

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

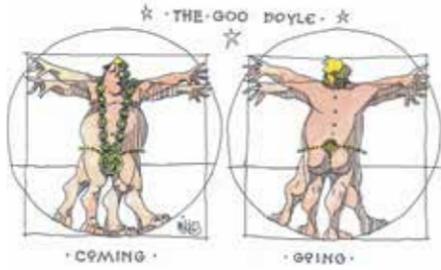
DOCKLANDS NEWS

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New tram plan is a winner

By Shane Scanlan

The Docklands community has responded to the threat of three marine-choking bridges with a simple tunnel concept that looks like being a winner for all parties.

The proposal is for an immersed tube tunnel immediately upstream of the Bolte Bridge which would carry passenger trams, freight trams and cyclists.

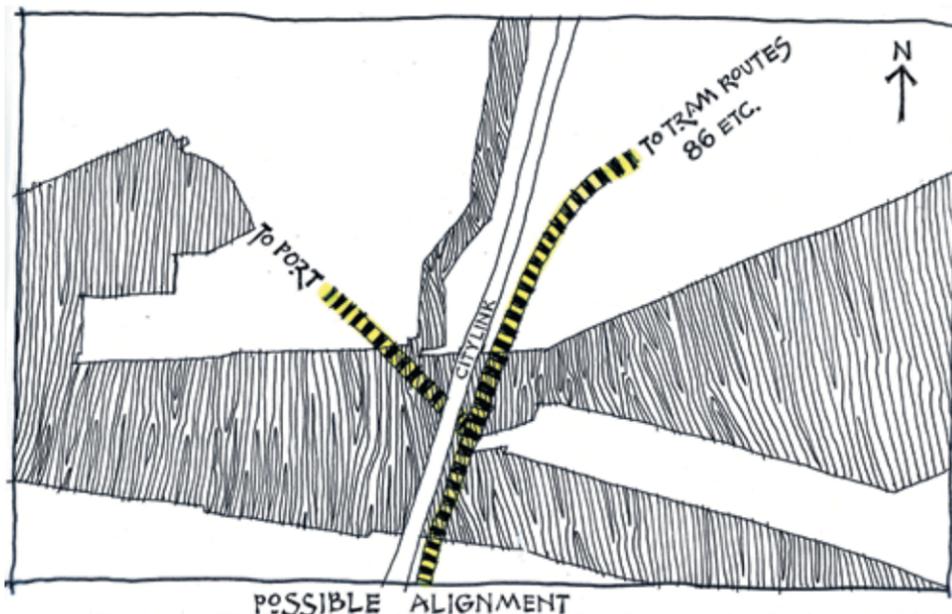
At first glance, it appears that the concept is cheaper than what is currently proposed by government transport planners in the recently-released Draft Fishermans Bend Framework.

Docklands is desperately opposed to bridges which would prevent marine traffic from entering the river and Victoria Harbour.

Under the draft framework, the government would need to fund: A six-metre high tram bridge across the Yarra at Collins Landing, connecting with Lorimer St west of the Array Tower; a freight bridge across the western side of the Bolte Bridge to connect Melbourne's two port sites; and a bicycle bridge across the eastern side of the Bolte Bridge.

Also adding to the financial attractiveness of the model is a saving of potentially at least \$300 million to compensate 1500 Yarra's Edge apartment owners for devaluation of their properties.

Yarra's Edge resident Keith Sutherland has proposed the alternative scheme, which has caught the eye of opposition transport spokesperson David Davis who says he is keen to learn more about it.



"The Liberal Party is very concerned about the current proposals which breach Labor's election promises," Mr Davis said. "They are not a satisfactory solution to either the public transport requirements or future freight needs."

"I will meet with the local community in coming weeks to have their proposals explained in detail."

Under Mr Sutherland's proposal, the 86 and 70 tram routes would be extended to Fishermans Bend beyond where they currently terminate in Docklands Drive.

The route would either go under or beside Ron Barassi Snr Park before sweeping left and under the river - surfacing again on the south bank where passenger services would continue into Fishermans Bend.

With dual entrances at both tunnel ends, the same tracks could be used by electric autonomous freight trams carrying containers from Webb Dock via the existing

Lorimer St freight alignment directly into the north-side Swanson and Dynon port facilities.

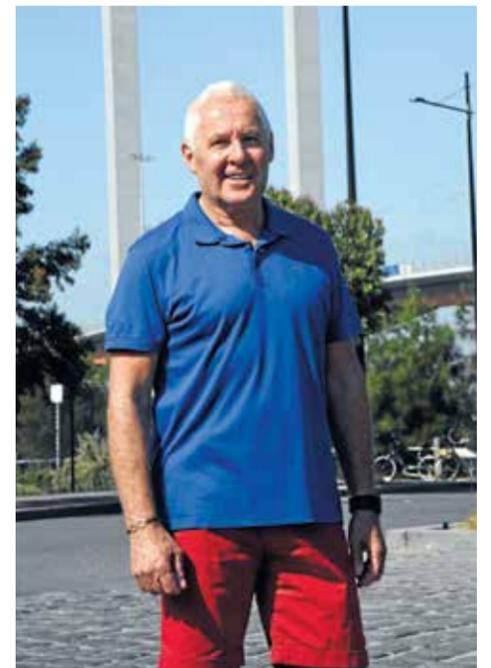
"Another plus using the immersed tube is that it can provide a vital link to Port of Melbourne container terminal using automated robotics," Mr Sutherland said.

Transport experts agree that cyclists could also use the same tunnel and that the cost is likely to be less than the total cost of the currently proposed components.

The alternative model would also bring badly-needed activation to NewQuay and would be a boost to the new urban renewal area of City North via the underutilised LaTrobe St tram corridor.

Mr Sutherland pointed out that the proposed tram route would connect Fishermans Bend with Southern Cross, Flagstaff, Melbourne Central and State Library Metro stations.

He said: "This proposal is a win for boat



Keith Sutherland at Ron Barassi Snr Park.

owners, residents and Public Transport Victoria. To use existing tram routes along Collins St and Port Melbourne, which are already at full capacity and having a tram crossing intersecting the already busy Lorimer St, goes against Andrews government policy of removing crossings."

"It should prove satisfactory to all concerned parties. It's a win-win for all and looks like being a cheaper, far better option."

"If the low tram bridge went ahead there would be a class action against the State Government by residents and boat owners and it's believed that figures of between \$300-\$500 million could be sought for loss of amenity and damage done to existing businesses in that area."

Continued page 2.

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DOCKLANDS NEWS **New tram plan is a winner**

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From page 1

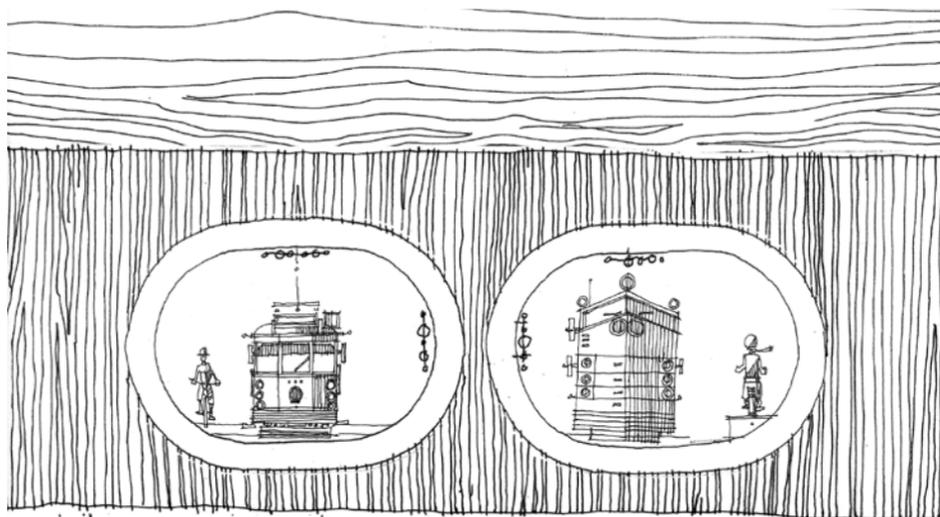
An earlier alternative- tram-bridge-immersed tube concept has been presented to senior advisers to Transport Minister Jacinta Allan, but the government is yet to see the new proposal which is shorter and shares services. Local ALP member Martin Foley was also briefed on an earlier passenger-tram-only tunnel option.

A spokesperson for Minister Allan did not acknowledge the new proposal when provided with a summary of it and asked for a government response. Rather, the

spokesperson said: "Transport for Victoria evaluated a number of possible alignments, including a tunnel option."

The Draft Fishermans Bend Framework says government planners assessed a tram-bridge-alternative tunnel option between Collins St and Yarra's Edge. They have not assessed the new proposal.

Immersed tube technology is cheaper than tunnelling. Sections are built off-site, floated into position and sunk. Coode Island silt is a potential issue with the selected site, and piles would be required to be sunk to anchor the tubes to the bottom of the river.



Public rally over bridge

The Yarra's Edge Class Action Committee (YCAC) is holding a rally on March 13 to build opposition to the proposed Fishermans Bend tram bridge.

Spokesperson Catherine Dawson said the family-friendly rally would be held at Point Park at 6.30pm.

Ms Dawson said YCAC would update residents on the latest developments, including an alternative proposal by local resident Keith Sutherland.

"Everyone is welcome to come down and enjoy a sausage sizzle," she said.

"It's a chance to meet with other concerned residents and show your support of YCAC."

She said YCAC had secured a two-hour time slot in April to present to the panel hearing submissions on the recently-released Draft Fishermans Bend Framework.

"There have been so many submissions made to the planning review panel that there is going to be something like 12 weeks of hearings. This is unprecedented," she said.



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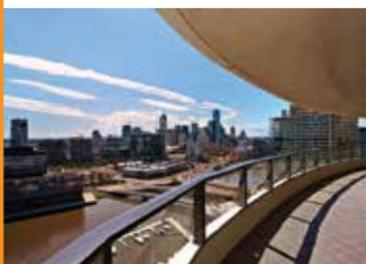


\$1,150,000

3 2 2

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2 2 1

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Town hall rocked to foundations

By Shane Scanlan

Robert Doyle's troubles have rocked the town hall, with councillors uncertain about the future and whether the Lord Mayor will be back.

Some councillors are unwilling to talk on the record, aware of the reputational damage being inflicted by the ongoing saga sparked by sexual misconduct allegations against Cr Doyle. Others aren't returning calls at all.

The "corporate line" is to withhold comment until after Ian Freckelton has completed his investigation. But, privately, Cr Doyle's colleagues generally expect him to fight and scrap to hang on but, ultimately, succumb under the weight of what is still to come.

Cr Doyle's often-described "most loyal supporter", former deputy lord mayor Susan Riley, however, sees the writing on the wall.

"It's difficult to see how he can return to his position with the respect of the council and the community," Cr Riley said. "In a way, he should resign - gracefully."

She said the Lord Mayor needed time to attend to his "health issues".

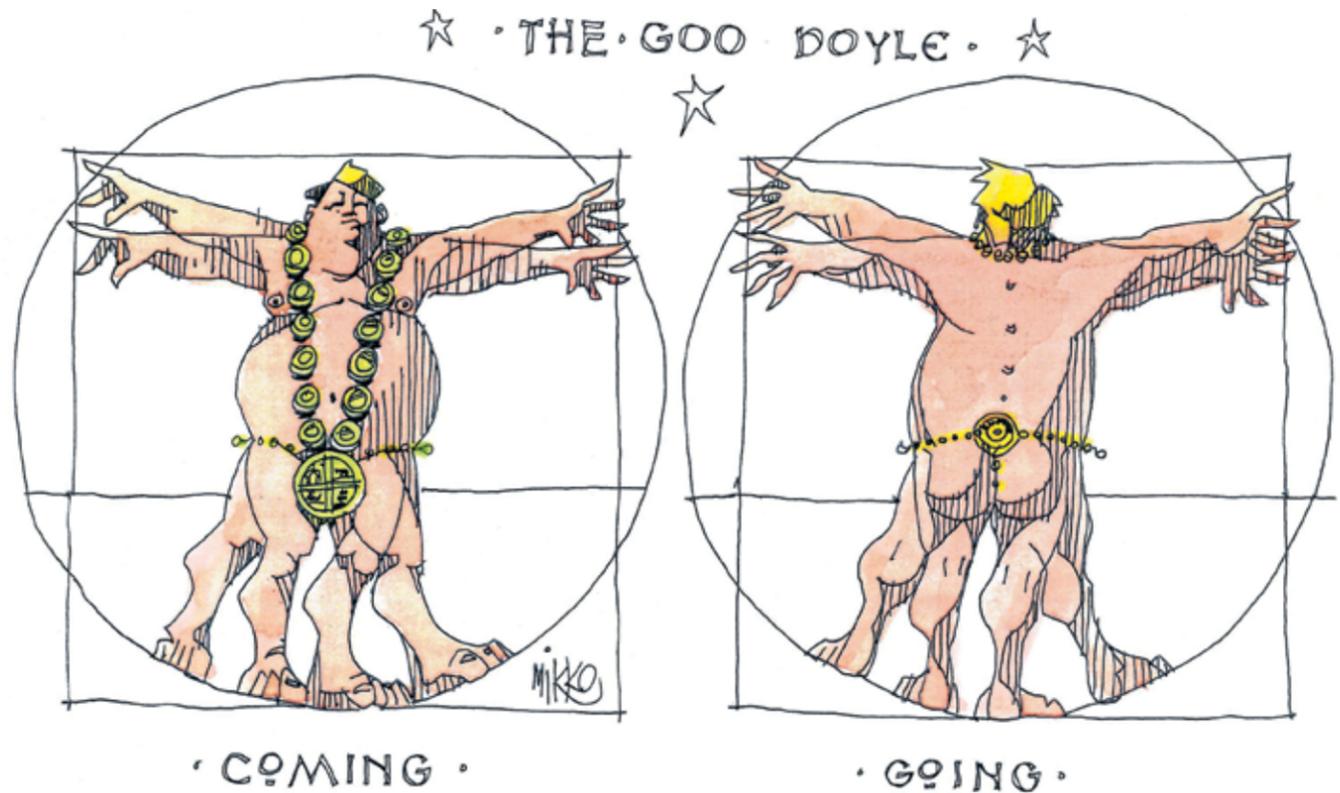
Newly-returning councillor Beverley Pinder was similarly focused on what would be in the Lord Mayor's best interests.

She said: "Acknowledging the Lord Mayor's immense contribution to this city and state over 25 years, perhaps he could consider closing the door on this chapter of his life so he can rest, recharge and become reinvigorated for his next public role."

Cr Jackie Watts said she was not pre-empting the outcome, but people were asking "what constitutes a fit and proper person to lead".

Councillors know little more than the general public - learning of developments in the saga via the daily press.

City of Melbourne CEO Ben Rimmer hasn't involved them and has conducted a private investigation into allegations against Cr Doyle via Queens Counsel Dr Ian Freckelton. Emerging allegations are prolonging Dr



Freckelton's work and a separate State Government probe looks set to further continue the period of uncertainty.

The council corporation refuses to talk about the Freckelton inquiry and won't even reveal its terms of reference. But the secrecy is hurting everyone involved, with rumour and innuendo filling the void.

Asked how the public could have confidence in a secret inquiry, a council spokesperson said: "The investigation is being conducted in accordance with natural justice principles".

Staff, too, are affected, with one senior manager confiding to *Docklands News* that they were embarrassed to wear their City of

Melbourne identity lanyard in public since the allegations emerged in December.

Mr Rimmer finds himself in a position of ultimate influence. The process Mr Rimmer chooses to follow could well determine Cr Doyle's future, should he decide to fight on.

Public release of the actual allegations and Dr Freckelton's findings might seal the Lord Mayor's demise. But continued secrecy could well inflict even more damage - particularly to the council itself.

Appropriately, Mr Rimmer has no capacity to dismiss an elected representative, but has a range of state government referral options open to him.

Observers have been looking for signs of support for Cr Doyle from Spring St, where his fate could be determined.

The speed with which Health Minister Jill Hennessy announced a state investigation (and the breath of the inquiry) suggests that the state may well be prepared to throw Cr Doyle under a bus.

Others aren't so sure, citing Cr Doyle's good personal relationship with Premier Andrews and Labor's fears of a potential Greens lord mayor.

See also:

Why Doyle should resign - Page 4

How did it happen? - Page 5



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Why Robert Doyle should resign

By Stephen Mayne



The imminent end of Robert Doyle's record-breaking nine year run as Lord Mayor of Melbourne hadn't happened when this column was first written but, make no doubt about it, it is inevitable.

There are now four separate women – ex councillor Tessa Sullivan, current councillor Cathy Oke, the un-named partner of a Melbourne Health specialist and Dianne Mallas, a former constituent in Cr Doyle's state seat of Malvern – who have given detailed formal evidence against the Lord Mayor, plus had their stories made public.

There are more stories to be told, such that if Cr Doyle doesn't voluntarily resign, a majority of councillors will almost certainly step up and call for such a move at a council or committee meeting before the end of February, potentially even at the opening committee meeting on February 6.

Councillors can't sack each other but if

enough Team Doyle councillors choose to stand by their man, they run the risk of the whole council being sacked by the State Government.

The cleanest outcome would be for Cr Doyle and his loyal deputy Arron Wood to both resign before the February 6 committee meeting so that fresh elections for the entire two person leadership ticket can be held. The remnants of Team Doyle – Crs Kevin Louey, Susan Riley, Nicholas Reece and Beverley Pinder – should then resolve to sit as independents. Without Robert Doyle there should be no Team Doyle. Tellingly, both Crs Pinder and Riley have indicated to *Docklands News* that they believe the Lord Mayor should move on.

If trying to make a fresh start, it would be unreasonable for a new directly elected Lord Mayor to be saddled with 10 Doyle-era councillors, including Doyle's hand-picked deputy.

If Cr Wood hangs on as deputy and there is only a by-election to find a new Lord Mayor, he'll face an avalanche of questions about what he knew about Town Hall culture.

Cr Wood is not a career politician – he's an emerging board director and a talented communicator and educator on environmental issues who should return to his first love on a full-time basis. This would clear the way for fresh blood and potentially an all-female ticket that would deliver a first ever majority of female councillors. The

likes of Bulldogs director Susan Alberti and Property Council CEO Sally Capp are two names that have come up as potential lord mayoral candidates. If there is a by-election, expect past candidates such as Ken Ong, Phil Cleary and Gary Morgan to contest.

There will be various individuals asking questions at the February 6 committee meeting and the other loyal male Doyle supporter who will come under significant pressure is Kevin Louey, the quietly spoken chief Doyle fundraiser who has occupied the top position on the Team Doyle council ticket for the past two elections.

The view of Tessa Sullivan will be pivotal. If she details a lack of support or protection during her time on council and calls for additional resignations from her old council faction, it will be hard to resist.

Much will turn on the contents of her 35-page dossier and what investigator Ian Freckelton QC says in his report.

The Lord Mayor was due to be given a copy of the draft Freckelton report 72 hours before CEO Rimmer received his copy. This is for fact checking and right of reply purposes, but it will also represent a resignation window.

A similar process occurred with the Sullivan dossier which was delivered to the Lord Mayor a week before he appeared before Freckelton on January 5. Interestingly, Ben Rimmer did not show Cr Doyle a copy of the dossier before commissioning Freckelton

or securing the Lord Mayor's December 17 concession to stand down for a month.

Once he has a copy of the Freckelton report, the Lord Mayor will have options, including to threaten litigation if the report is released. However, the public interest is so overwhelming that, at the very least, the City of Melbourne will have to release a summary of its key findings, which will include my evidence that I saw the Lord Mayor grope Cr Oke under a table on December 8, 2014.

The State Government, potentially through the Local Government Minister or Municipal Inspector David Wolff, will no doubt get a full copy of the report and remains the ultimate kingmaker in this situation.

Whilst the Lord Mayor has a strong personal relationship with Premier Daniel Andrews, it is ominous that the Health Minister Jill Hennessy commissioned a separate QC to investigate complaints made about his 10-year stint as chair of Melbourne Health. This investigation by Charles Scerri QC will remain on foot into mid-February, by which time the Lord Mayor should have already resigned from all public positions.

It's far better to resign than be sacked and that is what will probably happen at Melbourne Health if he tries to fight on. And once that domino falls, Town Hall would inevitably be next, particularly given the powers held by the State Government.

Stephen Mayne is a former councillor.

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Doyle drama – how did it happen?

Opinion, by Shane Scanlan

Tessa Sullivan's resignation on December 15 was not a surprise. But her decision to take down Robert Doyle was a shock.

Ms Sullivan never appeared really comfortable as a councillor. Inexperience is one thing, but she seemed particularly sensitive and unsuited to the rough and tumble of politics.

Was she doing it to make the world a better place in some small way? Her public performance offered no real clue about why she was making the considerable sacrifice to take on the role.

She had a shaky start, charged with leading a universally-unpopular policy position to amend a local law to redefine rough sleeping. Her more senior colleagues were supportive and protective.

Just what she was expecting when she accepted Robert Doyle's invitation to join his 2016 election team, only she could say. And she has never spoken to *Docklands News* – about anything! But I think it's fair to say that her expectations were poles apart from the Lord Mayor's.

Again, one can only guess so here's my best guess of how this all went so horribly wrong (with no assertion about the actual facts of the matter).

As a bright young woman, Ms Sullivan was an attractive recruit for Team Doyle (even if her inclusion in a winnable position on the ticket was at the expense of two former female councillors). And she had the requisite cash to contribute to the campaign.

But was she expected to make a meaningful contribution to policy formulation or merely make up the numbers?

Her contribution to debate within the council chamber would suggest that she wasn't being asked by "the team" to do much. Was this a source of frustration for someone who signed on to do more?

Did she get the support and guidance from "team leadership" to develop her into an effective councillor?



Tessa Sullivan at the press conference where Cr Doyle announced her candidacy.

Or did she get "Bad Robert" – not just in the sensational sexual misconduct allegations sense, but in the day-to-day, garden-variety bullying sense?

Robert Doyle takes an aggressive position with people who don't agree with him. It's how he's wired. Many a public questioner at public meetings has been shocked and humiliated by his caustic responses.

Perhaps Ms Sullivan started finding herself on the wrong end of some of this treatment?

And then there's Cr Doyle's reputation for drinking. To the uninitiated, it is difficult to tell whether or not he's had a "long lunch". This is testament to his unquestionable talent as an orator and debater.

But it appears that it also lets him down at times. These times, I suspect, include such moments of harassment/assault alleged by Ms Sullivan.

It's not an excuse but a possible explanation of how his world has come tumbling down.

The way things are progressing, Robert Doyle is staring over a cliff. His career, reputation, relationships, board positions, future earnings, pride, reason for being – pretty much everything – is either going or gone.

Is it wrong then, to hope that there is more to come to explain Ms Sullivan's reasons for starting the fire that looks like consuming him? What else is in the 35-page dossier of allegations which she is believed to have compiled and presented to council management?

Motivation is important here.

Is it personal and vengeful? Or was Ms Sullivan motivated as a gender war warrior – taking a stand for women everywhere against the oppressive patriarchy?

At what point are the likely consequences commensurate with her allegations? On the little we know via *The Age* about what Cr Doyle is alleged to have done and said to her? With the addition of what we are told about what happened to Cathy Oke (and do we assume that Cr Oke consented to be drawn into this inquiry)?

The councillors, the city – even the state – has been damaged by this drama. Will it be worth it when it finally plays out?

If it's part of a broader battle about gender equality then, no doubt, many would not consider such fallout as consequential. To even raise the prospect that the outcome may be disproportionate may invite criticism.

Ultimately, an inquiry that excludes public scrutiny (however well motivated) works against everyone involved – both the accused and the accusers. We are left guessing about too many important questions.

In times-not-so-long-passed, everything would still be "okay". But changing times, standards and values have overtaken events.

When Cr Doyle was a boy, the worst thing you could be called was a communist. In centuries past, reputations were ruined without the requirement for due process by the accusation of heresy or witchcraft.

To be struck down by the #metoo global phenomenon would have come totally out of the blue.

To be struck down by his own creation is epic mythology for the ages.



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New Year's Eve spectacular

Docklands was again a popular site to view Melbourne's rooftop New Year's Eve fireworks.

Acting Lord Mayor Arron Wood challenged Sydney to best Melbourne's effort, Tweeting: "Sydney has an amazing harbour but we've got 14 tonnes of fireworks set to a 10-minute soundtrack with 68 globally leading pyrotechnicians. We're throwing down the gauntlet and are ready to compete."

Thanks to A.K.M Imran for another spectacular Docklands photograph.

Parks Victoria shows its true colours

By Shane Scanlan

As if to demonstrate once and for all its inability to deliver, Parks Victoria has issued a press release celebrating that it has taken two and a half years to select designs for pontoons it plans to install at Southgate.

Back in 2015, despite unanimous support for a single, independent waterways authority recommended by the Yarra River Use Future Directions Group (LYRUFDG), Parks managed to retain its jurisdiction over the river.

Another committee was established - the 15th such body in 20 years - and \$2 million was announced for new pontoons at Southgate.

It took until February 2017 to establish the new committee and until last month to select a pontoon design.

The committee's three-year tenure is due to expire in July this year, by which time Parks Victoria expects to have installed the new pontoons.

"With designs finalised, and project planning well underway, project completion is anticipated in mid-2018," its January 24 press release said.

The president of the Melbourne Passenger Boating Association, Jeff Gordon, responded: "The government made the funds available in early 2016 and Parks Victoria promised the industry that a floating landing would be constructed during winter 2017."

"However, in the usual slow Parks Victoria timescale, we are now finally seeing at least a plan."

"Surely this sends a red flag to the government on just how slow the bureaucracy at Parks Victoria works."

"The industry called for an independent management authority for Melbourne's Lower Yarra and we would like the government to relook at this proposal in light of the slow response."

Parks Victoria Melbourne division executive director, Chris Hardman, said: "Parks Victoria is working with the Lower Yarra River Management Advisory Committee and key stakeholders to ensure the proposed floating landing upgrade at Southgate will be delivered to avoid the peak berthing periods."

Last May, in response to critical questioning about the failure to deliver an independent waterways authority, Mr Hardman said: "What's the problem we are trying to solve? We need to activate the waterways, get the investment in the waterways and those sorts of things."

"So we can work together and do that. Or we can lament a recommendation that wasn't taken up by the government of the day."

"And, you know what? If it doesn't work and you're not satisfied, then re-prosecute the case in the future," Mr Hardman said.

The January 24 Parks press release said: "Introducing floating landings that meet Disability Discrimination Act compliance standards will improve safety and access for commercial vessels at various tides."

"The project includes refurbishing the information and ticket booths improving point of sale facilities that will enhance the visitor and tourism experience."

"To ensure minimal disruption to the industry peak period an extension of the project completion timeline has been supported by the Lower Yarra River Advisory Committee due to specialised contractor availability."

Lower Yarra River Management Advisory Committee chair Chris Trotman said:

"The Lower Yarra River Management Advisory Committee is pleased to see the Southgate Floating Landing Project progress to the project implementation phase. It's important to ensure the services provided for visitors to Melbourne provide the best and safest experience possible."

The Lower Yarra River Management Advisory Committee is also supposed to recommend to government appropriate future governance arrangements for the Lower Yarra.

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Tim leaves Victoria Harbour proud

By Meg Hill

After three-and-a-half years leading development around Victoria Harbour, Lendlease's Tim Campbell is getting ready to leave the dock.

Mr Campbell said his time as Victoria Harbour project director had been characterised by rapid development, paralleled by the evolution of the community.

"I stand back and I am very proud of what we've done," Mr Campbell said.

"We've had unprecedented development in that time but it's not just about building the buildings for us, it's about creating a sense of community at the same time."

Mr Campbell's four main highlights correlate to this theme and a sense of a coming of age in Docklands.

"There's the delivery of the Community Hub at The Dock that houses three of the local boating associations and seeing that important community infrastructure come to life and be utilised has been a highlight," Mr Campbell said.

"I, as a result of that project, became a member of the Melbourne Flames Dragon



Tim Campbell on Australian Wharf in front of 889 Collins St

Boat Club. I've immersed myself in that club and facility and I'm doing a sport that I never thought I would do, and I really enjoy it."

Mr Campbell's other highlights include delivering 1600 new apartments, securing ANZ to further commitment in the precinct and the approval of the Collins Wharf Development Plan.

"The Collins Wharf Development will be an asset to Melbourne's skyline, its such a unique project," said Mr Campbell

"The vision is about connecting the wharf back to the water and making people use the waterfront."

"At completion it will have a 2.5km board walk across Victoria Harbour and returning that waterfront to the community is such an important piece of the project."

The interest in incorporating the waterfront more into Docklands' identity goes further than that, with plans to embrace the area's natural wetland.

"We're returning the peninsula of the land to a wetland and a marsh, and planting a wetland to return that peninsula underneath the Bolte Bridge back to what it once was."

Before leaving to start his own business in property development and small-scale residential projects, Mr Campbell said his first priority was to oversee a smooth transition.

"I'm not rushing off. I'm here for the coming months to help recruit and appoint a successor and to hand over to that successor and ensure a seamless transition with the new project director," he said.

"Through that process I know that they'll be equally excited as I am to lead the Lendlease team and deliver this incredible project."

From his experience working in Canary Wharf in London, Mr Campbell said he could offer some parting hints on the future of Docklands.

"From what we've seen in the past 20 years, the next 10 years will be huge for the precinct and Docklands."

"Across the Docklands there is only supposed to be 10 years left in the development project, so we will see the form build out, all the community assets completed and it will be a different place.

"I saw that in Canary Wharf. I saw it grow and become a desirable place to live, work, play - which is exactly what we want for Vic Harbour."

Communication is Key



by Gregor Evans
Director, The Knight

Effective communication is the cornerstone of good management, without it you are doomed to fail.

Relationships are built and maintained by positive encounters with others. In the absence of effective communication skills it is difficult to properly develop productive relationships.

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The Knight will continue to provide rel-

evant and transparent advice to its new clients in Docklands: Flinders Wharf and Tower 1 at Yarra's Edge.

The Knight recently held a successful Information Evening at the Woolshed in Docklands to inform and educate attendees on the hot topics of Short Stay Accommodation and Building Defects.

This forms part of The Knight's overall strategy to better educate and communicate with Lot Owners and to contribute to the growth of the Owners Corporation Management industry as a whole.

To discuss how The Knight can support you and your community, please get in touch, we'll be happy to assist.



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Small crowds for Volvo event



Docklands gained international recognition when the Volvo Ocean Race stopped by over the Christmas/New Year period.

The expected crowds did not materialise, but the Docklands Chamber of Commerce is satisfied that associated media coverage was good for Docklands in the longer term.

Pre-race, local organisers Mayo and Calder were predicting between 125,000 and 175,000 people would visit.

Locals report that the event would have been lucky to attract 10,000.

Commercial marketing manager Mathieu Shellard said in the lead up to the race that one of the three things that would attract Melburians to the event was “an abundance of alcohol being served”. The other elements, he said, were food and entertainment.

After the yachts left on January 2, the company didn’t want to talk about it.

Development Victoria’s acting general manager for precincts, Ronan Mellor, said: “Hosting a stop-over of this international event put the spotlight on Melbourne and Docklands in international media and online.”

“Event support and crew members also enjoyed our city and the majority of the crew stayed in Docklands and took advantage of its location, restaurants and other benefits.”



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PLATINUM STRATA
COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Owners Corporations Management Issues

According to Viduni Fernando, company secretary of Platinum Strata, the Owners Corporations laws are completely inadequate to recognize a role for an Owners corporation to actively build a sense of community spirit within any strata scheme.

Viduni believes that by overhauling the legislative framework with additional mandatory obligations together with the allocation of funding for the purpose by expanding the functions of an Owners corporation to include community building. This may include:

- Similar to a prescribed maintenance plan, to formulate a Strategic community building 5 to 10-year plan
- To develop community spirit and to encourage interest groups, put in place a seed funding mechanism

Secondly, Platinum holds the view that in the wake of recent building fires in Docklands, a total industry shakeup is warranted;

- Ensuring the compliance of the building to the Building Code of Australia (BCA);
- The number of occupants within residential buildings as per occupancy permits;
- The protocol adopted for approval and accreditation of external wall cladding systems

Platinum Strata made a strategic move to establish a branch office in Geelong in October 2017.

To coincide with the launch, a Body Corporate Management Seminar, first of its kind in Geelong titled “Future of Strata Living – How?” will be organised on the 15th of February at East Geelong Golf Club at 6.30pm.

Docklands Office:
Suite 210, 673 La Trobe St, Docklands, VIC 3008
Office: 03 9039 2000 Mobile: 0407 452 559

NBN is coming, but is competition?

By Shane Scanlan

NBN Co should be rolled out throughout Docklands by the end of the year but at least one building looks like missing out on the benefits of competition among internet service providers (ISPs).

Like many other Docklands buildings, LifeLab in Digital Harbour has been designated as “adequately served”. But unlike the others, only Telstra connections are available. LifeLab has enjoyed high-speed fibre since it was constructed 10 years ago, during an era that preceded the establishment of NBN Co in 2009.

NBN Co says on its website: “It is intended to level the playing field in Australian telecommunications, creating real and vibrant competition within the industry and providing choice for consumers.”

Challenged by *Docklands News* about why competition should not apply to LifeLab customers, NBN Co spokesperson James Kaufman said NBN was “simply following government policy”.

“I would suggest making contact with the Department of Communications about this issue,” Mr Kaufman said.

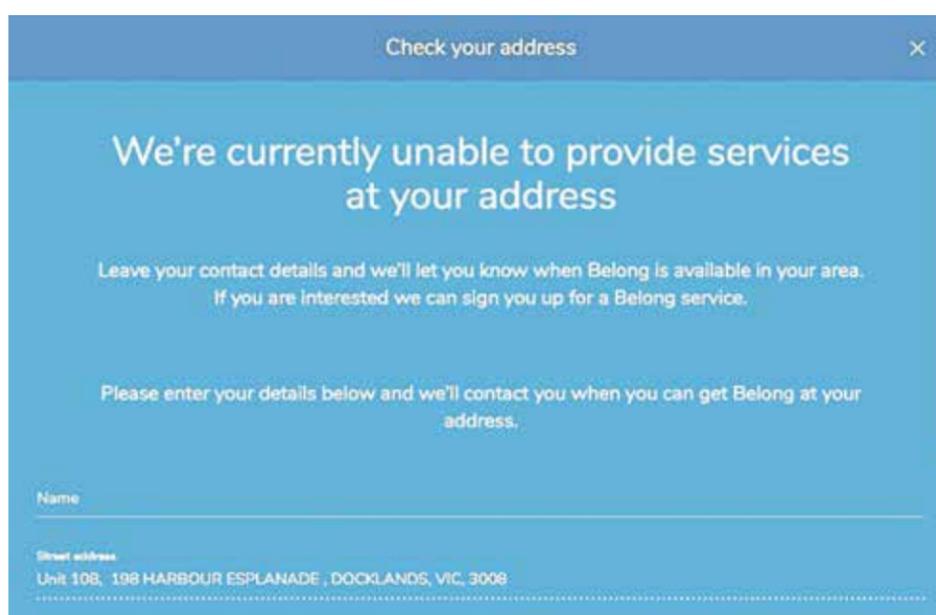
Digital Harbour precinct manager Mark Newbegin believes Telstra enjoys a monopoly at LifeLab, a claim disputed by Telstra’s Victorian media manager James Kelly.

Mr Kelly said: “Telstra has developed wholesale telephony and broadband products which can be delivered on this network.”

However, he was not able to name a competing ISP offering services at LifeLab, saying: “We don’t reveal who our commercial wholesale customers are.”

Telstra-owned ISP Belong is one of any number that does not service LifeLab (see image). And Mr Newbegin said the only unit in the building not using Telstra Velocity was forced to bring its own fibre in.

An ISP told *Docklands News* that LifeLab’s



older technology meant it couldn’t offer services even if it was allowed to.

Mr Kelly said: “They may be required to build a small amount of their own infrastructure to interface to the Telstra network in order to resell our product. This should be something most ISPs can do easily.”

Mr Newbegin said: “This is the first time in almost 10 years that I have heard the word ‘wholesaler’ in reference to the Velocity product at this site.”

“To date, no other ISP has managed to gain access to the Velocity system to provide broadband services to customers in this building.”

“I am yet to understand how what Telstra is saying is possible.”

Mr Kaufman said there were some isolated examples around Australia which NBN would be bypassing “due to directions provided by the site owner and the

Australian Government.”

Mr Kaufman said: “Under the Federal Government’s Telecommunications in New Developments Policy, NBN Co may choose not to build its network in areas which have been declared as ‘adequately served’ with high-speed broadband or which have an existing network providing comparable outcomes.”

However, the NBN website says companies which built fibre to “adequately served” areas “will be required to offer wholesale access to their network to other companies”.

Mr Kaufman pointed to other “adequately served” buildings in Docklands where fibre providers invite any number of ISPs to use the service, providing wide choices for occupiers.

In Victoria Harbour the Lendlease-owned NT Technology Services Pty Ltd was licensed in 2014 to provide fibre to Forte, Exo,

Serrata, Convesso and Concavo. Similarly, wholesaler Opticomm provides a wide range of choices to residents of 883, 888 and 889 Collins St tower as well as two towers in Yarra’s Edge.

Somewhat ironically, in other fibre-served areas with existing choices of retail provider, NBN intends to build an alternative network over the top of the existing infrastructure.

Watergate building management believes NBN is coming in, despite existing competitive high-speed fibre offered by Spirit Telecom.

NBN Co says 3171 of Docklands’ 8567 premises are “ready for service on the NBN broadband access network”.

NBN’s online map shows NBN is completing its roll out in Docklands – generally to either the curb (FTTC), fibre to the building (FTTB) or, as in Yarra’s Edge, fibre to the node (FTTN). Completion dates are generally predicted to be September this year.

Some newer developments in Docklands have fibre to the premises (FTTP), including Marina Tower, H1 and The Quays in NewQuay, and Dock 5 has been retrofitted with FTTP.

Other towers with NBN fibre to the building include: Conder, Sant Elia and The Mariner in NewQuay; Village Docklands in Batman’s Hill; The Merchant and Montage in Victoria Harbour; and Victoria Point.

NBN said: “We are building our network to 28 sites in Docklands. Nine of these sites have had their construction works completed. Some may still require works in order to become ready for a service on the network. There are 17 more sites that are in the design phase. This is the process that comes pre-construction.”

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Rotary is coming back to Docklands

Rotary heavyweights are again attempting to forge a club in Docklands, but with a new approach this time.

The Docklands Rotary Club was formed in 2009 but struggled over later years and eventually folded last year.

But senior Rotarians Philip Archer and Neville John think they know how to succeed this time, by offering local corporations valuable mentoring for their millennial staff.

Mr Archer, a Southbank Rotary Club member and current district membership director, says a top-down approach would be made to the most senior corporate managers in Docklands to offer a valuable partnership.

"We want to talk to them about the best ways to develop their future leaders within their organisations," Mr Archer said.

He said partner corporations would be given the opportunity to nominate young executives for the program. Extensive work would be undertaken to ensure that participants were matched with compatible mentors, programs and projects.

"One of the great things we can offer is the international reach of Rotary," Mr Archer said.

"For many of these young people, the new



Neville John and Philip Archer are bringing Rotary back to Docklands.

club might be their first 'board' experience and a chance to develop into effective communicators."

He said the new Docklands club would be a "satellite" club of Melbourne Central Rotary Club and would spend some years developing in this form until it was strong enough to stand alone.

Melbourne Central sponsored the first Rotary attempt in Docklands and, for Mr John, it is "unfinished business".

He said the club regretted certain aspects of the earlier attempt and was strong and experienced in delivering structured mentoring programs.

"There is a sense of disappointment about what happened and we realise that much more time and effort is required to succeed," Mr John said.

Mr John is Rotary district 9800's incoming membership director and says he is keen for some of the experienced local Rotarians to

re-engage.

"We want to take something to the community of Docklands, both corporations and residents, to see what sort of club they would participate in," Mr John said.

He said his club had numerous high-levels connections that would soon be used to start the process.

An information session has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 20 at a Central Pier venue.

He said the new club would initially not have its own office bearers, although it would have its own meetings - but not necessarily every week.

Mr John said members could participate in any number of local or international projects, many of which were "quite intellectual".

The first Docklands Rotary Club chartered with 30 members on June 11, 2009. It was wound up last June when president Loryn Clark told *Docklands News* it had to shut down after a long time of struggling to gain commitment from the community.

"We just couldn't get people to commit to the club. They didn't seem that interested," Ms Clark said. "It got too hard to keep things going."

Mr John can be contacted on **0417 387 216** or email nrjohn@iprimus.com.au

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Vice-regal launch

Victorian Governor Linda Dessau on December 21 launched in Docklands a brand new ferry to service the Portarlington commuter route.

The 400-passenger craft, Bellarine Express, is faster than the original boat and is expected

to take significant time off the journey if open-water speed restrictions are eased.

Little Group chairman Paul Little spoke at the launch about the opportunity the new service will offer for travellers.

“Victoria is growing more rapidly than any other state in Australia. Everyone knows the frustrations of traffic congestion and ferry travel offers a safe and reliable alternative,” Mr Little said.

High density, zero carbon futures

By Meg Hill

This month The Exchange, a year-long collaboration between Lendlease and RMIT at the Knowledge Market, uncovers Docklands’ potential for zero carbon futures.

From February 2 until February 28 between 10am and 5pm, the Knowledge Market (at Shop 8-10, 892 Bourke St, Victoria Harbour) will showcase its newest exhibition, *Zero*.

Students from RMIT have designed the exhibition specifically for Docklands’ Victoria Harbour as part of the 2018 Sustainable Living Festival.

Landscape architecture; interior design; and design innovation and technology students worked on the project theme of “climate crunch time”.

The students added their extra focus of high-density urban environments, from large-scale infrastructure to personal devices, to fit the Docklands landscape.

The result is a number of exciting projects based on “forward thinking ideas surrounding sustainability with innovative design” boosted by The Exchange’s local expertise.

The Food Delta Project investigated “fertile land” in Docklands, resulting in an integrated mobile application – Foodie Go – that incorporates food systems and sociability.

The team, comprising Gordon Goh, Ni An, Po-Hsuan Kuo, Jia-Rong Huang, Jie Cheng



A possible interface for the Foodie Go application.

and Qing-Yun Chai, has designed the app to facilitate a healthy, self-sustainable food sharing economy in Victoria Harbour.

“Today, we can hardly imagine Docklands as fertile for agricultural purposes,” said team member Ni An.

“But, Docklands was truly the ‘fertile land’ prior to western settlement, and was also a hunting ground and meeting place for Aboriginal communities.”

“The term ‘fertile land’ therefore refers not only to the physical land, but also the social, cultural and ecological aspects.”

The project and app is a gamification of self-sustaining community gardening, allowing players to accumulate experience points and progress through levels as they grow their food and participate in real-life activities.

“Basically, it is like realising a ‘gardening utopia’ in an existing urban context through the game, in which people are happily involved in the gardening process,” said team member Gordon Goh.

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Lunch invite

You are invited to the March Docklands Networking Lunch.

The first Docklands Networking Lunch of 2018 promises a special after-lunch treat – an optional tour of the historic Mission to Seafarers building.

Following lunch at 2pm, mission chief manager Sue Dight will show attendees the building's secrets and attractions.

Sue will also be our guest speaker and will briefly outline the mission's role, history and local significance.

So book early to reserve your seat to this special event from 12 noon on Friday, March 16.

The lunch costs \$70 and must be booked and paid for in advance.

The Docklands Networking Lunch is entering its ninth year and is renowned for meeting like-minded business people. Connections are made or renewed and business is transacted.

To book, email lunch@docklandsnews.com.au or ring Shane at the office on 8689 7979 before March 9.

MENU

Entree

Shared gourmet antipasto platters



Mains (alternate drop)

Otway free-range pork belly, crispy skin, baked green apples, quince sauce, herb salad with orange (GF).

OR

New Zealand crispy fried rockling fillets, nicoise salad of beans, fennel, whole eggs and caper tartare.

Dessert

Assortment of petit four desserts.

Beverages

Full strength and light beer, white and red house wines, soft drinks, tea and coffee

Final Quarter approved

In late December Lendlease announced planning approval for its third and final commercial tower at Melbourne Quarter.

Two Melbourne Quarter, a 25-storey office tower at 697 Collins St, will cover 49,000sqm – enough to accommodate about 4500 new workers and 800sqm of retail space on the ground floor.

Lendlease managing director for urban regeneration and infrastructure development, Mark Menhinnitt, said planning approval for the Woods Bagot-designed tower coincided with a period of strong demand for high-quality office space in Melbourne's CBD.

"Lendlease has seen strong leasing activity push the national CBD vacancy rate to its lowest level in four years," Mr Menhinnitt said.

"This project will cater for the continued growth and strong tenant demand for new office space in Melbourne as both national and global businesses target the new supply of buildings."

Mr Menhinnitt said the project would focus on sustainability and access to amenities, allowing tenants to work in nearby parks, open spaces and co-working environments.



"Two Melbourne Quarter will open out onto a new public plaza on Collins St, a centrepiece of the Melbourne Quarter Precinct, and will also feature a four-storey public staircase to Aurora Lane," he said.

In addition to 130,000sqm of office space, more than 50 per cent of the Melbourne Quarter precinct will be open space.

Two Melbourne Quarter is one of seven commercial and residential buildings planned for the development. Activity continues on site, with the first residential tower, East Tower, under construction.

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Giant-sized hazards

A number of shipping containers were floating in the Yarra River late on December 27.

Josh Lev snapped these photos of the Coast Guard attempting to secure the containers before they became a danger to marine traffic.

It is understood they came from a ship in the Port of Melbourne. The port declined to respond to questions from *Docklands News* about how the containers got into the river.

Authority has no cladding powers

By Shane Scanlan

Owners affected by non-compliant flammable cladding are going to have to take direct legal action against parties they believe responsible, following a Supreme Court decision.

On December 22, Justice Cavanough ruled that the Victorian Building Authority (VBA), did not have the power to order builder LU Simon to rectify works on six Melbourne towers.

Justice Cavanough found that building surveyors and the VBA could not make such demands after an occupancy certificate had been granted.

He said the law did not provide “power to require builders (and even former builders), alone, to rectify alleged defects of whatever kind, in buildings of whatever kind, years or decades after the buildings have been completed and certificates of final inspection or occupancy permits

have been issued for them.”

On December 1, the government released an interim report from its cladding taskforce. And, while the number of affected buildings soars, the taskforce is yet to examine where liability lies and, therefore, where the cost is to be borne.

In Docklands, LU Simon is locked in a legal battle with the owners of the Lacrosse Building in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

The case is not due to be heard again until September. But, in the interim, the builder has agreed to start work and fund the replacement of cladding on the understanding that it will be reimbursed if it found not to be liable. With a Supreme Court ruling in its favour, it would be feeling very confident in VCAT.

In the Cavanough judgement, his honour makes the point a number of times that building surveyors had signed off the six buildings that the VBA had attempted to get LU Simon to “fix”.

Perhaps the VCAT case will shed some light on who is actually responsible for the cost of replacing cladding on at least 1400 buildings in Victoria.

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Tall ship's tall tales on display

By Meg Hill

According to those working on Alma Doepel's restoration, the ship's history is full of weird and wonderful stories that strike one as fiction, but hold up against historical examination.

You can explore these different stories in Alma's 115-year-long history in a free weekly discovery tour at Victoria Harbour from January 31 until March 28.

Tours meet at the Library at The Dock cafe and start with a short presentation, before walking to the ship and then heading for a behind-the-scenes look at the boat-restoration space.

The discovery tour focuses on the ship's three years as AK82 Australian Army ketch during World War Two with an exhibition space replicating the inside of the ship.

When the war reached New Guinea, the Australian Army transformed the ship and used it to carry supplies and troops to the islands.

According to museum studies student and Alma Doepel volunteer Jessica Curtain, Alma was not your average army ship.

"A lot of these men had never been on the sea before, it was a real ragtag operation," Ms Curtain said.

The ship is currently undergoing restoration, with an estimated \$600,000 still needed for completion.

Restoration director Peter Harris is adamant that restoration is necessary, as opposed to turning the ship into an on-land exhibition.

"Exhibition ships decay, they don't grab people's attention. The restoration and continued use of the Alma Doepel is history for the future," Dr Harris said.

"Sailing a tall ship is also an important experience. It's important for young people to build leadership and teamwork skills."

Testament to this is evident in the Alma's history well after its time as a war ship.

Volunteer Ken Gayner told *Docklands News* about a young man who worked on the Alma as part of a community service order well over a decade ago.

The man recently visited the ship's restoration base with a woman he had met on the ship and their two young children.

"That's a perfect example of the importance of the Alma, and that's just one of many stories," Mr Gayner said.



From left: Bill Reid, Peter Harris, Jessica Curtain and Ken Gayner at the Alma Doepel restoration site.



Crypto is working for Mo

Docklands creative agency Mo Works is practicing the innovation it preaches by now accepting crypto-currency as payment for its services.

Principal Mo Hamdouna (pictured above) said his agency was now heavily involved in marketing initial coin offerings (ICOs) for blockchain-based start-ups.

Late last year, his team helped Melbourne-based CanYa raise \$12 million for its global ICO and this success has led to further

opportunities in the space.

Mr Hamdouna said not all blockchain-secured businesses were currencies. He said the secure, decentralised technology was creating all sorts of other new business opportunities.

By accepting Bitcoin and Ethereum as payment, he is positioning his company at the leading edge of innovation.

"It's an emerging technology that is growing in leaps and bounds and it got me thinking: would we be a forward thinking, pro-digital creative agency if we didn't consider crypto-currency as the tender of the future?" Mr Hamdouna said.

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Revolving door for spin doctors

By Shane Scanlan

The City of Melbourne is struggling to get enough "spin" on its media messaging, having churned 17 media advisers since mid-2015.

Statistically, in recent times, it has turned over its entire team of seven every year.

At the same time, a self-congratulatory report claims that in 2015/16 the City of Melbourne achieved a 92 per cent positive or neutral outcome from the 8533 stories in which it was mentioned.

The recently-published report by Media Measures Pty Ltd says only 8 per cent of stories were "unfavourable" to the council.

But is this just more "spin"? And why can't it keep well-paid spin doctors within the fold?

The Media Measures report is a curious document as it claims the "key issues" of that year were: Moomba (775 stories); sustainability (354 stories); cycling and bicycle plan (209 stories); Queen Victoria Market renewal (81 stories); and Lacrosse Tower and apartment cladding (79 stories).

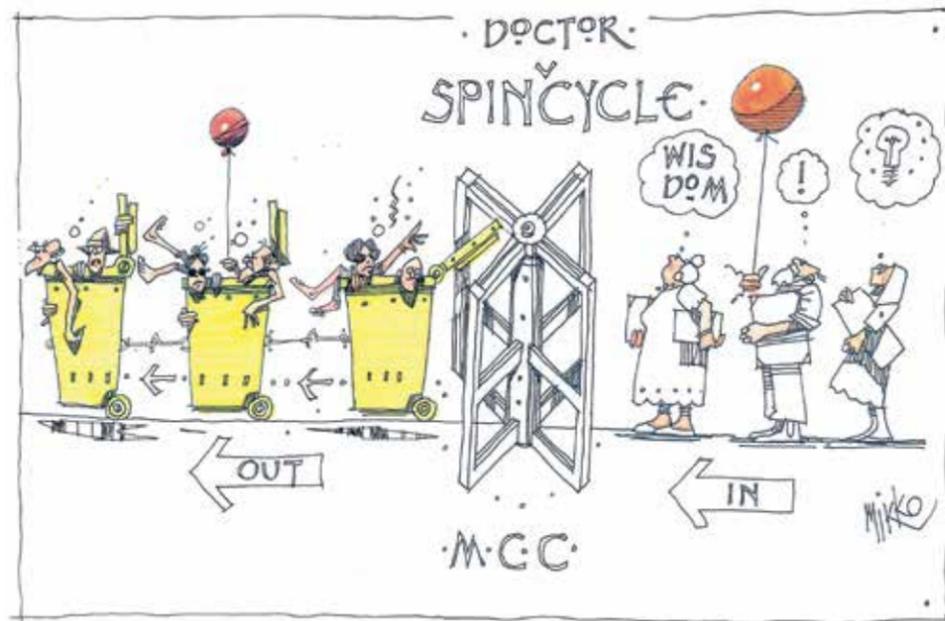
Homelessness and begging was the subject of 421 stories but didn't rank as a key issue. Neither did planning, with 650 stories.

Another measure used by the report's authors was whether stories about the council were "proactive" or "reactive". It is no surprise that issues achieving a perfect 100 per cent score for their proactiveness were: Melbourne Music Week; ArtPlay; Docklands Library; Retail and hospitality; Melbourne Knowledge Week; Melbourne Day; City Library exhibitions; and Melbourne Awards.

It's actually surprising that North Melbourne Arts House only achieved a 98.6 per cent score for proactiveness.

The measurement methodology presumably reflects the values, goals and aspirations of the council. But is it appropriate for a level of government to adopt such a corporate approach?

Another section outlines on how evident the city's stated goals were in the reporting.



"The City of Melbourne's vision statement – that the City of Melbourne will strive to achieve the community's vision of a bold inspirational and sustainable city – was apparent in 5470 stories or 64 per cent of all media," the report says.

Leaving the role since June 2015 were: Elizabeth Muling; Sam Bishop; Irene Vlahos; Shelley Blake; Jem Wilson; Katherine Millar; James Talia; Carlos Ibarra; Daniel Breen; Jason Berek-Lewis; Dharni Giri; Larisa Tait; Philip Blackman; Kate Loughnan; Kathy Alys; David King; and Matt Smithson.

Of the current team (Claudine Ledwidge-O'Reilly; Debbie Guest; Patrick Phillips; Brodie Bott; Brian Wilson; Mandy Frostick; and Bec Brewin), only Claudine Ledwidge-O'Reilly has been there more than a year.

The council says the number is not 17, but 12. It also says its people are so good, they are being headhunted.

Spokesperson Brodie Bott said: "Twelve permanent full-time City of Melbourne media adviser roles were vacated between June 2015 and December 2017. Of those, three employees had up to three years' service, one employee had up to five years' service and another had 10 years' service with the City of Melbourne."

"There are two main factors that have contributed to the recruitment and retention of media advisers in recent years:

- An increase in large infrastructure projects and initiatives in Melbourne has driven unprecedented demand for skilled media communications professionals across the sector; and

- City of Melbourne's media advisers are highly sought after and are known across the industry for excelling at what they do. In recent years, former City of Melbourne media advisers have been recruited to a variety of challenging and high profile roles with major government, media and corporate organisations."

Former councillor and respected journalist Stephen Mayne observed: "The revolving door of media advisers reflects a number of factors including excessive use of contractors rather than permanent employees and the high pressure nature of the work which tends to attract younger more transitory employees seeking to further their careers."

"There has also been inattention at senior levels by the likes of Martin Cutter who should have provided a better career path for the high performers and helped retain popular and effective operators such as Lynne Haultain and Sam Bishop."

"There was perhaps also a little bit too much pressure coming from the Lord Mayor's chief of staff Amelia Bitsis whose boss is admittedly overly media focused but a highly effective communicator with very high standards and expectations," Mr Mayne said.

Docklands summer movies

Enjoy free movies in two Docklands locations this summer.

Bring your family and a picnic or dine out at one of the many local eateries.

Buluk Park

Lendlease presents three movies in Buluk Park including the classic family film *Father of the Bride* starring Steve Martin on February 11.

Then, screening on February 23 is the animated feature, *Fantastic Mr Fox* followed by Robin Williams in *Mrs Doubtfire* on March 2.

Movies start at 7pm. Buluk Park is located at 894 Collins St.

This is a free event but you can book tickets at <http://victoriaharbour.com.au/news-and-events>

Point Park

Mirvac presents three film nights as part of its Movies under the Stars series at Point Park including *The Greatest Showman* (PG) starring Hugh Jackman on Thursday, February 8, *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* (M) on February 9. The animated movie, *Ferdinand* (G) shows on Sunday, February 10.

No booking is required but get there early to secure a spot on one of the beanbags provided. The site opens at 6.30pm and movies begin at sunset.

The Espressionist will be onsite providing delicious Louisiana street food, coffee and drinks.

Point Park is located at Point Park Crescent. For more information go to <http://we.lovelife.mirvac.com>



Victoria Harbour fuel spill mystery



The source of a fuel spill in Victoria Harbour on January 11 has not been identified.

The fire brigade and Environment Protection Agency (EPA) attended.

Fire brigade boats attempted dispersed the fuel but the slick and smell was present for days.

An EPA spokesperson said: "EPA officers attended on the day and are still investigating whether any breaches of the

Environment Protection Act 1970 have occurred."

A fire brigade spokesperson said: "MFB were called out at 5.32pm on January 11 to reports of an oil or petrol spill near NewQuay Promenade in Docklands."

"It's believed a boat had fuelled up and had somehow managed to dump fuel as they left. MFB's fire boat attended the incident and did a prop-wash to try and disperse the spill."

The local rumour was that the fuel was spilled on a building site and flowed into the harbour via the storm water drainage system.



Attempted armed robbery

Melbourne Embona Armed Robbery Taskforce detectives are investigating a number of attempted armed robberies in Docklands on December 31.

Investigators have been told a man entered a bottle shop on Rakaia Way about 1.30pm brandishing a knife and demanding cash.

He was chased out of the store empty-handed by two staff members – one being armed with a weapon.

Shortly after, about 2pm, the same man entered a convenience store on Docklands Drive. It is believed the man, who may have been in the company of a female on this

occasion, followed a staff member behind the counter before producing a knife and demanding cash from the register.

The staff member asked the female for help, but she did not assist. The man attempted to open the register himself but was unsuccessful.

Later that day, about 7.10pm, investigators believe the same man approached a fast food store on Star Circus.

He presented a white plastic bag to the store attendant and demanded cash be placed in it, before again leaving empty-handed.

At 10.20pm, the same man then entered a gaming venue on Star Crescent and approached the counter. He showed the attendant the plastic bag and demanded money, before fleeing empty-handed.

The man has been described as Caucasian and aged in his 20s with a skinny build and a small amount of facial hair on his bottom lip.

He was wearing a black cap, grey hoodie, dark shorts with a red and white stripe and black runners in the first incident.

During the next three incidents, he was wearing the same shorts with a black Adidas jumper with white stripes down the arm and white runners.

Police have released images and CCTV footage of a man they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000** or submit a confidential crime report at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au

Stand by for Chinese New Year

The sound of firecrackers and fireworks, drums and dragons will sweep Docklands during Chinese New Year later this month.

Docklands is part of a wider 10-day festival to welcome the Year of the Dog.

From dazzling light installations and street performances to outdoor food stalls and vibrant acrobatic dragon dance workshops, colourful Chinese New Year events and activations will light up city streets.

“This year we’re bringing the best of everything to the Chinese New Year Melbourne Festival with ten days of festivities and three activation centres destined to bring loads of tradition, performance and learning opportunities for the kids, their family and friends,” said Thomas Ling, chairman of CNY United, the body established to manage the festival.

The Chinese New Year Melbourne Festival will be officially launched at the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel on February 5.

The Chinese New Year program at the

Docklands will celebrate across three of our most iconic spots, the Melbourne Star, Library at the Dock and the waterfront.

Date: February 18
Time: 10am – 12 noon

Library at the Dock: The library will come to life with cultural performances, traditional Chinese arts and crafts, Chinese tea ceremony and children’s storytelling.

Date: February 17-18 and February 24-25
Time: 10.30am – 3pm

Melbourne Star: The wheel will become a Chinese cultural hub over the New Year period with traditional performances, dance workshops and children’s activities.

Date: February 18
Time: 7pm – 9pm

International Student Chinese New Year Party: Melbourne has one of the largest

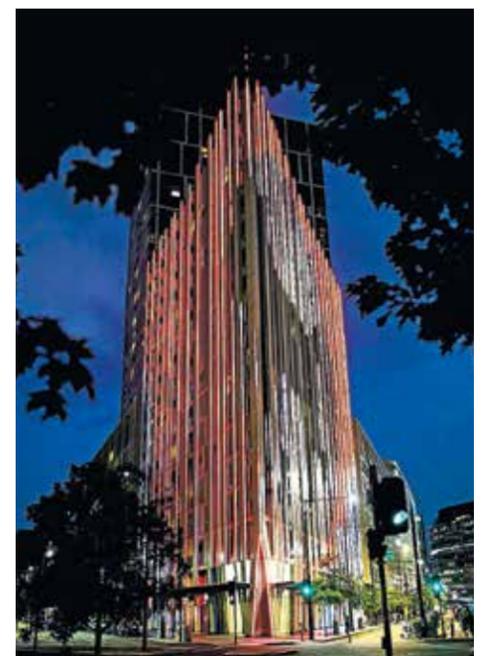
populations of Chinese students outside of China.

The Federation of Chinese Associations (FCA) will host a celebration for these students that will include cultural performances from various student groups, a cross-cultural riddle solving competition and lastly, but certainly not least, a Chinese dumpling buffet.

Students will also have the opportunity to have their picture taken with Caishen, the Chinese god of wealth and prosperity.

Light show

Also joining the celebration will be 888 Collins St, which will display a selection of appropriate lighting combinations, including the dog imagery (pictured) every night between February 15 and 21. The show will run for 10 minutes on the hour between 8pm and midnight.

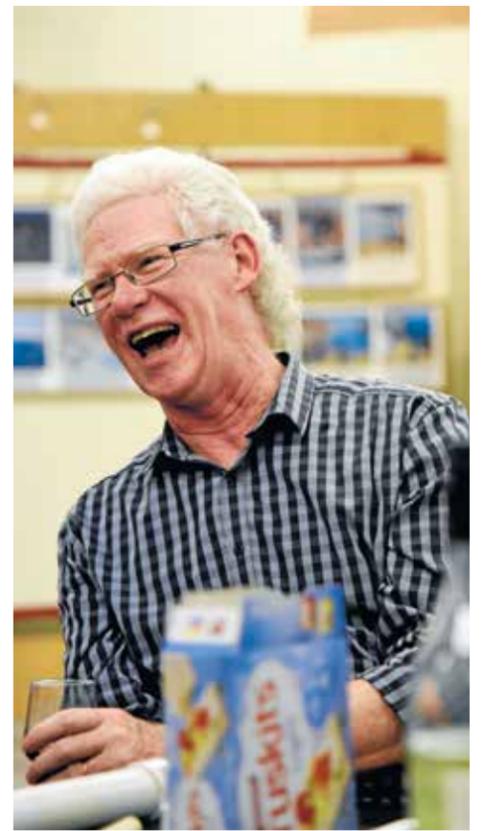


What a delight!

Thanks to Leigh Hurwood for sharing this beautiful photograph.

Mr Hurwood said: “Pink sky at night, Yarra’s Edge delight. I thought I would share this.”





Time travelling with local shanty singers

By Shane Scanlan

Docklanders looking for a hyper-authentic link with the past can join the crew of the tall ship Enterprize bellowing out old sea shanties every fortnight.

The often-bawdy shanties are a joyous celebration of times past – an escape into a bygone world when singing and comradeship helped salve a brutal environment of life at sea.

Enterprize general manager Michael Womack explained that the ship's shanty band and singers were a committed sub-set of the 200 volunteers who sailed the vessel.

"There are crew that sing, crew that sail and some who do both," he said. "The thing that binds everyone together is their love for the ship."

This was evident on the Thursday night that *Docklands News* visited Enterprize's headquarters at Shed 2 along North Wharf Rd, Victoria Harbour.

Also evident was the depth of musical talent among participants, with multiple instruments being expertly played – and

shared! Mostly though, the fortnightly event is about singing, with one singer starting a song and the rest joining in. But newcomers need not be shy. There are word sheets available and an expectation that belting out a simple chorus is enough.

"I tell people that 80 per cent is enthusiasm and 20 per cent whatever else you bring," Mr Womack said.

Mr Womack said sea shanties had a number of purposes. For tasks involving group precision, such as raising sails or anchors, they were used to synchronise the effort.

The other role was for entertainment or, perhaps more accurately, to distract seafarers from the harshness of their conditions.

Enterprize is a replica of John Pascoe Fawkner's schooner which brought Melbourne's first permanent white settlers from Tasmania in 1835.

It was built in 1997 and, apart from an engine and some obvious safety elements, is an authentic copy of the original.

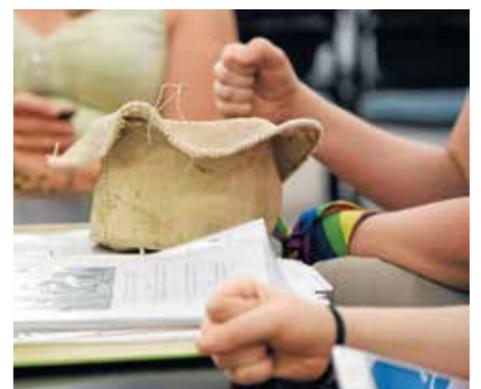
This authenticity is the attraction, with ocean voyages being the ultimate experience for enthusiasts. To become absorbed in such an experience is to time-travel.

The shanty singing is a less immersive top-up-pill which temporarily takes participants back to a time when whales, foreigners and women enjoyed considerably less respect than today.

It's somewhat surprising then that the female musician/singers are quite so enthusiastic when singing about harlots and "fair maids" and, more particularly, sailors' publicly stated sexual ambitions towards them.

Mr Womack said: "You have to remember that these songs are mostly from the 1800s and the 1900s and reflect the spirit of those times."

Mr Womack said attendance at the evenings was by invitation and that interested locals should email sailing@enterprize.org.au for further information.



Walk the walk, talk the talk

By Meg Hill

It took Arjun Bhogal five years to walk around the world from Cardiff in southern Wales to Cardiff, NSW.

On Sunday, February 11, Arjun is coming to the Library at the Dock as part of the 2018 Sustainable Living Festival.

Arjun walked from the UK to Australia to raise money for WaterAid and awareness around clean water access and sanitation.

The idea came after Arjun and his friend Kieren read about a family who had to walk 10 km each day for water.

When Arjun heard about a couple who cycled around the world, he made the connection between the walking family and an around-the-world journey.

Five years after setting out with no training, Arjun arrived at his destination convinced that you don't have to be somebody special to achieve something great.

Cardiff to Cardiff is 10,000 miles in a straight line. Arjun's route added an estimated 5000 miles on top of that, making his total journey a ridiculous 24,000 km. Along the way, he was jailed, kidnapped and robbed.

While in Kyrgyzstan, Arjun and his initial walking partner, Kieren, were arrested by corrupt cops and thrown into a three-metre squared cell with 18 other men.

Kieren left after the jail incident and Arjun



Arjun on the road during a cold winter in Ukraine.

continued. Then, alone in Afghanistan, Arjun was kidnapped by shouting men pointing AK47s in his face.

After much confusion, Arjun was finally told that the men were from the Afghanistan Army and were intervening because the Taliban were looking for him. "Afghanistan was much scarier. It was the point where I was newly alone," Arjun said, comparing the two incidents.

"In jail I was still with my friend, sitting with each other laughing at how crazy it was. Then I was alone, with guns in my face, thinking 'they told you not to go to Afghanistan.'"

Now, Arjun is spending his time in Melbourne writing a book, putting together a documentary and giving talks. After ending his trip by walking across the Nullarbor, Melbourne his life has needed adjustment.

"It took me a while to adapt to city life," Arjun said. "But I was born in London and grew up in the city. I'm not the most 'outdoorish' person."

This just adds to his unlikely success story.

To book a space to meet him on February 11 see <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/borderwalk-arjun-bhogals-5-year-walk-to-australia-tickets-41810570542?aff=es2>

Great turnout for social club in January

The Docklands Social Club experienced a great turn out at its monthly outing in January.

Held at Hooks at Yarra's Edge, there seemed to be as many new faces as regular attendees at the informal evening.

The "club" comprises a monthly night out at the different Docklands venue to meet and greet newcomers as well as cement old friendships. Everyone is welcome.

This month the event is at TAP831, on the corner of Merchant and Bourke streets in Victoria Harbour, from 7pm on Tuesday, February 13.

The organisers said: "Don't forget to mention our gatherings to your neighbours, we always like to meet new people from our community."



Some snaps from the recent night out at Hooks at Yarra's Edge.



What Women Want

I wore blue that day

I wore blue and I changed my profile pic and I posted blue hearts on Instagram. I hash-tagged #doitfordolly and I hash-tagged #stopbullynow.

As a nation felt heartbroken learning that bullying had yet again claimed the ultimate price – a life – we all felt united in wanting to make changes. Or at least some of us did.

It didn't last long I suppose – it's always difficult to maintain momentum of a mass movement – to see large and impactful results simply by all agreeing that something has to stop. And it certainly seems that the battle continues, the bullying increases and the number of our children carrying the burden of trying to escape cruel and vindictive attacks on social media is horrendous.

I know. I know because we are going through it. Let me tell you as a mother, it is a terrifying experience. As a child, well I just can't really imagine – but I try. So what do we do ...

We, as parents, must come together and understand we are all on the same team – we are there to guide our children through their times of growth, learning and at times, trouble. We are there as parents and should communicate with each other – not a finger pointing blame game, but a coming together to create better resolutions for our kids.

They all deserve to attend school in an environment free of atrocious name calling and bullying. They deserve to be themselves, good at some sports bad at others, a keen learner in one subject and disinterested in another – they are individuals and each and every one of them is important.

I hope one day we will live in a better world. But I fear it is a long time coming, unless we all take action.

So my question, at the start of this year, at the very start of the school year is "which type of parent are you going to be?" I'm going to be one that stands up to bullying, and I would like to do this in a collaborative, caring, non-judgmental and united

approach. I hope you join me, I hope you want this world to be a better place.

What a woman wants is for no one to hurt their child, and what a woman always understands is that it is a cruel world and one we must be prepared for – but please stand with me to take the very real risk of irreversible harm occurring in our school yards, in our homes via social media, on our sports fields.

I'm all for fighting the enemy, but this is "friendly fire". Our children are being hurt by those they are meant to be able to trust and play alongside.

Please talk to your children. Talk to them about their friendships, how they feel, who is being hurt, and what they can do. Maybe we can make a difference, and not wait for another sad day of "wearing blue for Dolly" to occur to make us realise how real this risk is.

I stand up with dignity and strength, I support my child, and I say no to bullying. Please stand with me.

Abby Crawford
Don't forget you can reach me at life@docklandsnews.com.au



Abby Crawford
life@docklandsnews.com.au



Health and Wellbeing

New year – It's still you!

Don't listen to what the endless marketing campaigns say or try to tell you.

The turn of the year does not automatically require you to reinvent yourself or realise there was an old you and a better you on the horizon. It's really nonsense and tiresome. The health and fitness industry really should move away from these gimmicks and send a stronger wellbeing message to the general public.

Giving your mind and body a break is an important part of a cycle of improvement. So your holidays when they come should always include a chance to clear your head and reset your goals for the next phase of your wellbeing journey.

Forget the short-term aspirations and resolutions. Instead, try and find something meaningful and aspirational to work towards that an improvement in your health and fitness is required for you to participate.

Travel and treks are great on annual plans. For example, if you are to cycle around Vietnam, walk the Kokoda Trail or hike through South America then a step change in your fitness is required. Maybe it's the Eureka Climb, or your first 5km run.

Committing to, and participating in, these type of activities will put purpose and motivation behind your weekly cycle class, or the hours you spend on the stair climber/treadmill. The best reward is participating in the journey of your life. It's much more meaningful than just another cardio session.

The best way to think about regular exercise and staying fit is that it adds life to your years and years to your life.

What matters most

If one of your key health and wellbeing goals is to lose body fat, then it's important that you are aware of and address these four key factors for success. While they are all important, there is an element of priority and impact which should also be noted.

In order of:

- Proper nutrition;
- Regular resistance/weight training;
- Proper sleep patterns and stress management; and
- Moderate cardio vascular training.

Nutrition will make or break your results. Sugar is the killer here, so make reduction/removal of that your highest priority.

Weight training two to four times per week will help sustain and increase your muscle mass and, in turn, enhance your metabolism.

You will have a tough time losing body fat if you are stressed and not sleeping well – you will not achieve your goals if this is not a focus.

Finally, cardio vascular training alone isn't a fat loss solution and of the four factors will have the least impact on your results. Cardio is important for maintaining heart and lung health and improved general fitness but shouldn't be seen as a way to burn fat.

Fibre is satisfying

Fibre is our friend if we are trying to lose weight and stay healthy. High fibre foods make great snacks as they leave us feeling satisfied after consumption.

Conversely, junk food and fast snacks are often low in fibre which leads to overconsumption and feeling unsatisfied. Therefore, we should increase our awareness and seek out foods high in fibre as this will ensure we stay on track with our weight loss goals.

People often think fruit and vegetables are high in fibre, which is mostly true, but it is a generalisation. It's worth knowing the best, highest density sources of fibre so you can make the best choices.

Here is a list of six fruit and veggie snacks and their approximate fibre content per 100g:

Dates: 8 grams; Avocado: 7 grams; Passionfruit: 10 grams; Prunes: 7 grams; Coconut: 9 grams; and Berries: 6-8 grams.

Worth knowing that lentils (15 grams) and beans (14 grams) are great sources of fibre but will require some preparation for snack foods.



Andrew Ward
Andrew Ward from Push! Fitness.
www.push-fitness.com.au

Street Art

Docklands will just take time

As much as some people believe in Docklands (and many people don't), there has to be some acknowledgment in the failure of the Docklands to deliver to the public's expectation.

I was once a naysayer. I thought Docklands was hijacked by people who didn't love Melbourne and only exploited it for their own interests and to be richer.

I know that being rich seems cool if you're poor, but if you are rich you probably know that it's not that simple. People with money will never understand the pleasure of being poor, whilst the poor will never understand the tragedy of being rich.

Anyway, Docklands has changed. I first started noticing the change at Docklands many years ago when I worked on the mural at the Sebel in NewQuay and that's when I started to change my thoughts about Docklands and its possibilities.

There was a big discussion before we moved the Blender Studios to Docklands and many people were quite upset and believed that it would never be the same again. This has just not been true. The Blender is now better than it's ever been – as are the artists, the art and the entire Blender community.

And the more people that visit the studio and Docklands, the more people are slowly changing the way they view it.

Anyway, what I really want to say is that building credibility takes time. Credibility cannot be bought and Docklands' success



will take time and patience. Projects like the Sculpture Art Trail and the Docklands Art Precinct, the Blender artist market and the Sunday market will continue to help build cred.

I believe it's in the arts where Docklands' future lies and it will take time and patience. Money can't buy respect and respect is not for sale (it is earned). It's bold and risky

projects like the Docklands Art Precinct and Blender Studios which gives an area an activation and layers of history, memories and culture.

Makatron just painted a giant octopus near the Bolte Bridge. It's huge and space-altering and cool and I spoke to him at some house party recently and he said: "it was a great project to work on, it is huge."

It seems the only way to make an art work in Docklands or to change the space is to be commissioned to do so. I am guilty of this. I have done more commissioned work in Docklands than anybody. But, we need to ask ourselves what does a "lived-in" Docklands look like?

We need the grit, the grime, the urban edge that the city has, that until now, has eluded Docklands.

I believe Docklands is at the crossroads and we can choose to stay clean and sterile, which will eventually work purely because of population and city demand. Or we can take control now and do what should have been done at the beginning and work to make an amazing, creative and diverse Docklands that is the dashboard of Melbourne.

We in Docklands have the opportunity to control what Docklands becomes both socially and creatively.



Adrian Doyle

Blender Studios founder and director

What I love about Docklands

Yarra's Edge Christmas

This year I am the Christmas Grinch
The commercialism makes me flinch
No decorations adorn my home
No fake tree nor snow dome.
No Christmas cake no candy canes
No candles, tinsel or paper chains.

I do enjoy some Christmas cheer
Spending time with those so dear
While we pop corks of champagne bottles
Rowers pass by at full throttle
Joggers and old folk on their bikes
A few pass by on motored trikes.
Pampered pooches out for walkies
Old guys in shorts looking dorky.

The night wears on the voices shrill
"A tattoo?" "No Gran, just take your pills"
What do they find to talk about
To make you hear they have to SHOUT!
Dressed up in their very best
Everything so neatly pressed.
Old girls showing too much skin!
"Don't 'hang 'em out, please keep 'em in!"

Next morning at the coffee shop
Headaches to quell, gossip to swap
A friendly place where locals meet
Often someone new to greet

Eight tall towers near the river
Magnificent views our homes deliver
A changing view every day
Over the river and across the bay.

We love to walk beside the river
Surfacing fish leave a quiver
Swans, ducks and even shags
Yachts displaying ensign flags
I do enjoy the Christmas drinks
Kissing cheeks "muah", our glasses clink.

No cooking or cleaning for me this year
Someone else can cook and clear
No fence to paint, no lawn to mow
Just one choice, where will we go?
Although I protest about the season
I do enjoy with good reason
To see my grandies open gifts
Fills my spirit, it really lifts.



Lori Fellows

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PCA113E

Communicating in vertical villages

The sheer number of people who reside in “One Big Residence” means that vertical dwellers live amongst strangers - or so many popular portrayals of high-rise, high-density living would have you believe.

Often our lifestyle is criticised for anonymous interactions occurring in towers of isolation where human contact is either deficient or proactively avoided. We (apparently) are very anxious about our in-house stranger-danger, communicating our fears verbally and non-verbally. And, perhaps more alarmingly, we are also viewed as fearful of contracting communicable diseases from these strangers (as air and touch borne viruses spread more rapidly when many people share hallway air, door handles and elevator buttons).

Added to this, the array of different nationalities in our towers have been noted by academics Edgar Liu (UNSW), Hazel Easthope (UNSW) and Christina Ho (UTS) as adding to our tension as differences in culture, language and lifestyle may exacerbate resident conflicts.

Who could fail to be attracted to such a lifestyle?

Yet, perception is all in the framing. Stated another way, having “little in common” becomes “richly diverse”, something we are encouraged to celebrate. And differences in lifestyle and life stage become opportunities for vibrant exchanges between people on international secondments, retiree couples, solo women, young families and travellers.

However, there is no denying there are tensions within our vertical villages which is evident in the number of trips to VCAT and the busyness of dispute resolution committees.

Added to this, there is a noticeable difference amongst residents’ knowledge about their building: how it operates, its history and the planned happenings (ie when is that carpet being replaced?). And it is unfortunately often true that our villages have all too few areas to mingle and



little social infrastructure to support these interactions (such as in-building clubs).

This means that building-based communication systems become extremely important as they are the key means of keeping residents informed (if not engaged!).

Yet, the communication systems within our vertical villages are often inadequate, comprising out-of-date websites, clunky portals, partial email or phone lists and mail boxes (which require time consuming hand delivery). Added to this, not too many in building management boast strong communication skills (let alone PR!), which has led to issues about the type and tone of messaging. Indeed, there continue to be instances rousing the ire of residents due to the wrong message being delivered in the wrong way – such as was the case with a public and pictorial instruction to keep our tightly-whities off the balcony.

What do to?

Unsurprisingly, this failure-to-

communicate has been noticed by some of the larger strata management firms and there is a move towards incorporating communication as part of their services. It does not take much effort to find offers of “powerful integrated software” which promise to provide access to streamlined community resource hubs that collect resident information and, in return, communicate in accordance with stated preferences.

For those vertical villages thinking about such offers, there are a few things to consider, starting with the data. Key issues include:

- Who owns this data? (the owners’ corporation or the strata management firm) and what happens if/when there is a change of provider?
- Security (from multiple angles). There are issues of access (who and under what conditions), usage (initial and secondary/unintended purposes), storage (format, length), etc;

■ And yes, there is also dreaded meta data! Answers to these questions will be critical to the uptake of these systems by residents who will not participate if not convinced about their robustness.

Perhaps then, the work of students from the University of Adelaide might be useful. They have developed Communitilink, a new platform that connects apartment residents and building managers, and it has taken out the 2017 eChallenge major prize for early-stage entrepreneurial ventures.

Developed by Aaron Smedley, Tom Welsby and Josh Marcus, Communitilink is aimed at supporting high-density living through a series of user engagement platforms, allowing building managers and residents to communicate about maintenance, news and other property and facilities issues. The platforms are also designed to encourage residents to interact socially. The developers claim Communitilink as the only service of its kind, and are at pains to have it seen as ensuring not only a more convenient way of connecting but also as a safe and trustworthy way of doing so.

What is not in doubt is that the challenge of communication and engagement will be increasingly important to the fabric of our vertical lifestyles and it is these types of social innovations that will further evidence the transformation of “isolation towers” to vertical villages.

If you would like links to the material mentioned, please visit and like SkyPad Living on Facebook.



Janette Corcoran
Apartment living expert
<https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/>



Chamber Update

Docklands’ season of fun and glory

We’re right in the middle of summer and we’ve thoroughly enjoyed some spectacular times in Docklands.

The Volvo Ocean Yachts arrived three days early thanks to some very favourable winds in the Southern Ocean. The yachts were here for seven days and we also enjoyed a lovely concurrent food truck park along Harbour Esplanade. To top it off we loved the second year of fireworks from Melbourne’s rooftops and we have to say we thought this year was fabulous.

A word from our hotels

Hoteliers in the Docklands are once again

celebrating a successful summer season with events supporting the precinct. As the new year starts to take shape, many of us are saying goodbye to our leisure guests and preparing for the business travel season to begin. With many new developments continuing to come on board, we look forward to welcoming new members to the community in 2018. Without our continued sense of community, the Docklands brand and precinct would never continue to grow.

Successful advertising of member businesses

We’ve continued our social media and website advertising for all of our member businesses throughout summer. Did you know that as a member of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce we guarantee to

spend at least your annual fee on advertising your business – so long as you can provide media of a suitable standard.

The Lady Cutler Melbourne Showboat recently enjoyed over 400 unique clicks through to their booking page from a social media post we did for them. For the same result via Google adwords that might have cost in the vicinity of \$500. What did it cost the Lady Cutler? Nothing. It was all part of its membership and it has plenty more advertisements to come. If you are doing business in Docklands then you need to be a member.

Speaking of ...

Speaking of our social media, we are climbing up towards 150,000 followers on Facebook and 11,500 on Instagram. We only showcase our members and pictorials that

display Docklands as the place we know and love. Our video of the NYE fireworks reached over two million people.

Lastly

We’d love to wish prosperity and success in the New Year. We are blessed to live in the most wonderful area of the most wonderful city on the planet.



Shane Wylie
Media Director
www.docklandsc.com.au



We Live Here

Privy Council gets it, Andrews doesn't

The Privy Council in London has unanimously ruled that strata corporations may enforce by-laws to restrict short-term letting.

Last month, the Lordships found that the by-law-making power of a strata corporation is very wide, and any by-law that purports to restrict the use of a lot for "residential purposes" is valid. Short-term use by holiday-makers changes the character of the use of a lot, and that type of use is clearly different from residential use.

Daniel Andrews please take note!

This decision reignites the debate that owners' corporations may legitimately enforce by-laws to restrict their lots to residential use, if they carefully draft their by-laws.

The Supreme Court decision in Balcombe might not now be considered as having settled the matter in Victoria. Leading strata lawyer, Tom Bacon said: "While the Privy Council decision is not legally binding here in Australia, it should be viewed as persuasive, and should not be set aside without a principled reason to distinguish it."

Victorian Government response to the short stay Bill inquiry – a cop out!

The state Labor government's response to the findings of the Parliamentary inquiry into short stays, released in November 2017, is extremely disappointing.

The government has ignored all the recommendations of the inquiry conducted by a cross-party committee that included government members – and is planning to reintroduce the original bill in February 2018, with a review to be undertaken in two years!

This is a cop-out and plays right into the hands of Airbnb, a company that claims it partnered with the government in the

introduction of the Bill. Not surprisingly, Airbnb's Australian head of policy described the Bill on ABC radio as the best legislation in the world! Well of course if you help to formulate a Bill you'd say it was good, wouldn't you?

Why did the government utterly discount the findings of the inquiry which said the Bill was unfair to residents, whilst seeking to pass the least-restrictive short-term letting regulations anywhere in the world?

Why couldn't the Andrews government take the time to investigate the issues properly, as authorities have already done in New York, San Francisco, London, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Paris and other large cities where short-term letting is prevalent and tearing fragile local residential communities apart, but where lessons have been learned and regulation and restrictions have been introduced?

Why must Melbourne, the world's most liveable city, always learn its lessons the hard way? Why don't our leaders show the way as to how it can be done?

We Live Here has long been advocating for regulations that balance the interests of the tourism industry, hotel industry, short-stay accommodation providers, including booking platforms such as Airbnb and Stayz, and residents living in high rise communities and elsewhere where everyday lives are being severely compromised by the rampant unregulated growth of short-stays.

There must be a level playing field and residents must have a voice. The Owners Corporation Bill does nothing to assist the process and with no changes contemplated for at least two years inner city high-rise communities could be decimated, as the government, by its decision has determined that residents don't matter.

Twenty-five per cent of the Victorian population live in apartment buildings and We Live Here now represent more than 200 apartment buildings across Melbourne.

We are urging the Premier to stop supporting Airbnb – which is based overseas, and is not paying local taxes – and start listening to the concerns of residents about safety, security, rising maintenance costs and a loss of community.

Sign the government's petition page

We are asking that you, our supporters, sign the petition on the Victorian Parliamentary website, via the following link:

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/petitions/electronic-petitions/view-e-petitions/details/12/57>

and let the government know :

- The Bill in its current form is totally unacceptable;
 - The recommended amendments must be acted on now not in two years' time; and
 - Residents must not be ignored any more.
- The petition is planned to be tabled in the Legislative Council in late February 2018, so please do not delay and sign now.

Fishermans Bend going under?

Martin Foley's political career might yet be saved by an innovative proposal that would see the tramline connecting the city with Fishermans Bend going under water using the LaTrobe St tram corridor. Prebuilt, immersed tubes would be anchored to the sea bed without the need for tunnelling.

This alternative solution has been proposed by Yarra's Edge resident, Keith Sutherland following a groundswell of objection to a low tram bridge from

Collins St to Lorimer St, referred to in the Fishermans Bend Draft Plan.

The current proposed tram crossing of Lorimer St defies logic, Mr Sutherland said, considering the Andrews government is spending millions in eradicating existing tram and train crossings and we need to look to future transport options, not replicate outdated transport that has served the state well in the past.

"If the current proposal is adopted by the Andrews government it will become a major election issue in November," Mr Sutherland said, "And the various groups fighting the low tram bridge could determine the election outcome."

"We will be seeking election promises from all parties and politicians not to proceed with the current bridge proposal."

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going.

To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to make a donation please visit our website at welfarehere.net.

We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests.

You can reach us at campaign@welfarehere.net.au. We Live Here members can make a presentation to your owners' corporation committee upon request.

We welcome your comments and feedback, and invite suggestions for topics you would like us to address in this column.



www.welfarehere.net
emails to campaign@welfarehere.net

Letters to the Editor

Wish list for November

This year's state election will be defined by two major issues – one being transport infrastructure spending and the Opposition has made law and order via gang violence its top issue at this stage.

But for many of us living in the Docklands Yarra's Edge precinct, the main opposition will be the proposed tram bridge from Collins to Lorimer St.

Albert Park electorate held by government Minister Martin Foley will be one to watch as a lot of residents are unhappy with Mr Foley's contradictory comments at a recent meeting suggesting Point Park will be retained but did not rule out support for tram bridge as recommended by Public Transport in the Fishermans Bend draft strategy.

Several groups are incensed and will play a very prominent role leading up to this year's election and will be canvassing the views of all parties and candidates standing for the seat of Albert Park.

The seat of Melbourne, currently held by Greens Ellen Sandell, will also be affected by the outcome of the tram bridge but it is believed at this stage she is sympathetic to

the residents of Docklands' concerns.

The Greens are feeling quietly confident after their recent success of winning the seat of Northcote from the ALP by Lidia Thorpe. Also they will be targeting Planning Minister Richard Wynne's seat of Richmond as they try and make inroads to inner city Melbourne seats.

As residents of the Docklands area, we need to work on a wish list for the forthcoming elections as that's the only way you get traction or action from political parties or candidates. It gives us residents and organisations a platform to improve the area and there sorely are many issues that we would like addressed.

The Docklands precinct has about 60,000 people working and there are approximately 10,000 residents living in the area which gives it some unique qualities and is deserving of more council and state government attention.

Now is the time for a co-ordinated approach and discussions about what should be included on that wish list. So it would be good to have some thoughts and ideas, please send them in to *Dockland News*.

Keith Sutherland

Financiers will win

The people's river is being sold out to financial terrorists!

Nameless financiers are the only winners in the new Fisherman's Bend Draft proposal to build a tram bridge over the Yarra to link Collins St trams with the new Fisherman's Bend urban development.

The new tram bridge at a height of six-metres will close off access to the Yarra and its beautiful Yarra's Edge Marina to all yachts both large and small. 149 berth owners, 1500 apartment owners and local business will be affected by the marina's death.

Taxpayers will be forced to pay out \$300 million dollars in compensation through litigation by Yarra's Edge residents – the largest class action in Victoria's history outside of the bushfires.

What is happening to the people's river? Why are the faceless financiers and bankers profiting from further property development without adequate infrastructure planning and to the detriment of existing Docklands residents, businesses and berth owners.

YCAC (Yarra's Edge Class Action Committee) and its 1500 members have notified government of its intention to

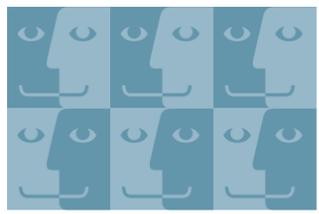
litigate due to implementation of the tram bridge, threatening the viability of the marina and ultimately devaluing berth prices, business and real estate assets.

Who is considering the much loved, unique and threatened Nankeen Night Herron which has made its home at the marina?

Catherine Dawson
(Yarra's Edge Class Action Committee – YCAC)



Send your letters to
news@docklandsnews.com.au



FACES OF DOCKLANDS

Question: What is your favourite food to eat in summer?



MEL PHO, 27, KEYSBOROUGH, BANK WORKER

I like fish and chips in summer. It's always something you eat when you're out doing something. I like fried food and it smells so good.



VINCE PHAM, 32, NOBLE PARK, BANK WORKER

Burgers I think, just classic hamburgers. It's the kind of food I eat out in summer, whereas in winter I tend to cook at home and stay in.



ROB THOMPSON, 50, DOCKLANDS, MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

I guess it would have to be rice paper rolls. The cool Asian flavour is perfect for summer. It goes with the sun.



ERIN MCNULTY, 33, BRUNSWICK, PHOTOGRAPHER

Is beer a food? It's cold and delicious. I usually fall asleep after drinking when it's hot, but that's alright because it's hard to sleep in the heat.



LEIGH FARLEY, 49, BROADMEADOWS, LIBRARIAN

Watermelon definitely, it's so refreshing. I cut it into squares and eat a big bowl of it.



MELANIE RAMSEY, 33, ST KILDA, SETTLEMENTS OFFICER

Mangos are my favourite to eat in summer. They remind me of sunny weather, they're tropical and juicy. I feel like they are probably originally from a tropical island, they are perfect for summer.

Pet's Corner



Catch up with Kira

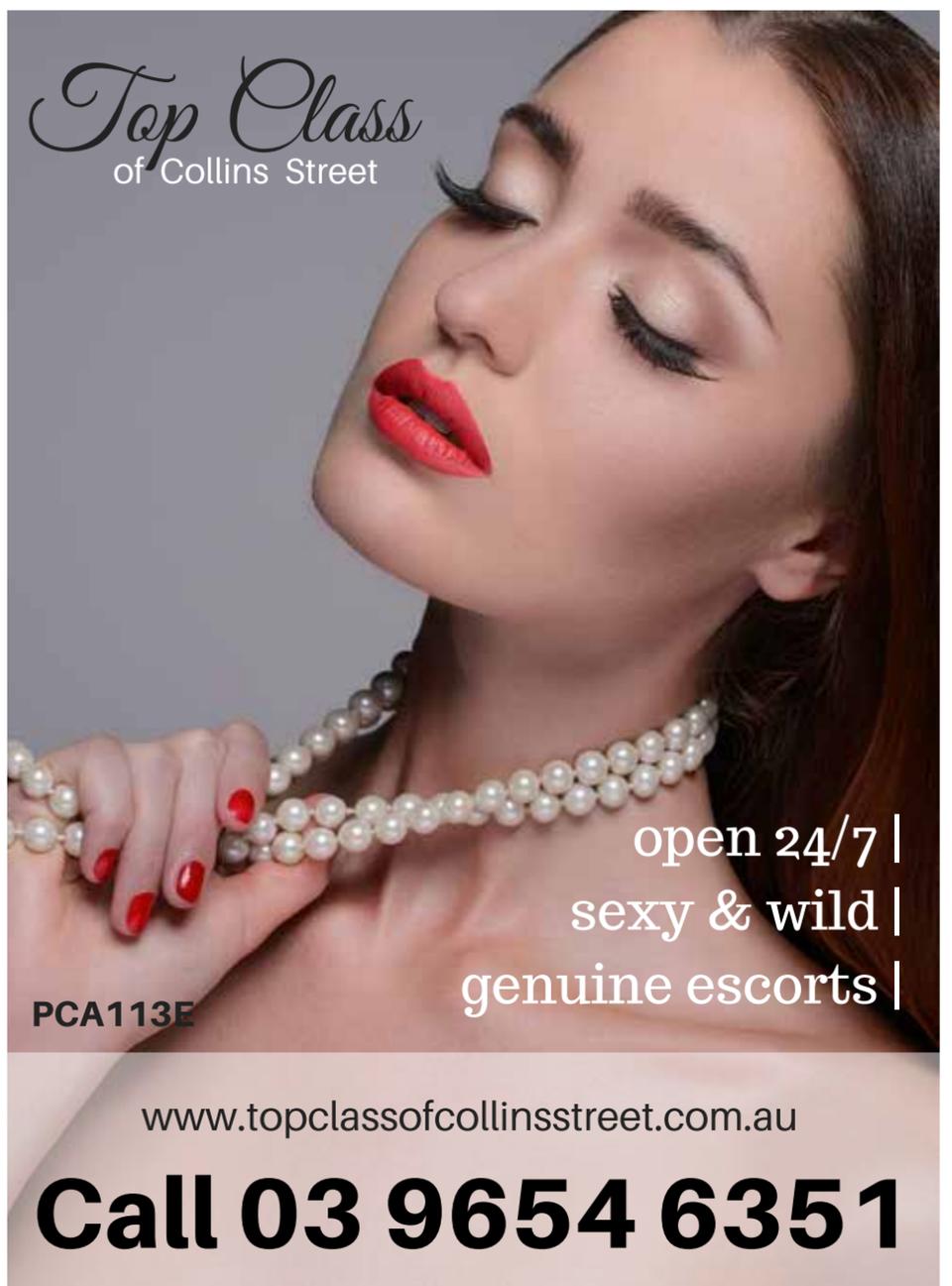
Walking down Harbour Esplanade, *Docklands News* ran into an old friend.

Kira featured in our paper as a three-month-old puppy, and was happy to show us how much she's grown.

Kira is relatively small for a one-year-old Shiba Inu but, thanks to her big personality, she leaves a large impression.

Owner Natalie finally got her chance to feature in *Docklands News*, as last time it was her husband appearing with Kira.

"Kira plays with anyone. She loves strangers more than she loves me," Natalie said.



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Docklander

Docklands has everything

By Sunny Liu

To long-term resident Selina Gao, Docklands represents the future of Melbourne.

Beijing-born Ms Gao has been living in Docklands the entire time that she is in Australia and says Docklands is second to none.

"Living in Docklands is a really unique experience. The location, the water views and the facilities are irreplaceable," she said.

She said Docklands was an example of how Melbourne would evolve in terms of developments and town planning for the future.

"I think Docklands is a very well-planned area. It has maintained a good balance of residential, commercial and community spaces," she said.

"Docklands reflects contemporary city living and also has arts and culture through the many exhibitions and events."

Back when Docklands was still up and coming, Ms Gao's family saw great potential in the area and bought a three-bedroom apartment at Victoria Harbour's Convesso in 2012.

Over the past few years of living on the waterfront, Ms Gao has seen the growth of Docklands as a residential precinct.



Selina Gao at home in Docklands.

"Docklands has really matured over the years. It has become a mature community now, as it is very comfortable to live in and all the residents I meet love the area," she said.

"The population has really grown. When I first moved in there was barely anyone on the trams. But now the trams are packed with residents and commuters, which shows the density is increasing."

Ms Gao said she had noticed that Docklands was becoming increasingly

popular among young people, especially students and professionals.

"Before, many of the young people I met were not familiar with Docklands and did not understand why I would live here. But today Docklands has become a much more attractive place to live in than the CBD and many of my friends have moved from the city to Docklands," she said.

"I think the modern lifestyle, together with open space and convenience is what attracts young people."

With many close friends now also living in the area, she sees familiar faces in Docklands all the time.

"I often get tapped on the shoulder by a friend or colleague when I'm on the tram! It's great to have many people I know also live around here so it's more like a close-knit community," she said.

Currently studying a masters in property at the University of Melbourne and working as a property agent, Ms Gao said she was passionate about the real estate industry.

"I love working in this fast-evolving and ever-changing industry. Melbourne has always had high demand from overseas investors and local buyers. And Docklands is a good example of how strong Melbourne's property market is," she said. "Docklands has what other parts of Melbourne do not offer, including the water sceneries and the accessibility."

"Also, in the Chinese culture, Docklands has got good 'Feng Shui' being on the waterfront. So the harbour is an invaluable asset for the area. You don't get this anywhere else," Ms Gao said.

She said she welcomed more residential and commercial developments in Docklands so it can be buzzing with more activities.

"We've got the District shopping centre, Etihad Stadium, Library at The Dock, parks and sports courts and I'd love to see more facilities get established as more people make Docklands their home," she said.

Owners' Corporation Law

The great energy rort

As Melbourne swelters through another hot summer which has everyone reaching for the air conditioner remote control, a great scandal for owners' corporations (OCs) simmers amid the whirrs and buzzes of the cooling towers on the rooftops.

The cost of electricity is skyrocketing around the country. I know - my electricity bills have gone up by almost 100 per cent in the past 18 months.

But imagine not being in control of your own energy futures? Imagine not having the freedom of choice to select your own electricity provider? Imagine being locked in to an uncompetitive long-term electricity contract where you have to pay a price determined not by the market, but by the electricity company itself? Imagine being denied the opportunity to take advantage of new government regulations in the energy sector to provide you with freedom of choice? Imagine being denied the opportunity to "go green" in your building by

installing solar or batteries and other forms of renewable energy and to take advantage of lower electricity costs?

This is the depressing reality for hundreds of large apartment buildings and commercial office blocks in Victoria.

A long-standing practice of developers has been for them to avoid having to pay for the costs of installing common property electricity infrastructure and meters by entering into agreements at construction stage with electricity companies whereby the company will install the infrastructure on behalf of the developer in return for lucrative long-term bulk energy contracts being signed by the developer on behalf of the new OC.

These contracts make it clear that the electricity company owns the meters and gets to decide the price of electricity that it will charge the building and residents. It also gets to charge administration fees on top of the electricity costs. It gets even worse when OCs find out that the electricity company retains ownership of the common property meters - meaning that if the contract is ever terminated, it gets to remove the equipment at the OC's cost.

Developers and electricity companies have been getting away with this rort for years and the galling part about it is that the Victorian Government and the Commonwealth energy

regulator are absolutely silent about doing anything to curb this industry practice.

Then there are those developers that decide to convert the rooftops of buildings into lots and "airspace lots" and retain ownership for themselves. The purpose of this enterprise is to then enter into lucrative long-form leases with telecommunication companies and billboard companies and earn passive income from the rooftop.

If the rooftops are not within an OC's possession, committees are not able to take advantage of recent technological advancements in solar power and are unable to install the infrastructure that would cut the cost of electricity in the building, which leads to less reliance on the already over-supplied national electricity grid.

The solution is simple: Firstly, ban developers from being able to "sell off" essential services such as electricity meters and gas meters at construction stage. Something as critical as electricity supply should always be common property and in the control of the OC itself.

Secondly, insert one small amendment into the Subdivision Act 1988 to render the rooftop and airspace inalienable - meaning the rooftop and airspace must remain as common property.

These two simple reforms should take the Victorian Government a little under 10

minutes to draft the required legislation, but its effect would be to safeguard the renewable energy futures of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of Victorians in the future.

However, with 1400 apartment buildings and commercial buildings set to be built in Melbourne in the next five years, there's no time to lose. For each new building that's in the process of being completed, I'll wager \$5 that its energy future has already been corrupted.

The buzz around government circles is that this is a legitimate industry and that government doesn't want to prevent builders and developers from going about their business and making profits for fear that developers will move to other markets.

Once again, vested interests win out and reasonable and sensible consumer protection policies are ignored.

Here's another wager: I'll give \$10 to anyone who wants to bet that I'm wrong that the government does anything about the great energy rort in Victoria ...



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

9.50AM-12PM FEBRUARY 24, CENTRAL PIER

HISTORY OF RIVER CRUISE

Take a trip through time as the Melbourne Library Services and Classic Cruises take you on a history cruise down the City of Melbourne's waterways. Bookings required. FREE. 9658 9998

FROM 7PM, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, TAP 831, VICTORIA HARBOUR

DOCKLANDS SOCIAL CLUB

Join other locals, workers and residents for a monthly social gathering in a relaxed, informal setting. Come along for a drink or sit down for a meal. Everyone is welcome.

6PM-7PM FEBRUARY 27, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

THE PEOPLE OF DUDLEY FLATS

In this month's History Group meeting, learn about the history of Docklands, formerly known as Dudley Flats during the Great Depression. FREE. Book on Eventbrite.

EVERY SUNDAY SUNDAY WORSHIP

City Light Methodist Church at St Peter the Mariner's Chapel. Mission to Seafarers, 717 Flinders St. 11am English and Chinese service
中文

EVERY SUNDAY, 10AM-5PM NEWQUAY PROMENADE

DOCKLANDS SUNDAY MARKET

A variety market featuring arts and crafts, books and more. For more info, ring **0412 910 496**

7PM FEBRUARY 11, 23 & MARCH 2, BULUK PARK

POP-UP CINEMA

It's time to announce the next three movies to play at Victoria Harbour's free Park Cinema: Fantastic Mr Fox, Father of the Bride and Mrs Doubtfire. FREE, but limited, tickets available on Eventbrite

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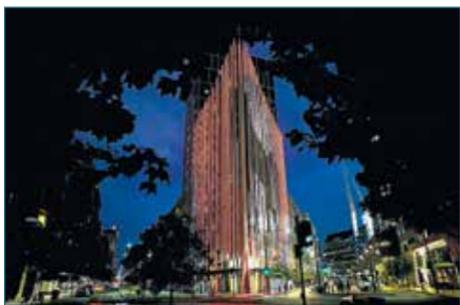
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www.facebook.com/YarrasEdgeSocialClub

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LIVE LIFE GET ACTIVE

Free outdoor fitness classes, including X-training, boxing and yoga. Register at **lifelifegetactive.com**



5-9PM, EVERY FRIDAY IN FEBRUARY, THE DISTRICT DOCKLANDS

BLENDER ARTIST MARKET

This art and design market in the new Art Collective is the perfect place to spend a lazy Friday afternoon. With live music, entertainment, food trucks and art what better way to start off a good night. FREE.

EVERY OTHER SUNDAY 11AM-4PM DOCKLANDS YACHT CLUB

COMMUNITY SAILING DAY

Come and try sailing with the community. No age limit and no fitness requirements. People with disabilities are welcome. \$20. **docklands.yachting.org.au**

EVERY 1ST & 3RD SATURDAY, 10.30-11AM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

CODE CLUB

A fortnightly workshop that teaches children to code and improve their problem solving skills and logical thinking. For 9-11 year olds. Book via Eventbrite. **9658 9379** or **makerspace@melbourne.vic.gov.au**

8PM-12AM FEBRUARY 15-21, LIGHT HOUSE

YEAR OF DOG LIGHT SHOW

Don't miss the 15-storey light installation, Light House, dazzle every evening to celebrate the year of the dog this Chinese New Year. Catch a glimpse from Buluk Park to get the best view. FREE.

1ST & 3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 6.30 PM 700 BOURKE ST - ROOM 3.101

DOCKLANDS TOASTMASTERS

Boost your public speaking and leadership skills.

2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, 4-5.15PM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

JAZZ BREW CAFE

A monthly Docklands Jazz lounge at Library at The Dock's foyer. Sip some coffee while enjoying the diverse Jazz tunes. FREE.

6PM-8PM FEBRUARY 14, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

ECOCITY STORYTELLING

Meet local storytellers who share their ways of making Melbourne more sustainable through quick slide shows as part of this year's Sustainable Living Festival. Free snacks provided. FREE. Book on Eventbrite.

2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 2-4PM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

ADHD SUPPORT GROUP

Peer-support meetings or Q&A sessions with expert about ADHD in adults. Adults affected ADHD and their families and friends are encouraged to attend. \$2 donation. Facebook @AdultADHDMelbourne

WEDNESDAYS 5.45PM-7PM LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

OPEN DOOR SINGERS DOCKLANDS

Find your voice, experience the joy of singing in a choir and meet new friends.
www.opendoorsingers.org.au

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 9.30AM-12PM LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

CHINESE BOOK CLUB MORNING TEA

Meet other readers, have a chat and find some new Chinese books, magazines or DVDs to borrow. FREE

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 10AM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

Probus Clubs for men and women over 50. Meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities. Contact **mshpc.docklands@gmail.com**

EVERY SATURDAY, 9.30AM, COMMUNITY HUB AT THE DOCK

CYSM SEA DRAGONS

Three free dragon boating sessions. Contact Vicky at **cysm.seadragons@gmail.com**.
www.cysm.org/dragonboat

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LIBRARY AT THE DOCK - WEEKLY PROGRAMS

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Every Thursday 7-9pm
Challenge yourself with friends at this regular catch up of ping-pong enthusiasts.

TAI CHI AT THE DOCK

Every Thursday 7.30-8.30am
Come along to find your inner peace and power at this weekly community Tai Chi session that is open to people from all walks of life. The ancient Chinese martial art is a tranquil and graceful way to keep fit. Beginners welcome. FREE.

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.

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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE



Docklands is sound: agents

Local real estate agents have countered claims by investment advisor Terry Ryder who is warning apartment investors away from the CBD.

Mr Ryder's annual No Go Zones report claims the "single biggest danger" for investors this year was "buying apartments in some of our major cities".

In Melbourne's case, he highlights the CBD, Docklands and Southbank as areas to avoid, claiming that 3.4 per cent of Docklands apartments were vacant in November 2017.

"A good strategy for property investors is to simply avoid high-rise unit markets altogether," he says.

City Residential principal Glenn Donnelly said: "That's ridiculous as soon as we have a property to rent it is leased within days of it being advertised."

"We have over 400 properties on our rent roll and there is a zero vacancy rate on all of these 400."

Lucas Real Estate property management director Dylan Emmett agrees.

He told *Docklands News*: "In 2017 our vacancy rate was the best its ever been below 1 per cent all year and recently published that Docklands achieves the highest prices for units in Melbourne."

Join the lunchtime action!

Have you been watching Melbourne United smash it in the NBL this season?

From back-to-back wins, to guard Chris Goulding sinking his 300th three-pointer against the Brisbane Bullets, Melbourne United has been exceptional.

But don't just watch - put your own three-point skills to the test. Join the Active Melbourne City Sports' (AMCS) open basketball competition starting on February 19.

Three versus three games are played every Wednesday at lunchtime down at the Docklands courts between 12 noon and 1.30pm.

The program is designed to promote a healthy, active lifestyle for inner city workers.

Stephen from Silence of the Slams said: "Active Melbourne City Sports always runs a good competition. It's really convenient, being able to play in our lunchtimes during the week, with the courts right outside our building and it's great being able to socialise with the other teams."

In the past season, the AMCS program has

attracted more than 140 teams and 2100 participants and, with games taking place five days a week at Docklands Sports Courts and Flagstaff Gardens, there is an activity for everyone.

From basketball to barefoot bowls, soccer to Urban Street Cricket and much more, there's something for everyone so register yourself or a team today.

Team registrations close on Monday, February 5 for the upcoming 2018 autumn season and the competitions are filling fast. Register a team today by emailing activemelbourne@limelightsports.com or call **9690 2180**.



LUCAS

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