

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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A group of lucky children had the chance to meet Santa Claus in Docklands last month. Photo by Anita Milas

Good news for the esplanade

Concerns that large commercial buildings would be constructed along Harbour Esplanade were relieved last month after Places Victoria revealed the height of two of the new wharf decks.

Places Victoria announced it had received funding approval to reinstate the two wharf decks either side of Central Pier.

The decks will be rebuilt at the same height as the adjacent deck where *Cow up a Tree* and *Hortus* are located, which was rebuilt more than a decade ago.

The height of the decks precludes large commercial structures as they do not meet the Victorian Government's requirements to future-proof new building against rising sea-levels.

Since 2008, the State Government has required authorities to plan for a sea level rise of no less than 0.8 metres by 2100.

Accordingly, all new buildings in areas such as Docklands, which is considered to be within the sea level rise zone, are required to have a floor level 2.4 metres higher than the average sea level.

Concerns about likelihood of larger structures on the esplanade were originally raised when Places Victoria released the Harbour Esplanade master plan in December last year.

The street level height of the esplanade and the existing wharf decks is 1.4 metres above sea level, but the master plan proposed reinstating the two decks either side of Central Pier at 2.6 metres above sea level, seemingly to allow for larger structures.

However, the decks will now be rebuilt at street level, with construction set to begin by mid-2016.

Places Victoria says it will rebuild the northern-most and southern-most decks in the future as funding becomes available.

The master plan indicates the southern deck will be reinstated at street level, while the northern deck will be rebuilt at 2.4 metres above sea level.

According to Places Victoria general manager Simon Wilson, the reinstatement of the first two decks are the first phase of realising the Harbour Esplanade master plan, which aims to see the esplanade become a waterfront destination.

"The Harbour Esplanade Master Plan includes plans for green open space, improved connections and a number of zones including exhibition and events, water transport, heritage vessel and a recreation zone featuring a water play area," Mr Wilson said.

"There is potential for some buildings, such as partially reconstructed heritage sheds, along Harbour Esplanade to provide places where people can buy a drink, have a bite to eat or visit a gallery, which are the kinds of activities people want to do in the area based on feedback received during the community engagement," Mr Wilson said.

Ahoy there, Santa Claus!

Santa Claus made an early arrival to Docklands last month.

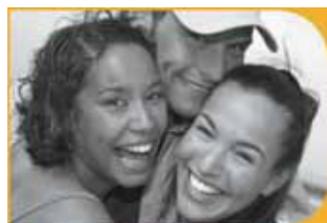
And, rather than travelling by sleigh, Santa took a distinctly Docklands mode of transport, arriving by boat.

Some 20 lucky children were invited to join Santa on board the *Lady Cutler* on November 21 after winning a Harbour Town competition.

After the boat docked at Melbourne City

Marina, Santa was joined by Mrs Claus, a band of elves, Cinderella, the gingerbread man and a bag-pipe band for a grand Christmas parade from the waterfront through to Harbour Town.

The parade ended at Harbour Town's enchanted forest, where Santa will be available for photos until Christmas Eve.



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Docklands Dragon slain

The much-loved Docklands Dragon is dead.

The 100-metre internally-illuminated drawcard was stripped of its spectacularly-coloured silk lining and its metal frame was crushed for recycling in March after completing its Chinese New Year (CNY) duties on Docklands' waterfront.

Its owner Red Rock Leisure says it is hopeful that funding for a new dragon can be found but that the original dragon had passed its "use-by" date after just two years.

Red Rock Leisure, with support from World Trade Centre and the City of Melbourne, originally commissioned the dragon for the 2014 CNY celebrations in Docklands.

Red Rock Leisure executive general manager John Forman explained that, after being assembled and deconstructed twice, the dragon had sustained too much "wear and tear" to be used again.

Local stakeholders were only made aware last month that the original dragon had been recycled and would not be returning to Docklands.

City of Melbourne contributed \$140,000 towards the 2014 Docklands CNY event and a spokesperson confirmed the council was aware the body of the dragon had been recycled.

"However, the dragon head has been retained and it is anticipated that it may be used again in 2016, along with a new range of lighting installations and decorations," the

spokesperson said.

"The City of Melbourne will provide sponsorship for two Chinese New Year events in 2016, through the Event Partnership Program."

Mr Forman said construction of another dragon would be dependent on securing government funding.

"The Melbourne CNY Marketing Advisory Committee is awaiting feedback from State Government if they will contribute funds to support this significantly important cultural, tourism event."

"The good news is I'm confident that CNY is continuing to grow momentum and 2016 will be the biggest CNY celebration that Melbourne has ever seen," Mr Forman said.

The advisory committee includes Mr Forman along with representatives from the City of Melbourne, the Chinatown Precinct Association, Destination Melbourne and various Chinese groups.

The 2016 CNY event is expected to include activations from Chinatown to Federation Square and along the Yarra to Docklands.

Exactly what form Docklands' celebrations will take is yet to be decided or funded, however *Docklands News* understands there have been discussions of a night Noodle Market on Harbour Esplanade, supported by lighting installations and entertainment.

New resident's association

The battle against short-stay apartments in residential buildings is set to go state-wide with the launch of a new association next month.

To be known as "We Live Here", the association will be formed at a meeting at the Medibank building in Bourke St, Docklands on Monday, December 14.

We Live Here is the brainchild of the Watergate tower owners' corporation (OC), which has been leading the fight against short-stays with various legal actions since 2012.

OC chair Barbara Francis said the idea stemmed from feedback received from residents and OCs across Melbourne keen to join the fight.

She said a new incorporated association would be formed to represent the interests of strata-titled residents on a range of matters.

"Although this campaign has originated from Watergate's ongoing efforts to regulate short-stay apartments, the main purpose is to encourage other like-minded residents to join together to have our voice heard," she said.

The association aims to give a voice to owners and occupiers of residential apartment buildings and to achieve legislative, planning and regulatory changes.

The group aims to effect change in a number of areas including:

- Protecting the rights of owners and occupiers;
- Maintaining residential apartment buildings for long-term residential accommodation;
- Enhancing the sense of community in residential buildings; and
- Supporting owners and residents of apartment building on issues affecting apartment living.

The first meeting will be held on December 14 from 5.30pm (for registration) on level 12 at 720 Bourke St, Docklands. Email: oc@watergate.net.au

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From left: Campbell Walker, Michael Ibbott, Matthew Reid and Michael Aladjem

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Destination Docklands communications manager Georgina Hood invites locals to buy a Christmas tree this month.

It's Docklands for fresh trees

By Eva Garnes

The only inner-city location to purchase fresh Christmas trees this December will be in Docklands.

What is Christmas without the smell of fresh pine, as the tree sparkles with lights and glitter?

On December 6, Destinations Docklands has organised a Christmas tree pop-up store in the NewQuay Piazza, offering fresh trees in the middle of the city.

With a wide selection of different heights, there will be something for everyone. Christmas Tree on the Run operator George Racz said: "The smell of the radiata pine is like Christmas perfume!"

Mr Racz has given customers the choice between 1.2m, 1.5m and 1.8m tall trees, and prices range between \$60 and \$90.

Additional dates for Christmas tree sales will be announced via the Destination Docklands' Facebook page.

Cinemas for Docklands

Movie lovers rejoice - Docklands is set to get its own cinemas.

Waterfront City developer Ashe Morgan last month announced it had signed Hoyts as the anchor tenant for its proposed multimillion-dollar entertainment precinct.

The cinema will have eight screens and will be built at the rear of Harbour Town, on what is currently the Wonderland Fun Park site.

Wonderland Fun Park will relocate to a new location under the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel early next year. See our next edition for more details.

The move is part of the developer's plan to reposition Waterfront City, including Harbour Town, as a shopping and entertainment drawcard.

Ashe Morgan purchased Harbour Town Shopping Centre, the ice-skating rink and undeveloped Waterfront City land parcels from ING Real Estate at the end of 2014.

Since then, it has steadily been progressing plans to revitalise the precinct.

While the Waterfront City moniker had slipped away in recent years, Ashe Morgan has reclaimed the name for the precinct.

Ashe Morgan principal Alton Abrahams said the company was excited to enter into a partnership with Hoyts.

"We are pleased to partner with Hoyts, a market leader in the entertainment industry that has a solid vision and continues to lead the guest experience for movie goers," Mr Abrahams said.

"We're confident that the addition of the Hoyts cinema complex will entice movie-goers from across Melbourne to visit Waterfront City and enjoy the unique shopping and entertainment experience

the centre is set to offer."

"It's great to see our vision for Waterfront City coming to life, and with the commitment from Hoyts, it represents another step towards the centre's transformation into a leading leisure and retail destination."

Hoyts Group CEO Damian Keogh said the company was excited about the new venture.

"We're excited to be part of the rejuvenation happening at the entertainment leisure precinct at Harbour Town Docklands - it's the perfect fit for Hoyts," Mr Keogh said.

"And we can't wait to keep pushing ourselves to continue to create cinemas of the future."

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell said the cinema would be wonderful for Docklands.

"It will certainly complement all of the work Ashe Morgan is doing at Harbour Town and will be a great drawcard for Docklands," Mrs Maxwell said.

"The Docklands Chamber of Commerce congratulates the management team at Harbour Town for initiatives across the centre and look forward to continuing to work with the traders as work continues."

Alongside plans for a cinema, Ashe Morgan is also currently completing upgrades to Harbour Town, including installation of a transparent roof canopy and creation of two piazzas.

The company will lodge a planning permit application for the new cinema with the City of Melbourne by the end of this year.

Subject to approval, construction of Waterfront city's "entertainment and leisure precinct" is scheduled to begin late next year.



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Boaties taxed for tax's sake

Local passenger boat operators say they are being bled dry by a tax that even the Government admits is used purely for administration of the tax itself.

Since mid-2012, operators have been required by the State Government to take out a tour operator licence (TOL).

However, many have refused to pay on the grounds that the fee unfairly targets their industry and provides nothing in return.

A Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) spokesperson confirmed that revenue collected through the licence was used on administration.

"The revenue collected from licensing is used for the ongoing administration of the licensing system. Administration of the licensing system includes assessing and issuing licences, regularly reviewing licence terms and conditions, undertaking compliance activities, etc," the spokesperson said.

"Tour operator licence revenue is used by land managers to improve public land and waters by ensuring that tour operators and activity providers are implementing the necessary risk measures, meeting relevant safety standards and complying with environment protection conditions."

Lady Cutler skipper and president of the Melbourne Passenger Boat Association (MPBA) Jeff Gordon said he would not pay the licence fee and is prepared to go to court over it.

He said other local operators had also refused to pay, some had felt pressured into taking out the licence while, for some operators, the licence had been the last straw and they had left the industry

"What we're operating on is a domestic waterway, we're not operating in a heritage or cultural area and we're not really running tours," Mr Gordon said.

Charter boats on the Yarra River had previously operated under trading vessel permits. However, when the relevant



Lady Cutler skipper and president of the MPBA is refusing to pay for a Tour Operator Licence.

legislation expired in 2012, operators were required to transition to the TOL system.

Under this system, any operator running an organised tour or recreational activity for profit on public lands or waters is required to hold a TOL.

Mr Gordon said fishing tour operators were granted an exemption from the licence but the MPBA had been unsuccessful in its attempt to be made exempt.

Licence fees are paid to the land manager in the area which, in the case of Docklands, is Parks Victoria.

A Parks Victoria spokesperson said the organisation was unable to provide a figure on the total revenue collected from charter boat operators in the last financial year, through the TOL.

Individually, operators are currently required to pay a \$282 annual fee along with \$2.40 per adult and \$1.60 per child, per day, capped at \$13,488 per year.

Mr Gordon explained that this was in addition to berthing fees all operators paid in

Docklands and elsewhere.

"I pay \$30,000 to have Lady Cutler here, I feel that fee entitles me to a berth by the wharf and to operate," he said.

He said the licence fee, along with berthing fees, operating costs, and underutilisation of the industry meant many operators were on their knees and needed support to survive.

"The question is, does the Government really want this industry?" Mr Gordon said.

"I believe the industry in Melbourne is terribly under-resourced. I think it has potential but it needs to be better recognised by the powers that be."

Mr Gordon said the licence fee did nothing for the Victorian passenger boat industry.

"In other states they collect money from water-users through licences and there's a lot that goes back to the water users," Mr Gordon said.

"In Victoria it appears that only a small percentage of the money is returned to water users."

Prices up, car parks down

By Jack Hayes

Once again, the price of parking your car in one of Docklands' numerous off-street car parks has continued to increase.

For the previous two years *Docklands News* has investigated public parking price rises in Docklands.

This frustration for commuters is further exacerbated by the loss of two 100-space car parks on Docklands Drive.

The most dramatic increase in price occurred at the rear of 737 Bourke St, where the first half-hour will cost you \$6 and the next half-hour will take your total to \$15. This is up from \$2 and \$7 respectively in 2014.

The car parks in the NAB and Ericsson buildings hold the mantle of "Docklands' most expensive car park", with a full days parking costing you a staggering \$65. And on the odd chance you accidentally lose your ticket, you're looking at an astonishing cost of \$75.

For the bargain hunters out there, the best value can be found at car parks throughout Harbour Town, with the cheapest costing a comparatively low \$3 for one hour, \$7 for up to four hours and \$10 for a full 24 hours.

Digital Harbour is the only car park that is able to boast a reduction in price from 2014 to 2015, with the flat rate price of parking decreasing from \$15 to \$13.

The explanation for this annual increase in price is unknown, but could be due to the miniscule amount of all-day parking available, compounded by a growing number of workers in the area.

With further car park sites set to make way for building developments, the price rise for Docklands parking is set to grow further.



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Community to have a say on school

The community will have a say in the continuing review of school needs in Docklands via a recently-formed community stakeholder group.

The Department of Education and Training is currently completing a review to assess primary and secondary school provision in Docklands, North Melbourne, the CBD and Carlton.

According to an Education Department spokesperson, the Community Reference Group (CRG) comprises 17 members, including 10 Docklands residents. The remainder live in nearby suburbs and the group also includes teachers and principals.

The aim of the group is to serve as a conduit for information between the Education Department, its consultants and the local community during the first stage of the school provision review.

The group was formed following a community workshop in Docklands attended by around 30 people at the end of October.

Serena Cheung is one of the Docklands residents who nominated for a position and was appointed to the CRG.

With a 15-month-old and another child on the way, advocating for a local school is extremely important to Ms Cheung.

"I love Docklands. I love living here - it's such a great community. I work in the CBD and my husband works in Docklands, so it's very convenient," Ms Cheung said. "But without a local school we'll be forced to move."

She said many parents in her mother's group were facing the same difficulties, with many considering moving out of the area due to the lack of schooling options.

Ms Cheung said she also nominated herself for the CRG in order to advocate for a bilingual school in Docklands.

"Because I have a Chinese background, I really want to advocate for a bilingual school. I want my children to keep the culture and learn the language," Ms Cheung said.

Fellow CRG member Michelle Styles has lived at Yarra's Edge with her family since 2009. With children aged four and seven, Ms Styles said there was a "desperate need" for a local school in Docklands.

"Docklands children miss out because they don't have that school community in their home suburb," Ms Styles said.

"There are children living here who want to be educated in the suburb they live, and it's just as important for the wider community."

Through her role on the CRG, Ms Styles said she hoped to make sure the voices of Docklands' parents were heard.

The CRG will meet for the first time in early December.



The City of Melbourne's rooftop mapping project revealed Docklands is leading the way when it comes to green roofs.

Our green rooftops

Docklands is Melbourne's leading suburb when it comes to putting its rooftops to "green" uses, but there remains plenty of untapped potential across local buildings.

A recent analysis of Melbourne's rooftops by the City of Melbourne found that Docklands had the greatest area of green roof in Melbourne, with over 11ha of greenery on our rooftops.

According to Cr Arron Wood, a high proportion of Docklands properties are also topped by solar panels.

"We also know from previous studies that Docklands has the highest concentration of Green Star rated buildings in the country," Cr Wood said.

"Our mapping of potential for greening indicates strong potential for expansion of existing green roofs and construction of new green roofs. The same is true for solar and cool roofs."

The study of Docklands' rooftops was part of the City of Melbourne's wider look at the Melbourne municipality's potential for increasing uptake of solar, cool and green roofs through The Rooftop Project.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said The Rooftop Project involved analysing aerial photographs to understand where rooftops could be transformed using solar panels, reflective materials or vegetation.

"There is so much potential right above us," the Lord Mayor said.

According to the council's research, rooftops in Melbourne make up 880 hectares of space.

"Most of these rooftops are used only to store heating and cooling equipment," Cr Doyle

said. "We could set them up to generate clean energy, increase property values and cool temperatures within the city."

The Rooftop Project research reveals Melbourne rooftops have the potential to house:

- 637 hectares of solar panels;
- 259 hectares of cool roofs (reducing the amount of heat held and transferred to the building below);
- 236 hectares of intensive green roofs (heavier vegetated landscapes); and
- 328 hectares of extensive green roofs (lightweight vegetated landscapes).

The mapping shows green or vegetated roofs are most suitable in built up areas such as the CBD, Port Melbourne and Docklands, while larger commercial and industrial buildings outside the CBD have great potential to house solar panels.

Cr Wood encouraged residents and business owners across Melbourne to look at the maps and consider whether their roof could be used to help reduce energy bills and save the environment.

He said rooftop solar would play an important role in helping the municipality's goal of sourcing 25 per cent of its electricity from renewable energy by 2018.

"Our research shows that solar panels could be installed on 637 hectares of rooftops - that's three times the size of the Hoddle Grid," Cr Wood said.



Around 30 people attended a school provision workshop in Docklands in October.

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New tower for Vic Harbour

Lend Lease has lodged a planning application for a 28-storey apartment tower surrounded by water.

No.1 Collins Wharf is set to act as a gateway to the new Collins Wharf precinct, for which Lend Lease is currently finalising its plans.

Located next to the Library at the Dock and the boating and community hub, the new tower will be situated in the middle of Victoria Harbour's community precinct.

"No.1 Collins Wharf will take advantage of Victoria Harbour's existing community assets, including Library at The Dock, over 80 retail stores and adjacency to free public transport, while featuring one of Melbourne's most unique addresses," Lend Lease director Jonathan Emery said.

Designed by Bates Smart, the tower will comprise 311 apartments and 10 "Collins St Terraces", described as three bedroom homes over three levels, with north-facing rooftop terraces.

"This highly sculptured tower is fortunate to be surrounded by water, a situation completely unique within Melbourne," Bates Smart director Kristen Whittle said.

"It heralds the beginning of a new precinct in out city set to redefine waterfront living in Australia."



An artist's impression of No.1 Collins Wharf.

The new tower proposal continues Lend Lease's strong push into the residential apartment market in recent years, with 1600 new homes to be built in the precinct by the end of 2017.

Mr Emery said Victoria Harbour's residential population would triple over the next three years.

"It's a very exciting time in Victoria Harbour," Mr Emery said. "Over the coming months we will welcome around 500 new residents to the precinct as people move into the Concavo building, and over the next two years we'll deliver a further 1600 homes across the 883, 888, 889 Collins St projects," he said.

Watergate back at court

The Supreme Court will hear the Watergate short-stay appeal during the first half of next year.

Lawyers representing the Watergate owners' corporation (OC) and short-stay operator Paul Salter appeared before the Supreme Court for a directions hearing on November 11.

The OC is appealing a Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) decision, which found it did not have the power to make rules prohibiting short-stays.

The VCAT case focused on action taken by the OC against nine owners of Watergate apartments used as short-stays through Paul Salter's Docklands Executive Apartments business.

The OC alleged the nine owners had breached multiple OC rules.

Following the VCAT finding against the OC, the Supreme Court Appeal will proceed on two of the nine matters, one relating to Mr Salter's own apartment, and will be heard together.

The remaining seven matters were struck out by VCAT, with right of reinstatement pending the outcome of the Supreme Court Appeal.

The appeal will be heard over two days next year.

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Looking for a helping hand

Travelling at peak hour on public transport can be pain at the best of times, but imagine what it would be like with a broken foot.

That's the challenge Docklands resident Brooke Parsons is facing on her daily commute to work.

The 35-year-old broke a bone in her right foot in February, an injury compounded by the fact she survived a stroke at just 13 years old.

Since surviving the stroke, Brooke says she has made remarkable progress, but recovering from injuries can take some time.

"In a normal case you would wear a 'moon boot' for about three weeks and get on with life," Brooke said. "But because I've had a stroke 20 years ago that compounds the break."

After five months in a "moon boot", her 42nd surgery in 22 years and a three-week stint in a rehab centre, Brooke returned to work as a clerical assistant at the Royal Children's Hospital in August.

However, returning to crowded trams has been a difficult experience and she's now looking outside the square for a way to get to work each day.

"Maybe there would be a retired person living in Docklands who would be prepared to drive me to and from work," Brooke asked.



Local resident Brooke Parsons is looking for someone to help her out with a lift to and from work. Can you help?

"The whole reason for looking for somebody is because I only have the use of one arm, have a walking stick now, and getting up and down the old Melbourne trams is becoming a bit difficult."

Brooke said she was happy to provide petrol money and hoped the opportunity would benefit both herself and any prospective drivers.

"It might provide a senior person with another avenue of socialising," Brooke said. "Being local, it would be nice to connect with someone else living in the community."

Brooke currently works Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8am until 2.30pm and is looking for a lift each day.

If you can help email Brooke at brookerenee.parsons@gmail.com

Community hub now open

Docklands' own Community Hub at The Dock is now operating.

The \$8.5 million community and boating hub is located next to Library at The Dock and will provide both family services and facilities for local boating groups.

The City of Melbourne has begun delivering family services from the centre and local boating clubs are expected to move in to the facility in early December.

A community launch event is planned for February.

The two-storey facility offers a community boating hub on the ground floor, which will be home to the Docklands Yacht Club, the Victorian Dragon Boat Association and the Melbourne Outrigger Canoe Club.

On the second floor you'll find Docklands' family services centre, which includes maternal and child health services, a playgroup room, an outdoor playground and a multi-purpose room for community hire.

The new community facility was developed through a tri-partite agreement between Places Victoria, the City of Melbourne and Lend Lease.



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Changes in store for OC Act?

Major changes could be in store for owners' corporations (OCs) throughout Victoria, if the State Government follows the lead of interstate authorities.

The Government is currently reviewing the OC Act, alongside other pieces of property legislation.

In October, the NSW government introduced the Strata Reform Bill, bringing with it a number of changes.

These include restrictions on length of contracts for OC managers and building managers, holding developers to account for promises made regarding low levies and curbing proxy farming.

In August, Minister for Consumer Affairs Jane Garret announced a comprehensive review of four pieces of property legislation including the Owners Corporation Act 2006, the Sale of Land Act 1962, Estate Agents Act 1980 and Conveyancers Act 2006.

In terms of the OC Act, the review would focus on the management, powers and functions of owners' corporations and conduct of professional owners' corporation managers.

In 2013, under the previous government, Consumer Affairs Victoria undertook a review of the regulation of owners' corporation managers, with public submissions closing on November 27, 2013.

However, the outcome of this review was never released.

A Consumer Affairs Victoria spokesperson said the current review would include findings from the 2013-14 review of the regulation of owners' corporation managers.

"The review will start with an issues paper, to be released before the end of the year, looking at licensing and conduct issues for owners' corporations managers, real estate agents and conveyancers," the spokesperson said.

"Issues papers relating to the other aspects of the legislation under review will be published in the coming months."

The spokesperson said members of the public would be invited to make submission to the review.

According to Strata Titles Lawyers CEO Tom Bacon, the Government should make accountability and transparency for the industries that service OCs a priority during the review.

"There are plenty of examples that I have seen of unfair, unreasonable and uncompetitive service contracts that affect a number of OCs, principally in the areas of strata management, elevator services and repairs, building management and internet and telephonic systems," Mr Bacon said.

"Also, the Government should clarify the OC's role in enforcing rules about overcrowding and boarding houses as it is becoming a large issue across the city."

"And I also believe that the practice of proxy farming should be brought to end as it has been in Queensland and as it will be in NSW with the 2016 legislation," Mr Bacon said.

Dock 5 OC chairperson Stan Ham said he would like the review to strengthen the power of owners' corporations to deal with short-stays.

"We're mostly concerned about short-stays," he said.

Currently, Dock 5 does not have an issue with short-stay accommodation in the building, however Mr Ham said many owners held concerns.

Mr Ham said he would also like to see a limitation on owners' rights to appeal OC committee decisions that enforce OC rules.



Isobel, Emily and Ebony at the O'Brien Group Arena in Docklands. Photo by Peter Riordan, Angry Panda Photography.

Local juniors to represent Australia

Three of Melbourne Ice's youngest players will represent Australia on the world ice hockey stage in January.

Isobel Cantrill and Ebony Rama, both aged 15 and Emily Davis-Tope, aged 14, are the three youngest members of Melbourne Ice Women's (MIW) team.

In January, the trio will head to Austria to represent Australia at the 2016 International Ice Hockey Federation U18 Women's World Championship qualifier.

Isobel said she had been playing with the Australian U18 Women's Ice Hockey team for three years. While team members are spread across Australia, Isobel said when the team meets it was like they had never parted.

"Personally, I feel like I am part of a massive family when I play with them. We all know each other like the backs of our hands and this shows when we get on the ice," Isobel said.

"This January we will be travelling to Austria to play in the world championships qualifiers and we all hope to get first place in our division."

"If we do come first we will then move onto the actual world championships, which would be a massive achievement because that would be the first time the Australian under18s women's team has qualified," Isobel said.

Isobel, Ebony and Emily will compete at the International Ice Hockey Federation Under 18 Women's World Champion Division One qualification event in Austria from January 7 to 11.

Playing with the MIW team and competing at the world championships is not without expense. Each of the girls must fund the \$2300 required to be part of the team and \$4500 for the world championship. All three are seeking sponsorship and anyone interested in assisting can contact NWU18T.Victoria@outlook.com

You can also see MIW team compete at O'Brien Group Arena on January 9 and January 10 and, if they make the finals, on February 6 and 7.

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Celebrating Cambodian culture

Local restaurant Bopha Devi raised more than \$2800 for Cambodian Living Arts earlier this year.

The NewQuay Cambodian restaurant celebrated its 10th anniversary in October by holding a masquerade fundraiser, which raised funds for an arts scholarship for disadvantaged Cambodian students.

Cambodia is currently experiencing an artistic renaissance after the Khmer Rouge wiped out an estimated 90 per cent of the artistic community during the 1970s.

Bopha Devi has a particular focus on celebrating this artistic renaissance.

"We want to encourage young Cambodians to connect with their heritage and support them in expressing themselves. Through them, Cambodia can inspire the world," said Bopha Devi co-owner Chan Uoy.

Mr Uoy was just five years old when his family joined thousands of refugees who fled to Thailand during the early days of the Khmer Rouge's reign. He and his family were among the first Cambodian refugees to arrive in Melbourne in 1976.

Mr Uoy is planning to return to Cambodia next year, bringing with him a group of travellers for an "immersion" tour of the country.

Part pilgrimage to the country he left behind, the tour will also celebrate, Khmer cuisine, culture, history and the blossoming arts scene.



Richard Claremont pictured with his award-winning artwork.

Richard takes out the top art prize

Richard Claremont took out the top prize at the Mission to Seafarers' annual ANL Maritime Art Awards and Exhibition last month.

Mr Claremont's work *Dusk, Port Kembla*, earned him the \$15,000 ANL Maritime Art Award, which was announced at the opening of the exhibition on November 7.

The piece depicts the industrial Port Kembla, in the Wollongong region of NSW, not far from Mr Claremont's home in Shellharbour.

"I live in the Wollongong area, which is renowned as an industrial port and every day I drive past the port and see this industrial imagery. That's where the painting stemmed from," Mr Claremont said.

This year is the second time Mr Claremont has entered the art awards, after placing third in the 2013 competition.

"The art award's topic (the relationship between humanity and the sea) is right up my alley," Mr Claremont said.

"I live in an area called Shellharbour, which is on the coast, so a lot of my paintings are

based on coastal imagery."

Mr Claremont said he was very surprised when told he had taken out the first prize this year and "couldn't be happier".

According to Mr Claremont, 2015 has been a fantastic year. He held an exhibition in Paris, won the maritime art award and is holding a major solo exhibition in December.

In his day job, Mr Claremont works as a postman, a job that allows him to spend most afternoons painting.

He said winning the \$15,000 prize would give him the opportunity to devote more time to his art in the coming year.

The exhibition opening last month also saw Vicki Parish win the Bendigo Wealth Emerging Artist Award for her piece *Looking Out*.

Mary Hyde was named the winner of the ASP Traditional Maritime Art Award for *Docked and Loaded*, while Maxwell Wilks won the Neville and Co Highly Commended Award for *Boarding British Loyalty in Heavy Weather*.

The annual exhibition is the Mission to Seafarers' major fundraiser, with all entries selected for the exhibition for sale and paying a 33 per cent commission to the mission.

North Wharf site sold

Developer Asset 1 has purchased the North Wharf site from the State Government for \$28.5 million.

The developer, which is part of Clement Lee's Riverlee Group, will develop a residential, hotel and retail development and refurbish the historic wharf and heritage-listed goods shed at the western end of the precinct.

Asset 1 says the proposal includes extensive public works, refurbishment of the wharf, restoration of the historic crane and delivery of a new public park. Wharf remediation works are expected to begin in 2016.

Asset 1 previously received planning approval for a proposal including the partial demolition and redevelopment of the goods shed, construction of a 13-storey office tower, retail, cafes, restaurants, an art gallery and refurbishment of the existing Seafarers Rest Park.

The developer is yet to receive planning approval for the new proposal.

According to Riverlee founder Clement Lee, the North Wharf concept is the final part of a long-term vision to revitalise Melbourne's Northbank precinct.

"Our vision is to deliver an integrated and iconic precinct - a new waterfront destination for Melbourne," Mr Lee said.

The North Wharf precinct will be activated with pop-ups throughout the summer, as part of a pre-activation plan.

Find the Wharf (FT.W) pop-up bar will serve cocktails and offer food from food trucks throughout the summer.

Eilish Cooke answers your legal questions.

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Waterways reform back on the table

An agreement to reform the governance of local waterways is back on the table after major stakeholders agreed on a new comprised position last month.

It comes after Parks Victoria (PV) withdrew from a consensus position on an initial agreement at the final meeting of the Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Group (LYRUFDDG) on October 16.

It is understood that PV chair Andrew Fairley and acting CEO Chris Rose would not accept the committee's collective recommendation and it was subsequently feared that all hope for reform was lost.

However, following a report published in last month's *Docklands*, LYRUFDDG chair Tony Kelly met with members from the private sector and hammered out a renewed compromise position pointing to the establishment of a single authority for local waterways.

Mr Kelly said he expected to present the final recommendations to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Lisa Neville, in December.

"Negotiations had taken longer than I expected but I believe the stakeholders have arrived at a workable and pragmatic solution that I can confidently take to the Minister," he said.

"I will now be presenting the report to the Minister, who I anticipate will consider the findings and consult with relevant ministers, government agencies and other key stakeholders in determining her response."

The final report recommends an agreed vision for the river, a plan for the renewal of berthing licences, strategies for new infrastructure to support on-river activities, investing in dredging of the Yarra River and an improved process for event approvals.

Docklands News understands that the recommended governance arrangement would be led by an independent and interim advisory body consisting of three

government appointed members, who would work with regulator Parks Victoria to manage the waterway.

With a suggested name of the Lower Yarra Port Board, the new committee would employ a CEO and would draw support from Parks Victoria and the City of Melbourne.

Yarra River Business Association (YRBA) representative John Ahern said, if adopted, the new arrangements would help to transform Melbourne's waterways.

"The proposed governance arrangements when adopted by the Minister will create for the first time a body that is dedicated to activation of the river, one that takes a strategic approach to economic development and tourism and provides a focal point for private sector investment in on-river activation," Mr Ahern said.

The LYRUFDDG now has 18 months to establish a business case for the model and it is understood that Parks Victoria would be given the option of having a fourth member on the new committee.

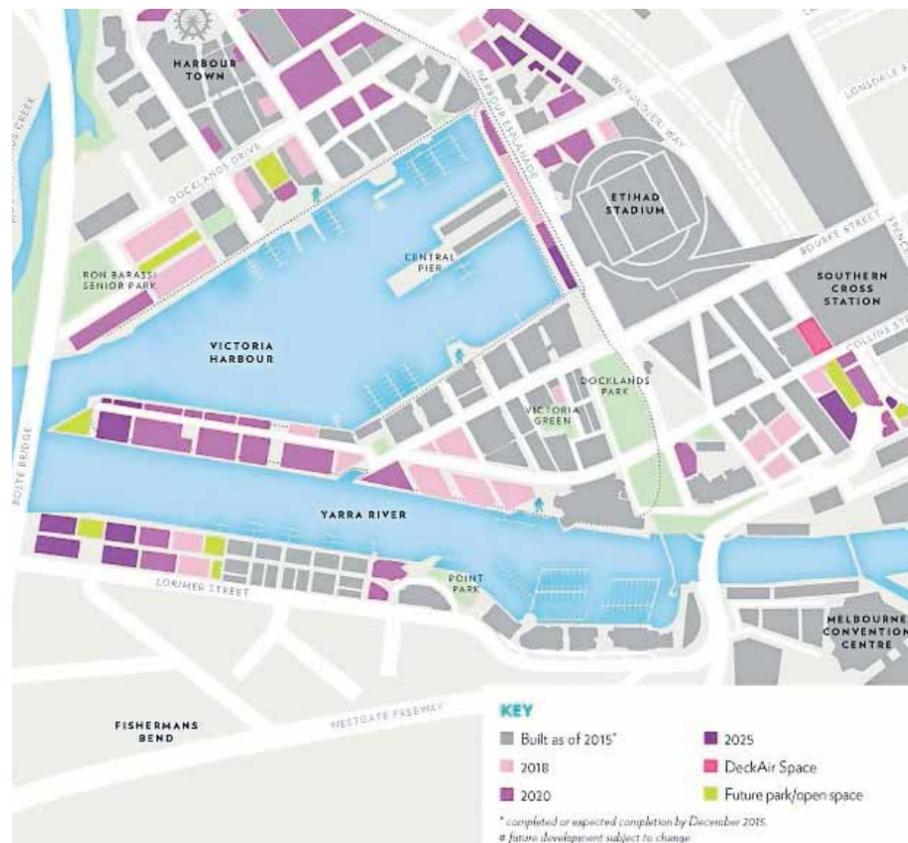
The group remains unanimous in its desire to establish a single independent authority to govern the waterways and Melbourne Passenger Boating Association president Jeff Gordon said the recommendations were a step in the right direction.

"The negotiations were challenging but in the end we have reached a compromise position that will give the current commercial operators on the river confidence into the future but still with the hope that we can transition to a fully independent board," he said.

"We trust the Minister will ensure the interim board is properly funded to carry out its work and new arrangements are put in place early in the new year."

After talks spectacularly collapsed and arrangements appeared to be heading back to the status quo, Mr Kelly thanked members for their perseverance.

"I would like to thank all the group members for their time and contribution," Mr Kelly said.



Places Victoria's most recent development map shows Docklands' current rate of development.

Docklands development

You might take a look around Docklands and think it's pretty much finished, but take a closer look and you'll see there's still plenty more development still to come.

According to Places Victoria general manager Simon Wilson, Docklands is only 60 per cent complete, with remaining land to be developed over the next decade.

"People who don't live, work or visit Docklands often have a misperception that Docklands is a 'finished product' so to speak," Mr Wilson said.

"They are often surprised to see so much building activity underway and large areas of land yet to be developed."

Current projects under construction include M Docklands, 883, 888 and 889 Collins St in Victoria Harbour, Forge at Wharf's Entrance and Promenade, Aquis and Marina Tower at NewQuay.

In 2016 we're likely to see Lend Lease begin construction at Melbourne Quarter.

Construction of the Banskia tower at

NewQuay is also scheduled to start next year.

Meanwhile, Capital Alliance has lodged permits for a mixed-use development and residential development at Waterfront City, while a permit has recently been granted for a residential tower at 699 LaTrobe St.

According to Mr Wilson, Docklands has attracted \$10 billion in private development and Places Victoria has returned the upfront cost of infrastructure in Docklands to the Victorian Government with interest.

"During the next 10 years or so of development I think we will see Docklands become an even better place to live and work," Mr Wilson said.

"I think it will also offer a stronger visitor experience as connectivity is improved through the redevelopment of Harbour Esplanade and as more fine-grain development occurs."

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Alma Doepel update

Fundraising for the restoration of Docklands' historic tall ship the Alma Doepel continues and an innovative crowd-funding platform is being used to reach targets.

The Alma team are utilising *act.*, which is the newest division of community sector banking and is part of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bendigo Bank Group.

The new banking model uses crowd-sourcing to raise money for a wide range of social enterprise projects.

The Alma Doepel team has already raised \$5000 to replace some of the structural bracing for the Alma's hull through *act.*

The team is currently attempting to raise the \$7000 needed to build a new 15-metre-long course yard, a horizontal spar on the foremast, through the platform. Watch their progress at www.letsact.com.au/projects/the-long-yard/

Each project is live for a maximum of 60 days and, like other crowd-funding models, if the target isn't reached in time, the project won't be funded.

The platform allows *act.* customers to generate "impact dollars" through their banking habits. A customer who holds a



Sail and Adventure director and head of strategic initiatives at Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, Sally Shepherdson, with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank managing director Mike Hirst.

\$250,000 mortgage with *act.* will generate around \$31 a month to reinvest in a project of their choice.

So far *act.* has helped to fund more than \$155,000 in social projects since it was launched in November last year.

"letsact.com.au is a world-first crowd-funding model. It provides opportunities to social enterprise, charities and not-for-profit organisations to raise funds for projects outside of their traditional fundraising initiatives," managing director of Bendigo

and Adelaide Bank Mike Hirst said.

The fundraising tally for November is: \$8150
 Valerie Vernon: \$100
 Michael Morris: \$250
 ADSC: \$2200
 DCC: \$4500
 Freemason Y2KERS: \$500
 Freemasons Foundation Australia: \$500
 Cruising Yacht Association of Victoria: \$100

New childcare centre

Docklands families will soon have another option for childcare, with an early learning centre set to open at Harbour Town early next year.

Harbour Town last month announced it had secured Giraffe early Learning Centre as a new tenant.

The new childcare centre is scheduled to open in March next year and will be located on the upper level of the centre.

Catering for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers, the centre will have the capacity for 150 children.

Giraffe Early Learning Centre director Jacqui Scheinberg said: "We are very excited to be part of this project and join the Docklands precinct."

Alton Abrahams, principal at Ashe Morgan, which owns Harbour Town and the Waterfront City precinct, said the company was excited to enter into a partnership that would provide a brand new child care centre for locals and workers alike.

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Who will pay for Lacrosse?

Questions remain over who will pay for the estimated \$5 million worth of compliance works required at the Lacrosse building in Docklands.

In October, the City of Melbourne issued all 400 Lacrosse owners with building orders requiring them to replace the external cladding on their building within 350 days.

But owners say Lacrosse builder LU Simon should be held responsible for making the building compliant with Australian building standards.

Fraser Main, managing director of Lacrosse's facilities management company, Trevor Main Group, said he has made it clear to LU Simon that owners expected compliance works to be completed at no cost to themselves.

He also confirmed owners had appealed the building orders.

Mr Main said owners were also working with City of Melbourne, the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) and LU Simon to develop a proposal that didn't involve the complete replacement of the external cladding.

Earlier this year an MFB report found that combustible materials used in the non-compliant cladding contributed to the rapid spread of the November 25 fire at the building, which was started by a stray cigarette.

It's estimated that the cost of replacing the cladding would be at least \$10,000 to \$15,000 per apartment and an overall cost of more than \$5 million.

City of Melbourne held an information session for owners on October 27, allowing them to hear from municipal building surveyor Joseph Genco, VBA director Jarrod Edwards and Mr Main.

Speaking at the meeting Mr Main said it was

the company's position that owners and tenants shouldn't pay for the compliance works.

"I've made it absolutely clear to LU Simon of your collective expectation, which is that they will make this building compliant at no cost to yourselves," Mr Main said.

He said LU Simon had committed to working with Trevor Main Group.

"They want to and expect that they will be part of the solution to get the building compliant," Mr Main said.

While there is no legal action currently being proposed, Mr Main confirmed the Lacrosse Owners' Corporation had engaged a law firm and, if it got to that point, there was a good chance of a successful outcome for owners.

"If this becomes a purely legal process then I think the legal advice has been very firm that the OC would be successful," Mr Main said.

However, Mr Main said legal action could take up to three years to be resolved, which would not appease the municipal building surveyor in terms of the compliance of the building.

Mr Main said, while it was important to work in the most collaborative way possible, it was also important that the parties were prepared to take the next steps legally.

A spokesperson for LU Simon said: "LU Simon builders is working with relevant parties to try to resolve the issue. Whilst these processes are underway, and particularly until the separate investigations have concluded, it is inappropriate to comment further."

Many owners at the meeting expressed frustration that they had been issued with the building orders when they were not responsible for the use of the non-compliant material.

Mr Genco explained that current legislation meant owners were responsible for making the building compliant and had to be issued to building owners individually.

He said the council did not have the option to issue building orders to anyone apart from owners, even if it was found that the developer was at fault.

"The legislation is very, very simplistic and I've raised that time and time again previously and especially in my report that's part of the post-incident analysis, that it really hasn't kept abreast of modern building structures, multi-storey, multi-owner type buildings that we have here," Mr Genco said.

In his post-incident report, Mr Genco said the Building Act, in requiring action to be directed to owners did not recognise the OC's responsibility for shared services or responsibility to act on owners' behalf when incidents such as the Lacrosse fire occurred.

He said the building notice and order requirements in the Act also did not cater for large, complex buildings.

While questions remain over how the building will be made compliant and who will pay for the work, owners will soon learn the outcome of the Victorian Building Authority's (VBA) investigation into the conduct of LU Simon and the relevant building surveyor.

Speaking at the October meeting, VBA director of technical and regulation Jarrod Edwards said the investigation was well underway and was expected to conclude by the end of the year.

He said if the VBA found there was misconduct, it would become a matter for the Building Practitioners Board to consider how suitable it was for the practitioners in question to maintain their registration.

He said the practitioners board did not have any authority to direct works relating to rectification.

He said the VBA also had the authority to prosecute before a court of law, however there was no authority to direct rectification works through this process.



Paul Klisaris.

New owners for Kool Kidz

By Eva Garnes

In November, City of Monash councillor Paul Klisaris, and his wife Kathy, took over the Kool Kidz childcare service.

"How we behave as adults is crucial to the development of children. Our aim is to create a positive environment for the children in our care," Cr Klisaris said.

"The parents at Kool Kidz have high expectations, and we have set the bar high to meet these."

"We decided to go for this specific childcare centre due to the amazing facilities. Combined with over 20 years of experience in education, we can provide this positive environment for the children here," Cr Klisaris continued.

On November 23 he finished his third term as Mayor of the City of Monash, but will continue as a councillor.

"The Docklands is an amazing, stand-alone suburb to Melbourne and it is moving towards a higher need for educational resources. Our childcare centre provides a part of the first step towards the full-range offer families in the Docklands deserve, along the same lines as the more established suburbs," Cr Klisaris concluded.

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Complaints over sport noise

By Eva Garnes

A Docklands couple say the City of Melbourne is failing to police late night noise at the Docklands Sport Courts.

Since the courts opened in 2013, Watergate residents Graham and Rose Mercer have lodged several noise complaints with the council. However, they say the council has failed to address their concerns.

The last time the Mercers contacted the council with noise complaints was on November 2.

Their complaint related to a large group of children and grown-ups using the courts at 10.30pm, half an hour after the council's set closing time.

This is not the first time Mr and Mrs Mercer have lodged noise complaints against late-night use of the sports courts.

"We shouldn't have to do the council's job of enforcing the rules they have put on the use of the courts," Mr Mercer explained. "We were not informed about the construction of the courts and now the council needs to do the right thing and ensure that residents are not bothered at night by their use."

The couple say they have been awoken several times after midnight by groups of



Rose and Graham Mercer say the Council has failed to address late-night noise at the Docklands Sports Courts.

people playing sports. "The backboards of the basketball nets were finally changed recently and when there is only one person playing it is not that bad. But when a group of people start playing a game after midnight, it gets too loud for us to sleep," they both agreed.

Mr Mercer continued: "There are signs that the council has hung up around the court, but they are easy to miss. And every time we lodge a complaint we either get sent to a new person or we hear nothing back."

Watergate's building manager Marshall Delves said that no other residents had contacted him directly with complaints about the sport courts. "We try to accommodate the residents as much as possible, but unfortunately this is not under the control of the building management or the owners' corporation, but a matter

between the residents and the council," he said.

When contacted about the complaints, a council spokesperson said: "The City of Melbourne has installed signage at the Docklands Sports Courts advising that the courts are closed from 10pm to 6am."

"We ask users to respect the amenity of local residents and refrain from using the courts at these times. We are also aware that Docklands is growing and more people are moving through the area during both the day and night."

"This may result in increased noise, which in some cases is not related to inappropriate use of the courts. We advise residents who are concerned about noise levels in the area to contact Victoria Police, rather than investigate the matter themselves."

Short-stays in Parliament

The short-stay issue heated up outside the courtroom last month.

Greens Melbourne MLA Ellen Sandell called on the State Government to investigate banning short-stays in residential buildings.

Ms Sandell moved the motion in Parliament, but so far the Government is stifling debate by refusing to put it, and a number of other motions, on the agenda.

She also moved that the lower house "noted the concerns of Docklands and CBD residents about the proliferation of short-stay apartments in the area, noting especially that short-stay tenants have led to a loss of amenity to residential neighbours and damage to communal areas and property".

Ms Sandell also moved a motion that the house call on the Consumer Affairs and Planning Ministers to publish a response to the report of the independent panel on short-stay accommodation by the end of the year.

Ms Sandell also issued a number of questions to Minister for Consumer Affairs Jane Garrett around the issue of short-stays.

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Enterprize voyage

Local tall ship Enterprize has had a busy few weeks, journeying through Bass Strait to Portland.

Departing Victoria Harbour on November 15, the topsail schooner visited King Island, Warrnambool and Port Fairy on her voyage to Portland.

The ship spent a week in Portland, conducting sails and welcoming visits from school and community groups.

Some 11 schools visited the ship during the week, with more than 400 students learning about the history of the original Enterprize and gaining an insight into what sailing on an 1830s ship was like.

A group of students will also participate in sail training on board the ship on its return journey to Docklands.

The group of students will learn the basics of sailing and seacraft and experience the difficulty of living in close quarters.

The journey back to Melbourne will include sailing by the seal colony on Lady Julia Percy Island and a visit to King Island.

Enterprize will be back in Docklands on December 7.



The Royal Air Force Band will perform at the Docklands Festival of Giving this month.

Family fun at Festival of Giving

Rotary Docklands' Festival of Giving is back for a second year this December.

The festival, on Sunday, December 6, will see NewQuay Promenade transformed, with a range of entertainment and activities for all ages.

The pre-Christmas event offers a range of family-friendly activities.

See the Royal Air Force Band and the Salvation Army Band perform, join in a Zumba session, learn how to swing dance or have a go at belly dancing.

Roving entertainers will keep the crowds entertained and a range of bands, singers and performers will take to the stage.

Visitors and locals will also be able to enjoy

some tasty treats from a range of food stalls and pick up some Christmas gifts from a variety of stallholders.

A Giving Tree, where people can leave Christmas gifts to be distributed to the less fortunate, will also be available at nearby Harbour Town.

Harbour Town, in conjunction with Rotary Docklands and The Salvation Army, launched the tree on December 1. Visitors and shoppers can donate unwrapped gifts until December 24.

The Festival of Giving will raise funds for the Royal Children's Hospital Bio-Ethics Centre.

Last social club for 2015

Join in the festive fun and come along to the last social club for the year.

Locals will gather at new Docklands venue TAP831 at 831 Bourke St from 7pm on Wednesday, December 9.

The Docklands Social Club offers locals an opportunity to get to know each other in an informal setting. Last month around 20 residents gathered at Platform 28.

Come along for a drink or sit down for a meal. Everyone is welcome.



Around 20 locals attended the November social club.

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Yvonne Zhou-Grundy, Paul Keisler, Joanne Tran, Joh Maxwell, Stefanie Schulz, Paul Salter and Tony Bailo.

Chamber re-elected

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce has re-elected its executive committee for a new term, following its AGM last month.

Johanna Maxwell will continue on as president of the chamber, Josephine Tan is acting as both vice-president and treasurer, due to vacancies on the executive committee and Paul Keisler continues as secretary.

Tony Bailo, Paul Salter and Yvonne Zhou-Grundy continue their roles on the executive committee.

Following the November 11 AGM, three positions on the executive were vacant, however Glenn Donnelly recently filled one of the roles.

Mrs Maxwell said the Chamber was speaking with two other members about filling the remaining vacant positions.

Hidden gems revealed

By Eva Garnes

Melbourne's red-shirted visitor hosts were given an exclusive look at Docklands last month.

The City of Melbourne regularly organises familiarisation tours for the volunteers and the group descended on Docklands on November 25.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Stefanie Schulz said: "We want to show off the diversity of what is on offer in the Docklands, for both tourists and locals. So when the City of Melbourne approached us to put this

on, we never hesitated."

Ms Schulz guided the group of volunteers around Docklands before finishing up at All Smiles reception centre in NewQuay for drinks and nibbles.

"There tend to be a lot of misconceptions about the Docklands and we wanted to show them not only the closeness of the precinct to the city, but also the hidden gems," Ms Schulz continued.

The tour concluded with a Docklands-themed quiz, with the volunteers enthusiastically yelling out the answers, proving that they are ready to answer any questions about the area that tourists may have.



Melbourne's visitor guides were given an exclusive tour of Docklands last month.



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Last lunch for 2015

Some 55 local stakeholders gathered for the final Docklands Networking Lunch of the year last month.

Attendees gathered at The Woolshed Pub for an afternoon of networking and socialising, with many contacts made and friendships forged.

Hosted by *Docklands News* and the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, the quarterly Docklands Networking Lunches offer a great opportunity for local business people to connect with each other.

The first networking lunch for 2016 will be held on Friday, March 18 at TAP831 at 831 Bourke St.

The menu for the March lunch is:

Entree: Scallops

Mains: Lemon pepper calamari or Chicken Saltimbocca

Dessert: Victorian cheese plate

Beverages: Tap beer, house red, house white and non-alcoholic beverages

The networking lunch is \$60 per person. To book your seat contact *Docklands News* via lunch@docklandsnews.com.au or call the office on 8689 7979.



Jan Gielnik, Lina D'Ambrosio and Glenn Donnelly.



Lyn Kelly and Ailsa McDonald.



Deb Fribbins and Tony Bailo.



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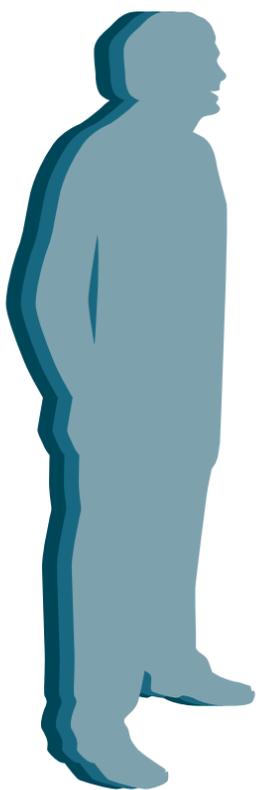
Discover Christmas magic in Docklands

Walk the Webb Bridge and look up to see giant baubles, experience the beautiful living Christmas tree complete with giant presents at Library at The Dock, and watch the sun set over the water at one of Dockland's dining hotspots.

Say hello to Santa at Harbour Town Melbourne and don't forget to keep an eye out for his reindeers as you take a ride on the Melbourne Star.

#MelbXmas melbourne.vic.gov.au/christmas





DOCKLANDER

Profile by
Eva Garnes

It's all about the location

Tomas Jajesnica moved to the Docklands seven years ago, and brought with him an aura of calm, focus and laughter.

"I love it here, and if I had the chance to live anywhere I would still be living in the Docklands," Tomas explained.

According to Tomas, the best feature of the Docklands is location, location, location.

"Not many places have the city in their backyard and the water in the front yard," he continued.

Not only does he love living in Docklands, he also works here. This gives him the opportunity to spend as much time as possible around his favourite area in Melbourne.

Tomas works for himself as the "chief meditation officer" at Mr Meditate, and offers meditation and laughter classes to

Docklands corporations.

"We are all chasing after happiness and this is keeping us from realising that we already are happy. In today's society we are stressed, living with a constant information overload and losing productivity by having to multitask," he explained.

Through meditation classes and the use of laughter, Tomas aims to create a calm and focused environment for his clients, as well as increasing their productivity.

His involvement with the mental health of Docklanders does not stop at the end of the working day. He is a central member in the re-starting of the Docklands Social Club.

"We want to have an arena where people

living in Docklands can come together and inspire each other. The first meeting went great, and everyone talked about the things we are all interested in," he said.

As for the future of the Docklands, Tomas is sure that more and more people will be drawn towards the area.

"It will be an integral part of Melbourne and significant for the future of Melbourne, both as a place for living and working," he said.



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Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to news@docklandsnews.com.au

Vendetta claim

I have watched with alarm, over what seems like several years now, the number of news items that have appeared in Docklands News in relation to the Watergate OC short-stay issue involving short-stay operators Docklands Executive Apartments.

Despite the OC's claims that this is not a vendetta, it clearly is.

Despite the case for short-stay accommodation in residential buildings being successful with the BAB, Supreme Court and VCAT it seems this particular OC is hell bent on winning at all costs with its continual appeals!

I myself live part-time in a residential building in Docklands (not the building in question) and we have had several issues with long term tenants on our floor, including loud and obnoxious neighbours having a party that went on until 5am despite my polite requests to reduce the noise.

Another incident, where strange smells were emanating from the apartment of full-time tenants and scary looking people arriving at odd times, culminated in a police raid with lots of shouting and banging, leaving us feeling uneasy and questioning our security in our "secure" building.

My point is that one of the main arguments the OC has against short-stay tenants is safety, behaviour and security issues.

It is not only short-term visitors who are capable of making a nuisance of themselves. Guests of a business like Docklands Executive Apartments are required to pay security deposits and are screened closely and personally taken to their rooms.

I believe that the issue of extra fire alarms and other safety issues have been addressed in this building to cater for the hotel style accommodation that is available in that building.

Having run an accommodation business myself, I am aware of the hard work and diligence that this entails and I commend the owners of Docklands Executive Apartments on the way they run their business.

From my understanding they have had only one or two incidences, that were quickly dealt with during the time they have been operating the business at Watergate.

In a city that is rapidly growing and with events happening here all the time, a variety of accommodation needs to be available and, indeed, the actions of this OC in attempting to make the rules in these buildings prevent short-stay accommodation



could potentially affect a huge industry and create a sudden shortage of accommodation in our popular city.

I wonder too, with the popularity of Airbnb, how the OC plans to prevent individual owners from renting out their apartments using this method?

Perhaps a better solution would be to regulate this industry and a co-operative approach be taken.

While the writers of the OC letter published in the November issue 114 of *Dockland News* labels the business owners of short-stay accommodation as self-interested and takers, I challenge the writer to answer why they judge so harshly someone who has the courage to run a small business and why shouldn't they make a profit?

We live in a city and the city accommodates a variety of different people, some who make delightful neighbours, some indifferent and some downright unpleasant.

As in all areas of life it is the minority who spoil it for the majority and in this case the focus has been on a minority of potential troublemakers and turned the whole issue into a complex, expensive circus.

The writers who support their already-expensive body corporate fees being used for litigation, clearly do not have a community mindset so I am curious why they would choose to live in such close proximity to other people where they are expected to share facilities in a co-operative and friendly way.

Helen Scott
Manager, Palm Bay Resort

AWAY FROM THE DESK

with Mike Cairnduff

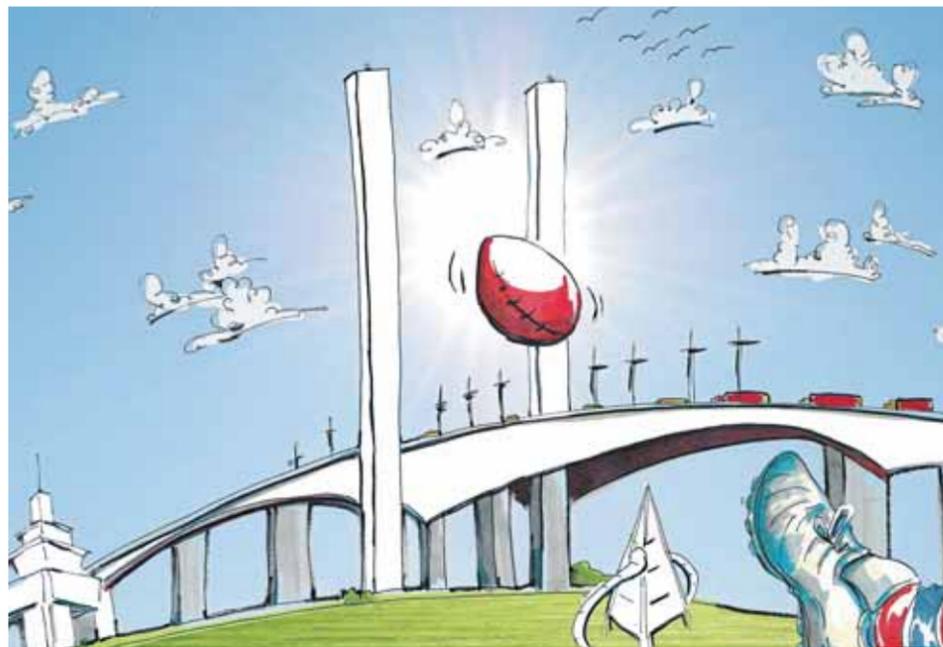


Illustration by Dave&Tam

Ron Barassi Snr Park kicks goals

Visiting Docklands' latest park had been on my mind for a while.

So one lunch break last week, I got away from the desk and made the trek to Ron Barassi Snr Park.

My colleague, Tam, was pleased to join me. We office workers need to get out into the greenery every now and again!

Getting to the park was half the fun as we got to take in the many intriguing sculptures along the way.

We strolled along the soon-to-be-revamped Harbour Esplanade docks. Hopefully the *Cow Up A Tree* sculpture – a unique talking point for many Docklands visitors – stays put. Docklands wouldn't be the same without it.

Meandering our way along NewQuay Promenade, we caught a glimpse of a few kids climbing over the concrete wonders known as *Monument Park*. I wonder if the sculpture's creator had envisioned this kind of interaction with their masterpiece? Hmmm

Finally, we sauntered past the crouching red men – or *Meeting 1* – an intriguing sculpture to say the least. While I find this one quite soothing, I often wonder what they're pondering.

A twist and a turn later, Tam and I had reached Ron Barassi Snr Park.

I can't quite recall whether Tam's first words were "oh wow" or just "wow", but either way she was pretty impressed. So too was I.

On arrival, the Bolte Bridge practically hit us in the face (in a good way). It makes for a wonderful entrance to the park.

One of the first things we admired was the

native Australian landscape. It was so nice to see a city park dotted with nothing but local plant species. With Docklands' gusty winds and sometimes up-and-down weather conditions, I guess it makes sense to plant only the hardy Aussie stuff.

The grass was green. Wintery green, in fact. Perfect condition for a game of footy.

The kids' park is practical, high quality and futuristic. I reckon its sand and water features will keep kids happy for hours. The developer deserves a pat on the back.

The other thing which stood out for us was the car park under the bridge. Yes, you read right, the car park.

Situated directly underneath the Bolte, it makes great use of an area that would otherwise have been a dusty wasteland where nothing flourished. On a hot day, your car keeps cool as your family has fun in the park. Simple, but awesome.

It's pretty obvious that a lot of time, money and effort has been poured into this park – and deservedly so. Ronald James Barassi Snr, the Melbourne Football Club player whom the park is named after, served in the army and was killed in action in 1941.

Barassi would have been proud of this park.

As time ticked away, Tam and I realised that we had to get back to the office. Our warm and imaginative thoughts of Barassi dissipated as the reality of shuffling papers and attending meetings took over.

We plan on taking regular walks to this unique part of the Docklands. The park, like Barassi himself, won't be forgotten.

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Dr. Anne Dynon





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

We have a finite number of days. Even those of us who may live a blessed life, free from too much pain or illness, accidents or threat, there will still be a day when it ends. A day when our life on earth will be over.

Tragically, there are people for whom this day arrives unexpectedly, often in terrible circumstances, as we have seen on our television screens and newspapers, photos covering the atrocities in so many countries. Terrorism, famine, flood, domestic violence, mass shootings and more.

As we watch the bodies of babes on the shoreline, wrenched from the desperate grip of their parents as they seek refuge throughout the world. As we watch in horror the devastation the suicide bombers of terrorism inflict in cities we dreamt of returning to. As we recoil in disbelief at the ever increasing tally of those who are killed by their own partners, here, in our own country. As we read in disgust, those who

take another's life to service their own greed.

At times, it is hard to stop the tears from falling from our eyes. It is hard to do anything but feel overwhelmed by the seeming destruction of humanity. It is hard to feel positive in the face of such pain being inflicted on so many people.

But we live on. And with that, I think we should see what a privilege that opportunity is. We have the opportunity to still draw breath each day and, as surrounded as we may be with the horrors that can and do exist in life, we also can embrace the beauty and power of our own lives.

We must live a life that is worthwhile. We must not waste the gift of living that we have been generously given. We have an enormous capacity to love, to be compassionate, to be supportive, to be forgiving.

We have an opportunity to reflect on our lives, how we are living them, and ask ourselves "is this enough?"

Are you being your best, are you giving all you should, are you helping those around you, are you standing up for your beliefs and for yourself? Are you being the person you want to see the world become? Are you

making a difference? Are you living this life, that you are so lucky to have, to its fullest?

I haven't been. I have been overwhelmed by what has gone wrong and I've become lost in my own pain, disappointments and feelings of loss. I've lost my "joie de vivre". I've been functioning in my life. My business is growing. My son is happy and doing well at school. I am still the chair of the volunteer community group and continue to support charity. I'm doing all the things that should be a life well lived. But I forgot, just for a while, to really live my life. I let go of love, of the beauty and hope we have as humans in this incredible life.

My passion for life got overtaken by the harsh realities of the world at large, and got dampened by the very real disappointments of events that happened to me personally.

I forgot to dance to my favourite songs. I forgot to sing - however badly - at the top of my lungs. I forgot to do the things I love - to paint, to pick flowers, to tell people I love them. I forgot the simplicity of being open and engaged. I shut down, trying to block things from hurting.

So, I am going to fix this, and I'm asking you to join me. I am asking you to take a deep breath with me, and look up to the skies, to

the heavens above. And I want you to feel how lucky we are, how lucky we are to have this opportunity to live our lives, to make a difference.

Let's show each other more love, more consideration, let's help each other. Let's share our dreams and our goals. Let's dance together, and laugh and be happy - for the awful things will continue to happen in the world, but surely we can put our energy into creating the beauty, in creating the light that overcomes the darkness.

What a woman wants is for the world to be a happy and beautiful place, but what a woman needs to know is that she has an opportunity right now to live a wonderful life. Reach out with me and let's bravely and ferociously love every opportunity to live this life on earth.

This Christmas, let's be grateful, let's be determined, and let's help the world feel the love and light humanity can bring. We all have a finite number of days. Let's make them count, and have no regrets for missed opportunities - at the end, let's make sure we can say, "I lived well".

Merry Christmas and thank you.

Abby xx



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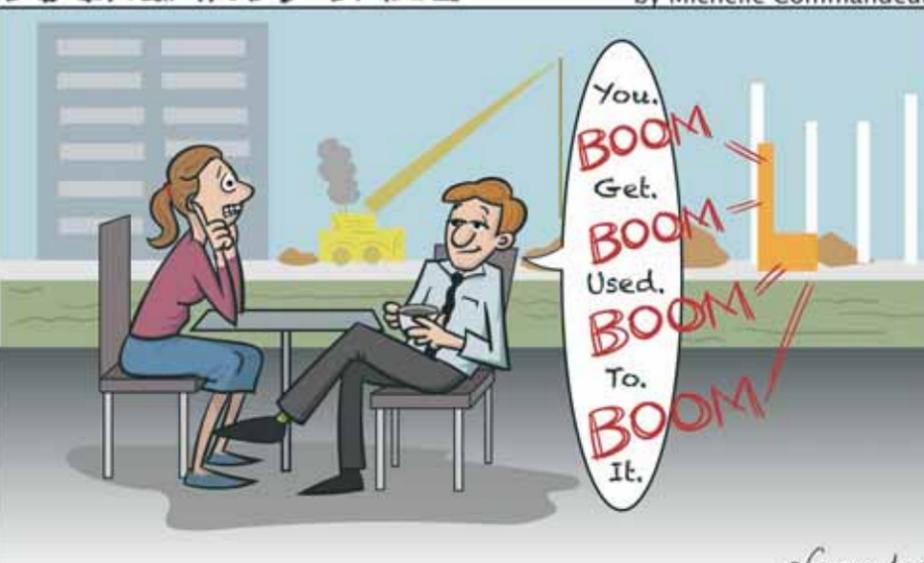
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DOCKLANDS DAZE by Michelle Commandeur



©Commandeur



Waiting to be discovered

At this time of year we reflect and give thanks for the year that we have just enjoyed and look ahead to next year.

Docklands has come a long way and still has a long way to go – and we are going forwards. This GNB edition will focus on our progress.

First I would like to give thanks to Cr Beverley Pinder-Mortimer, her team, the City of Melbourne and Melbourne Day Committee for their help in delivering a spectacular Melbourne Regatta at the end of August as we celebrated Melbourne's 180th birthday.

So what has been happening in Docklands? Harbour Town is undergoing some major changes and worth a visit to see what is happening there. Just jump on the frequent City Circle or a number 70 tram and head down Docklands Drive.

Plans are currently underway to construct a multi-million dollar transparent steel and Teflon roof canopy to provide shelter from the elements that will establish the centre as one of Melbourne's leading shopping and entertainment precincts.

Also breaking news is a deal with Hoyts to build a new cinema complex to develop an exciting new entertainment precinct in Docklands.

Already there is the Ice House – now called O'Brien Group Arena – a state-of-the-art ice skating complex. Right next door under the Melbourne Star you will find Docklands' own Wonderland Fun Park with its Spiegelent and annual Christmas Spectacular. Enjoy

spectacular views of Melbourne from the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel.

Further down Docklands Drive you will find the new Ron Barrassi Senior Park, a recreational space opened on October 10. The park is located right under the Bolte Bridge past Harbour Town.

It has a multi-purpose sports arena, children's playground, barbecue facilities and a community pavilion.

Over on the other side of Victoria Harbour is the Alma Doepel and schooner Enterprize. Located at the very end of North Wharf Rd, these tall ships are a "must visit". The Alma is currently on a floating barge undergoing restoration. You can arrange a tour of the project and learn about the history of this original vessel. Unskilled and semi-skilled volunteers are able to work on the ship every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 5pm. New volunteers are most welcome.

The schooner Enterprize is a replica of the original vessel that brought settlers to Melbourne in 1835. Visits and tours can be arranged and is available for function hire. The Enterprize is the flagship of the annual Melbourne Day celebrations and the Melbourne Regatta and Blessing of the Fleet.

Also on North Wharf Rd is a new community and boating hub. The two-storey, mixed-use building is now home to the Docklands Yacht Club, the Victorian Dragon Boat Association,

Melbourne Outrigger Canoe Club and Docklands family services. Places Victoria, Lend Lease and the City of Melbourne have jointly funded the project. This new building is next door to the relatively new Library at the Dock.

The award winning Library at The Dock is a state of the art community hub that enables the community to meet and belong. The library boasts a recording studio, creative editing suites, community spaces and a performance venue that holds up to 120 people and a gallery/exhibition space that celebrates our rich heritage

Along Harbour Esplanade, between Collins and Bourke streets, is the Docklands Sports Court. This is an exciting development for Docklands where residents and workers can relax and play sport. This is yet another range of initiatives being led by City of Melbourne and Places Victoria to better connect people with the city's waterfront.

The courts feature a durable surface, shade trees and seating that are adaptable to a range of sports including basketball, netball and small-scale soccer. Courts are available for use by the public between 6am and 10pm only.

And to conclude the wonders of Docklands, we have our magnificent Etihad Stadium – home to many sporting and entertainment venues. Millions of people flock to Etihad Stadium every year to enjoy AFL, soccer, Big

Bash cricket, music, motor cross, boxing and many other events. There are also multiple venues within for hire. Also in the area can be found the historic Woolshed Pub, Atlantic Group venues, Channel 7, Channel 9 and film studios.

On the other side of the Yarra you will find Docklands' secret oasis! Yarra's Edge enjoys a well-equipped marina and beautiful views across to Victoria Harbour. You will find fine dining here and just a short stroll across Webb Bridge. Not many people know this!

There is one thing we do need in Docklands and that is a Federation Square-style meeting area equipped with sound and stage facilities for hire for holding public events. This could easily be located along Harbour Esplanade. Such a venue would limit the need to bump in/bump out stage and sound equipment and would derive revenue.

We had such a facility at the Waterfront Piazza and that has been home to Australia Day festivities for the last few years. Well, that is now going and it would be great to have somewhere else to replace it!

Who said there is nothing to see in Docklands? Docklands is a huge place with a rich maritime history just waiting to be discovered. Docklands is well serviced with a frequent tram service and a great bike share scheme available, so discover that Docklands is beautiful.

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GREETINGS FROM THE DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Season's greetings and I trust you will enjoy the holiday break.

Christmas party

The time has come around again for our Christmas Party. It will be held again at Harbour Kitchen on Thursday, December 10, which is on Victoria Harbour next to the NAB. We will again have use of the pavilion on the water.

It will be a great night as usual. There will be prizes for which raffle tickets will be drawn. Last year we had nearly \$1000 worth of prizes from local businesses which we hope again to achieve. So we look forward to your company. It starts at 7.30 pm.

More developments

You may have noticed the news about approval of the development on North Wharf near the Seaman's Mission. This is a good one as it will get rid of the old shed eyesore and provide retail space and open lawn. It is located between Flinders St and the river and hopefully will draw people.

Ron Barassi Snr Park is open for business. A lot of money has been spent on it with a bitumen road around one side, change rooms, children's playground and car parks. Although it is rather out of the way, hopefully

it will be well used.

We are told the scheme for a church on Footscray Rd has stalled with lack of agreement on specifics.

Open forum on Fishermans Bend development

We have received an invitation from the Fishermans Bend Network to attend an open forum on likes and dislikes about our areas as part of the learning process towards their development program. The forum will be held at the Docklands Library on December 8 from 5pm until 7pm. Comments will be provided by respected professionals in architecture and planning.

Short stays / serviced apartments

There is still no decision from the Government following the panel enquiry held earlier this year. I was called in again to express views when I reiterated our position including the request for seven-day minimum stays. There has been objection to asking for seven days and why not 30 days? But we have to be realistic. The panel stipulated no minimum at all to which I was the only dissenter. Seven days will get rid

of the weekend parties which are the main offenders.

In the latest on the Watergate case, VCAT gave leave to appeal to the Supreme Court. We understand that will be heard in the new year.

High-rise development in suburbs

I attended the meeting of CORBA, the coalition of resident groups, on November 11. The main issue is overdevelopment of high-rise apartments in various areas, not just inner city. Councils are approving schemes but residents are objecting.

CoM Organisational Capability Review

At an earlier meeting Ben Rimmer, new CoM CEO, discussed the importance of opening up City of Melbourne to outside scrutiny. Some findings were, that the organisation needs to be more future-orientated, adopting to current circumstances and community expectations, such as management of customers and issues. Also management of some small organisational structure changes.

The review means putting in place a 10-year action plan of asset and organisational

management, delivery of this, and getting on with the tasks facing the City of Melbourne. Ben stated that many staff gave input but were surprised at the results. However, community consultation being an issue with resident groups, he is encouraging staff to discuss how better to handle this process. Let's hope it all works.

He also touched on the fact that, as new to council meetings, he was concerned about the way objectors attacked council officers. He stressed his need to provide a safe work place for his staff.

If any reader would like to become a member of the DCA or has any suggestions they wish to put forward regarding activities or issues, they are welcome to contact us on docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com. We're also on Facebook.

If you would like to contact me about any aspect or becoming a committee member you are welcome to email as above.

Regards to all

Roger Gardner

President, DCA



OWNERS CORPORATION LAW

With Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.
Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

Dirty habit can also be a very expensive habit

How to combat the issues of smoke drift from balconies and the dropping of cigarette butts into units below is no doubt a familiar and frequent talking point for committee members at owners' corporation meetings.

And there are no hard and fast obvious solutions for these problems also.

By special resolution, an owners' corporation can pass a rule to prohibit cigarette smoking and the dropping of butts on residential balconies and can prohibit smoking on common property, however the enforcement of these rules is another matter entirely.

Some owners' corporations have set up infra-red cameras to detect when cigarette butts are thrown at night, but this technology is expensive, and there are obvious privacy issues to overcome. The task of actually catching up with the offending smoker and / or litterbug is even more difficult, especially as it adds to the workload of the building

management, and often the matter becomes a dead-end if the person was an invitee of the resident, or even a guest in a short-term stay apartment.

One building that I acted for recently took the extraordinary step of paying for the installation on all balconies in the building of custom-made inbuilt cigarette ashtrays. While this dealt with the issue of litter, it also had the effect of indirectly legitimising the practice of smoking on the balconies, and the building now has an unofficial tag of being a "pro-smokers" building.

Smoke drift is also a big issue and a source of concern for permanent residents.

In November in NSW, a Sydney landlord was

ordered by the NCAT (NSW's tribunal) to compensate a tenant to the tune of \$11,600 for failing to provide a safe unit to live.

In this case, the tenant in the flat below was a chain smoker and the smoke from his unit drifted upstairs through the internal ventilation passages. The tenant claimed the smoke was making her and her daughter unwell. The landlord claimed that the alleged failure to provide premises fit for habitation was outside his control, that the smoke drift was caused by faulty building design, and that he had made reasonable attempts to resolve the issue.

The tribunal disagreed, and ordered the landlord to pay rent reduction, packing and

moving costs, as well as administrative fees.

This case should serve as a cautionary tale and a sobering reminder to landlords and OC committees that they owe a duty of care to residents to take all possible steps to resolve issues about smoke drift.

While there will always be guests and invitees who flout the building's rules (because they are there for a good time not a long time) all committees should ensure they are seen to be taking all steps to reduce, restrict and regulate issues relating to smoking in residential units, lest they be made an example of by VCAT by being ordered to pay damages to a resident harmed by the smoke.



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Question: What book would you recommend, and why?



MAX SHIEELY, 27, WORKS FOR THE CITY OF MELBOURNE
From: Ireland

I am currently reading *The Rise of Superman* by Steven Kotler. It is a really good book as it explains the science behind extreme sport and how far human capabilities can go through training. A very interesting read.



ANNABEL JOHNSTON, 18, STUDENT
From: Melbourne bayside

I would recommend *The Book Thief*. It is a very engaging book, and you learn a lot about German history as well. Also, the perspective from which the story is told is very creative.



PHOEBE DAY, 24, WORKS FOR NAB
From: Brisbane

I would definitely recommend a book from my childhood called *Feather Boy*. It instilled in me a good set of values on how to treat other people. I still read it once a month.



CHETAM AGASUAL, 24, STUDENT
From: India

I would recommend any books by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. He brings together the history, culture and community of India in his books, and shows the reader how backgrounds, history and community affects your life and decisions.



JESSIE PIGOTT, 25, MEMBERSHIP CONSULTANT
From: Lives in Brunswick.

Only the Animals. It is an amazing book about the souls of animals caught up in human conflict. It is so different that it just has to be read. Also, the chapters are short, so it is easy to catch up on a chapter when you have a break.



VANESSA RANKIN, 52, WORKS AT NAB
From: Lived in Melbourne for 23 years now

Any book from Jodi Picoult. She is a very good writer and her books are very entertaining. Very good for escaping reality for a little while.



CHAMBER UPDATE

BY PAUL SALTER
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER



Give yourself a Christmas present

Chamber AGM results

The chamber thanks Doug Jarvis and his team for allowing us to hold our annual general meeting at the Melbourne City Marina. Nominations and confirmation that each person was a financial member were received before the deadline of November 4. The election results are:

Johanna Maxwell was re-elected as president, Tony Bailo, Paul Keisler, Paul Salter, Josephine Tan and Yvonne Zhou-Grundy were elected to the executive. All chamber members and the executive are extremely grateful to executive officer Stefanie Schulz for her professional work

and skill in handling the administrative requirements. We really do appreciate her knowledge and guidance regarding executive responsibilities.

City of Melbourne volunteers (red shirts)

More than 30 City of Melbourne red shirts volunteers were escorted by Stefanie Shultz through the Docklands precinct. They started with tea and coffee at Groove Train with a presentation by Rita Simonetta on new plans for Harbour Town.

The group walked to O'Brien Group Arena (formerly Medibank IceHouse) with Paul

Keisler giving an overview of the arena's events and activities. This was followed by a tour of Wonderland Fun Park and Spiegelent with Melissa Head who outlined her new plans and program.

The walking continued to All Smiles for an introduction to the venue with refreshments and included a short presentation by Kayak Melbourne and Tours on Trikes.

Chinese New Year

Keep an eye on what the chamber is organising in this space. Bigger and better, we will give you more details in the New Year.

Give yourself a Christmas present - Join the chamber today!

Have a great Christmas and New Year, 2016 will be your year. Join the Docklands Chamber of Commerce and give yourself an edge. We are all about enhancing the local business community.

If you have anything you wish to share, or you are seeking help as a member, simply email: admin@docklandsc.com.au or visit our web site www.docklandsc.com.au



DOCKLANDS FASHION



Solve the puzzle and win a prize

Welcome back to a new instalment in 'Docklands News', where you'll have the chance to win some wonderful prizes.

Docklands News is collaborating with the Rotary Club of Docklands to bring you a new puzzle each month through to December.

Each month readers will be asked to solve an anagram and identify a pictured Docklands icon.

Submit your answers online at www.rotarydocklands.com/rotary-docklands-competition and all correct entries will be entered into the draw to win a prize.

This month two x \$20 Simone Perele vouchers are on offer for the winning entry.

All correct entries over the three months (October, November and December issues of Docklands News) will also be entered into the draw to win a major prize.

The major prize will be announced at Rotary Docklands Christmas Festival at NewQuay on December 6. Further details in future editions.

Puzzle 1: Solve the anagram

A five gift solving

Answer:

.....

Puzzle 2: Name the Docklands icon



Fashion on the streets of Docklands

Diana Vilic, 31

Compliance Officer

LOCATION: NewQuay Promenade

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: Today I am wearing an outfit that can be described as understated simplicity and elegance.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING:

It really depends on the day. For work it would have to be a beautiful pencil skirt, while for casual a nice blazer and pretty shoes.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE DOCKLANDS:

My work is just around the corner.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE:

Elegant and vintage. I have often been compared to the style of Audrey Hepburn. And with hats, I always wear my hats.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

It would have to be what we in design call balance. It doesn't have to be a particular outfit or style, but how the clothes fit the person wearing them and their personality. As well as having a balance between the different elements such a colour and texture. Confidence is also important, if a person is not confident their body language will overshadow what they are wearing.

Maddison Harper, 25

Office Supervisor

LOCATION: NewQuay Promenade

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE WEARING:

Today I'm wearing a mixture of things. I'm wearing Bardot, Missguided tee, Sportsgirl jeans and Nike shoes.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OF CLOTHING:

Probably my Shona Joy dress which I got the other day. It's so beautiful.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS:

Shopping.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE:

Hood-chic.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Confidence. Just having confidence and being sexy in what you're wearing.

Leah Purcell, 28

Events and Sponsorship Manager

LOCATION: NewQuay Promenade

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE WEARING:

I'm wearing an Asilio leather jacket, Adidas LA kicks, Witchery skirt and a knit.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OF CLOTHING:

It would have to be ripped denim and a tee. Pretty basic.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS:

Work.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE:

I'm very casual, fairly laid back. I love basics. Hair up. Top knots.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

I think someone that feels confident and comfortable and it suits their personality and they're not trying too hard.

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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE

Underdog takes out UFC

In a surprise victory, Holly Holm took out the main event at last month's UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) event at Etihad Stadium, beating the previously undefeated bantamweight champion Ronda Rousey.

The November 15 event saw more than 56,000 fans flood the stadium, with the UFC making \$9.5 million on ticket sales alone, a house record for Etihad Stadium.

Attendance at the event was the stadium's second highest for a sporting event, falling just short of the 56,771 attendees at the Australian Wallabies test match against the British and Irish Lions in 2013.

Etihad Stadium CEO Paul Sergeant said the UFC was a massively successful occasion for the venue.

"It was a complicated presentation but our various teams worked around the clock for close to a week to help piece together a magnificent show. The subsequent feedback has been constant and overwhelmingly positive," he said.

He also emphasised the excellent crowd behaviour.

"The fans were absolutely engrossed and engaged with the event. There were no issues and they were a credit to UFC's legions of



Holly Holm delivers a punch to Ronda Rousey.

followers across Australia and around the world," Mr Sergeant said.

Mr Sergeant said there were just four ejections from the event, which he described as at the lower end of the scale for any of the events the Stadium hosts.

"There were doomsayers claiming the occasion would be accompanied by violence and unsociable behaviour, leaving a blot on Melbourne," Mr Sergeant said. "Maybe next time they might listen before making judgemental, gratuitous, outrageous comments that could not have been further off the mark."

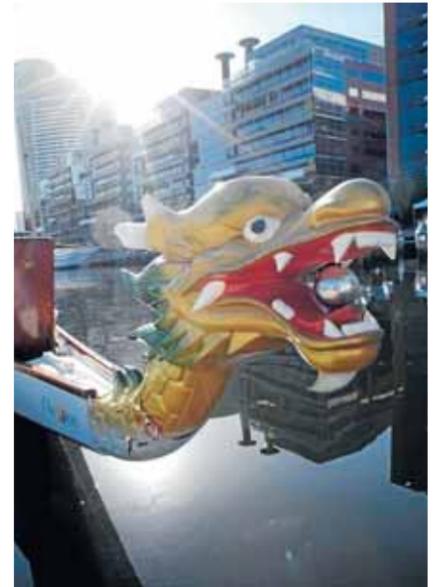
With a huge number of attendees, Docklands and Melbourne have also benefited from the UFC event, according to Mr Sergeant.

"The event has also generated a huge economic benefit for Melbourne and the city's tourism and hospitality sectors," Mr Sergeant said.

"43 per cent of tickets sold were purchased from either interstate or overseas. Invariably that means they've stayed in the city, generating millions of dollars into the local economy."

With an international audience of millions watching, Holm defeated Rousey just 59 seconds into the second round after delivering a kick to her head. Rousey was knocked out and was treated in hospital following the bout.

Holm upheld her unbeaten UFC record, now 10-0, while Rousey's perfect record is now tarnished, with one loss to 12 wins.



Docklands cup

Victoria Harbour will be alive in a blaze of colour, buzz and excitement on Sunday, December 13 as dragon boat paddlers compete in the Docklands Cup.

Come along and see how a sport, with more than 2000 years of history has transformed into one of the fastest growing sports in Australia.

Crews will be competing over a 500m course and will be looking to win their category and bragging rights for the next 12 months. Racing starts at 9am.

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