

Arron Wood promises to scrap Greenline if elected

"Principles" and "vision" strategy released for Central Pier

# NEWS



Construction ramps up at Collins Wharf

L-R: Lord Mayor Nick Reece, Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkeny and Lendlease executive director of development Daniel Dugina broke ground on the developer's latest Docklands apartment project Regatta in August, marking the next chapter of Collins Wharf. More on page 8.

## "Towers of shame": Minister for Planning quietly approves Marvel Stadium plans

“Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkeny has ignored scathing feedback from the City of Melbourne to gazette the AFL and Development Victoria’s controversial redevelopment of Marvel Stadium’s waterfront edge.”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Despite councillors lining up back in May to express serious concerns with the plans in their current form, the planning minister has signed off on site-specific controls and a master plan for three towers between 140 and 160 Harbour Esplanade.

The council learned of the decision amid the busy aftermath of its marathon Future Melbourne Committee

(FMC) meeting on August 13 where it controversially voted to end its involvement in the state government’s shared e-scooter trial.

Cr Jamal Hakim spoke to *Docklands News* outside AFL House on August 15 flanked by angry Docklands residents, saying the approval didn’t include any of the significant changes proposed by the council.

In slamming the project as “Development Victoria’s towers of shame”, he lashed the state government for using Docklands as a “dumping ground” for “development that lacked vision or foresight about the future of the area”.

While the Minister has only approved a planning scheme amendment, with future detailed designs for the three new towers still to come, it marks the first major step in the precinct’s transformation.

The joint project by Development Victoria (DV) and the AFL and designed by Grimshaw Architects is seeking to construct three new towers on Harbour Esplanade on two sites currently occupied by the Channel 7 building and AFL House. A range of uses across the three buildings is mooted, including offices, a function centre and retail, with options for homes and a hotel.

While current planning controls for both sites stipulate height limits of 75 and 60 metres, respectively, the amendment has sought to supersede these by constructing towers 129, 113 and 80 metres high.

Continued on page 5.



SPORT, PAGE 20

## Docklands Primary School Athletics Day 2024

On Friday, August 2, Grade 4, 5 and 6 students from Docklands Primary School walked down to Ron Barassi Snr Park to compete in a "spectacular" Athletics Day, writes students Saanvi (5B) and Aletheia (6B).

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## Arron Wood to axe Greenline if elected Lord Mayor

The upcoming City of Melbourne elections have been turned into somewhat of a referendum on Greenline, with Lord Mayoral candidate Arron Wood pledging to scrap the project if elected in October.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The \$315 million revitalisation of the Yarra River's north bank between Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge was the central project of former Lord Mayor Sally Capp's election platform, with construction already begun in May this year.

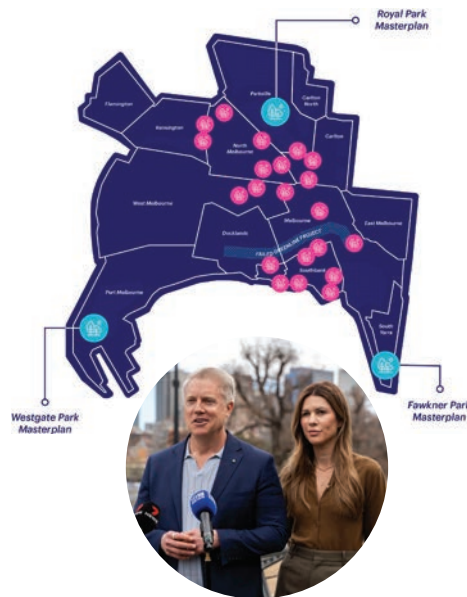
But while the council adopted a funding strategy for the project just prior to the former Lord Mayor's departure from Town Hall, its future is anything but secured given the complex nature of land ownership that stretches the length of the north bank.

While the council had originally sought a matched contribution of \$100 million from their Victorian and Commonwealth Government counterparts, it has so far only managed to secure \$20 million from the federal government.

Mr Wood, who served as Deputy Lord Mayor under Ms Capp when Greenline was originally conceived, said last month that the project "was flawed from the outset" and has faced escalating costs and changing scope since its inception.

Appearing alongside his candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor Erin Deering at Birrarung Marr on August 25, he said that if elected, the remaining money unspent on Greenline would be redirected to local "community and sustainability initiatives".

With the City of Melbourne's population



▲ (Top) Arron Wood and Erin Deering's (above) plan to provide more parks across the city.

forecast to double by 2050, alongside his wish to ensure that every person has access to a local park, Mr Wood said this included building 21 parks in the next term of council across the municipality, including six entirely new projects.

Around \$22.5 million has been spent on Greenline to date, with a further estimated \$20 million required to honour existing contracts.

"In stark contrast to Lord Mayor Nick Reece who tore up e-scooter contracts at a whim and with no consultation, we will honour the project contracts that have already been awarded," Mr Wood said.

"This includes the necessary upgrades to Birrarung Marr – which were due regardless of Greenline, and the completion of Seafarers Rest Park, which was approved long before Greenline was even conceived.

"Honouring contracts reflects our belief in responsible governance, fiscal responsibility and saves ratepayers expensive cancellation."

As the council has only limited authority in Docklands due to the area being under the management of Development Victoria, the plan doesn't propose any new open spaces for postcode 3008.

But Mr Wood said axeing Greenline wasn't just about increasing open space, but about "getting back to basics and easing cost of living pressures for ratepayers across the city."

He added that he would use the savings from Greenline to establish financial counselling service grants for residents and small businesses, review childcare fees and provide additional support to The Salvation Army and *The Big Issue*.

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) chair Dr Jackie Watts is among those who agree with plans to abandon Greenline, arguing it wasn't needed to bring the Yarra Birrarung alive.

"Instead, we can enliven the river with projects at minimal cost and impost on businesses or ratepayers while utilising the Yarra Birrarung trails and heritage assets that already exist," Dr Watts said.

But fellow Lord Mayoral candidate Gary Morgan, who is understood to be preferring Nick Reece at the upcoming election, is among those who don't agree with Mr Wood's plan.

"Arron Wood's call over the weekend to scrap the 'Greenline trail' project is wrong," Mr Morgan said. "The Yarra River is an essential part of Melbourne. Everyone in Melbourne, whether visitors or residents, wants safe and ready access to enjoy the Yarra."

"On either side of the river residents of East Melbourne, South Yarra, Southbank, Docklands, and the CBD understand that safety for pedestrians and cyclists next to the Yarra, is essential so everyone can enjoy a Greenline trail." ●

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# Cr Jamal Hakim pushing to make history in Melbourne

Lord Mayoral candidate and Docklands resident Cr Jamal Hakim is hoping to make history by having the first Greek-Australian Deputy Lord Mayor, and the first Aboriginal councillor elected to the City of Melbourne.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



A “democratic, welcoming and flourishing city” is the vision current Cr Jamal Hakim is striving for after announcing his candidacy for Lord Mayor on August 2 ahead of October’s City of Melbourne elections.

Celebrating the city’s diversity is at the heart of the former Midsumma Festival board member’s campaign for Town Hall, and he has pledged that Team Hakim would “shape a future for Melbourne that prioritises people, not politics”.

It’s a narrative that strongly resonates with Esther Anatolitis, who is considered one of Australia’s most influential advocates for arts, media and urban planning, and has joined Team Hakim as its candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor.

A long-time contributor to the Greek community, if elected, Ms Anatolitis will make history as the first Greek-Australian Deputy Lord Mayor of the largest Hellenic city outside of Greece.

And on August 22, Cr Hakim announced that award-winning Aboriginal writer, advocate and executive, Bebe Oliver, would run in the number one spot on the Team Hakim councillor ticket.

If elected, which is a strong likelihood given the likely preference flows from the progressive end of the field running in this election, Mr Oliver would become the city’s



first-ever Indigenous councillor.

Mr Oliver recently led Aboriginal strategies, policies and programs at the City of Melbourne and is now the artistic director and CEO of Blak & Bright First Nations Literary Festival and a strategic advisor and consultant.

He said he was honoured to join Team Hakim, “where commitment is to genuinely and authentically place Melbourne’s interests at the forefront of every action and decision we make.”

Cr Hakim, who has been central to driving activation and community in Docklands during his first term on council, said he believed in “the power of representation driving real progress for Melbourne”.

Ms Anatolitis told *Docklands News* that Team Hakim’s message for a democratic, welcoming and flourishing city was something she wanted to be part of.

“I’m someone who lives, works and loves Melbourne. I’ve been here for more than 20 years, and I am no stranger to representative governance,” Ms Anatolitis said.

“The evolution of any city is kind of beau-

tifully cyclical and that cycle grows and expands. Melbourne’s success is very much grounded on its multiculturalism.”

*Neos Kosmos*, for which she has also written, featured Ms Anatolitis among the 50 most prominent Greek Australians of the time in its 50th anniversary magazine, and when one glances at her CV, it’s easy to understand why ...

Ms Anatolitis’s leadership career in arts, media and urban planning began in ethnic broadcasting when she ran the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council, and later worked at SBS Radio Melbourne.

Within the City of Melbourne, she has been CEO of Express Media, the Emerging Writers Festival (of which she was a founder), Craft Victoria, SYN Media 90.7FM, Regional Arts Victoria, and Melbourne Fringe.

She has been an *AFR 100 Women of Influence* finalist and has worked on cultural precincts and master planning all over Australia, and was inaugural deputy chair of

Contemporary Arts Precincts, the social enterprise behind Collingwood Yards.

Ms Anatolitis has also worked with local governments, including the City of Melbourne, on arts precinct and urban planning projects, and is a prolific writer, commentator and editor who has written several books.

She has served numerous government policy committees and arts boards, including ACMI, Regional Arts Australia, and the Arts Industry Council of Victoria, and is currently a member of the governing council of the National Gallery of Australia, co-chair of the Australian Republic Movement, and an associate professor at RMIT School of Art.

As a “passionate advocate of Australian multiculturalism” who speaks several languages, she has advised both the Hellenic Museum and the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria, where she has served the board of the Antipodes Festival.

She is also a proud member of Melbourne’s queer and disability communities, living with a rare brain condition similar to epilepsy on the migraine spectrum.

With many others having approached Ms Anatolitis to run for the City of Melbourne in the past, Cr Hakim said he was thrilled she had accepted to join his team as someone who “understands quintessential Melbourne”. ●

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AUTHORISED BY A. WOOD, P O BOX 6 9 2 NORTH MELBOURNE VIC

# “Towers of shame”: Minister for Planning quietly approves Marvel Stadium plans

Continued from page 1.

Councillors were presented with an “incorporated document” at their May 7 FMC meeting, which outlined the proposed site-specific controls that DV and the AFL had requested the project be assessed against.

Both Lord Mayor Nick Reece and the council’s chair of planning Cr Rohan Leppert were united in their critique of what was presented, with the latter damning of the plan’s lack of strategic justifications.

Cr Leppert took aim at Development Victoria for failing to reveal what it was planning for Harbour Esplanade and the surrounding waterfront at Central Pier and said the strategic thinking for the precinct was being done “the other way around”.

Addressing questions alongside Minister Kilkenny at an event on August 20 during the announcement of an approval for a new development at Queen Victoria Market, the Lord Mayor said the council was “disappointed” with her decision.

“The City of Melbourne did not support that project,” Cr Reece said. “We had some reservations about it in terms of the scale and the bulk of it. In the report that was endorsed by council we put forward a number of recommendations that we thought would improve the project.”

“The minister has now approved the project, exercised her prerogative to do that – we were a referral authority on that project given its size and scale. The minister is the relevant authority, she’s the final decision maker, she’s made a decision.”

“From a City of Melbourne perspective, we’re disappointed with that because it doesn’t align with what we thought would be the best outcome.”

In response, Minister Kilkenny said that



while the government would always “support and engage with local communities ... at the end of the day, this is about delivering an enhanced precinct down at Docklands.”

“I see this as a terrific opportunity to really reinvigorate that area,” Minister Kilkenny said.

“It’s such a well-located site – there are so many opportunities to enhance retail opportunities, the sporting precinct, more homes and really bring additional people into the area as well and drive the local economy.”

She added that Docklands was a “fabulous area” and that “there is a great community spirit, and I’m really pleased that we’re going to see a redevelopment of Marvel Stadium that is going to enhance the area even more.”

In a press release issued on the approval on August 19, Minister for Development Victoria Colin Brooks played on Docklands’ “key role in delivering much-needed housing”.

“Future redevelopment of these sites, and their integration with Marvel Stadium, will allow us to deliver more homes, jobs, shops,

restaurants and entertainment to the Docklands waterfront,” Minister Brooks said.

The AFL’s executive general manager infrastructure Matthew Chun said any future redevelopment of these sites would “only amplify” the precinct. “We look forward to continuing next steps in development,” Mr Chun said.



But Cr Hakim said the community remained concerned by the lack of information coming from the project’s proponents, as well as the lack of public benefit being proposed.

“This proposal provides no information and promises to deliver the most monstrous overwhelming building in the city,” he said.

“In ignoring the community’s voice, and the recommendation from council, the Minister has demonstrated a complete lack of interest in fixing the planning errors in Docklands.”

“To be successful, this development must meet the criteria that every other developer and planning application is required to have in our city and this cowboy approach is damaging to Melbourne’s standing and reputation.” ●

# Improved short stay reforms

The Victorian Greens have negotiated with the state government to agree on reforms to the short-stay accommodation industry.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



Last year, the government had proposed a 7.5 per cent levy on operators like Stayz and Airbnb, which on its own was seen by many critics as a gift to the short-stay industry that would do nothing to solve the housing crisis.

However, following negotiations with the Greens, the state government announced a further series of reforms on August 27 providing local governments and owners’ corporations (OCs) stronger powers to make decisions about short stays.

Announced as part of the landmark Housing Statement, the Short Stay Levy Bill 2024 has been informed by consultation with local councils, industry and tourism bodies to “get the balance right for communities across Victoria”.

The legislation introduces a 7.5 per cent levy from January 1, 2025, on short-stay accommodation bookings, which is expected to raise around \$60 million a year for Homes Victoria to provide more social and affordable housing. Twenty-five per cent of these funds are to be invested in regional Victoria.

It also gives local communities the ability to respond to local concerns – with OCs now able to ban short stays in their developments if approved by 75 per cent of owners. There will also be changes to the planning system to give local councils the power to regulate short-stay accommodation. ●

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|---------------------|--|
| <b>9 September</b>  | Nominations open at 9am  |
| <b>17 September</b> | Nominations close at 12 noon   |
| <b>19 September</b> | Team name (for Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor teams) and group registrations (for Councillors), close at 12 noon, ballot draw at 3pm |
| <b>23 September</b> | Statements, questionnaires, group voting tickets and indication of preferences close at 12 noon  |
| <b>7 October</b>    | Ballot pack mailout begins   |
| <b>25 October</b>   | Voting closes at 6pm   |
| <b>1 November</b>   | All postal votes must be received by 12 noon   |
| <b>15 November</b>  | All election results declared  |



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# Renewed Arron Wood “energised” about the road ahead at Town Hall

“A fresh start, a proven record” is the message at the heart of Arron Wood’s reinvigorated bid for the City of Melbourne, citing a lack of vision for the city as his prime motivation for returning for another crack at Town Hall.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



tim to the world’s longest lockdowns, Mr Wood is the first to “recognise it’s not easy to bounce back” as the City of Melbourne dealt with more than its share of challenges over the course of the last council term.

And he said that if “things had been flying”, perhaps there would have been no need to mount a comeback to Town Hall.

But in his words, he said “things aren’t going in the right direction”, and that it was the “lack of vision for what Melbourne should be as a city” which challenged him the most.

With that, and following consultation with the people who know him best – namely his family who he said were “110 per cent” behind him – he’s putting himself out there for the city he loves once again.

“It’s a combination of factors,” Mr Wood told *Docklands News*. “Still having that passion and drive, knowing that I’ve got the skills to do the job and then seeing the city head in the wrong direction.”

“I saw crime, city cleanliness, even just the way of getting in and around the city, how businesses were struggling, how people were struggling. But the biggest thing for me was that lack of vision for what Melbourne should be as a city.”

The well-known environmentalist and Kensington resident of nearly 20 years, who founded and ran innovative education program Kids Teaching Kids for more than 20 years from its City of Melbourne home before entering politics, led the city through significant change during his eight years on council and chaired governance, finance and environment.

Among many of his notable achievements, Mr Wood played an instrumental role in the council’s Melbourne Renewal Energy Project (MREP), enabling a new wind farm in Ararat to power the city’s infrastructure, paving the way for MREP2.

Serving as Deputy Lord Mayor during his last term on council, he also led the city as Acting Lord Mayor through one of its most



Wood has a suite of policies aimed at cost of living, city safety, cleanliness and greenery, the economy, residential communities and “reviving Melbourne’s cultural heartbeat”.

Announcing swimwear entrepreneur Erin Deering as his running mate in August, Team Wood has already pledged to make Melbourne Australia’s “Christmas Capital” and has promised a zero per cent rate freeze – a policy he last introduced at Town Hall during COVID as chair of finance.

As the campaign for Town Hall ramps up heading into September, Mr Wood told *Docklands News* he was “feeling energised about what I could do if I was elected”, and that he represented a “clear choice” between change and “more of the same”.

“The City of Melbourne is there to be provide good customer service, and that’s something which actually does excite me – to lead that culture,” he said.

“The biggest excitement I got while I was on council was going down to a residents’ group or even a lone resident who’s got an issue and they’ve been banging their head against the brick wall trying to get it solved.”

“I’m really clear with people I speak to that if they want just to meander along more of the same, then vote for the current Town Hall leadership, but not if you want a change in direction – if you want to actually start fixing some of the problems that we have.”

As for Docklands, he said he would continue to advocate for much-needed infrastructure, including a new high school and long-awaited renewal of Harbour Esplanade

“My parents live in NewQuay and love Docklands, but it needs strong leadership to realise the vision for a thriving harbour community on the doorstep of the city,” he said.

“The primary school has been fantastic and we now need to see the high school built, the Harbour Esplanade master plan realised and an end to inappropriate development, which means standing up to Development Victoria and the state government when required.” ●

tumultuous periods following allegations of sexual misconduct made against former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

He said voters only needed to “go back to my track record” to prove that “when I promise something, I deliver”, adding that unlike his main opponent in current Lord Mayor Nick Reece, he was heading into this campaign with a united team.

Cr Reece is a long-time Labor Party member who is running as an independent in this election on a “unity ticket” alongside Liberal Party member Cr Roshena Campbell as his deputy – an idea Mr Wood described as “farcical.”

“The idea of a unity ticket, where someone from a completely different political persuasion and vision from the opposite political space suddenly joined hearts, I think is a little bit farcical,” Mr Wood said.

“I do want people to be sceptical in this election of what’s been said.”

Under a “five-point plan” for the city, Mr

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## Construction under way at Collins Wharf

WORDS BY  
LÉA CARRÉ



Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny and Melbourne Lord Mayor Nick Reece have turned the sod on developer Lendlease's new apartment project Regatta at Collins Wharf in Docklands.

Minister Kilkenny and Cr Reece joined Lendlease's executive director of development Daniel Dugina at a ceremony on August 7 marking the beginning of construction of the project, which will comprise 317 new apartments once completed in 2026.

In what represents the important next chapter of the evolution of the Victoria Harbour and Collins Wharf precincts, Minister Kilkenny said Regatta would provide hundreds of much-needed homes close to the CBD.

"We'll continue to pull every lever we can to enable 800,000 homes of all types to be built over the next decade, including in our established suburbs close to jobs, transport and services," Minister Kilkenny said.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece said that the project was "a success story for Docklands – delivering more homes in a prime location" and would also add to the council's signature Greenline project. ●

## Greens reveal housing policy for the City of Melbourne

The Greens are pushing for an "abundance of affordable homes" in the City of Melbourne as the central policy initiative of its election campaign for Town Hall.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



A "fairer, greener Melbourne" is the message the Greens are urging Melburnians to get behind as the party pledges to do everything it can to shift the needle on providing desperately needed affordable homes in the city.

Launching their campaign in Carlton on August 18, the Greens' 2024 bid for Melbourne will be led by Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor candidates, North Melbourne resident Roxane Ingleton and CBD resident and mental health peer support worker Marley McRae McLeod.

While the City of Melbourne's electoral gerrymander, where businesses are given two votes to residents' one, makes it near impossible for a Greens Lord Mayor to be elected, the party has historically contributed two councillors to Town Hall.

As previously reported by *Docklands News*, the number one and two spots on the Greens' councillor ticket will be taken by current Cr Dr Olivia Ball, and newcomer West Melbourne resident Karl Hessian.

Current Cr Rohan Leppert, who has served three consecutive terms over 12 years at the City of Melbourne for the Greens, won't be recontesting at the elections in October.

Speaking at the party's campaign launch, Roxane Ingleton, a registered midwife at the Royal Women's Hospital, said she was running for Lord Mayor because she believed in a more "affordable, sustainable and healthy city".



Having lived and worked in Melbourne for much of her life, she said she was passionate about creating connected communities and "fighting for compassionate treatment of the most vulnerable among us".

"I live and breathe Melbourne," Ms Ingleton said. "My work sees me interacting with and caring for our local community members from all walks of life, often during the most sensitive and transformative time of their lives."

She added that much of her work was about "championing fairness and equality, both in the workplace among my colleagues, in our health system and in our broader communities".

Speaking with *Docklands News* ahead of the party's campaign launch, she said the issue of housing went to heart of this message, and that the Greens were the only team with a plan to do something about it in Melbourne.

With opportunities for a greater number of affordable homes in urban renewal areas like Arden, Ms Ingleton said the Greens would continue pressuring the government to go harder.

"The pandemic, recession and ongoing cost of living crisis has exposed unreliable, insecure work as well as soaring housing prices across the city. I know what it means to be an essential worker that struggles to

affordably live near my work," she said.

"Rental affordability and housing diversity are in a dire state. We need abundant housing supply, and we need to do it well. We need quality and affordable homes to support healthy communities, and we need our services, infrastructure and green open space to keep pace with growth."

"As Lord Mayor I will fight for quality, energy efficient affordable housing close to where people work. The plan I announce today will build a more affordable and more sustainable city."

Sharing its housing policy exclusively with *Docklands News*, the Greens plan to:

- Meet and beat the Victorian Government's draft Housing Target for the City of Melbourne through a municipal planning strategy.
- Expand Homes Melbourne to build 300 new below market rental homes for key workers on Council-controlled land in the next term of council and manage private affordable housing contributions.
- Advocate fiercely for inclusionary zoning, including mandatory 30 per cent affordable homes in urban renewal areas.
- Hold the state to account in its promise for affordable homes in Arden, an obvious location for new higher density public housing.
- Position Power Melbourne 2.0 to offer affordable renewable energy for residents, whether owners or renters, at scale.
- Retain the Victorian-best pensioner rates concession and Victorian-best rates hardship policy.

Joining Cr Dr Olivia Ball and Karl Hessian on the Greens councillor ticket at the number three and four spots, respectively, are Parkville resident and allied health work Aaron Moon, and North Melbourne public housing resident and youth leader Barry Berih. ●

## Melbourne City Council postal election

### My council, my vote



Two simultaneous elections will be held for Melbourne City Council this October – one to elect the Leadership Team (Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor) and the other to elect 9 councillors.

#### Voting by post this October

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Melbourne City Council general election from Monday 7 October. Complete and return your ballot material ASAP. Ballot material must be in the mail or delivered to the election manager by **6 pm on Friday 25 October**.

#### If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Wednesday 7 August, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by completing the online redirection form at [vec.vic.gov.au/redirections](http://vec.vic.gov.au/redirections), or call 131 832.

Requests for redirection must be received by 5 pm on Monday 9 September.

#### Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision – please register by 5 pm Tuesday 10 September. To register, call 03 8620 1314 during business hours.

#### Early votes

If you will be away during the voting period (7–25 October), you can go to your local election office to vote in person, from 3 pm on Thursday 19 September.

The Melbourne City Council election office is at:

Drill Hall  
51 – 57 Victoria Street  
Melbourne

#### How to nominate as a candidate

To nominate as a candidate, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters roll for Melbourne City Council AND
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected AND
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the election manager.

There are 2 different roles you can nominate for:

- Leadership Team – Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor
- councillors – 9 vacancies.

**You can nominate for the Leadership Team or as a councillor, but not both.**

If you nominate for the Leadership Team, you need to make a single joint nomination.

If you nominate as a councillor, you must nominate individually but you can agree with other candidates to form a group and appear on the ballot paper together.

To nominate for either the Leadership Team or councillor election, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the election manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from Monday 9 September until 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September at the election office.

Visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from Tuesday 20 August.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the election manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the election manager from Monday 9 September on 131 832 to make a nomination appointment.



#### Candidate information sessions

5:30 pm Wednesday 4 September at Yarra Room, Melbourne Town Hall, 90-120 Swanston Street, Melbourne

12:30 pm Thursday 5 September at Yarra Room, Melbourne Town Hall, 90-120 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Candidate information kits containing nomination forms and other electoral information will be available online and from the election manager.

**Nominations close 12 noon Tuesday 17 September.**

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)



# City of Melbourne elections: where things are at

We've learned plenty more during this past month about the makeup of the field competing for Melbourne Town Hall at October's City of Melbourne elections. Here's a snapshot ...

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



## The two front runners

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece wasted little time after being sworn in during July to announce his bid for the city's top job, announcing a campaign underpinned by a pledge to "get good done".

This was followed by announcing Liberal Party member and current councillor Roshena Campbell as his deputy. While the identities of who will be making up the Team Reece councillor ticket remained unconfirmed at the time of publishing, it's understood long-term Cr Kevin Louey will be given the number one spot, meaning a likely fifth consecutive term on council – 20 years to be precise.

As for Cr Reece's main opponent, former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood, who served alongside Reece as a fellow Team Doyle councillor during the 2016 election campaign, also announced his candidacy for Lord Mayor in late July.

And on August 11, Mr Wood announced his running partner as swimwear entrepreneur Erin Deering, who despite being new to politics is understood to have a "unique ability to innovate and lead on a global scale."

Cr Reece's campaign has so far included promises of lighting up Melbourne's laneways, a "Melbourne 3000 board", free swimming lessons for beginners, cost-of-living relief and "Australia's largest ever renewable power purchasing plan".

Mr Wood meanwhile has sworn to implement a zero per cent rate freeze, cut the cost of annual parking permits, establish a comprehensive program to tackle graffiti and make Melbourne Australia's "Christmas Capital".

## The smokey

Announcing their candidacy in North Melbourne in early August was current independent councillor and Docklander Jamal Hakim, who has proven to be an

impactful contributor during his first term.

Cr Hakim has made a habit of engaging with all corners of the community and he is looking to make history by having the first Greek-Australian Deputy Lord Mayor Esther Anatolitis, and the first Aboriginal councillor Bebe Oliver elected to the City of Melbourne.

While the weight of the City of Melbourne's gerrymander, where businesses are each given two votes to residents' one, will present a challenge for Team Hakim, preferences will prove the key in who ends up in the Lord Mayoral robes.

Given the number of teams expected to make up this year's field, depending how preferences flow (particularly the more progressive tickets) don't be shocked if Cr Hakim emerges as a front runner come October.

## The rest

The Greens have announced Roxane Ingleton and Marley McRae McLeod as their Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor candidates, however most of the interest is with who runs in the party's first two councillor positions.

The Greens have historically contributed two councillors to the City of Melbourne, and those will most likely be taken by current Cr Dr Olivia Ball, and newcomer in West Melbourne resident Karl Hessian. Three-term councillor and Kensington resident Rohan Leppert won't be recontesting in October.

The Labor Party also announced its ticket in Kensington on August 10, headed up again by Lord Mayor candidate and East Melbourne resident Phil Reed. But again, expect Cr Davydd Griffiths to be returned to council at the number one spot on the councillor ticket.

While the Greens have notoriously been the kingmakers at recent City of Melbourne elections, it will be interesting to see who Labor chooses to preference after Cr Nicholas Reece (a Labor member running as an independent) selected Liberal Cr Roshena Campbell as his running mate – a move which hasn't been well received by either Labor or Liberal.

More interestingly, the Liberal Party is endorsing a City of Melbourne council team for the first time ever, and it's understood East Melbourne resident and former federal candidate for Macnamara Owen Guest will fill the number one councillor spot.

That leaves pollster Gary Morgan, who has run for Lord Mayor at the past several



Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece  
and Cr Roshena Campbell



Arron Wood  
and Erin Deering



Cr Jamal Hakim and Esther  
Anatolitis



Phil Reed

elections and is largely there to try and get a councillor elected (most recently this was Melbourne Maritime Heritage chair Dr Jackie Watts) and provide preferences to his preferred Lord Mayoral candidate. Last time around, that was Sally Capp.

Docklands News can also confirm that East Melbourne Group president Greg Bisinella will lead the resident team Voices of Melbourne as its Lord Mayoral candidate, joined by Carlton Residents' Association's Megan Gathercole (deputy) and West Melbourne resident Mary Masters as its number one councillor candidate.

Former Carlton football great Anthony Koutafides has also announced he will run for Lord Mayor, with former federal Liberal MP Gladys Liu taking the number one spot on his ticket.

While some reports have linked Team Kouta with the Liberal Party, others have speculated that it could be, in fact, a feeder ticket for Cr Reece – a mad Carlton fan

who only recently posted a selfie taken with Mr Koutafides at the MCG.

As for the remaining councillors who haven't declared their intentions publicly, Cr Phil Le Liu is understood to be running on Arron Wood's ticket, while Cr Elizabeth Doidge earned her place in 2020 on a predominantly CFMEU-backed ticket. For obvious reasons, it appears her return to council would seem unlikely.

That leave Cr Jason Chang, who earned his spot on Arron Wood's 2020 ticket, and has been a part-time contributor on council due to the constraints of running his business Calia, which went into liquidation earlier this year. He confirmed on August 13 that this term would be his last.

As per previous elections, Hyperlocal News (publisher of Docklands News) will host a donations register on its website inviting all candidates to declare their donations during the campaign. ●

## Nick Reece for Melbourne Mayor



Melbourne is the best and fairest city in the world – and I've got a plan to make it even better. I want to make our neighbourhoods greener, our streets cleaner, our events bigger, and our city safer.

I want to deliver better community services and quality housing that's affordable, while protecting our heritage suburbs.

I want to make Melbourne an economic powerhouse, from headquarters to startups, making it easier to do business, supporting our traders and hospitality industry – the beating heart of our city.

I've got a strong track record as a City of Melbourne Councillor – and as Lord Mayor, I will be someone who Gets Good Done.

I'd love your support! Nick [nickformelbourne.com.au](http://nickformelbourne.com.au)

Authorised by Nicholas Reece, PO Box 1163, Carlton 3053.



# Docklands' transparencies

“ Around 70 per cent of Docklands' residents are born overseas and 60 per cent are speaking at home at least one language other than English. Yet this cultural diversity is not evident in its architectural or public space design. ”



Only the advertisements display a broad range of culinary traditions and emerging fusions, including Australian, Chinese, Colombian, German, Indian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Lebanese, Mexican, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese and more.

Like many cities, Melbourne has also become a “landscape of consumption”, in which most production is hidden from the public gaze, if not entirely displaced to other continents.

Children may well be thinking that food grows on supermarket shelves and toys magically appear in shopping malls. Exceptions to this within Docklands are scarce, such as the community garden or the bicycle repair container at Victoria Harbour.

What is lacking is what is called “urban transparency” – a property of a city that reveals its workings, how things are made, how people collaborate.

Such cities also express the culture and diversity of their residents. It is an attribute of places that are learning environments, neighbourhoods in which children become street-smart.

While glass is the first building material that comes to mind when we think of trans-

parency that lets the sunshine in, many glass facades are more reflective than transparent, designed to impress and intimidate rather than attract and invite you in.

A brick wall perforated by a wide opening can paradoxically provide more urban transparency than a glass façade that only symbolises it.

Producing or recovering urban transparency involves rethinking and redesigning public/private interfaces, how architecture mediates between the desire for privacy and the curiosity to understand the world around us. The most creative neighbourhoods in Australia have a rich mix of interface conditions.

If we look around the globe, besides corporate and government-led transforma-

tions we can also find many examples of people exercising their “right to the city” informally, diversifying public spaces by adding a local touch. Such temporary, tactical, or DIY urban interventions could spice up Docklands, too.

Examples include graffiti art, yarn bombing, nature strip planting, guerilla zebra crossings, street libraries and various other grassroot “pop-ups”. Children are quite good at such things, and sometimes it is a pathway towards larger impact, just as for Banksy or Rone.

Harbour Esplanade could be up for grabs for such experiments – it is underutilised and it could hardly get more desolate. So why not allow, enable or even incentivise resident-led temporary transformations?



Softening the pine trees, providing seating, shading, stalls and more, could make a big difference for the 500-metre stretch between Victoria Harbour and NewQuay.

What place would Docklands become if locals could alter their public spaces, entries or balconies?

For this to happen, public space redevelopments would need to engage residents more substantively, we'd require less restrictive body corporate regulations, and greater rights for renters – the latter now finally on the political agenda.

Through many tiny transformative steps, public spaces could gradually become more diverse, enabling more playful activities. ●

**Dr Elek Pafka**

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE  
PAFKA@UNIMELB.EDU.AU



## WHAT'S ON DURING SENIORS FESTIVAL

As part of the **Victorian Seniors Festival**, Active Melbourne is excited to be offering an array of free 'come and try' activities. Our aim is to support and celebrate seniors (50+ years) of all backgrounds to get active and socialise during this month-long program.

### Here's what's on offer

<b>Seniors Sports Day at Carlton Baths</b> Come and have a try at Pickleball, Walking Football, Strength and Stretch classes.	<b>Walking Football event at Docklands Sports Courts</b> Give it a go! If you can walk, you can participate.
<b>Beginner Golf Clinic at Royal Park Golf Course</b> Learn the basics of Golf and have a go!	<b>Intergenerational Walking Football at North Melbourne Recreation Centre</b> Bring your grandchildren for an afternoon of fun!
<b>Resuscitate Your Mate at Carlton Baths</b> Learn to help someone in an emergency situation. Includes Defibrillation use.	<b>Free coffee/hot drink on weekends at Riverslide Skate Park</b> Bring your grandchildren and enjoy a freebie!
<b>Various fitness classes across all sites, including:</b> Reformer Pilates, Aqua, Yoga, Tai Chi, Body Balance and Low Impact Cardio.	



HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER!



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## While Marvel Stadium sleeps, Friends of Fire ignites

Marvel Stadium's up-market pub, Friends of Fire, has an exciting slate of events to keep Docklanders entertained once the footy season draws to a close this September.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



The 250-seat pub boasts a range of South American-inspired meat and vegetarian dishes created by world-renowned culinary directors Shannon Martinez and Aaron Rodrigues.

With three woodfired grills, an open kitchen and a lively atmosphere, since Friends of Fire opened its doors six months ago it has become a fan favourite and is frequently booked out throughout the footy season.

With meals such as 28-day dry-aged rib eye with green fermented peppercorn on offer, Friends of Fire, has said goodbye to the humble meat pie and changed people's perception of a footy feed.

But Bubs Fahour, one of the venue's owners, said that now the season was nearing an end it was finding ways to continue to bring people to Marvel Stadium.

For local corporates, they have begun running Express Lunch from Tuesday to Friday between 12pm and 3pm, with fish and chips, parmas, smash burgers and butter-milk fried chicken for only \$25.

Wednesday night is steak night. For \$30, choose between traditional or plant-based steaks, a side of chips and a Penfolds wine flight pairing.

Mr Fahour said he wanted to transform the venue into a place that people not only go to enjoy a feed before the footy but a place for locals to enjoy year-round.

Next door to Friends of Fire is The Wine Room, an intimate 50-seat bar, and upstairs, Amphora, is a palatial 200-seat dining function room with an ornate skylight and a hand-painted floral mural. All of these venues are part-owned by Mr Fahour.

He said that he wanted to give people the chance to enjoy different dining experiences, whether it be the buzz of an upmarket pub with music or a tasteful corporate event in Amphora.



There's even the option to book out Amphora for a two-hour bottomless brunch with the choice between an acoustic band, DJ or drag show.

Mr Fahour is encouraging more locals to come experience what's

on offer, as well as for people from outside Docklands to come and discover what the area has to offer with a South American flair.

According to Mr Fahour the three venues are a way for the precinct to evolve into a unique

dining and entertainment experience in addition to being a sporting ground.

Whether you are after a pre-game beer or Friday night feed, Friends of Fire has plenty available to keep the night alive. ●

## Locals tell council: bring Docklands together and boost business

Housing affordability, homelessness services, a need for more green and open spaces, and better roads and transport options have topped a City of Melbourne survey as the community's top priorities.

WORDS BY  
DAVID ALLEN



The pulse check led by Participate Melbourne was conducted between February 21 and March 31 using in-person events and online portals, returning nearly 4500 responses.

Docklands locals said creating a family-friendly suburb and improving public safety were priority issues, with the number of homeless people in the area also listed as a concern.

Residents said Docklands lacked a sense of community, calling for more green spaces like playgrounds, parks and gardens to bring people together.

The survey found locals felt more support was needed to grow the local economy and attract more restaurants and shops to the area.

One Docklands survey respondent said, "At the moment the area is suffering post-COVID and many workers are just here 9 [am] to 5 [pm] and then a lot of things shut down."

"The area is beautiful but just can't seem to get any major attractions that would bring people to the area to spend money."

When broken down by neighbourhood, the survey found a need for more green spaces and events to improve community connectivity were priorities across each of the six areas.

Carlton respondents also called on the council to provide more support for local business.

In addressing the results at the August 13 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, Cr Dr Olivia Ball said, "I hope we are doing something sector-leading in this work of constantly checking in with the public."

Cr Dr Ball said the survey had achieved "the biggest result in the history of Participate Melbourne."

The survey prompted at least 290 responses per neighbourhood, with higher



density urban areas the most likely to take part.

Some 61 per cent of respondents were women, 33 per cent were born overseas, 25 per cent were aged under 30, and 16 per cent identified as LGBTQIA+, while nearly 12 per cent were local business owners.

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation was consulted as part of the survey process.

Areas surveyed included Carlton, the CBD, Docklands, East Melbourne, Fishermans Bend, Kensington, North Melbourne, Parkville, Southbank, South Yarra and West

Melbourne.

The City of Melbourne plans to conduct regular neighbourhood pulse checks as part of its Neighbourhood Planning Framework to inform future council budgets and the next four-year Council Plan.

Locals can sign up to receive updates when local council surveys are launched. ●

For more information:  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)



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Authorised by J Hakim PO BOX 23238, Docklands 8012



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## JOINING THE DOTS AROUND MELBOURNE FOR RIDERS

More and more people are using bikes to move around, and with Melbourne set to become the biggest capital city by 2030, it's crucial that workers, students, residents and visitors feel confident getting from A to B.

To accommodate these new road users, we need to deliver high-quality bike lanes in the right locations.

Through City of Melbourne's refreshed bike lane program, we're joining the dots in our network - installing more durable infrastructure with protected spaces for bikes and private scooters improving footpaths and planting more trees.

We've seen a huge uptake in riding since we started installing more bike lanes in 2020 - with 22 per cent more rides on these routes, and a massive 83 per cent drop in riders feeling unsafe. We're also seeing 34 per cent of rides by women and girls in these lanes, as they feel more safe travelling on these routes.

### SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE NEW RIDING LANES

#### Exhibition Street

The separated bike lanes we delivered on Exhibition Street in 2021 are receiving a spruce up with new bluestone islands and raised sections in front of the theatres.

This route is perfect for those going to a late-night comedy gig, belting their heart out to a favourite musical or even dipping their toes into city-riding for the first time.



Swanston Street / Elgin Street

#### Grattan Street

To support the thousands of university students, hospital workers and inner-north residents who ride through Carlton every day, we've delivered protected bike lanes on Grattan Street.

They connect to the bike lanes between Bouverie Street and Royal Parade which were delivered by the Victorian Government, and popular riding routes along Rathdowne and Swanston streets.

#### Arden Street

We've kicked off construction to deliver protected bike lanes - mean riders and drivers can move around the city safely, providing a safer and better-connected riding network in North Melbourne.

The improved route will join the dots between the Abbotsford Street lanes and Capital City Trail, and provide a smoother journey for riders when Metro Tunnel's new Arden Station opens in 2025.

#### Queensberry Street

With Grattan Street now fully open to road users and pedestrians, we're proposing to reinstate Queensberry Street to one traffic lane in each direction and deliver safer, greener bike lanes.

We consulted with the community on the draft design plan in July and August 2024 - to stay up to date with this project, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/queensberry-street-riding-lanes](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/queensberry-street-riding-lanes)



New bike lanes mean riders and drivers can move around the city safely

#### What's coming up?

Over the next year, we're prioritising bike lanes that join the dots between the inner suburbs and the city - keeping Melburnians connected.

With major transport works underway such as the Metro Tunnel Project and essential tram track upgrades, we've made our bike lane program flexible so that we're not adding any more delays to your trip.

Keep up-to-date at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/new-bike-lanes](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/new-bike-lanes)



New bike lanes on Rathdowne Street

### NEW WEBSITE MAKES IT EASIER TO CONNECT WITH COUNCIL

Connecting with the City of Melbourne just got easier with the launch of our new website.

Whether you live in, work in or visit the city, you can easily access the information you need about our facilities and services in a simpler, easier way.

Our new website - [melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au) - is designed to improve access to the most popular information, including paying rates, applying for permits, booking hard waste collection or pet registration.

Features of the site include:

#### PAY, REPORT, REQUEST

Interact with us more efficiently online with forms, tools and information for the most common council services in one place.

#### TRANSLATION

The site can be simply translated into 16 languages at the click of a button, to better meet the needs of our community.

#### INTUITIVE NAVIGATION

Our contemporary, user-friendly design prioritises accessibility, making it easier to explore the site.

#### MELBOURNE NEWS

Read the latest news from the City of Melbourne. Keep up-to-date with city-shaping projects, epic events and ways to connect with your community.

#### IMPROVED SEARCH

Our fast and accurate search function allows you to filter by keyword from any page on the site.

The new website is a central part of our digital transformation. The new design provides a consistent and accessible browsing experience for everyone, whether you're on a desktop computer or a mobile device.



Desktop access

For any queries about our new website or if you can't find what you're looking for, contact our **Customer Service team on 9658 9658** or submit your query to us online at [melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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Your City of Melbourne community update

## A LOOK AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



# MAKE AN IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY: BECOME A NEIGHBOURHOOD VOLUNTEER

*Be a change-maker within your community by developing skills to help you host events and run projects to improve your neighbourhood.*

**Do you want to support connection within your community and motivate others to participate but not sure how? Why not apply to be a neighbourhood volunteer and learn how to support change in your area.**

City of Melbourne's Neighbourhood Volunteer Program is now open for applications from passionate people with a connection to our neighbourhoods.

The pilot learning program will run over eight months, with 24 volunteers chosen for their connection to the CBD, Docklands, Carlton or Southbank in this first phase.

During the bespoke training program, volunteers will take part in professional development opportunities, gain hands-on experience in leading and

delivering community projects, learn about community engagement, and take guided tours of council buildings and facilities. This learning period will be followed by 12 months of casual volunteering work.

With weekly sessions, you will learn about council processes and receive funding to run your own community project. You'll also get the

opportunity to learn from experienced City of Melbourne staff and write a blog post for our Neighbourhood Portals.

This is a great opportunity to boost your connection with the community and make friends who have shared interests.

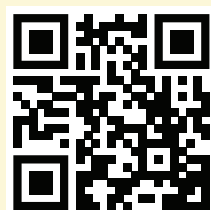
The program is open to people who have a connection to CBD, Docklands, Carlton or Southbank and are passionate and curious about the community. Priority will be given to people who are under the age of 30, people with a disability, people from multicultural backgrounds, or from the LGBTQIA+ community.



Participants will be expected to commit between two to six hours of their time each week during the program. Expressions of interest close at 5pm on Monday 16 September.

Find out more and apply at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods/volunteer-program](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods/volunteer-program)

# Discover your Neighbourhood Portal



Access community grants, find local news and events in Docklands, and learn about community-building programs at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/docklands](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/docklands)



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## Labor reveals its team for the City of Melbourne

The Labor Party has unveiled a five-person team and its theme for the upcoming City of Melbourne local government elections: “keeping local government local”.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



True to this mantra, the Labor team for Melbourne announced its campaign at Bellair Street Reserve in Kensington on August 10.

Labor is again being led by Lord Mayor candidate and East Melbourne resident Phil Reed, who registered less than 10 per cent of first-preference votes when he headed up the party’s 2020 campaign.

The results were enough to elect first-term Cr Davydd Griffiths, who is again running in the number one spot on Labor’s councillor ticket and is largely expected to be returned for another term.

Labor will head to the election with a new candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor – Virginia Willis – a Kensington resident with a background in workplace relations, safety and employment rights, who currently lectures

at RMIT.

The remainder of the team, taking the number two and three positions on the councillor ticket are Somali Women’s Development Association operational manager Zainab Sheik, and Parkville resident and sustainability leader Michael Aleisi.

Mr Reed said City of Melbourne elections tended to turn into a battle of personalities instead of policies, and the focus needed to be reset on the needs of local residents and local ratepayers.

“The City of Melbourne has become one of the fastest growing municipalities in the nation, with population expected to double and reach more than 308,000 by 2041, and jobs forecast to increase by 41 per cent and reach more than 659,200,” Mr Reed said.

“That sort of growth requires a focus on the services and facilities we usually associate with municipalities of Melbourne’s urban fringe – childcare, parks, playgrounds, maternal and childhood health.”

“Labor understands the role local government plays in the delivery of these services, and we know that a unified and cohesive team is essential to creating a stable and effective administration that can deliver the commitments we make.”

Mr Reed said Labor’s full policy agenda would be released in early September. ●

## Committee for Melbourne backs Docklands’ “killer” freight bridge

The Committee of Melbourne has defended its decision to back a controversial freight rail bridge that threatens to choke access to Victoria Harbour in Docklands, saying it would minimise local road congestion and carbon emissions.

WORDS BY DAVID ALLEN



The proposed freight rail link would connect the Port of Melbourne’s Swanson Dock facilities west of Docklands, to Webb Dock by the mouth of the Yarra, via a low river crossing adjacent to the Bolte Bridge.

In its submission to the state government’s Freight Plan, the Committee for Melbourne called for investment in the rail line to help maintain the competitive advantage of Melbourne as Australia’s freight and logistics capital.

The rail line has been a sticking point in the Port of Melbourne’s ambitious 2050 Port Development Strategy due to ongoing local opposition.

Committee of Melbourne CEO Mark Melvin defended support for the project, saying “The future needs of the Port overlap the needs of not just local residents, but of wider Victoria, wherein supply chain resilience ensures that shelves continue to be well-stocked, goods are received on time, and businesses can continue to operate.”

Mr Melvin said the impact of the rail link on the Docklands community should be “managed” but that more internal rail traffic within the Port of Melbourne in the long term “should alleviate land-side congestion in the near-port and broader road network around Webb Dock, keeping public roads clear while ensuring efficient freight movement”.

The Bailleau Government first mooted the Webb Dock freight line in 2013, but the Napthine Government later walked back on the plans, instead earmarking growth opportunities for the Port of Hastings.

As reported by Docklands News, Minister for Planning Richard Wynne, who served as part of former Premier Dan Andrews’ government, originally ruled out any plans for a river crossing between the two Port of Melbourne docks.

However, the proposal would reappear in the state government’s revised 2018 blueprint for Fishermans Bend, and the Port of Melbourne officially declared its intentions for the proposal in 2020 with the release of its 30-year Port Development Strategy.

Docklands News has reported several stories over the years on the extensive local opposition to the freight bridge, with many considering it a “killer” for Victoria Harbour and the precinct’s future.

Supporters of the historic tall ship, *Alma Doepel*, are among those opposed to the plans, arguing the freight bridge would further restrict access to larger vessels and prevent City of Melbourne plans for Victoria Harbour to host a heritage fleet.

The state government has remained tight-lipped on the status of the project.

An update on the state’s rail freight network site in July said, “The Victorian Government is working with the Port of Melbourne and the Fishermans Bend Taskforce to identify and protect an alignment for the link.”

Mr Melvin said the Port of Melbourne was “undertaking wide-ranging stakeholder engagement with industry, government, community, and other interested parties” over the development of its Port Development Strategy.

He said the Committee would work with the Port to explore alternatives should local opposition see the state government choose to again cancel the freight line. ●

## TV thriller brings star power to Docklands Studios

Melburnians can expect to see film crews about town in the weeks ahead as work begins on a new TV thriller *All Her Fault* starring Sarah Snook.

WORDS BY DAVID ALLEN



Melbourne local, Emmy and two-time Golden Globe winner, Ms Snook, who is perhaps best-known

for her role in the hit television series *Succession*, will play a mother whose young son goes missing dur-

ing a playdate with a school friend. “I feel so excited about being able to work in Melbourne again,”

Ms Snook said.

“The industry we have here, across all departments of cast and crew, is world class.”

The series will be filmed at Docklands Studios and other locations across Melbourne.

It is expected to create more than 2000 jobs for Victorian screen industry workers, support 435 local businesses, and inject more than \$70 million into the state economy.

“*All Her Fault* is just one of the productions being filmed in Victoria this year – showcasing our incredible creative talent, highly skilled crews, unique locations and world-class screen infrastruc-

ture,” Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks said.

Joining Snook in the cast are Dakota Fanning, Jake Lacy (*White Lotus*), Abbey Elliott (*The Bear*), Sophie Lillis (*It*), Michael Pena (*Unstoppable*) and Australian actor Daniel Monks (*Ricky Stanicky*), while Minkie Spiro (*3 Body Problem*, *Downton Abbey*) will direct.

The series is based on the book of the same name by Irish author Andrea Mara published in 2021.

Universal International Studios will produce and were drawn to the state through the government’s Victorian Screen Incentive. Production began in late August. ●

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DOCKLANDS NEWS

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## A student-led vision for parents and friends of Docklands Primary School

The Docklands Primary School (DPS) Parents & Friends Association now has a face of its own, thanks to school's incredibly talented students – a milestone which was celebrated at a special assembly in August.

WORDS BY  
KATY SEND



Parents & Friends (P&F) Associations are organisations set up to support schools. They are an integral part of the Australian school system dating back to the mid-19th century. They were created to provide a formal structure for parents and others interested in the welfare of the students to plan and organise activities for the benefit of the school, and the ongoing development of students.

- P&F Association members provide invaluable support to the school in several ways with the primary motivation of building a sense of community. The activities may include promoting cultural and social diversity by growing membership and participation of all parents in the association.
- Channelling parents' views to the school leadership about school pol-

icies that have been identified by the school for review.

- Discussing, planning and organising events, such as welcoming new students and parents at the school, second-hand book and uniform schemes, social opportunities, comedy, movie, disco nights, twilight markets, barbecues, free breakfasts, parent information sessions, raising funds for the school.

Our school is only a few years old. Most of our families are new to Australia and are still getting their head around how to fit into the Australian education system. Therefore, it takes time to explain to our parent community what the P&F Association does and the important role it plays in ensuring students' wellbeing at the school.

We encourage all parents to join the P&F. It will help our students, our families and the school, we will be able to have more and bigger events and activities for our students.

P&F currently has 20 members, and we want more. We're also very excited this year with a Docklands resident joining P&F.

Local residents volunteering with the school creates invaluable connections between the school and local community.

Local resident Maureen Jacobsen is helping the school to organise learning materials and assist in setting up the exhibition at the Library at the Dock.

"I am very happy and enjoy being able to



volunteer and assist at the Docklands Primary School library," Ms Jacobsen said.

"The school library provides a space for the children to read and learn in a comfortable, safe environment. It is also great to see the children learn to appreciate the beauty of books and assist the teachers with the reading resources."

Earlier this year the P&F Association ran a logo competition asking children to put their vision of the parents' and carers' community on paper and create an identity for

our group of passionate volunteers helping create a vibrant, active and supportive school community.

P&F received more than 30 logo submissions, each worthy of representing P&F. It was such a hard task to choose, but in the end we decided to put it to the students' vote.

The winning logo was created by Grade 4 student

Yashasree, who received a book signed by the school principal Adam

Bright as a prize. "Yashasree's design looks fantastic. Its style, layout and colour scheme are perfect. It represents our local area – Docklands' marine feel, our community and its values being the heart of it all," P&F vice-president Anna Chillakuru said.

"We are so proud of our students, the sophistication of their work was well above what was expected."

P&F and City of Melbourne have organised an exhibition of all the submissions that can now be viewed at the Library at the Dock. We invite the Docklands community to visit the display to celebrate our children's creativity and talents. ●

## Building a Docklands with vision: the importance of thoughtful development

Docklands, once a bustling industrial hub, now stands as one of Melbourne's most significant redevelopment projects.

WORDS BY  
CR JAMAL HAKIM



Over the past few decades, we have seen this area transform from a neglected waterfront into a vibrant precinct, home to businesses, residences, and cultural landmarks.

However, as we continue to shape the future of Docklands, it is crucial that we do so with vision, ensuring that development is not just rapid but also thoughtful, sustainable, and inclusive.

The Docklands area is a unique opportunity for Melbourne – a chance to expand our city's footprint in a way that reflects our values of community, innovation, and environmental stewardship.

As a councillor for the City of Melbourne, I am committed to ensuring that the development of Docklands and across Melbourne is guided by these principles, creating a space that benefits not only current residents but also future generations and our many businesses.

Development with vision means planning

for the long term. It means considering how the decisions we make today will shape the Docklands of tomorrow. As we continue to see new buildings rise and more people call this area home, we must ask ourselves: what kind of community do we want Docklands to be?

For me, the answer is clear. Docklands should be a place where people can live, work, and play – a dynamic community that is as diverse as it is connected. To achieve this, we need to curate mixed-use development, which integrates the residential, commercial, and public spaces in a strategic and understanding way.

This approach not only creates a more vibrant and active area but also helps to build a sense of community, where people from different walks of life can come together.

Importantly, it's a family-friendly community, where kids and adults alike feel safe and part of a community. It is our water gateway to the city and is an asset to Melbourne that we must celebrate with pride.

We have existing and new businesses that are committed to Docklands, and they are successful because they engage with community to their benefit. It's critical we plan in a way that recognises these factors – because Docklands is no longer an open field, it has a community here.

In the face of climate change, sustainability must be at the heart of all our devel-

opment plans. Docklands offers us a unique opportunity to set a benchmark for environmentally responsible urban development.

One key aspect of sustainable development is the integration of green spaces. Parks, gardens, and waterfront areas not only provide much-needed recreational spaces but also help to combat the urban heat island effect and improve air quality. These spaces also contribute to the aesthetic appeal of Docklands and Melbourne, making it an attractive destination for both residents and visitors.

Docklands has the potential to be a major driver of economic growth for Melbourne. With its proximity to the CBD and its unique waterfront location, the area is ideally positioned to attract businesses, particularly in the creative and tech industries.

However, to fully realise this potential, we need to foster an environment that encourages innovation and supports startups and entrepreneurs.

While development is essential, it is equally important to preserve the unique character and heritage of Docklands. This area has a rich maritime history, and as we build for the future, we must also honour the past.

This can be achieved by integrating heritage buildings and landmarks into new developments. It can also include educational programs in schools that provide options in

maritime careers for Docklands' youth.

Finally, successful development in Docklands requires a collaborative approach. This means engaging with the community, listening to their needs and concerns, and working together to create a shared vision for the area. It also means collaborating with developers, businesses, and other stakeholders to ensure that development is aligned with the broader goals of the city.

That's why the latest proposal from Development Victoria has completely fallen on deaf ears. It's jarring, doesn't consider the opportunity to connect Docklands to the city or solve any of the physical issues caused by Development Victoria's lacklustre vision, and is an incredible shame.

All is not lost, and hopefully continued conversation means the AFL might consider being a good neighbour and push to integrate changes that do the right thing.

As we look to the future of Docklands, let us work towards a development strategy that is visionary, sustainable, and inclusive. By doing so, we can create a Docklands that is not just another high-rise village but a vibrant, thriving community that reflects the best of Melbourne. Ultimately, it's people that make community, not buildings.

Sign the petition to demand the new development considers the Docklands community, check it out on my Facebook page @thejamalhakim ●

Proudly representing the  
community in Docklands

**Evan MULHOLLAND MP**

Liberal Member for Northern Metropolitan Region

9651 8242 | EvanMulhollandMP | Evan.Mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au

Shop 24, 55-63 Paringa Boulevard, Meadow Heights | EvanMulholland.com.au

Authorised by Evan Mulholland MP, Shop 24/55-63 Paringa Boulevard, Meadow Heights VIC 3048.



QUESTION:  
Do you have a favourite café or restaurant in Docklands?

# Faces of Docklands



**Jivaraja**  
I'm in holidays from Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and I loved trying Docklands Den.



**Paul BITO**  
for a coffee, Mojo for a café.



**Luna**  
Next to the library and the trams, there is Saluministi Docklands.



**Paul Try BITO.**

## STATE MP



Ellen Sandell and other Victorian Greens MPs join the Victorian Homelessness Network on the steps of Parliament during Homelessness Week.

## Almost 100K homes empty in the middle of a housing crisis

97,861. That is the number of homes that were left empty in Melbourne last year according to Prosper Australia's recent report.

At a time when tens of thousands of Victorians are sleeping rough or living in their cars, and the wait list for public housing continues to grow, this is absolutely outrageous.

These are homes that people could live in. Instead, they're mostly owned by property speculators who are leaving them empty while they wait for the right time to sell and make a huge profit, or homes that are listed on Airbnb.

The Labor State Government should not find it acceptable that there are nearly 100,000 homes empty in our city, while people have nowhere to live.

Earlier this year, the Greens used our power in the Victorian Parliament to get the Labor Government to introduce a tax on empty homes. It begins on January 1, 2025, and the tax will increase for every year that someone leaves a home empty.

This is a good step to addressing this problem, but there's still much more to do. Our housing system is completely cooked. Here's another example. If someone buys a property and then sells it for a profit, they only pay tax on half of that profit. They pay less tax on

that profit than you do on your salary.

Labor should not put the rights of people to be property investors and earn huge profits, over the right of someone to have a roof over their head.

The Greens and I will keep pushing Labor to:

- Recognise housing as a human right
- Cap rent increases
- Stop the privatisation of public housing and build more public housing homes
- Regulate Airbnbs to get more homes on the long-term rental market
- End tax concessions for property investors

These are easy solutions that the Labor State Government could implement if they had the will.

We need homes for people to live in to solve the housing crisis. It really is that simple.

If there's anything I can help you with, please get in touch at [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com).

**Ellen Sandell**

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE  
[OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM](mailto:OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM)



## Docklands News tours the West Gate Tunnel Project

A busload of curious locals set out for a behind the scenes tour of the West Gate Tunnel Project on Saturday, July 27, as part of the Open House Melbourne weekend.

WORDS BY  
REBECCA SHEPHERD



After exploring the project's Info Centre in Yarraville, and queueing up for a complimentary coffee, visitors filed on to a bus and departed for a guided tour of the project's east zone, travelling along the Maribyrnong River, up Footscray Rd and into Docklands.

A project engineer explained the different kinds of infrastructure that was being built, including some of the largest steel girder bridges in Australia, and the 2.5-kilometre veloway – a bright green elevated cycling highway that will run from Footscray to Docklands.

The veloway is currently being lifted into place in segments and suspended underneath a new motorway that runs above Footscray Rd. The veloway is made up of about 195 segments, 40 of which have now been installed.

Also taking shape is the new pedestrian and cycling bridge, which will replace a busy crossing that connects cyclists travelling through Docklands to the Moonee Ponds Creek trail.

Visitors asked about the timeline of the project, the various road and tunnel connections and future journeys that drivers and cyclists will take.

The West Gate Tunnel Project began construction in 2018, and the tunnel and new lanes on the West Gate Freeway, Footscray Rd and Wurundjeri Way will open to traffic in late 2025. ●



## When buying an apartment “off the plan”, always check who the builder is too

With news hitting the public domain almost every other week about a prominent building company going into administration, many in the construction industry are now bracing for a ripple effect of smaller contractors and sub-contractors also pulling the plug.

The COVID-19 pandemic did not just create construction delays for the industry, but it also led to shortages of required building materials, as well as trucking and shipping logistic delays and price increases, too. All of this has created a perfect storm.

With construction contracts, it is usual for developers to engage builders for a fixed price following a tender process. There are penalties in the contract if the builder does not complete the construction project on time as well.

Prior to the pandemic starting, the precedents for these construction contracts did not contemplate a worldwide pandemic affecting a construction project, so the “force majeure” or “act of god” exclusion clauses did not include a provision to cover this situation.

This means that building companies may well be facing the prospect of not only being forced to complete a building contract in circumstances where the price of materials might have increased by 20 to 30 per cent, but also where the developer is enforcing delay damages for failing to complete it on time. No wonder building companies are feeling the pressure.

In the meantime, there is no denying that Melburnians are fascinated by high-rise strata living, as evidenced by the large number of multi-storey high-rise developments that continue to be marketed and sold “off the plan” ahead of being built in and around the city.

However, before signing the contract, some of the most important things for prospective purchasers to consider are:

### The profile and track record of the builder and developer

For instance, do they have a history of doing good work in Australia and around the world? Do they stand behind their developments? Do they return to their developments to fix any defects? Are they financially secure?

These matters can be checked via online enquiries. If the developer or builder runs into trouble during the intervening period between the sales contract being entered into and settlement, then there is the risk of the deposit being lost, or the project being cancelled or at least substantially delayed.

### Has the developer provided sufficient information about what is being purchased?

For instance, are the architectural plans

of the building and common areas no more than generic images? Have the internal furnishings been specified?

### Have the running costs of the building been properly specified?

Some owners' corporations (OC) have had nasty surprises after settlement when it has been discovered that the budget and levies had been overwhelmingly under-estimated.

### Will the building be completed in stages and which stage will the unit be completed within?

There can be instances of disruption and loss of amenity for owners that settle early, as they move in while the upper levels of the towers are still being built, with workmen and construction noise continuing for several months after settlement.

### Will the building be independently managed?

It's important to note whether this will occur under a reputable OC management company and caretaker, or does the sales contract provide the developer with the discretion to appoint whomever they like and “lock the OC” into a long-term contract?

### Do the proposed rules suit your needs?

With regards to such matters as pets,

smoking, and the ability to carry out your own renovations. It's also very important to establish whether the building be occupied by a serviced apartment operator or hotel.

### Do you know whether the apartment will have an obstructed or unobstructed view when completed?

There are always risks implicit with any investment, but with a large choice of apartments currently on the market, potential purchasers can afford to shop around and be “picky” about whom they choose to invest their money with.

Reputable developers with a good track record will do well out of the Melbourne market, while those developers who do not have a good reputation or are new to the market may struggle to get their developments sold quickly, unless they market the building overseas and sell to overseas owners. ●

### Tom Bacon

STRATA TITLE LAWYERS

TOM@STRATATITLAWYERS.COM.AU



## COMMUNITY3008 INC

## Community3008 Inc. continues to grow

Our new organisation centred around facilitating community spirit for Docklands residents and local small business owners continues to grow stronger.

WORDS BY COMMUNITY3008 INC. COMMUNITY LIAISON



The meeting on August 28 will give those attending a chance to chat with Lord Mayor Nick Reece and Cr Jamal Hakim in their current City of Melbourne roles about current matters affecting Docklands.

There will also be a chance to meet with Dean Robertson, who is head of security for

the City of Melbourne, as well as with a representative from Victoria Police.

Added into the mix will be Daniel Hibberd – president of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce – who is facilitating the rolling out the Docklands Farmers Market, which is an initiative created out of the Docklands Stakeholder Group.

In September, Community3008 inc. will be holding a special meeting: “Meet the Lord Mayor Candidates” – a chance for the community to hear from candidates running for Lord Mayor in the City of Melbourne elections to be held via postal voting this October.

We aim to have all the candidates speaking at the meeting in an open and fair forum. This is an opportunity for the community to ask about candidates' potential policies and what the future Lord Mayor

will do to support those living and running small businesses in Docklands.

Regarding the elections, ballot papers will be mailed out between October 7 and 10 so if you are enrolled to vote and do not receive your ballot papers or just have general queries about Local Government Elections you can chase them up via the VEC, (Victorian Electoral Commission), webpage: [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

Friday, October 25, 2024, at 6pm is the deadline for completion of papers and all papers must be received by the VEC by 12pm on November 1. Election results will be declared on November 15.

If you feel you'd like to serve your community and get involved in local government – there is still time to enrol as a local council candidate as the deadline is on Tuesday, September 17 at 12pm. The deadline has

now passed to enrol to vote.

For further information on meetings and other community suggestions Community3008 inc. can be contacted at: [contact@community3008.org.au](mailto:contact@community3008.org.au)

You can now also join Community3008 inc. via our website: [community3008.org.au](http://community3008.org.au)

### Meeting reminders:

Wednesday, August 28 – 6pm @ The Hub, (80 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands)

Monday, September 23 – 6pm, Meet the Lord Mayor Candidates @ The Hub at the Dock – Level 1, 912 Collins St, Docklands (upstairs next to the library). ●

For more information: [community3008.org.au](http://community3008.org.au)



# ADAM BANDT

## FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE



Authorised by J. McColl, 142 Johnston St, Fitzroy VIC 3065.



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# Missing in action: Development Victoria – Central Pier Waterfront Place Principles and Vision Strategy

Many in Docklands, like members of Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN), have been eagerly awaiting the Central Pier Waterfront Place Principles and Vision Strategy. This is a matter of immense importance to maritime heritage in this State.



Ever optimistic, MMHN looked forward to the release of this “vision strategy” – we expected it to be a step forward towards ameliorating the protracted ugly pier demolition debacle. Regrettably, not so.

Promising to “transform the heart of Docklands into a gathering place at the water’s edge where the city’s creative energy comes together in welcoming spaces”, the Central Pier Waterfront Place Principles and Vision Strategy is underwhelming.

Development Victoria (DV) states that the “vision” reflects “feedback from community and the input from experts in tourism, heritage, placemaking, sustainability and design”. MMHN took the word “strategy” to involve action going forward? Again regrettably, not so.

Instead DV offered little more than mere description. No plans, no timelines, just euphemisms, inaccuracies and devoid of detail. See for yourself:



## So, what did MMHN expect?

Certainly respectful, accurate historical reference to the significance and unique heritage of the Docklands precinct.

MMHN is pleased to note appropriate reference to Indigenous presence long before the “Blue Lake” intermittent swamp was transformed by the ambitious and successful Coode Scheme.

This included, of course, the construction of the civil engineering marvel, Victoria Dock (later Victoria Harbour) and later Central Pier. This port infrastructure was the “engine

room” that drove Victoria’s prosperity.

Docklands’ extensive wharves, innovative cargo handling, stevedoring expertise and railways-based goods distribution network all enabled the transformation of Melbourne from colonial backwater to a great metropolis – and ultimately the great port city it is today. Without maritime trade, Victoria would certainly not have prospered.

Central Pier was a crucial infrastructure at the epicentre in this Docklands maritime heritage story. DV does not adequately acknowledge, and certainly underplays this reality stating, “The removal of Central Pier is a pivotal step toward its transformation as we start to consider viable opportunities for its future.”

The use of word “removal” is hardly an accurate account of the demise of this heritage-listed maritime infrastructure asset, Central Pier, which is being “demolished” following a series of earlier demolitions and after decades of ineffectual maintenance and neglect by those responsible.

Regrettably, such misperceptions continue. “Central Pier is located on Victoria Harbour, a small and meaningful part of Melbourne that is located within the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and which forms a key component of Melbourne’s early maritime history”.

To be clear, Central Pier, at the epicentre of Victoria Harbour, was in physical form, and certainly in heritage significance, far from being described as “small”. Further, given the port was operational into the late 1960s, its economic importance was indeed not limited to “Melbourne’s early maritime



history”. DV appears intent on diminishing or downplaying what is, in fact, a unique maritime infrastructure asset in Victoria – the Dockland Precinct and its maritime heritage.

So, where does the DV Central Pier Waterfront Place Principles and Vision Strategy leave the many concerned stakeholders who devoted time and effort in providing DV with “input from experts in tourism, heritage, place-making, sustainability and design”?

The answer is ... nowhere!

Now several years into the process of Central Pier/waterfront redevelopment, MMHN is dismayed to note in the DV “vision strategy”: “we start to consider viable opportunities for its future”.

DV may well only just “start to consider viable opportunities” but certainly others in Docklands, including MMHN, who have been engaged in identifying “viable opportunities” seriously and for some considerable time, a long time.

MMHN has put forward a cogent “vision”. In fact, a viable “solution”. See [mmhn.org.au/maritime-experience-centre](http://mmhn.org.au/maritime-experience-centre)

In a nutshell: MMHN recognises that DV has at Central Pier a unique opportunity in this prime location to celebrate all aspects of Melbourne as a maritime port city – past present and future.

The MMHN “vision” is for an iconic low-rise architecturally iconic and cultural “drawcard” structure, incorporating shared

community facilities, surrounded by a promenade deck and maritime garden atop a floating pier/pontoon.

This will provide permanent activation in the very centre of Harbour Esplanade with cutting-edge technology exhibits and activities to attract, inform and delight residents and visitors alike. Although the maritime sector is critical to our future, currently there is no means of “showcasing” this critical industry sector in Victoria.

To conclude on a positive note – in a recent a meeting with Minister for Development Victoria Colin Brookes, MMHN received a positive response to the Docklands concerns and “solutions” we proposed, including a floating pier/pontoon and Maritime Experience Centre.

We live in hope, albeit impatiently! MMHN wants the heritage “jewel” of Central Pier in Victoria Harbour to sparkle! MMHN calls on DV to produce more than a mere descriptive “vision”. Let’s see DV accelerate the project BEFORE the demolition is complete. ●

## Jackie Watts

CHAIR

INFO@MMHN.ORG.AU



## FEDERAL MP

# If you rent, and you want change, you have to vote for it

## Renting in the City of Melbourne is too expensive and too many politicians are doing nothing about it.

Over the past few years, rents have continued to increase, forcing people to move out, or even become homeless.

If we don’t have affordable places to live, how do we expect to maintain the character of who we are, a vibrant, artistic, innovative and diverse place?

Currently, less than one per cent of rental properties in Melbourne’s CBD are affordable. It has to change.

We have a housing crisis which is affecting people across Melbourne and the country.

According to the Housing Advocacy Group “Everybody’s home” four out of five people are in rental stress, paying more than 30 per cent of their income in rent.

For too long, renters have been ignored by politicians. The entire housing market has been rigged in favour of wealthy property investors with multiple property who want to use it as a way of making a profit, and it’s seen house prices become out of reach for a whole generation of people.

Renters need to start to vote as a block, in their interests. A third

of the country rents. If renters changed how they voted, we could bring down the costs of rents and housing.

The Melbourne City Council Greens, including Lord Mayor candidate Roxane Ingleton, have a plan to make 30 per cent of new developments in urban renewal areas in the City of Melbourne public and genuinely affordable housing, so that young people, essential workers, and people of all income levels can afford to live in our city.

The Greens are the only party who have been calling for a rent freeze. Labor refused to back it.

We also need to better regulate

short stay accommodation like Airbnb.

Renters are hurting, they are often trapped at the mercy of their landlord, unable to do anything about rising rents.

They can be kicked out with little to no notice and can often struggle to get the necessary improvements to their residences.

Renters are at their wits’ end.

But something is happening – renters are collectivising right now like never before. This month, hundreds of renters claimed the streets in Fitzroy to rally against Labor’s abysmal record on renting and housing.

If we’re going to take on Labor

and the Liberals’ special treatment for wealthy property developers and wealthy investors, we’re going to need to work together.

We can’t keep voting for the same two parties and expecting different things to happen.

If you’re a renter, and you want change, you have to vote for it. ●

## Adam Bandt

FEDERAL MP FOR MELBOURNE

ADAM.BANDT.MP@APH.GOV.AU



## Ask R U OK? Any day

R U OK? Day and Mental Health Awareness Month helps bring attention to the importance of psychological and emotional wellbeing, but that's just the beginning.

What does it mean to put this awareness into action?

With the help of [ruok.org.au/how-to-ask](http://ruok.org.au/how-to-ask) we have put together some simple tips on what to do if someone you know appears to be struggling.

Always remember the person you are speaking with is doing their best to cope. When we are in pain, we lose perspective and feel like things will never change. That's why hope and optimism are so important.

### Ask R U OK?

Open up the conversation by asking "how are you going?" or "what's been happening?". Mention specific things that have made you concerned for them or noticed changes in their behaviour.



If they don't want to talk, don't criticise, judge or launch into advice. Remember you are offering an invitation to help, if you can.

You could say: "I'd like it if you called me if you ever want to chat"

or "is there someone else you'd rather talk to?"

### Listen with an open mind

Take what they say seriously and don't interrupt or rush the conversation. The act of explain-

ing their situation in a way you can understand means that you are helping them through the issues in their mind.

Don't judge their experiences or reactions but acknowledge that things seem tough for them.

You could even demonstrate that you have been listening and understanding by repeating what you have heard back to them in your own words.

### Encourage action

"What have you done in the past to manage a similar situation?"

"How would you like me to support you?"

"When I was going through a difficult time, I tried \_\_\_\_\_. Maybe you might find it useful?"

"It might be useful to link with someone who can support you. I'm happy to help you find the right person."

If they have been feeling really down for more than two weeks encourage them to see a professional. Some conversations are too big for friends or family to take on alone.

### Check in

Give yourself a reminder to check in with them in a couple of weeks. If they're really struggling, follow up with them sooner.

Ask if they've found a better way to manage the situation. If they haven't done anything, don't judge them. They might just need someone to listen to them for a moment.

Action takes courage, energy and hope.

Stay in touch and be there for them. Genuine care and concern can make a lasting difference.

Remember, while you care about this person, you are not wholly responsible for them. Your role is to be "alongside" not to fix the problem for them. ●

### Dr Mike Edgley

CHIROPRACTOR  
DOCKLANDS HEALTH



## DOCKLANDS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

### Headleasing in residential strata

“

The Victorian Government's 2023 Housing Statement aims to increase housing supply, but one initiative – "headleasing" apartments – raises significant concerns for the residential strata sector.

”

Headleasing involves a legal entity, such as a community housing provider or government agency, renting a property from the owner and subleasing it to tenants, often those facing hardship. While the government views this as a way to house vulnerable individuals, past experiences suggest it could lead to more problems than solutions.

Docklands residents and others across Melbourne will recall issues at Queens Place and the Botanic apartment complex in Southbank, where government-purchased apartments were used to house individuals as part of the Homelessness to a Home Program. These well-intentioned efforts quickly became distressing for other residents, with reports of public drug use, aggressive behaviour, and a general sense of insecurity.

The government's failure to provide adequate support services left fellow residents, along with building and strata management, in the difficult position of directly dealing with these behavioural problems, often acting as de facto support services themselves.

These incidents highlight a deeper issue with the headleasing approach. By placing vulnerable individuals into residential complexes without the necessary infrastructure or support, the government effectively out-

sources its responsibilities to unprepared owners' corporations (OC) and their managers. These groups are left managing issues that should be handled by professionals, not ordinary residents.

Owners Corporation Network (OCN) and Strata Community Association (Victoria) have voiced strong concerns, arguing that the government has not fully considered the practicalities and conflicts that arise when integrating social housing into private residential buildings on a large scale.

For example, if a government agency enters into a headlease, what additional responsibilities do they assume in terms of the OC? Will they manage building defects, or will these tasks fall unfairly on the shoulders of others? These questions remain unanswered, highlighting a troubling lack of clarity.

At the recent Housing Forum in August 2024, these concerns were glaringly absent from the discussion with the focus firmly on construction, with little acknowledgment of the operational challenges post-construction. This disconnect between government plans and the realities faced by those managing and living these new residential buildings is alarming.

As the government advances its housing strategy, it must address these critical issues within the residential strata sector. Without proper planning, support, and clear responsibilities, the risk is that dysfunction will be embedded.

The residential strata sector deserves better than to be left managing the fallout of poorly executed policies. ●

### Janette Corcoran

MEMBER  
JCORCORAN@DOCKLANDS.ORG.AU



## Pet's Corner

### Warm your heart with Otto

Otto is a male Schnauzer that his Slavic mistress adopted five years ago, born from a kennel of pedigree dogs.

WORDS BY  
LÉA CARRÉ



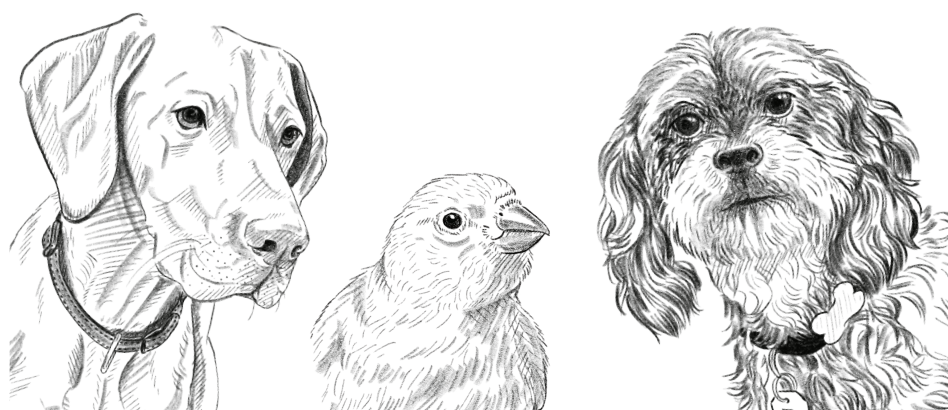
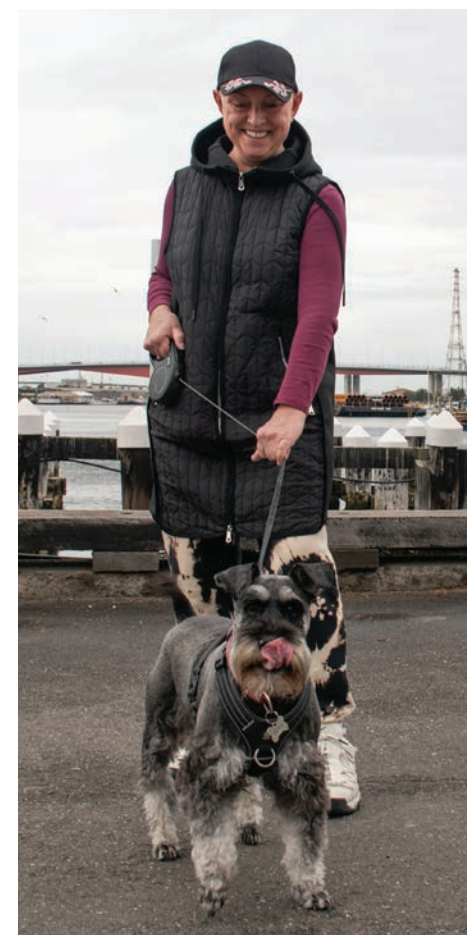
His owner Larissa emigrated from the Soviet Union 33 years ago and now lives in Docklands with her companion. They take this stroll along the harbour every day with their "ray of sunshine", as she calls him.

"Otto is the friendliest pet I've ever had," she said.

Otto seemed to smile at Docklands News too, as he jumps and comes towards the walkers along his daily one-hour long promenade.

"It's my baby, it's my sun!" Larissa laughed. Especially during COVID, Otto "became part of our family and saved us emotionally".

According to Larissa, he gives "a lot of warmth" to all humans! ●



# Docklands Primary School Athletics Day 2024

“

On Friday, August 2, the Grade 4, 5 and 6 students from Docklands Primary School walked down to Ron Barassi Snr Park to compete in our Athletics Day.

”

**WORDS BY**  
SAANVI (GRADE 5B) AND  
ALETHEIA (GRADE 6B)



This spectacular day was held by the wonderful teachers Ms McConnell and Mr Cooper. Events on this sunny day included 100m and 200m sprint, hurdles, discus, shot-put, high jump and more.

Dionne from 5B, who jumped a staggering 4.3m in long jump said, "I liked the long jump because it was fun and easy."

Four houses Alcott, Barty, Goodes and Kerr competed. At the end of the day, Barty Party had an incredible win!

Thanks to the parent volunteers for making this day possible and thanks also to Lucas Real Estate which donates towards our Athletics Day every year. ●



## Bookings are now open for the Docklands Directory 2025

The directory is a a guide to, and celebration of businesses throughout Docklands it is an essential resource for both residents and visitors.

To secure your spot today please contact:  
[admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au)



Scan the QR to view the website and this years directory

Sneak Peak



# Expand. Evolve. Exceed. Establish your career with Lucas

The past 12 months have seen significant growth for Docklands locals Lucas Real Estate.

From their expansion into the prestigious Yarra's Edge, to selling in excess of 200 properties in Docklands alone, the Lucas team have been improving and evolving to better help serve the Docklands community.

Now, they are looking to help like-minded individuals establish their own career with Lucas.

As Docklands' highest performing agency, Lucas pride themselves on their commitment to delivering exceptional service and exceeding client expectations.

Regardless of whether you are in the first year of your career or your 20th, if you have a drive to learn and grow, Lucas wants to hear from you. Here's what they can offer in return.

#### A culture of collaboration and support

One of Lucas's core values as a business is innovation through collaboration. The business works tirelessly to create an

environment where everyone's voice is heard and valued. Beyond this, teamwork and comradery go a long way. So, you can be sure joining the Lucas team means going out for monthly team lunch where you can bond and get to know your co-workers better.

#### Professional development opportunities

Development is the name of the game at Lucas. Their annual Kickstart Day is designed and developed to empower their team to unleash their full potential.

It features a range of inspiring guest speakers and workshops to really put the team in the right headspace. In addition to weekly training and coaching, Lucas has access to on-demand training from the top real estate coaches in the country, so the opportunities for development are limitless.

#### Flexible working arrangements

While the team at Lucas work hard, they also know the importance of a healthy work-life balance. After all, being able to take the time to relax or prioritise family means you'll be in a better headspace when you're at work. Because of this, Lucas offers a variety of flexible working arrangements to help you achieve your best in every facet of life.

But it doesn't stop there. Lucas's systems and processes, marketing, and overall



market share are truly a cut above the rest. They are always on the lookout for people ready to take the next step in their real estate career.

They have built a tight-knit team,

dedication to excellence, and a consistency for delivering exceptional service. If you would like to know more, visit their careers page to see how you too can expand your horizons. ●

## How one Docklands architect redesigned the dumpling

After working as an architect for 10 years, something was still missing for Suby Liu, so she decided to take a leap of faith and open a restaurant to reconnect with family culinary traditions and her passion for health.



WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



In many ways opening Heartling was inevitable for Suby. Her father owned restaurants and cooking was always a big part of her life.

But Suby told *Docklands News*, "I told myself I don't want to do anything with food because I see how hard the restaurant business is."

After working as an architect, she felt herself becoming continually drawn to a career path that combined her passion for food and health and opening a restaurant suddenly wasn't off the cards.

She began taking courses in nutrition, yoga and meditation on top of her nine-to-five job but still felt she hadn't found her calling.

Then the pandemic hit. Suby spent her extra time throughout lockdowns creating the dumpling recipes that have changed the way people view the meal – a process that

took two years before Heartling officially opened its doors in 2022.

Tucked away just off Victoria Harbour Promenade in Docklands, at 32 Tom Thumb Lane, Heartling offers one of Melbourne's most unique dining experiences in a restaurant that was designed by its chef.

With a range of meticulously crafted plant-based and seafood dumplings, waffle hearts, Kongfu tea and saké on offer, the innovative restaurant is a truly unique dining experience in the heart of Docklands.

Running the restaurant is not only a way for Suby to reconnect with her parents and cultural heritage through the use of traditional Chinese pastry techniques, but also a way for her to use her design abilities to experiment with new methods.

"I'm using the traditional method, but in my own way because that's what I did when I was an architect. I enjoy the creative process," she said.

Traditionally dumplings have not been associated with fine dining, but Suby has a different view.

They are an opportunity for her to express her creativity and experiment with a range of flavours such as abalone and jackfruit, with no less than 10 ingredients in every filling.

Say goodbye to the humble dumpling's stereotype as cheap grub best accompanied by a bottle of bottom-shelf wine, because Suby has changed the game.

She is a zealous advocate for slow dining, which is a meditative dining experience that awakens the senses and palette.

There is only one table in the entire restaurant, allowing guests to truly slow down, connect, and enjoy each perfect creation in an intimate setting.

"It's all about serving the moment, being present and connecting with people," Suby said. ●



## New hotel bringing a local Vibe to Docklands



On the lookout for a new local hangout, space to connect or somewhere to enjoy a delicious meal? Look no further than Docklands' newest accommodation provider Vibe Hotel Melbourne Docklands.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Having taken over the hotel formerly operated by Four Points Sheraton at 443 Docklands Drive in April this year, the new Vibe Hotel has wasted no time settling into the Docklands community.

Operating under the TFE Hotels group, Vibe is an Australian hotel brand founded in Sydney in 2003 that boasts a proud legacy of providing high-quality, relaxed and engaging hospitality Aussies are renowned for.

With hotels across most capital cities across the country, the new Docklands hotel represents Vibe's second presence here in Melbourne, joining the existing property at 1 Queen St in the CBD.

*Docklands News* caught up with Vibe Hotel Docklands general manager Nigel Maxey last month, who said when it came to taking over the space here in Docklands "the shoe fits perfectly" with its brand and approach to community.

"Vibe is an authentic Australian-born hotel brand, and Vibe Docklands is reflective of this style of hospitality from our drink and dine offerings to the team culture our people represent," Mr Maxey said.

"It has a very welcoming feel, and the team is highly engaged. From the moment you arrive it is that calming, relaxed ambience that

reflects the Aussie lifestyle and very much represents how we deliver in terms of service and the offerings we have."

"With Docklands, we knew it was a strong hotel. Since moving in, I have immersed myself into the local community – The District, Docklands Chamber of Commerce and the locals have been very welcoming."

With that same sense of community spirit in mind, Mr Maxey said his team had sought to find ways of engaging with and supporting other local businesses in the area, from The District Docklands to Urban Alley Brewery, which supplies its beer.

And, whether it be a morning coffee, evening drink or a meal throughout the day, Mr Maxey said the hotel's restaurant, Storehouse Docklands, had all Docklanders culinary needs covered with an inviting space geared for all-day dining.

Storehouse offers a full hot buffet breakfast and an inspiring a-la-carte dinner menu comprising a range of classics from Porterhouse Steak and Atlantic Salmon to Wild Mushroom Risotto and Buffalo Fried Chicken Burger.

Locals can also enjoy daily happy hour between 4pm and 6pm with \$8 house drinks – a "good opportunity", according to Mr Maxey, to pop in, meet the team and enjoy its relaxed atmosphere.

"We've seen a lot of businesses and locals coming in," he said. "It's a great space to meet and mingle - it's got that welcoming feel of home."

"You can stop by for a takeaway coffee, catch up with someone or get your laptop out and do some work... It's not hotel guest exclusive. It's a very open space that welcomes everyone."

For more information:  
[vibehotels.com/storehousedocklands](http://vibehotels.com/storehousedocklands) ●



# WHAT'S ON September



Spring is here! Enjoy all that Docklands has to offer this September.



**HUMANKIND – ENCOUNTERS AND PORTRAITS BY MICHAEL SILVER**  
A captivating photography exhibition explores the profound stories captured in Michael Silver's portraits and raises funds for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.  
**Magnet Galleries, The District, Docklands**  
**29 AUGUST – 21 SEPTEMBER**



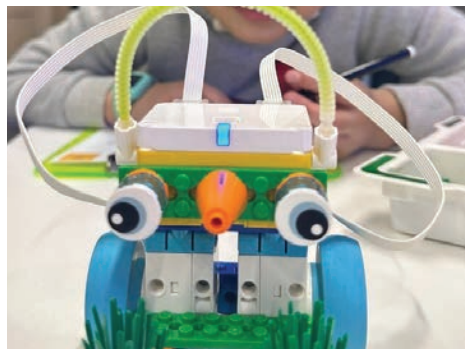
**STOREHOUSE DOCKLANDS**  
Unwind at Storehouse Docklands, the precinct's newest bar and restaurant. Sip on \$8 house beverages during Happy Hour, daily from 4 to 6pm.  
**443 Docklands Drive, Docklands**  
**HAPPY HOUR DAILY FROM 4 TO 6PM**



**BOURNE LOCAL MARKET**  
Visit the Collins Square main retail plaza and explore a carefully curated variety of local market stalls, featuring handmade crafts to artisanal treasures.  
**727 Collins St, Docklands**  
**THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER, 10AM – 2PM**



**DOCKLANDS SUNDAY MARKET**  
Enjoy a walk by the harbour, grab some lunch, explore fantastic craft shops and discover unique handmade items and support local artisans.  
**Newquay Promenade, Docklands**  
**8 SEPTEMBER, 10AM – 3PM**



**LEGO ROBOTICS SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**  
This hands-on experience encourages creativity, teamwork and problem-solving, making it an ideal introduction to robotics for kids aged 7–12.  
**Library at The Dock**  
**23 – 24 SEPTEMBER, 10AM – 5PM**



**RAINBOW ART CLASS**  
Experienced art teacher Shyamasree Bose guides children in a colourful exploration of acrylic painting at The Hub at Docklands. For ages 5 – 16 years, book online.  
**rainbowkidsartclass.com**  
**THURSDAYS, 4.30PM – 6.30PM**



**LIBRARY CINEMA**  
Come along for contemporary, classic and documentary films on the big screen. Feel free to stay for snacks and a chat afterwards. September's film screening is *Jules*.  
**Library at The Dock**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 3PM – 5PM**

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Kitchen 2: 18-38 Sideley Street, Docklands VIC 3008

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