

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Alma Doepel restoration director Peter Harris with Joh Maxwell, Tim Horton and Bill Reid.

Investigation into Docklands fire

Material used in the construction of a Docklands apartment building could be to blame for the rapid spread of a fire last month, which caused more than \$5 million worth of damage.

The fire, at the Lacrosse building on LaTrobe St, started in the early hours of November 25 after an air-conditioning compressor unit on a second floor balcony overheated due to equipment being "inappropriately" stored behind it.

The fire quickly spread vertically up the building to 21st floor, with the combustible source appearing to be the cladding on the balcony walls.

Metropolitan Fire Brigade acting assistant fire officer and acting director of fire safety Michael Coombes said that, while the balconies were constructed of reinforced concrete, the side wall separating the balcony from the bedroom of the same unit was not.

"We are currently investigating this matter and are trying to develop the reasons for the way the fire appeared to use this construction to spread to the roof, and particularly the speed at which it occurred," Mr Coombes said.

According to a Victorian Building Authority spokesperson, the external walls of apartment towers aren't required to be fire resistant.

"Under the Building Code of Australia, in

apartments of Type A construction (more than three storeys) the external walls of the building are not required to be fire-resistant if they are non-loadbearing and are situated three metres or more from a fire source feature," the spokesperson said.

Lacrosse was developed through a partnership between Pan Urban and Charter Hall and was designed by Elenberg Fraser.

Elenberg Fraser Associate director Reade Dixon said the company had little information about the fire and said it would be premature to speculate further.

"As a leading designer of high-rise residential buildings we are confident with our design for the building. Our design and our selection of relevant materials was approved by the responsible authority as appropriate and compliant," Mr Dixon said.

"We cannot comment on what was actually installed in the building as decisions would have been made by the building contractor during construction. However, we would expect that the building was properly inspected and approved prior to occupation."

Apart from the material used in construction of the building combustible items on the balconies may have contributed to the spread of the fire.

"We know that the corner where the fires occurred accommodated the air conditioning cassette, which comprises some plastic components. There was also evidence of other combustibles including chairs and, on one level, a small gas cylinder," Mr Coombes said.

Continued on page 7.

Chamber 'adopts' Alma

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Alma Doepel restoration team in an attempt to raise funds for the completion of the project.

With at least a further \$1.7 million needed to complete the project, the chamber will be promoting and educating the local business community about the restoration project in order to help secure more funds.

"They're the peak body for commercial organisations in Docklands so it's very exciting that they've decided to adopt us," Alma Doepel restoration director Peter Harris said.

"The chamber is so supportive and positive,

it's very encouraging," Mr Harris said.

In particular, the chamber will encourage its business network and the local community to take part in the "Buy a Plank" scheme.

According to chamber vice-president Bill Reid, all businesses in Docklands should get behind the project by raising \$500 to buy a plank for the restoration of Alma's hull.

Continued on page 11.

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DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Dear readers ...

Welcome to the final edition of *Docklands News* for 2014.

It's been another busy year in Docklands, with plenty of news to fill our pages.

We hope you've enjoyed reading about all the news from your local community throughout the year as much as we've enjoyed delivering it.

Some of the major news items we've covered this year include the Watergate short-stay case, Harbour Esplanade's future development, the sale of Harbour Town and the Fishermans Bend tram bridge.

Docklands News also reached a major milestone in August when we published our 100th edition.

It's only due to the continued support of our valued advertisers that we were able to reach this milestone and we'd like to say a special thanks to the local stakeholders who have invested in this community asset.

Thanks also to our regular columnists, who each month supply us with interesting perspectives to share with the Docklands' community.

To our readers - thanks for picking up a copy of *Docklands News* each month and for sharing your stories with us this year.

We wish all of our readers, contributors and advertisers a happy and safe festive season with friends and family.

We'll be back with our first edition for 2015 in February and we look forward to bringing you more news from postcode 3008 next year.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year,

Bethany Williams
Editor



Lady Cutler engineer Nikolai Toropov. The crew have decked out the boat's interior with decorations and have placed a festive wreath at its front in preparation for Christmas.

Jubilation is just around the corner

Get ready for three days of Christmas celebrations when the first annual Jubilation festival comes to Docklands this month.

Kicking off on Friday, December 12, the festival will bring music, entertainment, food, markets and fun to Docklands all while raising money for the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

The Destination Docklands event will extend from NewQuay Promenade, along Harbour Esplanade and down Victoria Promenade, with a range of activities to keep everyone entertained.

The Jubilation stage at the NAB forecourt will host a range of performers ranging from the Captain Koala & Friends show, to the Red Austins, and The Bamboos.

Meanwhile the CFA zone on Harbour Esplanade will feature CFA demonstrations, CFA trivia and roving entertainers.

Of course Santa will also be stopping by and

will be on hand for Christmas photos.

There will also be night markets and a food truck park with 18 different trucks over the three days.

The waterfront will also be lit up, with a Christmas decoration competition being held.

By entering your Christmas-themed boat, corporate window, show window or residential balcony into the competition you'll go into the running to win an Atlantic Group catering voucher of up to \$2000 (depending on the category).

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The full Jubilation program can be found at www.jubilationmelbourne.com.au

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Docklands 'vacancy rate' in doubt

By Bethany Williams

Claims that Docklands' residential vacancy rate is close to 30 per cent have been put in doubt after Docklands News's investigation of Prosper Australia's report.

Prosper's *Speculative Vacancy 2014* report last month claimed the alarming statistic, which was based on average water usage figures in 2013.

After more than two weeks of conversations with City West Water (CWW), which provided most of the Docklands data for the report, *Docklands News* has been given conflicting data.

After earlier providing data which blew apart Prosper's statistical claims (in 15 email exchanges), CWW "corrected" its information just before this edition went to press, after being contacted by Prosper Australia.

The Prosper report relied on water usage data supplied by City West Water, Yarra Valley Water and South East Water and argued that properties using 50 litres of water or less per day over a 12-month period were most likely vacant.

The report looked at 2883 residential properties in Docklands and said 779, or 27 per cent used less than 50 litres of water per day on average in 2013 and were therefore "speculative vacancies".

Instinctively, *Docklands News* knew there were more than 2883 properties in Docklands in 2013 and that there was no way close to 30 per cent of the homes in Docklands were unoccupied. Places Victoria says there were 4895 apartments in Docklands in 2013.

Docklands News then asked both CWW and Prosper Australia to provide it with the raw data.



Prosper Australia's *Speculative Vacancy 2014* report says close to 30 per cent of residential properties in Docklands could be vacant.

City West Water had told Prosper there were 2831 property connections in Docklands and 773 occupancies using less than 50 litres of water per day in 2013.

But, on November 19, a CWW spokesperson told *Docklands News* the 773 connections were not just restricted to residences.

Two days later, the spokesperson said the company's data couldn't distinguish whether the properties using no water were residential or non-residential.

In relation to the figure of 2831 properties in Docklands, on November 28 the spokesperson said: "the figures provided to Prosper were for property connections, which don't necessarily mean occupancies, residences, businesses. The property connections may apply to an apartment building, a commercial facility, a fire service etc, and not an individual occupancy."

But on December 1, after speaking with Prosper Australia, who had been contacted by *Docklands News* for comment, the spokesperson back-flipped and said he had been incorrect and that the data provided to Prosper related only to residential properties.

The vacancy rate claim caused major damage to Docklands, with many major news outlets picking up the "ghost tower" story without any scrutiny of the data used in

the report.

Local real estate agents say the vacancy rate claim and resulting media coverage has had a significant negative impact on Docklands' residential property market.

"It's put a lot of doubt in potential buyers' minds and created a lot of fear," Barry Plant director Daniel Cole said.

According to the report's author Catherine Cashmore, the figures in the report cover 72 per cent of Docklands' current supply, as recorded by the City of Melbourne.

"From the standpoint of statistical analysis this is an adequate number to formulate a percentage of potential speculative vacancies," Ms Cashmore said.

She said the variables that can bias the water data results are listed in detail within the report.

"However any results missing in the Docklands due to some apartment blocks not being individually water metered would most likely disguise additional vacancies - not pull the overall figure down," she said.

Ms Cashmore also said the vacancy rate cited by real estate agents in the area relates only to available supply - not withheld supply and was therefore irrelevant to her research.

"The published vacancy rate in the Docklands is currently 4.4 per cent (SQM Research). However in 2013 it was as high as 10 per cent. It is hardly a reliable indicator."

There are a range of variables that could affect water usage rates, which do not necessarily indicate vacant properties in Docklands.

Docklands' transient nature, the use of apartments as city escapes and the high-proportion of single person households are just some of the factors that could result in low water usage.

Docklands has a particularly high percentage of sole-person households, with the 2011 census finding that 36.5 percent of Docklands residents live alone.

The report does concede, however, that there are variables which could affect the vacancy rate, including water leaks, properties for sale or rent, serviced apartments and sole-person households.

The actual residential vacancy rate in Docklands sits somewhere between two and four per cent, according to Docklands real estate experts.

Barry Plant director Daniel Cole said the report was "blatantly wrong".

"We only have eight vacant properties in Docklands," Mr Cole said.

City Residential managing director Glenn Donnelly said the vacancy rate in Docklands was nowhere near 30 per cent.

"There is definitely not a 30 per cent vacancy rate. I believe it would sit somewhere around four per cent," he said.

Lucas Real Estate's Glen Lucas also dismissed the report, saying: "The report is pretty inaccurate as far as our experience is concerned."

"Our vacancy rate is at 2.1 per cent and that's taking in 1200 rental properties on our books."

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Election result is locally significant

Labor's success at the Victorian state election is likely to have a significant impact on Docklands' future.

Short-stay regulation and ministerial planning power reform is expected and the Fisherman's Bend Tram Bridge will be ruled out.

Planning for a school in Docklands will also recommence under Labor.

Sitting member for Melbourne and ALP candidate Jennifer Kanis made various pre-election promises relating to Docklands.

At the Meet the Candidates forum in Docklands on November 5, Ms Kanis announced, if elected, the Labor party would commit to retrospective short-stay accommodation regulation and would remove the planning minister as authority for buildings over 25,000sqm.

She said the party would be making further announcements about the plans pre-election, but this did not eventuate.

At the time of printing, the result in the seat was unclear, despite victory being earlier claimed by Greens candidate Ellen Sandell.

In September, Ms Kanis told *Docklands News* that if the Labor party was elected, it would restart the planning process for a school in Docklands.

A feasibility study into a school in Docklands was commissioned four years ago but was never released.



The ALP's Jennifer Kanis and Greens candidate Ellen Sandell attended the Docklands Meet the Candidates last month.

Ms Kanis said the Labor Party would release the report and would re-start the planning process for a school in Docklands. She stopped short of saying a school would definitely be built in Docklands under a Labor government.

Plans for a tram bridge from Collins St, through Yarra's Edge and into Fishermans Bend will also be scrapped under the new Labor Government.

The concept had been listed as a potential long-term project in the Fishermans Bend Strategic Plan, released earlier this year and has appeared in various other documentation.

In a letter sent to residents on November 18 member for Albert Park MP Martin Foley said Labor would not support the proposed bridge from Yarra's Edge to Collins St.

"Instead, Labor will ensure the dedicated office works with the community and transport operators to deliver alternative public transport options that work," Mr Foley said in the letter.

Former planning Minister Matthew Guy had also contacted residents of Yarra's Edge in late October, saying the project was unfunded.

The letter stated the concept was one the Metropolitan Planning Authority (MPA) had for consideration beyond 2040.

Docklands maintained its conservative leanings at the polling booth on election day, with most first preference votes going to the Liberal party.

1328 people cast their vote at the Library at the Dock on November 29.

The primary vote in the lower house was:

Ed Huntingford (Liberal) - 533
 Ellen Sandell (Australian Greens) - 393
 Jennifer Kanis (Australian Labor Party) - 276
 Kate Elliot (Animal Justice Party) - 42
 Kerry Sutherland (Family First) - 15
 Neville Chisholm (Australian Christians) - 13
 Tehiya Umer (Voice for the West) - 7
 Informal - 49

The primary vote in the upper house was:

Liberal - 516
 Australian Greens - 314
 Australian Labor Party - 251
 Sex Party - 81
 Animal Justice Party - 31
 Liberal Democrats - 30
 The Basics Rock 'N' Roll Party - 13
 Democratic Labour Party (DLP) - 13
 Australian Cyclists Party - 11
 Family First - 11
 Voice for the West - 10
 Palmer United Party - 6
 Shooters and Fishers Party Victoria - 5
 Voluntary Euthanasia Party (Victoria) - 4
 Vote 1 Local Jobs - 3
 Rise Up Australia Party - 2
 Group N - 2
 Australian Country Alliance - 1
 Australian Christians - 1
 Darren M Bain - 1
 People Power Victoria/No Smart Meters - 0
 Tiffany Harrison - 0
 Informal - 22

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If the scenes from last year are anything to go by, Docklands will be the place to be when the clock strikes midnight this New Year's Eve. Photo by David Simmonds Photography.

Get ready to party!

Docklands is again preparing to ring in the new year with a spectacular fireworks display and plenty of entertainment.

Docklanders who live around Victoria Harbour are some of Melbourne's luckiest resident's on New Year's Eve, with a front row seat to the spectacular fireworks display.

The City of Melbourne will run one of its four live sites at Victoria Harbour from 9pm to 1am, with plenty of free entertainment on offer.

DJ MZ Rizk will entertain the crowds ahead of the 10-minute midnight fireworks display.

As has been the case for the past few years, Docklands will not host family fireworks at 9.30pm and will only have fireworks at midnight.

School options for local families

Without a local primary school of their own, Docklands families can now be assured of access to primary schools in surrounding suburbs.

A number of public and private primary schools in suburbs around Docklands have confirmed they will accept enrolments from Docklands.

Children living in the northern end of Docklands are zoned to attend North Melbourne Primary School, while children living in the Southern end of Docklands are zoned to attend Port Melbourne Primary School.

Both schools confirmed they will accept enrolments from Docklands if they are the closest government school.

Carlton Gardens Primary School also confirmed it may accept enrolments from Docklands if there are vacancies available, despite being outside of the school's zone.

Private schools in nearby suburbs are also ready to welcome Docklands' families.

St Michael's North Melbourne school leader Daniel Barr said the school had plenty of vacancies for grade prep next year and welcomed enrolments from Docklands.

According to Mr Barr, around 10 Docklands families already send their children to the school.

"Some people might have the misconception that because we are a Catholic school we only take Catholic children, but that's not the case," Mr Barr said.

"We accept enrolment from any denomination and we are a very multicultural school."

Holy Rosary Primary School in Kensington is also accepting enrolments from Docklands, principal Amanda Smith confirmed.

"We've just started to take enrolments from Docklands and have about five or six

enrolments left for prep next year," Ms Smith said.

Meanwhile, local families continue to campaign for the construction of a primary school in Docklands.

Docklands Community Forum (DCF) representative Janine Standfield has been particularly vocal about the need for a local school and the DCF has identified a local school as its number one priority.

Speaking at the October 29 forum, Ms Standfield said she had been contacted by the Our Children, Our Schools alliance about the forum joining the group.

The group is an alliance of Victorian community education campaigns and includes the TwoSchoolsNow lobby group. Attendees at the October forum voted to join the alliance.

"Their aim is similar to the DCF, we all want out kids to be able to access high quality primary and secondary school education within their community," Ms Standfield said of the alliance.

Although a site has been allocated for a school in Docklands, funding is yet to be allocated to building a local school.

"Places Victoria has secured a site for a school within the Digital Harbour precinct," a Places Victoria spokesperson said.

"Places Victoria continues to progress discussions with private education entities and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development about the provision of a school for Docklands."

"Funding remains the most significant impediment to the delivery of this project."



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An artist's impression of the surf park concept.

Surf park concept floated

A surf park at Central Pier could be built within three years if current support is maintained.

Proposed by Damian Rogers Architecture and engineering and design firm Arup, the concept achieved plenty of attention last month, with many saying it could be the missing piece of the Docklands puzzle.

Arup's Phil Carter said there had been plenty of interest from potential partners and wave pool operators.

The surf park is proposed to float next to Central Pier, spanning 16,000 sqm and capable of producing waves up to 160 metres long and 1.8 metres high.

It would feature a deep sandy beach and treated water drawn from Victoria Harbour itself.

News reports last month suggested the surf park would cost \$8 million to build, while industry sources told *Docklands News* the cost would be closer to the \$80 million mark.

Mr Carter said the surf park would cost more than \$8 million but did not believe it would cost as much as \$80 million.

He said cost estimations were difficult but it would "certainly be in the tens of millions".

Mr Carter said the team was awaiting cost estimations and was working on a business development model.

The next phase would be to lock in funding partners, which Mr Carter hopes will happen next year.

If approved and funded, Mr Carter says the project could be realised within two to three years. "That's totally achievable," he said.

The project is currently unfunded and would require the approval of both Places Victoria and the City of Melbourne to go ahead and would be privately funded.

Places Victoria is currently developing plans for Harbour Esplanade and last month lodged permit applications with the City of Melbourne.

It's understood that Places Victoria has had no input into the surf park idea and that it is not part of any current plans for Docklands.

"Places Victoria wants Docklands to become a significant public waterside destination that is used every day of the year," Places Victoria general manager Simon Wilson said.

"Places Victoria has developed a master plan for Harbour Esplanade to guide its future development, with the aim of making it a flexible and changing event space by the water."

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said council had not committed any support for the project and had only been advised informally of the private sector initiative.

"Our feedback to Arup was that it was an interesting concept, if private funding were available for the infrastructure," the

spokesperson said.

According to Mr Carter, the surf park would enhance Docklands by providing a space the public will want to use and attracting events and businesses.

"From a livability and wellness perspective, the surf park idea also offers a place for Docklands workers and residents to de-stress and bring massive potential health benefits," Mr Carter said.

The design of the surf-park would also offer the opportunity for activities such as swimming, kayaking and beach sports.

According to architect Damien Rogers, Melbourne should make better use of the water at its fingertips.

"Melbourne has some amazing attractions, but we don't tend to use the water that surrounds us as well as we could. This surf park concept would create a beach lifestyle in the heart of the city," he said.

Surfing Victoria has also backed the concept, with CEO Max Wells lending his support.

"To bring the surf to the city is a great idea, especially to a site like Central Pier in the Docklands," Mr Wells said.

"I can imagine having surfers in suits heading for an after work session and kids coming to the Docklands carrying surfboards on Melbourne's trains and trams."

Police tips for a safe festive season

Police have warned Docklanders to be aware of opportunistic theft and to keep their eyes out for suspicious behaviour in the lead up to Christmas and the New Year.

According to Sen-Sgt Mick Wilmott, opportunistic theft increases in the lead up to Christmas as the shopping season ramps up, with large crowds providing plenty of cover for crime.

"People should make sure they are aware of where their personal belongings such as handbags, backpacks and laptops are at all times."

"The fact is, thieves are well aware that crowds will increase during this period and will make the most of it using the anonymity crowds provide," Sen-Sgt Wilmott said.

He also warned drivers to ensure they don't leave valuables in cars.

Sen-Sgt Wilmott said there also continued to be issues of people tailgating into carparks in Docklands and breaking into storage cages.

He said given many people go away over Christmas, New Year's Eve and summer, residents who remain in Docklands should remain vigilant about the people entering their building.

"Residents should remain vigilant over the Christmas period as many people will go away which gives offenders more opportunity as there are less people around and therefore fewer eyes," Sen-Sgt Wilmott said.

"If you see someone behaving suspiciously or who doesn't look like they belong make sure you give us a call."

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Investigation into Docklands fire

Continued from page 1.

“Much of what was on the balconies was consumed in the fire prior to the brigade and the internal sprinklers extinguishing the fire, but from all accounts and given the situation on other non-affected balconies we believe there were combustible items on the balconies.”

Around 70 fire fighters were called to the building around 2.30am on November 25, battling the blaze for around 35 minutes before getting it under control and searching the building to check for occupants.

Around 400 residents were safely evacuated from the building, with no serious injuries reported.

Sarah Jane Pell lives on the 19th floor of the Lacrosse building and said the alarm systems in the top half of the building did not go off during the fire.

“I was woken up by my Swedish housemates, who were so stunned they forgot how to speak English,” Dr Pell said.

She said the group had no time to grab shoes or belongings and ran down 38 flights of stairs to escape the fire. They only began to hear fire alarms when they reached the 10th floor.

“I watched the fire from the ground and was aware it was catching from one balcony to the other rapidly, I saw that progression happen so rapidly,” Dr Pell said.

Many of the building’s 400 residents spent time in makeshift emergency accommodation at Etihad Stadium following the blaze, with most spending around 15 hours at the stadium.

Etihad Stadium executive officer Paul Sergeant said the stadium was part of a combined effort involving Victoria Police, Red Cross, the City of Melbourne and State Government services.

“Obviously we are a big space on the CBD doorstep so it was a great feeling to help out a group in some urgent need,” Mr Sergeant said.

“The evacuees comprised young families, children, including some infants, and even pets.”

Most of the fire damage to the building was to the balconies and external infrastructure, with the tower’s sprinkler system preventing the fire from spreading further internally.

However, there was extensive smoke and water damage to many of the apartments in the building and, given the building’s owners corporation does not have contents insurance, uninsured residents could face hefty repair bills.

At the time of printing, the building’s residents had been unable to return to their homes.



An image of the fire captured by Ibrahim Kazane.



The blaze quickly spread up the building’s balconies.



Residents Anshu Priya, Anusha A and Anchana Sai V after collecting belongings the morning of the fire.

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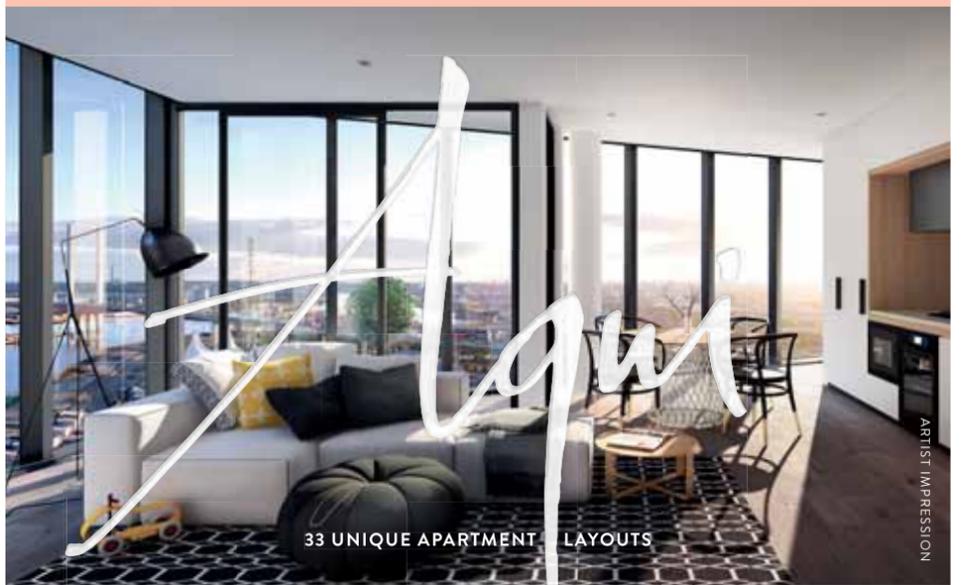
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DIRECT WATER FRONTAGE
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Private Sale \$650,000 plus
Inspect By appointment

Opulence defines what can only be described as Dockland's best one bedroom apartment. Originally this apartment was a two bedroom that has been converted into one of the largest and best one bedroom apartments imaginable. During the day this wonderful apartment is bathed in natural sunlight and by night the magnificent CBD and marina backdrop are simply mesmerizing. Very generous open plan living (approx 110 sqm) with a large north facing balcony. Contact before 7th November 2014.



Docklands 1705 / 60 Siddeley Street
FANTASTIC VIEWS OVER DOCKLANDS
2 bed 2 bath 1 car
Private Sale \$690,000
Inspect By appointment

Perfectly located on the North bank of the Yarra is this impressive 17th floor apartment which is spacious, light filled and has an extremely functional floor plan. Consisting of 2 bedrooms, 2 toilets, a modern and stylish kitchen with stainless steel appliances, glass splash back, granite bench tops and plenty of storage. The two bedrooms have built in robes, perfect for entertaining family and friends before heading into the City for a night of fun. Includes fully equipped gymnasium, steam and sauna rooms & spa.



Docklands 1402/60 Siddeley Street
VIEWS AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE
2 Bed 2 Bath 1 Car
Private Sale \$640,000 plus
Inspect By appointment

Perfectly located on the North bank of the Yarra is this impressive 14th floor apartment which is spacious, light filled and has an extremely functional floor plan. Consisting of 2 bedrooms, a modern and stylish kitchen with stainless steel appliances, glass splash back, granite bench tops and plenty of storage. The two bedrooms have built in robes, perfect for entertaining family and friends before heading into the City for a night of fun. You have the option to use the impressive facilities which include a fully equipped gymnasium.



Docklands 1122 / 60 Siddeley Street
WATERFRONT APARTMENT
1 bed 1 bath 1 car
Private Sale \$470,000
Inspect By appointment

Walk in your door to the large open plan living / dining area and step out on to your private balcony and gaze down the Yarra river with views of the Yarra River, this delightful one bedroom apartment features a gourmet kitchen with stainless steel SMEG appliances including dishwasher generous bedroom with built in robes and a bathroom that contains a luxurious bath, separate shower and European laundry. All of this in the highly sought after Flinders Wharf building which also features an indoor pool, spa, sauna, gym.



Docklands 1019 / 60 Siddeley Street
SPACIOUS LIGHT, BRIGHT AND SUNNY
2 bed 1 bath
Private Sale \$460,000
Inspect By appointment

This one bedroom with study or use as a bedroom with a single bed and robes. This unique apartment offers executive living with fingertip convenience to public transport, the casino and City shopping. Live in this modern apartment with lovely polished floor boards and balcony access to all rooms, large kitchen and large open plan living area. Situated on the 10th floor in this much sought after and highly desired Flinders Wharf complex, this apartment is complimented by full use of the impressive facilities; gymnasium, steam room, sauna room, spa and lap pool.



Docklands 512/673 Latrobe Street
THE BEST FLOOR PLAN AVAILABLE
2 Bed 2 Bath 1 Car
Private Sale \$530,000
Inspect By appointment

Welcome to the contemporary life of the Lacrosse. This ultra modern apartment sits on the fringe of Melbourne's CBD and Docklands, providing an endless choice of entertainment and sporting venues, world-class restaurants and shopping precincts. With floor to ceiling windows, this apartment boasts a large internal size of 87 sqm. The accommodation is comprised of 2 queen-sized bedrooms with BIR's. A glass sliding door opens from the master out to the dueled access balcony. The ultra-stylish open plan kitchen, living and dining is attractively positioned.



Docklands 204 / 80 Lorimer Street
STUNNING PODIUM APARTMENT
2 bed 2 bath 2 car
Private Sale \$770,000
Inspect By appointment

Offering state-of-the-art finishes podium apartment comprises high quality designer kitchen with stainless steel appliances, stone bench tops and ample cupboard space, open plan to a huge living-family room leading to large terrace ideal for entertaining guests, huge master bedroom with exquisite ensuite, second double bedroom and second bathroom. Features include 2 secure car park spaces located on the same level, European style laundry and resident access to the famous RekDek with heated indoor pool, spa, sauna, and fully equipped gymnasium.



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Melbourne CEO reflects on seven years at the top

By Shane Scanlan

After seven years in the top job, the city's top bureaucrat moves on this month having built a solid relationship with the State Government about the future growth of Docklands.

Dr Alexander took up the role at the same time as the first power-sharing between the council and the then VicUrban (now Places Victoria) back in 2007.

"When I first arrived, I had presumed that it was going to be something that it wasn't. I don't think they did hand it (power) back. And I think it was quite confusing about whose roles were what," she said. "I had been surprised that we had been so uninformed - left out of the planning and decision-making that had taken place."

"In those days there was quite a tension between VicUrban and the city and certainly confusion among the developers about what they should be doing and who they were supposed to be talking to once the so-called hand-back happened."

"So I spent quite a lot of my time developing the relationship with VicUrban and working at the CEO level to clarify roles, responsibilities and to get some things moving around community infrastructure."

"I was frustrated because they had great big contracts to manage and we had no idea what was in them."

"I think that things have changed though.

The people working in Places Victoria respect the skills and experience that we've got in facilitating urban design that's suitable for a city."

"I feel very positive about Docklands. There's nothing that's not irredeemable. Bit by bit, we will chip away. It's a beautiful area. It's something for Melbourne to be proud of in terms of the buildings that are sustainable and it is a city of the 21st century. We will meld it with the best ideas from the old city. You can see it starting to take shape now with the connections that have been made. I think it's in a great space."

"One of the outcomes of the city being involved was to add an awareness that the community had to be involved. I absolutely committed to communities being informed and being involved at a real level," Dr Alexander said.

Dr Alexander said her time at the helm had been simplified because of the council's consistent adherence to the "Future Melbourne" plan and principles which were first suggested by the John So council in 2008.

"I've had a pretty clear path to follow in those seven years," she said. "For the past six years the council has been working on a very solid set of directions around those major (Future Melbourne) community goals."

So, how does she rate her performance?

"I don't like to appraise my own performance, but the fact that I keep getting my contract signed is a good sign," she said.

"I can certainly see huge progress being made in the directions that council wanted."



Kathy Alexander moved on from her role as City of Melbourne CEO this month.

"I've always been able to report that the plan's been implemented and always ahead of budget and, if you look at the international recognition that the City of Melbourne has had for the projects that it has run and the programs that it implements and the directions that it has been taking, there's no doubt that our excellence in those endeavours has been recognised."

Dr Alexander said her task as CEO had also been made easier by the alignment and commitment of her staff.

"It's a great organisation. The organisation itself is fundamentally committed to the City of Melbourne," she said. "We've done culture surveys amongst the staff and the thing that gets them up in the morning to come to work is the city."

"Making Melbourne a bold, inspirational city is on everyone's mind."

And, while Dr Alexander will miss the role, she won't miss the 12-hour days and the burden of reading all the council's papers every Sunday. She also says her retirement is a good opportunity for the organisation to

introduce new energy and new thinking.

She said a health scare for her daughter and grandson last year was a contributing factor to her decision to retire.

"She had a very difficult pregnancy and it was touch and go for both herself and the baby," she said. "Trying to 'fit in' my family, rather than focus on them, was an interesting time in my life."

"And also I'm 60 and things start to happen after 60 and I'm fit and healthy. Do I want to wait until I'm 70 or 65 when maybe I'm not so healthy?"

Dr Alexander said she would pursue some board positions where she would be able to continue to contribute to organisations at a strategic level rather than at the operational level.

"I've had quite a lot of calls. I'm quite comfortable about my future," she said.

"I don't think I'll be idle. It's not like I'm going home to be with my family and work in the garden. I'll still be in the workforce, but I won't be doing 12-hour days."

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MAB Corporation directors Michael and Andrew Buxton at Monument Park during construction.

Monumental occasion for Docklands

The stunning Monument Park is being unveiled this month in NewQuay in Docklands.

The \$3 million, 2000sqm sculptural park binds together seven sculptures by award-winning artist Callum Morton. Each is based on a significant City of Melbourne monument, including the “yellow peril”

(Vault), Burke and Wills and the Marquis of Linlithgow.

A concrete facsimile of the Hoddle Grid is draped across the various monuments and forms the base of the park.

According to Mr Morton, the ground plane is imagined as a carpet – rising and falling as it covers the various monuments.

“Critically, we wanted to emphasise the idea

that Docklands should be regarded not as an isolated precinct but rather as an extension, and integral part of the city,” he said.

“The forms are broken open in sections to reveal new colourful worlds for sheltering in, exploring, playing amongst and enjoying.”

“There are abundant green areas that appear through holes created in the surface of the carpet. The plantings appear as if literally erupting from the ground below to colonise

this fantasy city.”

The project is funded by Places Victoria and MAB Corporation, the developer of Docklands’ NewQuay precinct. Docklands developers are required to spend 1 per cent of the value of their projects on public art.

Joining Mr Morton in creating the concept were landscape architecture studio, Oculus, and architects for the adjacent The Quays residential building, McBride Charles Ryan.

Art for art's sake



Michael Buxton

Monument Park is our most ambitious art project. MAB’s approach to public art is to create engaging and welcoming pieces. We always envisage people interacting with the art rather than just observing it.

Art in the community is an integral component in the creation of a sense of place and MAB is committed to delivering art and green spaces to NewQuay. By designing a unique landscape setting with great public art enables us to deliver a truly distinctive space for the NewQuay community and our thousands of visitors.

The beauty of Monument Park is its evolving nature. By integrating the sculptures with landscaping elements, it provides a new dimension. It will continue to evolve as the plants grow.

Whilst there is a strong story behind the sculptures, the beauty of art is subject to interpretation. It will create discussion; some people will love it and some won’t. The best art pieces always create debate.



Elma Crosbie thinks Monument Park is just fantastic.

Park is simply ‘fantastic’

Docklands resident Elma Crosbie thinks Monument Park is ‘fantastic.’

“It’s fantastic because there’s been nothing in this area like it,” Elma said.

“I don’t know too much about it, but as far as I can see, it also honours people who helped Australia develop in the first place.”

Ms Crosbie lives in the neighbouring Conder tower. She said NewQuay had needed additional features to draw visitors.

“I’ve been watching it being built downstairs there for months now. It’s great to see it finally coming together and all the various colours being added,” she said.

“I’ve been pleasantly surprised by how it’s shaping up. It’s great for the area.”

Ms Crosbie has watched NewQuay develop since moving to Docklands six years ago. The views and proximity to public transport are what first attracted her to the area.

Commitment to Docklands



Andrew Buxton

Monument Park is the next key step in the revitalisation of NewQuay. What was once a concrete plaza is being transformed into a space for people to relax, grab a coffee and enjoy life on the water.

MAB’s vision is to set a new benchmark for art and public spaces in Melbourne. Each member of our design team is a multi-award winner in their field.

NewQuay has evolved significantly in recent months, from welcoming new residents to The Quays through to the creation of Monument Park as well as introducing exciting new businesses. In 2015, NewQuay will continue to progress with the completion of the Ron Barassi Senior Park - Melbourne’s newest park and sporting facility in Docklands.

The start of construction of MAB’s Aquil Promenade apartments early next year will provide another opportunity for people to enjoy living at NewQuay.

MONUMENT PARK
Opening December 2014



Branding project complete

Docklands will be promoted as the “city on the waterfront”, following the outcome of a two-month branding project.

Commissioned by Destination Docklands and the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, the project, by Brand Clarity’s John Douglas involved discussions with a range of local business and community stakeholders.

Presenting his findings at the October 29 Docklands Community Forum, Mr Douglas said the objective was to help Docklands with its messaging by creating a statement, rather than a slogan or logo.

“We are looking for a central, core idea to allow any Docklands messaging to feel like it’s coming from the same place.”

The “core idea” developed through the project was: “The city on the waterfront, giving you a fresh perspective of urban life”.

According to Destination Docklands CEO Anita Donnelly, the aim of the project was to review previous research and messaging projects and undertake a community consultation in order to find a way to articulate the Docklands brand.

She said this consultation included Docklands Community Forum members, local stakeholders, the Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive and her board.

“Destination Docklands will use the results of the project in our messaging, new website theme, future media comments, marketing activity and event development,” she said.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell said the chamber planned to hold sessions in the new year explaining how the results of the branding project could be used to ensure messaging consistency across Docklands’ business community.



Mission to Seafarers operations manager Bill Reid takes a look at Minarwa Shrestha’s concept for Seafarer’s Rest. Photo by Lucinda McLean.

Fresh ideas for Seafarers Rest

An exotic butterfly house, a eucalyptus woodland and platformed steps down to the riverfront are just some of the ways RMIT students would transform Seafarers Rest.

Some 16 architecture students were asked to respond to the currently derelict site adjacent to the Mission to Seafarers as part of a landscape architecture studio led by Helen Day and Lucinda McLean.

“The aim of the teaching and design studio was to develop skills in designing for people in large urban space,” Ms Day said.

Students met with public space experts from the City of Melbourne along with the Mission to Seafarers’ general manager Bill Reid.

“Bill Reid tasked the students to integrate a new entry to the Mission to Seafarers, addressing the Seafarers Rest,” Ms Day said.

One of the conceptual ideas produced by the student Minarwa Shrestha was “Seafarers Woodland” which is described as “a tranquil eucalyptus woodland between the heavily trafficked Wurundjeri Way and the new entry to the mission, capturing some of the informal and textured qualities of the remnant heritage materials and wild vegetation.”

Student Akyol Chad Gagatay devised “Awakening Seafarers Rest”, a concept that would see the decrepit Shed 5 adapted as an exotic butterfly house and construction of a second shed for a native butterfly house. A butterfly and bee-attracting garden would be developed at the entry to the mission.

According to Mr Reid, the ideas that have emerged through the design studio are “fresh” and “unencumbered by past concepts”.

Chamber ‘adopts’ Alma

Continued from page 1.

He said the chamber planned to put together an exhibition on Harbour Esplanade providing information about the Alma Doepel’s history and restoration and charting the fundraising progress.

“It will be a static display, possibly an open container people can walk through, with information on display and a graphic charting the fundraising process,” Mr Reid said.

“We want to encourage people to donate and to get the Alma back on the water.”

“We think it’s a great thing to have here in Docklands because it contributes to the maritime heritage of Docklands that we need to preserve.”

Owned by not-for-profit company Sale and Adventure Limited, the 110-year-old historic three-masted topsail schooner has been under restoration at Shed 2 in Docklands since 2009.

It’s the last of its kind in Australia and is expected to become a key part of the Harbour Esplanade redevelopment.

The chamber has been a vocal supporter of the restoration project and in June hosted a fundraising event on board the Lady Cutler to make local stakeholders aware of the project.

It had been hoped that the ship would be back in the water by Christmas in order to avoid the damaging effects of the summer climate on the ship’s wood, but Mr Harris said this would not be possible.

“The volunteer team continue to work, but until we get some major funding, the professional team won’t be back,” Mr Harris said.

Around \$800,000 is needed to get the ship back in the water and a further \$900,000 to get it fitted-out and rigged.

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Parking costs continue to rise

By Chloe Strahan

Parking your car in one of the many off-street car parks in Docklands is more expensive than ever.

Last year we reported many price changes at many Docklands car parks, and this year these prices have continued to climb.

The most dramatic change occurs in Enterprize Way off Bourke St. In 2013, parking under both NAB and Ericsson buildings cost around \$16 for the first three hours. Two years later the maximum daily rate for these carparks has increased to a whopping \$69.

Both carparks charge exactly the same rates. Early-bird deals will cost you \$24, and for those unlucky enough to lose your ticket, NAB parking will see you paying a generous \$75 penalty.

The explanation for this huge increase is uncertain, but could be the result of the small supply of all-day parking to accommodate an increased number of workers in the area.

In 2012, the most expensive daily rate to park in Docklands was \$49 at the rear of 717 Bourke St (Channel 9). Today the maximum daily rate has blown up to \$60 a day at the same location.

Emerging patterns show that the more expensive car parks are located close to Etihad Stadium and Harbour Esplanade. With the hundreds of drivers wishing to park in the area for football games, it is clear that these venues are competing for drivers.

Even a quick stop at Etihad Stadium will set you back \$10 for 30 minutes, with a maximum of \$40 a day.

Since its opening in 2013, the carpark at Exo has also increased its parking prices, jumping up to \$12 an hour and now charging



a maximum of \$57 a day, from \$45 in 2013.

One of the only carparks to not raise its prices in the last year is Harbour Town East. The multi-level carpark will only set you back \$10 for up to 24 hours, with the first hour charging as little as \$3.

Maintaining existing prices in the multi-level carpark could be a result of the larger number of spaces available for customer parking at Harbour Town Shopping Centre. Surrounding carparks on Docklands Drive are expected to become development sites in the coming years, which may eventually result in a price rise at the multi-level carpark when this happens.

For a full list of carparks and their daily prices, have a look at the *2015 Docklands Directory* when it is distributed this month.



Justin Dickinson with The Big Umbrella volunteers at The How Ball last month.

New project for The Big Umbrella

Docklands-based charity The Big Umbrella will soon become a self-sustaining enterprise, with plans to open its own café.

Led by Justin Dickinson, the charity has been based at The Hub since early 2012 and works on both local and international issues affecting marginalised youth and children, including human rights abuses, exploitation, forced labour and homelessness.

According to Mr Dickinson, plans for a café have been in the pipeline for two years and have now been made possible after the charity was made the beneficiary of the How Ball 2014.

The How Ball is held each year, with 100 per cent of the profits donated to the chosen charity.

Mr Dickinson said being selected as a beneficiary of the ball was "a great honour".

"We're hoping to use the money generated from that to buy a social enterprise café."

"That will hopefully generate revenue for our projects in the future without having to apply

for grants or funding or drain communities of money."

"We can hopefully generate our own funding and become a self-sustaining charity that doesn't rely on government or external funding."

Mr Dickinson was also recently recognised for his work and was short-listed as a state finalist for the Australian of the Year award.

"To receive the honour of a state finalist was huge, especially with the people I was up against," Mr Dickinson said. "It's nice to get that recognition."

And while plans to develop The Big Umbrella café continue, the charity's work both internationally and locally is also at the forefront of Mr Dickinson's mind.

The Big Umbrella feeds up to 600 homeless people in Melbourne three nights a week through its A Real Meal soup kitchen at Flinders St Station.

On Christmas day, The Big Umbrella will provide food and companionship to around 1000 people.

For more information about The Big Umbrella's work visit www.thebigumbrella.org

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The Lucas Real Estate team at the awards ceremony. From Left to Right: Clare Thompson, Chris Henson, Joy Clarke, Cameron Smith, Dylan Emmett, Meredy Sun, Scott O'Donnell, Mia Chen, Renn Harrison, Glen Lucas, Lisa Walsh, Nicole Roberts, Jenna Hilton, Baden Lucas, Chelsea Grech, Danielle Tadi, Bridget Cremean, Alex Roberts, Bruno Santi and Aisha Coe.

Lucas takes out two gongs

Dockland's Lucas Real Estate team is thrilled to have been recognised as one of the state's best agencies after winning two awards at the Real Estate Institute of Victoria's Awards for Excellence.

The agency took out the realestateVIEW.com.au Agency of the Year Award, while Dylan Emmett was recognised as the REIV Residential Property Manager of the Year (Principal).

Managing director Glen Lucas said the awards were a great recognition of the hard work of the team during the past year.

"It is a privilege to be named as one of the best agencies in the state and certainly

couldn't have been possible without the support of all of our clients over the past 10 years we have been in Docklands," he said.

"To be recognised as the top private sale agency in the state speaks volumes about the property market and level of buyer activity here in Docklands."

Dylan Emmett attributed his success to a combination of factors, including a commitment to excellence in customer

service and the support of his team members.

"It is a great honour and very humbling to have been chosen as a representative of our property management team - I'm very fortunate to work with such a great team doing a job I love."

Mr Emmet will now represent Victoria at the 2015 REIA Awards for Excellence in Perth this March.

Lanes to ease congestion

Travelling from Docklands to the airport and northern suburbs should become easier with plans for new lanes to be added to the Bolte Bridge.

Extra lanes will be added to the Bolte Bridge in an aim to curb congestion on CityLink's Tullamarine corridor.

The additional lanes are part of an \$850 million upgrade of CityLink between the West Gate Freeway and Melrose Drive on the Tullamarine Freeway, which will be funded by City Link owner Transurban.

Former premier Denis Napthine last month announced that the Government had signed a deal with Transurban to deliver the project.

He said the project would significantly improve traffic conditions on the Citylink Tullamarine corridor, which was one of the busiest roads in Melbourne, carrying 210,000 vehicles every day.

"The CityLink Tulla Widening project will boost capacity on the primary road route to the airport by 30 per cent and deliver travel time savings of up to 16 minutes on trips between Melbourne Airport and the West Gate Freeway during peak periods," Dr Napthine said.



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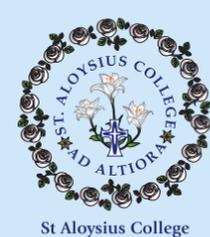
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New chairman for Places Vic

Places Victoria has a new chairman, with Planning Minister Matthew Guy last month announcing Tony De Domenico's appointment to the position.

Over the past 40 years Mr De Domenico has worked across higher education, international diplomacy and government sectors.

Most recently, he has served as deputy chancellor of LaTrobe University and as president of the Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr De Domenico will serve as chairman alongside three recently-appointed independent members and two government members.

Tamara Brezzi, Robert Goudswaard and Graeme Parton were appointed to the Places Victoria Board as independent members in September.

They joined deputy secretary of Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure Christine Wyatt and senior commercial advisor of the Department of Treasury and Finance Garry Phibbs.

Explore the port next door

The Port of Melbourne Corporation is again giving Melburnians the chance to see the port from a different perspective, with free boat tours.

The free tours kicked off last month and will continue in February, March and April next year, departing from Williamstown and Docklands.

People living and working in Docklands will have access to 100 priority tickets for each of the remaining tours, which will run on February 22, March 29 and April 27 next year.

To book visit www.portofmelbourne.com and follow the "Port Boat Tours" link.



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An artist's impression of 889 Collins St.

Lend Lease pushes residential development

Lend Lease is continuing its move into residential-focused development in Victoria Harbour, with plans for another residential building submitted for planning approval last month.

The dual tower development would be built at 889 Collins St and located on the Yarra River and will be the first residential building to have both a Collins St address and river frontage.

The proposed development adds to Lend Lease's current residential construction portfolio, which includes 888 Collins and Concavo.

The development is to be built across two land parcels, one of which *Docklands News* understood had been earmarked for

commercial development.

However, a Lend Lease spokesperson said the site had been nominated as a "flexible use site" in the Victoria Harbour masterplan.

"It has an existing permit for commercial use, however we're seeing strong interest in apartments in the precinct," the spokesperson said.

"A permit for a residential building on the site will give us flexibility for future development."

If approved, 889 Collins St will comprise a 23-storey north tower and 29-storey south tower joined by a podium.

The development will add 538 apartments to Docklands, along with nine mixed-use suites along Collins St.

Apartment prices will range from around \$395,000 up to \$1.8 million.

Construction is targeted to begin in May next year and be completed in June 2017.

Get to know your neighbours

Docklanders are invited to the final Docklands Social Club function for the year on Tuesday, December 9.

The date is a departure from the usual second Wednesday of the month to avoid a clash with the community association's break up.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Social Club at Cargo (55 NewQuay Promenade) from 7.30 pm.

There will be at least 30 minutes of mingling and meeting other Docklanders before guests can choose to sit down and eat.

The event moves around Docklands each month so that locals can expand their horizons and get to know their suburb.

At the last event at Chiara on November 12, there were plenty of familiar faces but also plenty of newcomers entering into the spirit of community.

Apart from the mingling at the start, there is no formal structure to the evening. Guests pay their own way directly with the venue.

Victoria Harbour should be looking good from Cargo, a newcomer to the Docklands restaurant scene. Cargo has a great reputation for its food, reasonable prices and range of tap beers and other drinks.

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Green rating for Goods Shed

The Goods Shed South has received a 5 Green Star rating, making it one of the oldest heritage buildings in Australia to receive a Green Star rating.

Originally built in 1889, the building has undergone an 18-month renovation by Walker Corporation as part of its \$2 billion Collins Square development.

The building incorporates a range of environmentally sustainable design initiatives including high-efficiency lighting and an active chilled beam cooling system to reduce energy use.

The building also incorporates recycled steel, sustainable timber, double-glazed glass, rainwater collection and cycle facilities.

“With a 5 Star Green Star rating for construction demonstrating ‘Australian excellence’, the Goods Shed South and the Lantern Building demonstrate that green features are not limited to new building, but with innovation and commitment can be achieved in heritage-listed buildings too,” CEO of the Green Building Council of Australia, Romilly Madew, said.

“We congratulate Walker Group for this outstanding achievement.”

Walker Corporation director of development and projects David Gallant said sustainability was important to the company and remained a fundamental part of all its projects.

“The restoration was planned and undertaken with the 5 Green Star requirements front of mind.”



Terry took part in “Walk to Work Day” for World Diabetes Day last month.

Terry’s second chance at life

Yarra’s Edge resident Terry Crews has a new lease on life after beating diabetes.

Terry was first diagnosed with type 2 diabetes a decade ago, and had grown steadily sicker, to the point where he was bed-ridden.

Different medications, while effective initially, led to debilitating side-effects and Terry began searching for an alternative.

His search led to a relatively new device called EndoBarrier, which involves non-surgical placement and removal after 12 months and creates a physical barrier between the intestinal wall and food.

For Mr Crews, the procedure resulted in almost instantaneous changes and he is now considered to be in remission from diabetes.

“Over the 12 month period, I lost 31 kilograms, put 11 kilograms of muscle back on and my blood sugars have gone to five,

which is stable,” Terry said.

And far from being bed-ridden, Terry is now back to living an active life, taking part in “Walk to Work Day” for World Diabetes Day on November 14.

“I’m able to live a full, active life and I’m not going to slip into a weight-gaining sedentary process.”

“I exercise in the gym virtually everyday and I play golf. I’m probably a better golfer now than when I got diabetes.”

For Terry, the procedure and his recovery have been a second chance at life.

“I’d reached the end of my tether and having this procedure gave me a second chance in life and that second chance is my wakeup call to say ‘hey buddy, don’t go there again.’”

Recognition for Yarra Point

Docklands’ own Yarra Point tower at Yarra’s Edge has been recognised as Victoria’s best apartment complex.

The 31-storey Mirvac development received the accolade at the 2014 Housing Industry Association (HIA) CSR Victorian Housing awards last month.

Mirvac executive John Carfi said the HIA CSR Apartment Complex award recognised the intelligence of Yarra Point’s design.

“This award is fantastic recognition of Yarra Point’s intelligent design as well as the success of the entire Yarra’s Edge precinct, which offers Melbourne’s best waterside living lifestyle, just minutes from the CBD,” Mr Carfi said.

Mirvac will now go on to contest the apartment complex category at the national HIA awards in 2015.



Mirvac’s Yarra Point building at Yarra’s Edge.



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Final story for the year

By Chloe Strahan

The final installment of the 'Words on the Wind' series at Docklands Library is being brought to us by storyteller Roslyn Quin.

The Library at the Dock has hosted nine storytellers over the past few months sharing their tales inspired by Docklands and Roslyn's show *As The River Tells It*, on December 18 will be this year's final performance.

Roslyn takes the audience on a journey that transforms the Docklands into a mythological fantasy land, drawing inspirations from the city's history and traditional folklore.

"When writing stories I use the area and the landscape around to create a new mythology and stories to fit inside that mythology. All of my stories are very much inspired by the old folklores of all different countries," Roslyn said.

"I wanted to do something new inspired by the area that has a lot of history and a lot of stories attached to it," she said.

Roslyn's own family has a history around the Docklands, with her grandfather arriving in Victoria Harbour five years ago.

Roslyn explains that her often dark and complicated storylines are tailored mostly to adults.

"A lot of folklore are great ways to explore topics without alienating anyone or making people feel sad. You can explore topics like death by turning it into a fantasy. It's not so confronting."

Roslyn incorporates music, puppetry, poetry and movement into her performances to enhance the storytelling experience for the audience, yet doesn't lose focus of her voice as the most important tool.

"I try to let the storytelling stand on its own and only be decorated by props. My stories are not staged either. I know the story that I am telling but the words that I use sort of flow out of me in an improvised style."



Roslyn Quin brings here storytelling show "As the River Tells it" to the Library at the Dock this month.

Roslyn's close-knit friends are assisting with the props, making a custom made puppet and improvising music on stage to match the mood of the story.

"It's kind of like a jam session but I'm not using an instrument I am using my voice," Roslyn said.

This eccentric tale is haunting, original and colourful, with an array of make-believe characters derived from the history of the Docklands.

As the River Tells It will be held on December 18 at the Library at the Dock.

GreenMoney trial a success

A recycling rewards program will be rolled out across Melbourne after a successful trial in Docklands and Southbank.

The council-supported GreenMoney trial began in November last year and has seen 1500 residents take part so far.

The program aims to increase awareness of and encourage recycling awareness by allowing residents to earn points and claim discounts at a range of businesses by recycling.

According to Cr Cathy Oke, residents have redeemed almost \$32,000 worth of discounts through the GreenMoney program over the past 12 months.

"Between the beginning of the trial in November 2013 and July this year, 56 per cent of residents taking part in GreenMoney increased the amount they were recycling. Eight per cent of participants had never recycled before becoming involved with the program," Cr Oke said.

Cr Oke said the trial predominantly involved residents living in high-rise apartments in Docklands and Southbank but would now be expanded across the municipality.

"We hope to see the number of households involved grow closer to 12,000 over the next 12 months."

GreenMoney allows residents to earn points for recycling. Participants put recycling in their household or building recycling bins, which are weighed each week and earn residents 50 points per kilogram of recycling collected.

Residents can use accumulated points to claim discounts and special offers at participating businesses.

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Aussie Day fun in Docklands

Docklands will be the centre of Melbourne's Australia Day celebrations yet again this January.

The celebrations will kick off at midday, with entertainment, live performances, special appearances and giveaways at the NewQuay Piazza.

Destination Docklands' popular thong-throwing competition will also be back and NewQuay Promenade will be buzzing with roving performers, activities, an Australia Day market and, of course, an Australia Day sausage sizzle.

Activities will also extend across Central Pier and to Victoria Harbour Promenade, with the Docklands Chamber of Commerce planning music and entertainment, the Alma Doepel on display and a ferry service to transport visitors across the harbour.

The day will culminate in a fireworks display at 9.30pm, which last year saw 20,000 people flood into Docklands.

Final phase of Collins Square

The last of Walker Corporation's towers has been submitted for planning approval, with the City of Melbourne last month putting its support behind the proposal.

The proposed commercial building would be 27-storeys tall, requiring an amendment to the Collins Square development plan, which allows a 20-storey building on the site.

If approved the building will be constructed at the corner of Batman's Hill and Georgiana St, next to Village Docklands.

As reported by *Docklands News* in September, residents of Village Docklands oppose the proposed building, saying it will cause disruptions to traffic flow, will overshadow their building and pool area, and block residents' views.

At the City of Melbourne's November 11 Future Melbourne Committee meeting councillors unanimously agreed to provide in-principle support for the proposal.

It will send a letter to the Department of Transport Planning and Local Infrastructure outlining its support, subject to conditions.

Final approval of the tower and amendment of the Collins Square development plan lies with the planning minister.



An artist's impression of the proposed tower.



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New community space at Medibank

Local corporate Medibank last month launched a unique facility for both its workers and the Docklands community.

Inspired by the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, Medibank has launched its own kitchen and garden at its Docklands headquarters.

The kitchen garden program forms part of the curriculum in 730 schools across Australia and Ms Alexander officially opened the new facilities, alongside a group of enthusiastic students from Elwood Primary School.

“The opportunity to improve the health of community, be encouraging children to understand more about what they eat, and to give it a go themselves, is what the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program is all about.”

“This is the same ethos Medibank is pursuing: inspiring employees to explore food and healthy living right here in the workplace.”

“It’s really investing in the health of the staff who work here, and I hope the kitchen is well-used and enjoyed by employees and the various external groups who have the

opportunity to access it,” Ms Alexander said.

According to Medibank executive Kylie Bishop, Medibank staff will be able to visit the garden to recharge or even bring their work and meetings outside.

“It also presents opportunities for them to volunteer to care for the garden itself,” Ms Bishop said.

The kitchen and garden space will also benefit the local community, with a public program to be rolled out next year.

“In 2015 a public program will be announced aimed at providing opportunities for sectors of the wider community to access and use the Medibank Kitchen and Garden spaces for healthy living programs.”

“Medibank plans to use its new kitchen and garden to support external community programs such as STREAT – providing opportunities for people involved in these programs to come together to learn new skills and support one another,” Ms Bishop said.



Elwood Primary School students Maisy and Mason with Stephanie Alexander at the kitchen garden launch.



The Moon and the Sun was shot at the Docklands Studios earlier this year. Photo by Moon and Sun Productions

Bumper year for Docklands Studios

The past year has been Docklands Studios most successful since the State Government assumed ownership in 2008.

The studio celebrated its 10th anniversary this year and its recent success has been put down to the mix of projects that have come through the five sound stages, production offices and onsite workshop.

“There’s been such a diverse group of domestic and international projects through the studio in the past 12 months – with sets representing the Warrnambool coastline to the Palace of Versailles,” CEO Rod Allan said.

The studio hosted Australian feature films *Sucker*, *Oddball* and *The Dressmaker*,

international feature film *The Moon and the Sun* and US sci-fi TV mini-series *Childhood’s End* this year.

“The studio is becoming a creative hub for production and costume designers, set builders and dressers and some of the country’s best screen talent,” Mr Allen said.

Local commercial television shows *Millionaire Hot Seat*, *The Footy Show*, *Winners and Losers* also continue to be shot at the studios.

Shed 4 bites the dust

Docklands’ Shed 4 was demolished last month in preparation for construction of the family services and boating hub on the site.

The demolition work was carried out by Lend Lease and, according to a spokesperson, the removal of the shed took around four weeks.

The company spokesperson said the site was currently being prepared for building and substructure works would commence in

coming weeks.

Construction of the community facility is expected to begin in the new year and, similar to the Library at the Dock, is being funded through a partnership between the City of Melbourne, Places Victoria and Lend Lease.



Shed 4, on North Wharf Road, was demolished last month.



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Book your seats for final 2014 lunch

The last Docklands Networking Lunch for the year is almost here and, right in the middle of the festive season, is sure to be fun.

The December networking lunch will be held at Hooks at the Yarra's Edge on December 12 from 12 noon.

As always, the lunch is \$60 and must be paid in advance of the day.

The menu for the December networking lunch is:

Entrée: Mixed canapés.

Main: Fish of the day - fresh fish, lightly

grilled with a side salad and chips; veal scallopini - tender veal sautéed in a mushroom sauce and served with seasonal vegetables; or vegetarian risotto - pan tossed seasonal vegetables mixed with a creamy risotto.

Dessert: Warm apple strudel, tiramisu.

Beverages: House red, white wine, beer and soft drinks.

To book contact Docklands News via [lunch@](mailto:lunch@docklandsnews.com.au)

docklandsnews.com.au or by calling 8689 7979.

Docklanders also enjoyed a joint networking event hosted by Docklands Chamber of Commerce and Destination Docklands on November 24.

Held at All Smiles in NewQuay, the event was attended by around 50 people.

Enjoy some images from the event below.



SPEAK TO THE DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY

2015 PUBLICATION DATES

ISSUE	MONTH	BOOKING DEADLINE	MATERIAL DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTION
105	February	23/1/2015	29/1/2015	February 4
106	March	20/2/2015	26/2/2015	March 4
107	April	20/3/2015	26/3/2015	April 1
108	May	17/4/2015	23/4/2015	April 29
109	June	22/5/2015	28/5/2015	June 3
110	July	19/6/2015	25/6/2015	July 1
111	August	17/7/2015	23/7/2015	July 29
112	September	21/8/2015	27/8/2015	September 2
113	October	18/9/2015	24/9/2015	September 30
114	November	16/10/2015	22/10/2015	October 28
115	Dec/Jan	20/11/2015	26/11/2015	December 3

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ENJOY SOME SAKE THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE



Looking for somewhere special to spend New Year's Eve? Why not head to Zen Izakaya at Yarra's Edge?

According to head chef and manager Thomas Chen (pictured left), Zen Izakaya is the perfect place to ring in 2015.

"We'll be offering a special banquet and, located right on the waterfront at Yarra's Edge, we offer a great view of the midnight fireworks," he said.

According to Mr Chen, New Year's Eve is a very busy time of year at the restaurant and he encouraged people to book ahead to avoid disappointment.

For New Year's Eve, Zen Izakaya is offering a set menu at \$85 per head.

"The menu is eight courses and will include sashimi, sushi, beef steak, assorted tempura, some other dishes and a glass of wine or sake," Mr Chen said.

"With the fireworks and the beautiful waterfront view, it will be a wonderful night."

"Come along with friends and family and

enjoy a lovely Japanese meal at Yarra's Edge."

Mr Chen also advised guests to ensure they book ahead throughout December, in the lead up to Christmas.

"It's normally a busy time of year for us and we host plenty of business lunches so it's even a good idea to book for lunch."

Zen Izakaya offers a range of Japanese cuisine and stocks a wide-range of sake.

And if the fermented rice beverage isn't your thing, the bar also has a range of Japanese and local beers on offer, along with a selection of wine and cocktails.

Zen Izakaya is located on the riverfront at 70 Lorimer St, Docklands.

To book your table for New Year's Eve phone **9646 2400**.

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If you love it, it's not a chore

By Shane Scanlan

If Cathy Oke was an elite athlete, and not a politician, you'd want her drug-tested.

She's half-way through her second term as a Melbourne city councillor with an impossible work-load, including being a new mum, but shows no sign of burn-out or disinterest.

Everyone knows town hall politics is a bruising environment but there is not a hint of cynicism about her. It's all surprisingly positive, up-lifting, genuine.

She is certainly idealistic. But the "looney" label that can come with being a Green doesn't stick.

Cr Oke remains unaffected because she is doing something that she loves.

"I feel we are making a difference," she said. "Especially in the sustainability space."

What makes Cr Oke different from what you might expect of an inner-city Greens councillor is the grounding in grass-roots community politics she got at her kitchen table growing up in a staunch ALP family in North Melbourne.

The electoral rules have changed now but, "back in the day", town hall politics was largely decided around similar kitchen tables in West Melbourne, Flemington and Carlton.

Her fanaticism for the North Melbourne Football Club also sets her apart from her peers.

"I'm not your usual greenie in that sense," she said. Adding that she really enjoyed the three years she spent with deep-sea fishermen while she researched a PhD thesis on the genetics of orange roughy.

Cr Oke's parents remain actively involved in local community life. The family allegiance has shifted to the Greens, one suspects, because of the purity of its ideals, particularly in relation to social justice issues.

It's easy to imagine Cr Oke as an absolute joy to her parents - high achieving at school, respectful and well-behaved ("Goody two-shoes" is the term she uses). She studied marine biology which led on to activism around marine national parks and voluntary work with the Surfrider Foundation.



Sun, sand and surf. Does it get more wholesome? Cr Oke carries a bit of that golden sunset idealism with her into the council chamber.

Party politics came much later than community activism for Cr Oke.

She said she was very careful in choosing the Greens but had first voted for the party over its stance on asylum seekers during the "children overboard" controversies of the Howard Government years.

She's now a seasoned councillor and points to achievements in sustainability and transport. She points out that, on some routes, bicycle use is now almost at the council's stretch target of 16 per cent of "mode use".

She says the next bicycle plan will turn its attention to short trips within the municipality with safer infrastructure and lower speed limits.

The council is due to release its final "walking plan" later this year and Cr Oke is keen to get some outcomes.

"We all know that a plan is just a plan and that you actually have to do it," she said. "I'll be concentrating on getting some of the actions enacted over the next two years."

She's also excited by an urban ecology strategy, which she hopes will draw solid

connections between nature and the economy of a functioning, liveable city.

She says she hasn't decided what her political future will be. She needs to see what happens in her private life, career and political life during the remaining two years of her term.

At the moment, though, she shows no signs of slowing down.

"I've found you can actually make a lot of difference being in the political process," she said. "It's a big commitment and there are a lot of hours and you don't get recompensed as you perhaps should but you actually get to make a difference."

She said she mostly loved working with residents and would like to think that she was connected with residents from all around the municipality.

"Sometimes its tough and you don't always provide the answers they want to hear," she said. "You have to decide whether you want to be inside the tent or outside the tent. Do you want to make political change from within or from the outside?"

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How will you
celebrate Christmas?



CHRIS LOVETT - 64

"For the past three years we have booked a Christmas cruise. This year we will go out of Brisbane to sail around the Pacific. The year before we took our children and grandchildren around New Zealand. We like to come back for New Years though. We live in apartments in Docklands and have a great view of the fireworks, and normally invite friends over for seafood."



EDDIE WORRALL - 34

"I work at a The Local Burger Co which has opened in Docklands which will keep me busy over the holidays. Christmas will be fun because it gets busy around that period but a couple of days before Christmas we get to knock off and just enjoy it. I am used to not having long breaks over Christmas. I once worked a 46 hour weekend, so my days off are normally spent catching up on sleep!"



LINH TRAN - 25

"We are really casual with our Christmas, we do celebrate it but it's a nice quiet catch up with family and friends. Normally we have a barbecue at one of the local parks. I look forward to presents of course, but it can be stressful shopping for presents when you can't find the right sizes or gifts!"



ANDREA AND ELLA - FIVE-WEEKS-OLD

"This is Ella's first Christmas, so we are looking forward to having the family over at our house to celebrate. We have a great view of the fireworks at New Years Eve too. Ella is my first child, she is only five-weeks-old so we are taking her to see the baby sing-a-long at the library."



ALLAN AND JENNY WHITE

"We like the family part of Christmas, when we are all together sharing a meal and presents together. It is different in England where we are from because it is so cold. Sometimes it snows which is even nicer. It gets dark quite early so by 4 o'clock you are all indoors around the fire with the lights hanging from the tree, it is lovely."



PAULA AND JIMMY COOKE, AND DARLENE AND GARETH SMITH

"Presents! We love presents at Christmas. We are all visiting from New Zealand so our Christmas is celebrated very similar to Australia. It is warm so we love having a barbecue outside with the family. Or a big family roast!"

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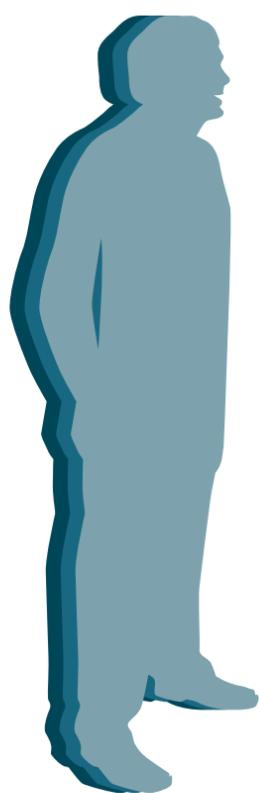
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Loving Docklands' beauty

According to Dominic Pronesti, Docklands is "a beautiful place".



DOCKLANDER

The NewQuay local has lived in Docklands for five years and says it's the first place he's lived in Melbourne where he feels at home.

Originally from South Gippsland, Dom said he lived in the bayside suburbs of Brighton, Elwood and St Kilda before moving to the area.

"I moved here to be part of the community I could see was developing," he said.

Initially, Dom started a personal training business in Docklands, before opening his own restaurant, Docked, in 2011.

"I have a passion for eating and drinking and developed a tapas bar with a beautiful view of Docklands," he said.

Dom ran Docked tapas bar for 18 months before returning to personal training and sales.

Today he also is part of the *Docklands News* team, delivering the papers each month, along with sister papers *CBD News* and *Southbank Local News*.

For Dom, delivering *Docklands News* provides a great opportunity to get out and about to the different areas in Docklands. "It's very social," he said.

Dom said he was a big advocate of Docklands. "I wouldn't have started that quirky restaurant if I wasn't a big believer in Docklands."

And he thinks the next five to 10 years will see big changes in the area.

"The buildings are just going up so quickly," he said. "I think with the new hotels coming in and more residents we'll see a lot of changes."

Dom said there were a few spots in Docklands that he particularly liked to visit.

"I love being down the back there along the Moonee Ponds Creek. I walk the dog down there and it's very peaceful and quiet underneath the freeway."

And living in the area for five years, Dom has come to notice many of the subtle, but beautiful aspects of the area.



"I'm often just astounded by its beauty," he said.

"There was one night there when I was walking the dog and there was a blue light on the back of the boat and there was a

swarm of jellyfish behind it and they were all glowing blue."

"You just see some amazing sights around here sometimes."

**Profile by
Bethany Williams**



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What *With* Women *Abby* Want *Crawford*

All little birds must leave their nest, and it's a mother's job to protect her little darlings for as long as possible before judging when they are ready to be pushed off the ledge and she can trust that their wings will fly.

Well, on a scorching hot day not long ago, my son and I were heading out on our crunchy grass to fill water bowls for the dog (who, sensibly, had stayed inside out of the heat) when, before I had even thought it through, the words "what is that!?" escaped my mouth. Now, it's not unusual for words to escape my mouth faster than my mind can keep up, but this was one time that I really wanted to take them back urgently.

I had thought that it was a raw chicken wing (disgusting image, huh) on the grass, but with horror realised I had alerted my compassionate, animal-loving 11-year-old son to the disastrous consequences of our hot summer winds and baby birds nesting in the eaves. It was a blind, featherless and very-close-to-death baby bird. It wasn't moving. Just as he realised what it was, his little mouth squealed "Mumma there's more!" Oh no. There was. Three pink, blind, featherless chicken wings - I mean birds - in the garden.

I tried to cuddle him, and explain in my most consoling voice that wind was nature's way of controlling the bird population and there was nothing that could be done to save them. He gave me a withering look, and said "Mum, all of God's creatures deserve a second chance".

Right. I popped inside to look for a box whilst, in my head, cursing myself for mentioning it. You see, I had absolutely nothing against trying to save the baby birds, but I had everything against my baby being heart broken when they not only died, which was surely inevitable, but would die in his care.

So we shredded newspaper, and placed these weird little creatures (I said that with love) into a box on the verandah, and I soaked bread in milk to try to drip into their little beaks. There wasn't much movement, but my son made tissue blankets and sang to them and patted them for hours, dripping milk towards these three inert creatures every half hour.

They started moving. Just gently shuffling together. Then, they started opening their beaks when they heard his voice. He took them out, one by one, and held them against his chest, chatting about how they needed to be strong and focus on growing. He went outside, on the rare times he left the box, searching the skies in vain for the parent birds - I'm not exactly sure what the plan was if he sited them, but he seemed determined to reunite them none-the-less.

That night I told him that God would have seen every effort he had made with the birds. I told him that they would most likely "pass on" (how else do you put it to an 11 year old?) in the night but the most important thing was they would go having felt love, with full little tummies and that was the best possible send off to heaven that a bird could get - much better than being baked by the sun and eaten by ants.

I did tell him that. Anyway, he won the argument that baby birds do belong inside and into the hallway they came, by the bedroom door, to surely die in the cool of the night.

I snuggled down with him and prepared myself for the tears in the morning. Up he

got at 5am, looked in the box, touched them and the tears flowed. "They're not moving, they've died". And I went into my well-rehearsed speech of reassurance. About 20 minutes later, I heard something, something we hadn't heard before - and he rushed back to the box - they were alive and giving little "tweets"! They'd been asleep. He took great joy in pointing out how wrong I was to not believe in them.

The first few days, I fed them a little of my protein powder mixed in with the milk, just to give them a boost - but then they started growing so much I thought we might inadvertently create pterodactyl birds!

So I looked up what we should feed them - bread and milk were the worst things. It didn't mention protein powder. Who on earth would take such an expensive product and feed it to birds? But, in fairness, I did still believe we were on a palliative care program, not a serious nutrition program! We learned that soggy dog food was good. At least that's cheaper than protein powder.

Now we also have a crazy boxer dog called Daisy, who was meant to be an outside dog, but is the most loved-up, sook with a pink blanket who lives inside, and believes she is human. However, her instincts are to hunt (more specifically, to hunt you down and then sit on you) and she was bursting to get to these birds. She has felled several of the neighbours chickens (they were in our yard. It's really not my fault, right?) in a single swoop but the funniest thing in the world was watching her stick her head into this box of baby birds to have them peck her nose!

She stepped back most indignantly. I felt sorry for her, she had a look on her face that said "but they're birds! Birds stuffed with dog food - I gotta get some!"

My son took the birds, about two weeks later, onto the verandah and taught them to fly. They flew around the house, sat on our heads and constantly demanded food. And he loved them (Wilson, Gerry and Bulldust - he could even tell which was which). We had them all for another few days before they took off one morning when he'd gone to school. He was heart broken when he came home, but in a good way. He knew they were ready to leave home.

A day later, as my son got off the school bus, one of the birds landed on his shoulder. He came inside with it, and cuddled it, and the bird fell asleep in his hands. The bird slept in its box, alone, and in the morning took off to the skies. It just needed one more night of his love. I'm grateful that this experience was so incredibly different to what I feared it would be. I'm moved beyond words by my son's compassion and dedication to vulnerable animals.

And I've learnt, that maybe I need to see that my son is learning to "fly" on his own, and I just need to trust that his wings will take care of him through life's inevitable journeys.

All mothers must let their babies grow up and leave the nest one day. But I'll never stop wanting to protect my baby, no matter how big he gets.

With love,

Abby x

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COME IN AND SEE PETER, LYN AND THE FRIENDLY TEAM



REPORTING FROM THE DOCKLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Alma Doepel once more to grace Docklands' waters.

Wishing all our readers a merry Christmas and Happy New Year as we bring you news of activities throughout the festive season. November has been very busy and, all too soon, it is over!

As part of our long-term vision to see Docklands' maritime heritage resurrected and become a major attraction for visitors, Docklands Chamber of Commerce is supporting the Alma Doepel restoration program.

Chamber president Joh Maxwell made this announcement at the joint network evening held at All Smiles on NewQuay on Monday, November 24. Every business in Docklands should get behind this exciting project. As a minimum, all you need do is raise \$500 to buy a plank for the restoration of Alma's hull. The more planks we can purchase, the quicker we will see the Alma restored to her former glory and once again grace Docklands' harbour, providing youth education programs and public cruises.

Don't limit yourself to just one plank! Talk and "walk the plank" amongst your colleagues, encourage your company to match staff dollar for dollar! Let the

fundraising begin and contact the Docklands Chamber of Commerce to see how your business can become a part of this exciting project!

The joint networking evening was presented by your chamber, in conjunction with Destination Docklands. Thanks go to the venue management Dean Roff and Michelle Bauer, our generous hosts for the evening. For those of you who know the area, All Smiles is located upstairs above Cargo. From this venue, the views of Docklands are simply stunning and Dean and Michelle provided us with delicious canapés and drinks.

Joh Maxwell used the opportunity to announce that a Chinese trade delegation from Chaoyang District Federation of Industry and Commerce, Beijing, has requested a meeting with the Docklands Chamber of Commerce. Their aim is to establish contact and set up a communicating platform for members of both parties to explore possible business opportunities. Another great reason to become a member of the Chamber!

Anita Donnelly of Destination Docklands spoke about their work and gave an update on the forthcoming Jubilation festival. This is a three-day free Christmas event in Docklands, proudly supporting the Country Fire Authority at a key time for

their volunteer fire brigades – the start of the Victorian bushfire season. Dates are Friday, December 12 to Sunday, December 14. Anita described the event as a CFA zone with loads of CFA trucks, education buses and volunteer firefighters. Ms Donnelly announced there would be free entertainment on the Jubilation stage, and over 18 different food trucks, Docklands night markets and much more.

The next popular networking function organised by the chamber and *Docklands News* will be held on Friday, December 12 at Hooks at the Yarra. Make sure you book your place in plenty of time because these events are always well attended and sell out fast. It is a great way to meet new faces and rekindle old acquaintances. So if you are new to Docklands make sure you are a starter! Contact *Docklands News*.

New Years Eve will once again see the City of Melbourne put on the annual fireworks display in Docklands, a very popular event drawing good crowds to Docklands. There are many vantage points around the harbour with water cruise options available to get up close.

Australia Day will be huge in Docklands. The Department of Premier and Cabinet will be activating the Piazza over at NewQuay and this will be supported by the chamber as we activate other parts of Docklands

including Central Pier and Victoria Harbour. Once again, we will offer a ferry service to transport visitors across the harbour. We are hoping to run a carnival train as an additional land-based shuttle service. The Alma Doepel will be prominently on display for the public to learn more about the history and restoration work being undertaken. All this will be complemented with music, street entertainment, food and wine. Then, at 9.30pm there will be a spectacular fireworks display to light up Docklands.

In February, Docklands will see the return of the successful Giant Dragon gracing Harbour Esplanade to celebrate Chinese New Year. In 2015 this will coincide with the White Night festival that will also fall on Saturday, February 21. Docklands will play host to a number of activities designed to capture the excitement of Chinese New Year and embrace the White Night celebrations.

For more information on these events go to the Docklands Chamber website – www.docklandsc.com.au. Remember Docklands is well serviced by public transport and bike paths. Due to the popularity of events in Docklands, the chamber encourages visitors to use these service and leave the car at home. You will have a more relaxed and enjoyable experience. Docklands is definitely the place to be over the festive season! Speak to you again in February!



Letters to the Editor

Vested interests?

Regarding 'Community resigned to tram bridge fate' - Issue 103.

I along with many other Yarra's Edge residents have written to various stakeholders including Planning Minister Guy.

I understand that many have received his response to these concerns and wonder why

it has received scant coverage in this paper and on various letters and articles I have seen.

One has to wonder if there are vested interests applying so close to an election.

Mr Guy reiterated that this is NOT a funded project or priority of the government.

It will NOT be developed before 2040.

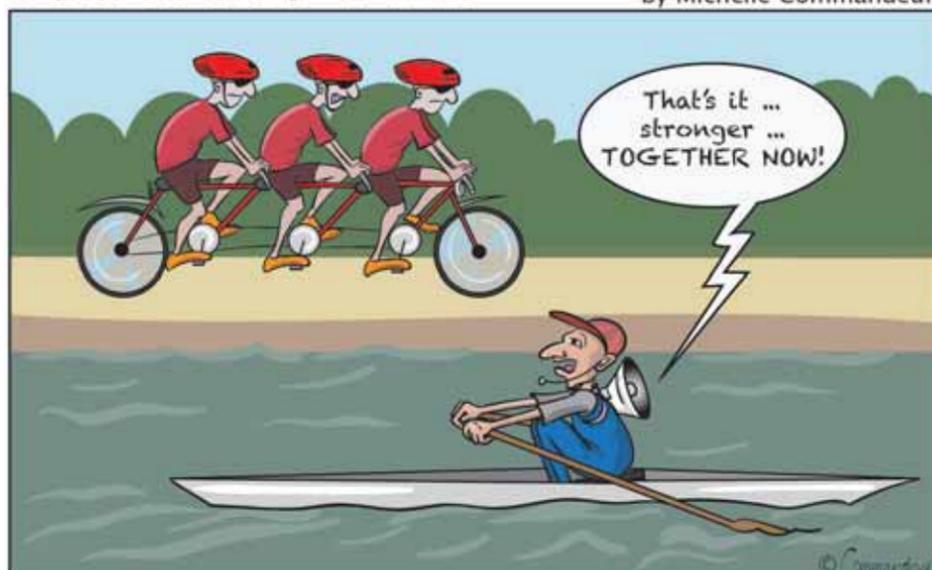
The Government is committed to high

capacity rail links through Montague St. Local tram infrastructure is a priority through a spur line off route 109.

Sandra Turner

DOCKLANDS DAZE

by Michelle Commandeur



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AWAY FROM THE DESK



Picture this ...

My 12-year-old is somewhere between boyhood and adolescence ... innocence and knowledge, non-smelliness and serious smelliness.

I know this because I've observed the same transition in my older son who, at 15, is well entrenched in his hairy, skateboard riding, graffiti loving, mumbling teenage world.

The land between is funny and lovely to behold.

This morning, Mr 12 interrupted my morning make up routine by turning up at the bathroom sink, still bleary eyed and sullen, his thick brown hair tousled and messy. He looked at me, and burped loudly in my face. He then proceeded to rummage frantically in the bathroom drawer searching for something that was obviously very important. He then reached down and triumphantly displayed what he'd been seeking - Lynx hair gel, super hold. He used this liberally and followed up with a spray of Lynx deodorant (Chocolate). Morning routine done, he slouched out the door to find his phone.

Priceless.

Transition and a sense of being in-between are familiar themes to Docklands where ideas, inspiration and development are constantly at play in a bid to continuously improve and enhance the experience of living, commuting through and visiting here.

This month we had the image of surf waves breaking in the shadow of Melbourne's skyscrapers floated (forgive the pun) with the idea of having a floating beach in Docklands. The CBD wave pool would they say, produce 1 - 1.5 metre barrels, be filled with filtered seawater (what? No jellyfish?) and would be heated all year round.

The idea is to attract people looking for an after-work surfing session and kids looking for some wave pool/surfing action. I've gotta say, my kids would be here with bells on, and so would I. Whilst the image of swimming with jellyfish is appealing from a visual point of view (there is something graceful and ephemeral about them), it is a little bit icky and creepy. Surfing with them even more so. Here's to filtration I say.

I wonder also, whether there would be space in the pool for people who wanted to swim laps, hang about in the water having a chin wag, or simply cool off on a hot day. That would be grand.

A hobbitesque twist is the idea of having a

50-metre strip of retail space for businesses like surf shops, hidden underneath a grass mound. Would the doors be round? I wonder.

Segue needed so, here goes ... Speaking of hobbits, Christmas is, I am reliably informed only four short weeks away. Whilst Woolies have had their Chrissie decorations up for some time and have been piping soothing carols through the store for some time now, this only serves to increase the sense of rising panic I feel on a number of fronts:

- Christmas shopping I have not done;
- House unpacking I have not done (I have just moved and still have boxes of stuff everywhere);
- Family relationships I have not maintained (seeing people once a year at Christmas always does feel a bit wrong); and
- Feelings I have had to put to one side because there is just so much to do (surely the whole point of Christmas is goodwill and not consumption?).

Hope this hasn't made you feel too bad.

'Til next year.

Oh, and season's greetings one and all.

X Maria



With Maria Doogan

PET'S CORNER



Coco is in the paper AGAIN!

Coco lives a life of luxury on the seas of Victoria Harbour with owners Bill and Sally.

Residing in Docklands, this happy couple and their playful poodle have spent three years living on their boat.

"We are going out on the boat tonight," said Bill. "Down the river the water is always calm so we do get out for a cruise a lot."

Coco gets to join Bill and Sally on their daily errand run - to the post office and supermarket. The couple said it was a great area to live with everything in walking distance from their boat in the harbour.

Very well behaved, Coco runs alongside the couple without ever losing sight of her beloved owners.

"Coco has been in the paper once before," said Sally. "I threw her a birthday party on our boat in the harbour, and she got her photo in the paper!"

The friendly four-year-old pup was enthusiastic about a scrap of rubber on the boardwalk, using it as a makeshift toy right before her photo shoot.

"She is always ready for playtime," Sally said.



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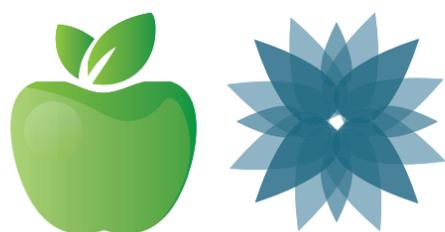
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Dr. Anne Dynon





HEALTH & WELLBEING



By Andrew Ward,
YMCA Docklands manager

I hope you have enjoyed reading this column during 2014 and look forward to providing you with more health and wellness tips during 2015. I wish you all the best – have a safe and happy holiday.

Stretching

Muscles and the mind hold tension.

Working out is a great way to sweat, tone the body and release stress. But unless you are stretching effectively and regularly, your muscles can become stiff and tense. The build-up of this tension over time can lead to seeking the service of a masseur or physio. While this is effective and reasonable, there is more you can do along the way to moderate these visits and improve your overall wellbeing.

After every work out do you stretch out your whole body? How much stretching should you do? What stretches are most effective? How long should you hold them for?

A great start is to build in a 1:5 ratio of stretching to activity. In other words, if you just completed a 30 minute high-intensity workout then you should stretch for a further five - six minutes.

Stretching should be relative to muscles worked, but should always incorporate mobility exercises for the neck and spine. Tight hip and gluteal muscles can lead to lower back pain. Tight neck and shoulder muscles can lead to headaches so make sure these areas are a special focus.

Stretches are normally held for 30-60 seconds while maintaining regular breathing patterns. (Don't hold your breath.)

Meditation

While the practice of meditation is often attached to religion and spirituality, the occurrence of and access to non-spiritual meditation is becoming more common. Many modern companies create pathways and opportunities to experience and benefit from meditation, relaxation and breathing programs as they improve performance.

Mediation involves clearing the mind of distractions, while focusing attention onto an object, subject or process – for example your breathing. You can meditate as part of a group or it can be a practice that you cultivate in your own private time.

Meditation has the following benefits:

Physical

- Reduces high blood pressure;
- Improves sleep and helps reduce tension related headaches;
- Increases the production of serotonin – the happy hormone; and
- Increased energy levels.

Mental

- Reduces tension and anxiety;
- Improves focus and mindfulness;
- Sharpens the mind; and
- Increases awareness and happiness.

You can find more about available meditation programs from your doctor, psychologist, health and wellness centre or yoga centre. Try and make meditation part of your physical and mental activity plan for 2015.

Aquatic activities

As the weather warms up, there is no better place to cool off than in the water. Health and fitness authorities recommend we all exercise 30 minutes per day, every day. Exercising, especially outdoors can become more challenging as the weather heats up as we need to consider external factors like hydration, overheating, sunburn and heat stroke.

Aquatic exercise can be a great substitute or addition to your exercise program during the warmer months. If you are competitive and able, there are some great swimming competitions and activities over summer to consider like the Portsea Swim, the Pier to Pub in Lorne and the YMCA Swimathon (in March). By locking yourself into such events, you can build a great training plan that keeps you active and motivated leading up to the big day.

Swimming aside, aquatic exercises and workouts have many great benefits:

- Low impact – soft on joints, bones and great for rehabilitation and sufferers of arthritis;
- Increased resistance – movement through water is harder than moving through air – try some hydro walks, jogs and runs as intervals to increase intensity. Also great fun at the beach;
- Mobility – We can all benefit from improved mobility. The body is supported in water so the risk of injury is reduced; and
- Cooling – the body doesn't overheat as readily as it is cooled by the water.

If you plan to get active outdoors in the water, make sure you are "Sun Smart".

Issue 11 – February/March 2005

Carols by the Cow



10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands' first decade

Docklands' annual community Christmas celebration, Carols by the Cow, was staged on December 10.

Proving that the show must go on, the event defied Melbourne's squally December weather and the lashing wind along Harbour Esplanade by relocating into the spacious Shed 14 on Central Pier where the assembled crowd were treated to a night of fun and Christmas festivity.

The program started with the arrival of Santa, accompanied by one of his hard-working elves, who spread some Christmas cheer amongst the children present.

Guest comperes, Collingwood footballer

Brodie Holland and Captain Brendan Nottle from the Salvation Army, anchored a program of music and carol singing accompanied by bands from the Salvation Army.

A guest appearance by Humphrey Bear delighted the younger folk and the witty and involving mime of Peter Gray was great entertainment for the adults.

Carols by the Cow is an annual event in Docklands. Thanks go to the Salvation Army for their substantial support for this program. Thanks also to Docklands' own BoatShares who were on standby to deliver Santa by boat until the forced relocation of the event.



5 DAY GUEST PASS

Be our guest this December with this five day pass at one of our Docklands fitness centres. Visit docklands.ymca.org.au for more details.

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Docklands Directory

OUT THIS DECEMBER



The annual printed directory is the pre-eminent guide to Docklands and features listings of every business as well as useful information and maps about Docklands.

Services

Beauty, Health & Fitness

Where to Eat / Drink

Accommodation

What to Do

FASHION ON THE STREETS



ALEX EGAN, 22

LOCATION: NAB forecourt

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE WEARING?

Comfortable clothes with a little bit of colour, something a bit different to the black/white corporate outfit. I like to put my own spin on my outfits.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

I have lived in Melbourne for about 4 years. I work at the NAB building in the call centre.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING?

My Necklace. My mum gave it to me when I went to visit her in Bendigo. My all time favourite item of clothing is my Acne boots.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Lipstick. It's the final touch!



MADDISON B

LOCATION: Bourke St/Harbour Esplanade

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE WEARING?

A Seed white top, Cotton On sandals and denim Boyfriend jeans.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

University student at William Angliss Institute.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING?

I really love wearing a baggy t-shirt with jeans. It is a simple outfit but you can also make it look really stylish.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

It's all about being comfortable. Nothing better than wearing jeans, a tee and thongs on a sunny day!



BELLA DERHAM, 21

LOCATION: Bourke St/Harbour Esplanade

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE WEARING?

A black Cotton On singlet and black jeans.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

University student at William Angliss Institute.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING?

I really like bralettes or a cropped T-shirt with a high waisted skirt or shorts in summertime. It looks feminine and simple.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Keeping it simple, and not overdoing it with too many patterns or colours, just add a pair of sunnies!



Print one piece swimsuits from Island State.

Swimwear galore

Swimsuits are possibly the worst item of clothing to shop for. Unless you have the perfect body, the experience can often be harrowing and uncomfortable.

The stores always seem to have harsh fluorescent lighting that accentuate any flaws and hide the flattering aspects that a pair of bathers might have.

But it shouldn't be such an ordeal. Rather than focusing on your imperfections, it helps to pick styles that work with your body shape and highlight the best parts.

After all, there is no point trying on a string bikini if you hate your bottom. That's just depressing.

So, what are the best styles to look for? This is a brief overview of styles that can hide flaws and help you feel your best.

For all the curvy ladies: Vintage styles are the way to go. Think high-waisted styles or add a ruffle or sheath to a one-piece like they did in the 1950s. The sheath might be slightly out-dated, but it looks like you are wearing a sexy shift to the beach. Another option to consider is a suit with rushing detail – the gathering in the suit often hides any bulgy bits!

Hide that belly: It's sad but true that the majority of us carry a bit of an extra tyre around our middle. How do you hide it? With ruffles of course! A layered ruffle one-piece hides most flaws. If you love your legs, pick a high-cut style. Similarly, pick a deep V-neck to highlight the bust area.

Straight up and down: Women who have slim-line figures can also use detailing to create a fuller body image. It's all in the detailing! An oversized ruffle on the bust makes it look fuller, just as fringes around the legs can add some depth to the hips.

Basic rule: Add detail to where you want to draw attention. Cut out or ripped detailing may leave you feeling exposed, but can also create a curvy shape where none existed before. (Just beware of unusual tan lines!)

Best spots to shop:

- The greatest vintage togs can be found at American Rag. The sales staff are awesome, and the best bit: no harsh fluorescent lighting to make you cringe! Visit www.americanragmelbourne.com.au for city locations and details.
- There is an amazing variety of bathers available at H&M. If you are looking for cheap and cheerful, these babies range from \$9.95 onwards. Located at 350 Bourke St, Melbourne.
- Do you like to support home grown labels? Island State offers styles for all body types. Visit www.island-state.com for details and styling.
- And finally: for the more adventurous. A label called 2nd Skin Bikinis offers cheeky styles for anyone who is comfortable with their body and loves to flaunt it! Check out their ranges at www.2ndskinbikinis.com



Laura Timberlake

Laura is a fashion and lifestyle writer who enjoys hunting down the latest trends in Melbourne to share them with the world.



GREETINGS FROM THE DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Firstly, on behalf of myself and the DCA committee may I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year!

Please ensure you and a partner or friend or by yourself if you like come to our great Christmas party on Wednesday, December 10 at Harbour Kitchen on the Victoria Harbour Promenade next to the NAB. Free for members. Only \$10 per head for non-members to sign-up. Venue and a range of savouries provided, drinks at bar prices. Spread the word. Invite your neighbours.

Our AGM held at the old Hub building on November 13 was a successful night. The guest speaker Prof Michael Buxton, head of Environment and Planning at the RMIT, and well-known commentator and critic, provided an informative insight into planning processes and how to take up issues. Michael Buxton is not related to the MAB developers.

In terms of the agenda, the updated rules as required under the updated Act were adopted by a large majority. They state and formalise that membership is open to and for residents. This recognises what has been the case in practice that virtually all applicants for membership have been and are residents. It also brings us into line with other community/resident associations. Businesses on the other hand are covered by the Chamber of Commerce, with whom we liaise. Business owners and workers who are residents are of course eligible and welcome.

As well, the existing committee and office bearers were re-elected.

Following the recent fire in the high-rise behind Etihad, councillors have asked for our comments on a proposal to introduce guidelines relating to use and maintenance of balconies in residential buildings. OC house rules, in my experience, do specify rules for balconies. These state, for example not to hang towels, washing or clothes, not to throw butts over and not to leave out unsecured items and to keep clean and tidy. Unfortunately these rules are not well

policed. A problem is that building managers can't see what's on balconies in their own buildings but that shouldn't stop them from going next door at times to have a look across. In view of the above occurrence, guidelines should include prohibition of hazardous material or storage. Having said that, we extend our sympathy to the affected residents.

All of a sudden we're being showered with promises - anybody would think there's an election happening! The Labor candidate has promised a review of the short-stay issue, whilst the Greens candidate has promised to introduce a bill to regulate the industry and ban short-stays under 28 days. We also have a recent letter from CAV stating they are considering appropriate legislation.

I have been given a preview of Places Victoria's plans for Harbour Esplanade which still include sheds and pavilions with some space in between. They have no intention of putting in a linear park. We're not happy with that to say the least. Because it is a ground level development, it does not require ministerial approval.

Our comment on the wave pool idea: intriguing and possibly a good attraction provided it wouldn't interfere with boat movements.

Bluescope Steel has just advised us that they will be ceasing operations of their terminal in the E-Gate railway yards effective July 31, 2015. This will in part make way for the re-development of the rail yards planned by the State Government.

We have ramped up our website and we've opened a Facebook page. The DCA Facebook page is now up and running! If you have a Facebook account please "Like" our page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Docklands-Community-Association/350305515148039>

If anyone would like to become a member or has suggestions, they are welcome to contact us on docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect or becoming a committee member you are welcome to call me on **0412 097 706**.

Roger Gardner



OWNERS CORPORATION LAW

With Tom Bacon

Tis the season for AGMs

For a large number of owners' corporations at this time of the year and as the holiday season fast approaches, it also signals that it's time for the end-of-year annual general meeting (AGM).

The AGM is a compulsory meeting, and must be held every 15 months at maximum.

All the usual motions must be put and resolved at the AGM - the existing committee must present their reports, a budget must be set and new levies struck. A new committee must be elected, and the owners' corporation must decide on its level of insurance and whether an audit should be done on their accounts.

However, contrary to what most think, the AGM is not the venue for airing grievances and raising complaints about the day-to-day management of the building or the structure of the affairs of the owners' corporation.

Of course, the chairperson has the power to invite owners to table "general business from the floor" but, unless there is a specific motion on the agenda to discuss and decide on a specific issue, then it otherwise cannot be raised nor resolved.

The key point for owners who wish to raise a particular issue for discussion and debate is to seek to formally put that motion on the agenda for the AGM. This involves either requesting the secretary, chairperson or the committee to include the motion on the agenda, or by requisitioning the motion by petitioning other owners to sign a form to support the motion being included on the agenda.

If neither of these options are viable, the lot owner may have to raise the issue via the complaints process under the model rules or under the dispute resolution section of the Owners' Corporation Act 2006.

Remember also that proxy votes for the AGM will only be valid if: (i) the correct and prescribed form is used; (ii) the form is submitted on time; (iii) that the owner or owners of the lot do not owe any levies or fees at the date of the meeting; and (iv) only if the form is signed by all owners shown on the roll of owners and the certificate of title.

If the lot is owned by a company, trust or self-managed super fund, then extra documentation may need to be submitted with the proxy form to prove the execution of the proxy is valid and that appropriate delegations have been made by the company or trust.

Postscript:

Participation on the committee by resident owners in particular, is going to be of critical importance for the future of Docklands.

It is well-documented that the number of owner-residents in the community are falling, as local and overseas investors continue to acquire these apartments in large numbers. Only the resident owners in these buildings will have the knowledge and context to keep oversight of the smooth running of the building on a day-to-day basis and to ensure that the costs of running the owners' corporation are kept in check.

Good luck with the meeting season, and may your upcoming holiday be restful and peaceful. Happy holidays.

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Stratata Title Lawyers.

Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au



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WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | **DEC/JAN**



12-14 DECEMBER
JUBILATION
A free, three-day festival supporting the Country Fire Authority. Plenty of activities and entertainment around the waterfront. www.jubilationmelbourne.com.au

DECEMBER 9 - 7.30PM
CARGO
DOCKLANDS SOCIAL CLUB
Docklanders are invited to come along to a new monthly event to meet each other in a social environment.

DECEMBER 18, 6PM - 7PM
LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
DOCKLANDS HISTORY GROUP
Share a cuppa and stories with other local history enthusiasts and learn about the people, places and industries from times gone by.

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 10AM UNTIL 5PM
NEWQUAY PROMENADE
DOCKLANDS SUNDAY MARKET
A variety market featuring arts and crafts, books and more. Contact 0412 910 496 for more information.



TUESDAY 7.30PM - 9.30 PM
WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 12PM - 2PM
LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
TABLE TENNIS
Join in a free and social game of table tennis at the library. Bookings are essential.



TUESDAY 12.30PM - 1.30PM
"THE VILLAGE" GROUND FLOOR
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We paddle and train hard and have a lot of fun doing it. www.melbourneflames.com.au

Wednesdays - 12pm and 12.30pm
The Hub, 80 Harbour Esplanade
LUNCHTIME YOGA NIDRA
Yogic sleep brings incredible calmness and quietness. Each 20 minute session is \$8. No bookings required. contactnirvanayoga@gmail.com

LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
MELBOURNE SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB
Probus Clubs for men and women over 50. Meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities. Rksalesaustptyltd@bigpond.com

THE HUB, 80 HARBOUR ESPLANADE
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BJJ is a style popularised by the UFC and is an extremely effective form of martial arts. Phone 9016 8471 email info@docklandsbjj.com.au or visit www.docklandsbjj.com.au

LIBRARY AT THE DOCK - WEEKLY PROGRAMS

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME
Fridays at 10.30am
Come and share the wonder of books with us. Enjoy 40-50 minutes of fun stories, songs, rhymes and activities with your three to five year olds.

STOMPERS
Mondays at 10.30am
Encourage your child to have a life-long love of books by coming along to Stompers, Melbourne Library Services weekly program for toddlers aged 18 months to three years.

SONGBIRDS
Wednesdays at 10.30am
Come along for songs, rhymes and stories to engage your budding book worm's mind and introduce them to the fun and rhythm of language. Suitable for babies and toddlers aged up to 18 months old.

CREATIVE KIDS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
Wednesdays 4.30pm to 5.30 pm.
Ever wanted to 3D print your own superhero figurine? At the Creative Kids After School Club you can. Come hang out and create in our maker's space. Projects will include jewellery making, game design, paper crafts, comics and more.

BABY BYTES
Last Thursday of the month 10.30am to 11.15am. Ground floor activity room.
Come and join our monthly iPad program for 18 month to three year olds. Learn fun, educational ways to use technology with children. We will be exploring different games and apps every session in a small group.



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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE

Renegades look to improve in 2015

By Robert Bremner

West Indian star Dwayne Bravo and captain Aaron Finch will lead the Renegades into battle during the 2015 Big Bash League season. Joining Bravo and Finch at the club will be ex-Stars wicket keeper Matthew Wade and New Zealand international Jesse Ryder.

Rounding out the current Renegades squad are batsman Callum Ferguson, Tom Cooper, Ben Rohrer, Alex Doolan and all rounder Aaron O'Brien. The team also has bowlers Jayde Herrick, Peter Siddle, Fawad Ahmed and James Pattinson - most of who are returning players from the previous season.

Coach Simon Helmot will take the reins again for BBL season four, while James Brayshaw remains as chairman.

In further good news for the boys in red, their major sponsor True Value Solar has signed on with the Renegades for two more years.

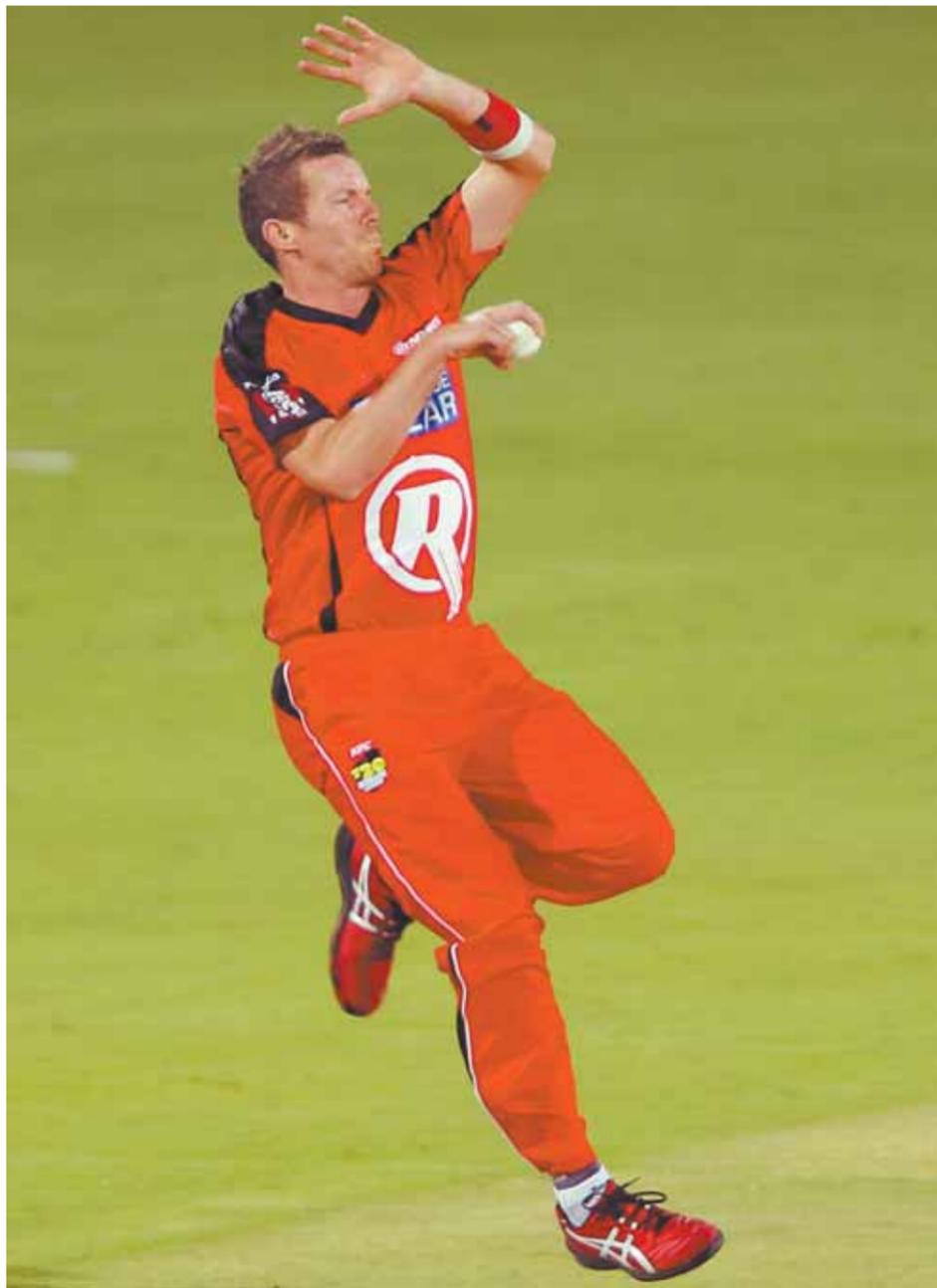
Experienced spinner Michael Beer of the Perth Scorchers had the opportunity to become a Renegade but ultimately chose the Melbourne Stars as his home for the summer. The Stars swapped him with leg-spinner James Muirhead as part of the first ever Big Bash League trade.

In the lead-up to their first game the Renegades will compete in a family day practise match in Maribyrnong. They will square off against the Bartercard Victoria Premier All Stars team in preparation for the upcoming season. The practise match will be held on December 14 and is free for all to attend.

The Renegades will be hoping this season will be more successful than the previous year. Melbourne finished in sixth place with three wins and five losses, while the Perth Scorchers went on to win the title.

The Melbourne Renegades begin their season on December 19 against the Sydney Sixers but will have to wait until January 3 to have their first crack at taking on the Melbourne Stars in the local derby.

The 2015 Big Bash League season continues throughout January, finishing with the final at Manuka Oval in Perth on January 28.



Renegades' bowler Peter Siddle.

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