the way for short-stay operators throughout the state as it means OCs can’t make rules preventing short-term letting.

“The decision now effectively means that owners’ corporations do not have the power to make rules that prohibit short-term letting in residential buildings,” Strata Title Lawyers CEO and Watergate OC solicitor Tom Bacon said.

“The decision impacts on all owners’ corporations throughout Victoria and affects all rules of this type made under either the 1988 or 2006 legislation,” Mr Bacon said.

The Watergate OC is yet to decide whether it will appeal the

decision at the Supreme Court.

OC chair Rus Littleton said the committee was disappointed by the decision and said it favoured opportunists in the short-stay industry.

“We are most concerned that apartment property values throughout the state will suffer because of this decision. It is effectively an open invitation to opportunists to exploit legal loopholes,” Mr Littleton said.

“The short-stay industry is unregulated – any outfit can start up, hold an apartment building to ransom and damage its reputation. The State Government needs to make changes to look after residents and their investments.”

The Building Appeals Board, the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and VCAT, have now all tested the issue of short-term letting of apartments.

Having been tested across a range of courts and tribunals, it now appears that the only other option would be the introduction of new legislation.

In February, Consumer Affairs Minister Jane Garret appointed a panel to look at the impact of short-stay accommodation in residential buildings and make recommendations to herself and Planning Minister Wynne. ●



Dry July is upon us, Docklands

Do you know the health and lifestyle benefits of reducing your alcohol consumption?

Have you had a check-in recently to assess if alcohol has a central role in your life? Or if you may be forming a dependence?

Consider having a "Dry July" because small changes can make a big difference to your quality of life! The effects of alcohol are varied and include:

Acquired disease

Liver disease, heart disease, brain injury, cancer and heart problems are strongly linked to drinking alcohol, and the more you drink the greater the risk. Alcohol is categorised as a group 1 carcinogen, alongside asbestos, tobacco and radiation. As you age, you are more likely to experience health conditions that are exacerbated by alcohol.

Mental health

Alcohol affects your decision-making abilities, and brain development. Taking a break allows your brain to return to balanced functioning after the depressant effects of alcohol. You will be able to think more clearly, sleep easier, and deal with mental health issues in a more positive way.

Hydration

When you stop heavily drinking alcohol, which is a diuretic, your body will be able to rehydrate. Your skin begins to regain its plumpness, fine lines may soften, and your face will reclaim its natural glow, plus, you'll feel much more alert.

Liver function

Our liver is our built-in detoxifier, and extended consumption/binge drinking of alcohol damages the liver over time. The good news is that the liver naturally heals itself and you will feel the benefits of cutting back within just a few months.

Body weight

Alcohol contains more calories per gram than almost every other food type, but offers no nutritional value, vitamins or minerals.

High risk behaviour

Intoxication and the associated impaired judgement can lead to situations that may cause harm to yourself and others. Drink appropriately when at the workplace, driving, supervising children, operating machinery, swimming, etc. In situations where alcohol is present, you may also experience peer pressure to drink more or consume other drugs. Combining alcohol with other prescription or illicit drugs may have unpredictable or adverse effects.

Relationships

Decreased inhibitions while under the influence of alcohol may not always be a positive. If you drink in moderation to enjoy social setting more, then enjoy responsibly! However, if drinking is causing friction or violence between yourself, family, or friends, consider cutting back.

Protecting your baby's wellbeing

There is no "safe" amount of alcohol consumption while pregnant or breastfeeding. Emerging evidence is also showing that paternal intake of alcohol can also affect quality of the foetus and infant health outcomes.

Finances

Just like the calories and negative health impacts add up over time, so do the costs. Save the funds to put towards other necessities. ●

Dr Mike Edgley

CHIROPRACTOR
DOCKLANDS HEALTH



Serco continues open space management in Melbourne

Maintenance services provider Serco, which in many ways is an unsung hero when it comes to keeping our city's natural assets looking beautiful, has extended its partnership with the City of Melbourne.

For almost 30 years, Serco has partnered with the council to deliver services that keep the city's public areas, including here in Docklands, looking great.

From the well-known sports grounds and playgrounds to the vast grasslands of Royal Park, Serco's dedicated team is devoted to conserving and safeguarding Melbourne's vibrant public spaces.

With a commitment to excellence spanning more than three decades, Serco's Australian journey began in 1989, delivering top-tier facility management services on behalf of the Western Australian Government.

Today, Serco has grown to cover all states and territories, employing more than 11,000 individuals nationwide across diverse industry sectors.

"By bringing together the right people, the right technology, and the right partners", Serco says it creates innovative solutions for governments that make positive impact and address some of society's most urgent and complex challenges.

Under the leadership of CEO Andrew Head, Serco has emerged as a significant player across the

facilities management sector, and Mr Head said the company was thrilled to secure a new contract with the City of Melbourne for a further five years. "The renewal of this contract underscores Serco's dedication not only to the people of Melbourne but also to preserving a thriving ecosystem in the bustling urban landscape," Mr Head said.

"With a rich history dating back to 1995, Serco has been entrusted with overseeing a significant portion of the city's open spaces, which includes maintaining over two million square metres of grasslands, golf courses, sports grounds, and median strips."

"Through this contract, we play a key role in supporting a healthy ecosystem across the busy urban environment. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with City of Melbourne to identify opportunities to increase sustainability practices and protect the environment."

"I am proud to continue Serco's legacy as a trusted partner of governments and the communities we serve and carrying forward our commitment to excellent service in the years to come." ●

Connect with your local community

The Docklands facebook community Hub is a free online space to connect with fellow Docklands locals, stay in the know, post requests for help, share skills and local knowledge, ask for recommendations, discover local services, classes, retailers, events and more

 If you're a local resident search "Docklands Community Hub" on Facebook



Quiz



1. What was the title of the political magazine founded by John F. Kennedy Jr.?
2. America Ferrera (pictured) starred as the titular character in which 2006 comedy drama series?
3. City of Melbourne councillors were scathing of development plans for what Docklands location?
4. On what date will the Melbourne City Council elections take place?
5. *I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here* and *Easy Street* are songs from which Broadway musical?
6. An exhibition celebrating and showcasing the work of which illusive artist has opened at The District?
7. Which US jazz musician had the nickname 'Bird' or 'Yardbird'?
8. On May 31, what Docklands icon celebrated its 10th birthday?
9. Edward Rochester is a central character in which 19th century novel?
10. Which musical duo recorded the soundtrack to the 1968 film *The Graduate*?
11. Still considered Australia's worst industrial accident, the West Gate Bridge collapsed in what year?
12. According to the City of Melbourne, how many people live in Docklands: A) 17,723, B) 18,459 or C) 20,453?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. George Z. Ugly Betty
2. Annie
3. Marvel Stadium
4. October 26
5. *Chicago*
6. Yayoi Kusama
7. Charlie Parker
8. Library at the Dock
9. *Jane Eyre*
10. Simon & Garfunkel
11. *The Catcher in the Rye*
12. A) 17,723

5x5

No. 302

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

L		N		D
	N		L	
M		V		N
	N		C	
R		S		S

SOLUTIONS

Across: Lined, Anole, Moven, Elect, Rests.
Down: Lamer, Inane, Novas, Enact, Dents.

Sudoku

No. 037

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Weather

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| AIR | ISOBAR |
| BLIZZARD | METEOROLOGY |
| CLIMATE | MONSOON |
| CLOUD | RAIN |
| DROUGHT | SLEET |
| FLOOD | STORM |
| FORECAST | SUN |
| FROST | TEMPERATURE |
| HEAT | THUNDER |
| HUMIDITY | |

Secret message: Cumulonimbus

Crossword

No. 037

ACROSS

- 1 Waiflike (4)
- 3 Helpers (10)
- 10 Premise (11)
- 11 Slash (3)
- 12 On the seashore (7)
- 13 Hurricane (7)
- 14 Compelled (7)
- 15 Compress (7)
- 17 Denial (7)
- 20 Hang (7)
- 22 Ocean creature (3,4)
- 24 Maybe (7)
- 26 Greeted (3)
- 27 Chaos (11)
- 28 Shades (10)
- 29 Prefix meaning million (4)

DOWN

- 1 Issue (5)
- 2 Detach (7)
- 4 Adept (7)
- 5 Nutty (7)
- 6 Piano professional (5)
- 7 Transcendent state (7)
- 8 Propped up (9)
- 9 Gets in touch with (8)
- 14 Christian holiday (9)
- 16 Fungus (8)
- 18 Level (7)
- 19 Myths (7)
- 20 Most excellent (7)
- 21 Scrutinise (7)
- 23 Part of a jacket (5)
- 25 Dance (5)

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

SOLUTION

V	O	E	M	S	S	S	V	T	O	N	N	S	
E	N	M	W	E	D	E	E	V					
W	I	N	O	W	E	D	N	V	I				
V	W	O	R	E	I								
S	P	A	S	L	U	S							
O	N	E	P	S									
X	H	U											
O	N	E											
E													
I	C	O	V	E	D								
U	R	I											
O	Q	U	A	O	L	I	S	O	P	O			
D	A	E	O	L	N	T							
P	I	N	O	I	S	O	P	O					
N	I	N	K	O	S	O							
S	L	N	V	I	S	S	V	N	I	H			

Codeword

No. 037

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

SOLUTIONS

R	G	L	T	E	C	K	V	N	O	M	E	B	
10	17	18	12	17	12	17	12	17	12	17	12	17	12
1	18	1	17	10	19	18		16	6	15	10	19	
18		10		19		16				5		6	
14	5	1	17	5		16	5	19	23	9	18	14	
20		17		17		18		14		2		9	
4	18	1	17	18	14	3	5	4		18	16	24	

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12	25
13	26

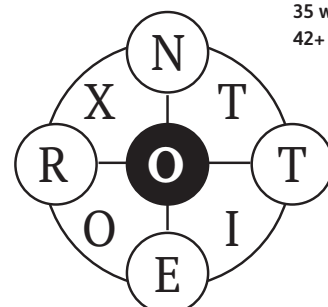
9-Letter

No. 037

Today's Focus:

- 22 words: Good
- 35 words: Very good
- 42+ words: Excellent

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



Reference:

Collins Concise English Dictionary

SOLUTIONS
entree, extort, EXTORTION, into, intro, iron, nitro, noir, noter, nori, note, onto, oont, orient, otter, oxen, oxer, rot, roneo, root, rote, rotten, rotl, roti, rote, tenor, terno, tone, toner, tonite, toon, toot, tooter, tore, torr, torn, tort, torte, torte, torte, toxin, trio, triton, tritone, trot

WHAT'S ON July



Docklands comes alive this winter with the return of Firelight Festival, school holiday fun at The District, gallery openings and more.



ANGELINA MIRABITO: ELASTIC HEART
Artist Angelina Mirabito explores ways to visually represent emotional experiences, through the added filter of mental health obstacles caused by complex post-traumatic stress disorder.
Library at The Dock

JULY 10 - AUGUST 4



LEGO CHOCOLATE FACTORY DIORAMAS
Use your imagination and Lego to design and create your own Willy Wonka inspired chocolate factory. Tickets are only required for children attending the program. Ages: 6 to 12 years.
Library at The Dock

JULY 3 10.30AM - 11.30AM



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT THE DISTRICT
Parents, are you searching for the perfect place to keep your kids entertained all day during these school holidays? Look no further, with a fantastic array of food, fun activities, and shopping, The District has everything you need.
The District Docklands

UNTIL JULY 14



FIRELIGHT LABYRINTH
This winter, explore the expanse beneath Melbourne's iconic Marvel Stadium, where a subterranean space will transform into a mythical labyrinth of light and sound.
Marvel Stadium, 740 Bourke St

JUNE 28 - July 14



THE ART OF BANKSY: WITHOUT LIMITS
The Art of Banksy: Without Limits features over 180 artworks from the worlds most mysterious street artists.
The District Docklands Level 1

UNTIL AUGUST 4



FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL
Over three fiery nights, Melbourne's epic free winter festival takes over Docklands in a celebration of fire and light. Enjoy everything from captivating fire performers and African drumming to live music and storytelling, as flame jets, fire sculptures, and dazzling installations light up Docklands.

JUNE 28 - 30, 5PM - 10.30PM



THEY SHOOT FILM: AN ANALOGUE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
They Shoot Film is a captivating exhibition presenting works by women and non-binary artists working in film photography. Opening event - Thursday, May 30, 6pm - 7.30pm.
Library at The Dock

UNTIL JULY 7


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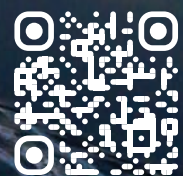
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