Runners descend on Docklands

Thousands of runners passed through Docklands in the early stages of Run Melbourne’s half marathon on Sunday, July 28.

The 21.1km course started at the corner of Flinders and Elizabeth streets in the CBD, before runners hit Collins St and turned right onto Harbour Esplanade.

From here, competitors ran past Marvel Stadium all the way to Docklands Drive, where they turned left and did a loop of NewQuay.

Continued on page 19.

Fox’s classic car collection moved out

By Sean Car

The Fox Classic Car Collection, which is run by a special trust, has been showcased in the heritage-listed warehouse on the corner of Collins St and Batman’s Hill Drive since 1996. The trust pays just $1 a year in rent for the building and surrounding land, under a special 99-year lease granted by former Prime Minister Paul Keating and then-Premier Jeff Kennett in 1995.

The lease was issued on the condition that the land be used for the purposes of establishing a public car museum and promoting uses consistent with those purposes. The Kangan Institute has run an automotive TAFE next to Queen’s Warehouse since 1996, which was provided by the trust for a peppercorn sum.

Fox’s collection, which is understood to comprise around 50 cars valued between $30 to $40 million, was moved out earlier this year. The trust’s chairman Bill Kelty told Docklands News that it was now proceeding with historic plans to develop the empty adjacent site.

The new development has long been understood to house stage three of Kangan’s Docklands campus, as well as an expanded car museum managed by the trust. Other automotive stakeholders such as Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV) and the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (VACC) are understood to have expressed interest in the past.

However, Mr Kelty told Docklands News that no partners or building plans could be confirmed until remediation of the site took place. A spokesperson for Kangan Institute also said that the education provider had no confirmed plans regarding stage three.

The plans would also see a new piazza constructed on the existing car park next to the warehouse.

Mr Kelty said that the cars had been relocated to preserve their value while remediation and building took place.

Continued on page 2.
Fox’s classic car collection moved out

Continued from page 1.

“It [remediation] is due [to start] either later this year or, at the worst, it starts early next year,” Mr Kelty said. “It’s not just four years of remediation; it’s four years of remediation and building.”

However, while no development plans have been formalised or submitted for the site, Mr Kelty reaffirmed this could only be done after the site had been fully remediated. Docklands News asked whether the vacant government-owned building could be offered to the likes of the City of Melbourne in the interim, to which Mr Kelty replied:

“It would be open to any reasonable proposition but that’s a distraction. The purpose is to get the piazza done and get the new complimentary building built.”

“We have spoken to Kangan and a number of other parties but because of the delay with the remediation it’s been difficult to get a finalised commercial agreement.”

The Fox Classic Car Collection has come under scrutiny in the past for its limited opening hours, which have ranged from one to three days per week since it was established. However, Mr Kelty told Docklands News that the reimagined museum would be “world-class”, fully opened six days a week and house an expanded collection of more than 100 classic cars.

“This will be one of the finest collections of classic cars in the world in, probably, one of the best sites in the world for a car museum. There won’t be a better site than this in the world” Mr Kelty said.

“To get a car into the Queen’s Warehouse for show is going to have to be a very, very special car so we’re going to really focus on really special classic cars and rotate them more and extend it beyond Lindsay’s collection.”

“We’ve been around and around in circles and this is the 15th lap around the course and so the task is to stop all the nonsense and get the remediation done and then we will come back with a plan.”

A spokesperson for Development Victoria said that it was in regular contact with the Fox Family Trust regarding opportunities for the precinct.

“Development Victoria would like to see the vacant site next to the heritage-listed Queen’s Warehouse Building developed in a manner that supports the urban renewal objectives for both the precinct and Docklands,” a spokesperson said.

news@docklandsnews.com.au
The Lord Mayor is a Docklander

By Sean Car

Docklanders: Say hello to your newest neighbour ... Lord Mayor Sally Capp!

In what Docklands News can only describe as a wise decision, the Lord Mayor will soon call Docklands home, with she and husband Andrew Sutherland finally settling on a Victoria Harbour apartment last month following an extensive search.

Relocating from the family home of 18 years in Hawthorn, she and Andrew will officially make Docklands their new home this month; a move spurred by a desire to be closer to the water and, of course, Town Hall. While the search for a new residence took them to many locations, including the CBD, East Melbourne, Carlton and South Yarra, she said that none of those places ticked as many boxes as Docklands.

"We really like being near water and, when you think about sea change, that’s what we’re doing, going from the suburbs in Hawthorn to Docklands," the Lord Mayor told Docklands News.

"I’m really excited to come down here. There’s that sense of curiosity about a neighbourhood that I don’t know well and I should know better. I think a lot of Melburnians feel the same about the Docklands."

"I think it will surprise a lot of people but we’ve found a great place in a great neighbourhood and we’re very excited."

Sally and Andrew are no strangers to change, having lived in a number of different cities over the years. The Lord Mayor said they were both equally excited about the prospect of exploring their new community and meeting their neighbours. While saying goodbye to the family home presents a significant change, she said that with their two sons Nic (21) and Will (19) both having moved out, the time was right to making the switch to Docklands.

And with a Docklander now in the city’s top job, the local community can rest assured that it has the best advocate possible going in to bat for Docklands!

"It [Docklands] has been much maligned in commentary over the years, I think unfairly so, and I’m really looking forward to being part of the community and learning more about it so I can add my voice to why this is an awesome part of the city," she said.

"Living here will certainly give me a deeper appreciation for residents and businesses down here. I think it will give me a really great perspective on other things we can do down here or need to do, but it’s already given me an appreciation of what’s here."

Welcome to Docklands Lord Mayor … we know you’re going to love it!

Cow move

The planned relocation of Cow up a Tree remains in discussions as part of Development Victoria’s (DV) major works around Marvel Stadium and Harbour Esplanade.

Docklands News reported in May last year that Docklands’ iconic artwork would be moved just up the road to the plaza opposite Latrobe St near Central Pier.

DV said at the time that it was commencing the procurement of a landscape architect to lead the artwork relocation process that same month. However, a spokesperson for DV told Docklands News last month that talks remained ongoing.

"The intention is still to relocate Cow up a Tree – this is being considered in the context of planning major works around Marvel Stadium and Harbour Esplanade," the spokesperson said.

"We are talking to all stakeholders including the artist and the City of Melbourne."

The Cow up a Tree artwork is an iconic eight-metre-high, five-tonne bronze sculpture by artist John Kelly, which has become synonymous with Docklands. It is part of DV’s Docklands Art Trail, which features 26 pieces of art.
**Ground-breaking Digital Harbour**

Developer Poly Australia broke ground at its flagship development – and the first major tower in the Digital Harbour precinct – at 1000 La Trobe St on July 11.

It is the first commercial building to be built in the CBD or Docklands in 30 years without requiring pre-commitments for funding.

Digital Harbour director David Napier said the precinct was “delighted”.

“This 40,000 sqm commercial office will complete the La Trobe St frontage of the Digital Harbour precinct and bring with it recognition by Melbourne commercial office tenants that the north end of Docklands is now one of the last remaining city fringe offerings of large floor office space,” he said.

The development will consist of 23 levels reaching approximately 91 metres high. The design hosts the opportunity for vertical floor integrations, access to health and wellness facilities, and a 700-square-metre co-working centre.

“There is a need for new supply in the market and Poly Australia’s commitment to deliver and cater to the demand is a testament to its appetite to delivering outstanding projects with high performing results,” Colliers International office leasing national director Edward Knowles said.

Digital Harbour is set to be one of the most connected destinations in the CBD and Docklands precincts, positioned directly next to Southern Cross Station, the free tram zone, Capital City Trail, major freeway arterials such as City Link and the upcoming West Gate Tunnel Project.

“Access from the north end of Docklands to the surrounding freeway system is only going to get better with the completion of the Westgate Tunnel project that will start and finish at the Digital Harbour access to Wurundjeri Way below Melbourne Water,” Mr Napier said.

“When coupled with the city’s free tram network that services both La Trobe St and Harbour Esplanade, Digital Harbour presents one of the best-connected locations in the Melbourne CBD.”

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Government takes lead on cladding

By Sean Car

The state government ended years of speculation last month when it pledged $600 million of taxpayers’ money to remove high-risk cladding from apartment buildings.

Premier Dan Andrews and Minister for Planning Richard Wynne made the announcement on July 16, which followed recommendations from the final report of the government’s Victorian Cladding Taskforce.

The taskforce also recommended the Victorian Government seek a contribution from the Commonwealth to help fund rectification, mounting the case that cladding was a “national problem”. However, the federal government was quick to quash any speculation that it would pitch in, with federal treasurer Josh Frydenberg stating that his government would not be “picking up the bill” for what he labelled “a state responsibility”.

The Andrews government will instead directly fund half of the rectification works and will introduce changes to the state’s building permit levy to raise the other $300 million over the next five years.

The program will be overseen by a new agency, Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV), which will manage funding and work directly with owners’ corporations (OCs).

The government’s decision to use tax-payer money to rectify buildings with high-risk cladding ends years of discussion in Victoria around how removal should be funded, with the government set to recoup costs from ‘dodgy builders’.

“This isn’t just about safety, it’s about fairness for people who bought apartments in good faith and were let down by dodgy builders or dangerous building products,” Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said.

“The Commonwealth is shirking their responsibilities when it comes to helping fix combustible cladding.”

While it welcomed the government’s plan for rectification, the Property Council of Australia warned that a “700 per cent increase” in building levies would add untenable costs to new construction projects in Victoria.

The Property Council’s Victorian deputy executive director Matthew Kandelaars said he was “deeply concerned” about the impacts of the proposed increase.

“The Government is proposing a 700 per cent increase in the levy for new buildings valued at more than $1.5 million,” he said. “For works as low as $800,000, it is proposed the levy rate will double. These are not big building projects by any stretch.”

“The increases which are being proposed for new projects are disproportionate and unreasonable when you consider that the buildings being targeted for rectification have previously been lawfully approved under the Victorian building code.”

“We understand and support the imperative to strengthen public confidence in construction and building safety and address the looming insurance crisis. However, a unilateral and massive increase in construction costs is not the answer.”

The government’s taskforce, headed by former Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu and former Deputy Premier John Thwaites, has worked with the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) to identify 15 buildings that will have their cladding fixed first.

The government has said that CSV would soon start contacting OCs and property owners, starting with those buildings that had been identified by the taskforce as the greatest risk, while the VBA continues to audit buildings across the state.

The taskforce’s final report, released on July 16, stated that of the 2227 buildings audited in Victoria to date, 1069 were found to have combustible cladding. Of those, 72 were deemed to be extreme risk, 409 high risk, 388 moderate risk and 200 low risk.

Federal Greens MP for Melbourne Adam Bandt welcomed the government’s decision and urged it to begin funding the removal of dangerous cladding immediately.

“This is a victory for all the residents who have pushed for action. This is what happens when people speak up and demand that governments act,” Mr Bandt said.

“Once this cladding is removed, the government should pursue those responsible in court and implement a new levy on developers to recoup the costs.”

The announcement would also appear to draw an end to the government’s failed cladding rectification agreement (CRA) loan scheme. CBD News reported in July that not a single loan had been issued in Victoria under the scheme since it was introduced last year.

The complicated scheme involves a three-way loan between owners, council and a lender, which allows an owner to pay off a loan through their council rates.

Lannock Strata Finance CEO Paul Morton, whose company funded the Lacrosse building in Docklands to enable the OC to commence rectification and pursue litigation, said that the government’s scheme was never commercially viable.

“The market for lending to owners’ corporations is mature and competitive. There is no reason or justification for government intervention,” he said. “Lannock will lend 100 per cent of the amount required to fix all cladding rectification on strata buildings in Victoria.”

“From a lender’s point of view there are lots of practical problems with the CRA. It’s uncommercial. There is no arrears management process in place and council has to set up all of these new systems, which they don’t normally do.”

The government’s announcement was also followed by the news of a landmark agreement being struck between states, territories and the Commonwealth on July 18, which will see a new national taskforce funded to pursue nationally consistent building standards.

Held at the Building Ministers Forum held in Sydney, Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said the agreement would mean that the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) would be expanded, better resourced and force greater engagement from the building industry. The ABCB will now be tasked with preparing a national framework to guide implementation of recommendations from the Shergold Weir Building Confidence report.

States and territories also agreed to work towards a coordinated approach on professional indemnity insurance.

Council declares climate emergency

City of Melbourne councillors moved an urgent item of business last month by formally declaring a “climate and biodiversity emergency.”

Endorsed unanimously by councillors at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on July 16, the motion followed the adoption of the final version of council’s Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030.

Moved by environment portfolio chair Cr Cathy Oke, the urgent motion declared that climate change and mass species extinction posed serious threats to the people of Melbourne and should be treated as an emergency.

While noting its ongoing commitment to mitigating climate change through a range of initiatives such as the Melbourne Renewal Energy Project and the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy, Cr Oke said she felt frustrated that more wasn’t being done.

“We are on track to far exceed the 1.5 degrees increase that thousands of scientists acknowledge that, pass that point, and we are in dire circumstances. We need far more action at all levels of government,” she said.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said that all councillors had engaged in a “robust discussion” about the use of the word “emergency” and how that would help curb climate change in the municipality.

“It’s not about scaring people but it’s actually about how you resource things and push towards targets. It sends a message to our community that we take this very seriously,” Cr Wood said.

“We’re actually on track by 2030 to be responsible for 13 per cent of global emissions so that’s not the get out of jail free card that people use to say ‘we’re not much of the problem’ and ‘we shouldn’t move on this’,” Cr Wood also slammed the lack of leadership from the federal government on the issue, noting that if it wasn’t going to act then it shouldn’t “stand in the way” of those wanting to do so.

Cr Jackie Watts also gave an emotional address in support of the motion, but in particular, to one section which acknowledged the action that young people were taking across the world in demanding more from their governments.

“We are in a very dire situation. We have an obligation to tell it how it is, and we are,” Cr Watts said. “This motion actually shows respect for the young people who will actually have to deal with the mess that we are fighting.”

Earlier in the meeting, council adopted its Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy – a crucial document in its efforts to mitigate climate change. The strategy lays out the vision for council to become a “zero-waste” city by 2030.

While many submissions questioned whether some of the targets set in the strategy went far enough, such as a 20 per cent reduction of household waste by 2030, Cr Oke said that it was important to get on with delivering change.

“We need to endorse the strategy and within that there are quite a few items that capture the urgency and the implementation required. I believe it does meet the ambition that we’ve been talking about,” Cr Oke said.

Councillors also noted the challenges that management had to consider in compiling the final version of the strategy, with reference to the ongoing recycling crisis plaguing Australia at present.

Some key features of the strategy include options to separate organic waste, a waste minimisation and innovation fund, a new expert and advisory service to support an improved waste system and more electronic recycling options for residents.

In good news for CBD residents, the strategy also aims to minimise garbage truck movements by providing more centralised compacting hubs, reducing the amounts of rubbish bins in laneways and improving separation rates of organics and recyclables.

Behaviour change, education and advocacy are key features of the strategy, with councillors noting that more action was required from federal and state governments to implement initiatives such as extended producer responsibility, and container deposit schemes.


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Docklands Primary adds a kindergarten

A $10 million kindergarten addition to Docklands Primary School was announced on July 22 as part of the state government’s pledge to ditch “double drop-offs”.

Minister for Education James Merlino and Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) CEO Chris Keating made the announcement at the Docklands Primary construction site on July 22. Mr Merlino said the upgrade would cater for 66 three- and four-year-old kindergarten students.

“This means children living in Docklands will not only get the best start to life at kinder, they’ll also get the most out of their primary education at a great new local school,” Mr Merlino said.

“Families are flocking to Docklands.”

The $10 million is in addition to $48 million already allocated towards the primary school, making it one of the most expensive of the government’s planned new schools.

The Andrews government went to the last election with a promise that every primary school being built from 2021 would feature a kindergarten on-site or next door “to ensure children can get continuity of education”.

The three-storey vertical school will also cater for 525 primary students when it opens in 2021. The kindergarten will be on the second level of the building and include two kindergarten rooms, administration areas and an outdoor learning terrace.

Mr Merlino said the challenge to tackle the increasing need for schools in the inner-city meant they needed to be built vertically.

Second speed date

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC) will host its second speed networking event on August 21 after the success of its first instalment in June.

The event offers local Docklands businesses and workers the chance to meet and learn about others operating in the area in a creative setting.

Participants are given 90 seconds to connect before moving on to the next person. One of the biggest up-shots is the guarantee you’ll meet everyone in the room.

Around 50 local business owners and workers attended the June event.

Speed networking is $10 for DCC members and $20 for non-members. It includes self-serve drinks and canapes at Quest NewQuay.


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Mission to Seafarers reunited with piece of its history

No one ever thought to keep track of the trowel that laid the Mission to Seafarers’ (MtS) foundation stones in 1916.

Made in Sheffield, England in 1908, the trowel travelled across the world multiple times over the hundred-plus years between laying the stones and being returned back to the mission earlier this year.

Professor Uma Kothari presented the trowel back to the mission last month at the opening of her photographic exhibition on the Mission to Seafarers: Encountering People, Places and Things.

“One has the name of Sir Arthur Stanley on it, the Governor of Melbourne at the time, and the chapel foundation stone has Margaret Stanley, who was his wife, engraved on it.”

Professor Kothari is from the University of Manchester but is currently a vice chancellor’s fellow at the University of Melbourne.

Professor Kothari said Sir Arthur Stanley was actually unwell on that day in November 1916 and so Margaret Stanley presided over both. In 1919, the couple and their five children returned to England with the trowel.

Sir Arthur Stanley died in 1931. His youngest child Victoria, the only one of the children born in Melbourne, became a famous opera singer and married the Canadian lieutenant colonel JD Woods.


Professor Kothari said the story then moved abruptly to a man named Israel Neiman, who was a Polish Jewish Holocaust survivor. He also ended up in Canada after the war, in the same city as Victoria and JD – Toronto.

He was a tailor renting out rooms in his house for extra money. When he died in 2006, granddaughter Gilian Ross cleared out his house into a skip. Her husband Kenny, whose family had a history of seafaring, found the trowel and decided to keep it.

“Kenny and Gilian Ross carried on living in Toronto until 2010 when they emigrated back to England where Kenny was originally from,” Professor Kothari said.

“The trowel was in a cabinet in their house until November 2018, when Kenny found the Mission to Seafarers Victoria on Facebook.”

“He messaged the page and said, ‘I think I have something that belongs to you’.”

The trowel was too precious to send in the mail, so MtS asked Professor Kothari if she would be the Mission’s representative and pick it up during her next visit back to her home university in the UK.

“Kenny and Gilian brought the trowel up to the global headquarters of the Mission to Seafarers in London and handed it to myself and Rev Andrew Wright, Secretary General of the Mission to Seafarers,” she said.

“I brought it back in my luggage.”

So, the trowel went from England in 1908, to Melbourne, to England, to Canada, to England, and is now back in Australia.

Professor Kothari said the missing link in the story was how the trowel went from Victoria and JD Wood’s possession to Israel Neiman’s house. It’s a gap she is still trying to fill in.

Margaret Stanley laying the Mission’s foundation stone in 1916.

Julie Chambers answers your legal questions

Q. What is a Power of Attorney and what types are available in Victoria?

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2. An Enduring Power of Attorney to manage your financial and/or personal affairs, even if you lose capacity through accident or illness.

3. An Enduring Medical Power of Attorney to manage your personal care and medical treatment, which is only activated when you lose capacity through accident or illness.

4. The appointment of a Supportive Attorney to assist your other appointed Attorneys, including your Medical Attorney.

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Station’s congestion headache

By Meg Hill

Southern Cross Station’s congestion problems have continued to worsen as negotiations between the station’s private operator and the government have so far proved fruitless.

The station has likely already reached its capacity levels originally forecast for 2050. Its 2002 project brief predicted 30,000 passengers passing through per hour during peak period by then.

Docklands News understands it’s possible this figure was reached as long as two years ago.

The average weekday number of passengers passing through the station in May was 206,000 per day.

The contract between private operator Civic Nexus and the state government stipulates the capacity figure triggers upgrade negotiations between the parties. If the government refuses upgrades, Civic Nexus can lower its key performance indicators. And without upgrades overcrowding will only get worse, with the future airport rail addition and the continued growth of Docklands which has so far been a major contributor to the station’s congestion.

The station’s design also contributes to congestion problems.

Civic Nexus proposed a $300 million station upgrade to the government in 2016 which was rejected earlier this year.

The Age recently reported that the company offered to pay for the upgrades in exchange for four extra years on its 30-year lease, which runs until 2036.

Southern Cross is the only city station with a private operator. The public and private sector partnership was pitched as providing efficiency and economic returns from government expenditure.

But Public Transport Users Association spokesperson Daniel Bowen said there were questions about the nature of the partnership.

“The question is: are the outcomes good for passengers?” he said.

“At the end of the day there are some failures with this particular contract. The capacity is not keeping up, the maintenance seems to be insignificant.”

Mr Bowen said another issue was the fact that night trains through the city loop bypassed Southern Cross station after 12.30am, making it difficult for passengers to access late V/Line trains and the all-night sky bus to the airport.

“There are questions over whether it is resulting in good outcomes.”

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Collins Square will host a passive exhibition from July 29 to August 16 featuring more than 50 original sculptures from the Association of Sculptures of Victoria.

The exhibition will comprise a combination of sculptures from aspiring and professional sculptors who all have a passion for expressing their personalities, ideals and perceptions.

The exhibition will provide members of the association an opportunity to showcase their best work at a venue that engages the interest of the public and art lovers.

For more information visit collinssquare.com.au/whats-on/

Commuters struggle to fit onto a packed Southern Cross platform during peak hour.
Alma Doepel gala

By Sarah Bartlett

Alma Doepel is holding its fourth annual Voyage of a Lifetime fundraising luncheon on August 16.

The annual event supports the ongoing restoration of the Alma Doepel, in an effort to see the much-anticipated return of the three-masted topsail schooner. Last year’s luncheon raised for more than $40,000 for the restoration project and it is hoped even more can be raised to help get the Alma back in the water by 2020.

The luncheon will again be hosted by Channel 9 News presenter Peter Hitchener and will also include keynote speaker vice admiral Tim Barrett AO. Vice admiral Barrett is a retired senior officer in the Royal Australian Navy and commander of the Australian Fleet.

The Alma Doepel is berthed at No 2 Victoria Dock and is currently undergoing restoration so that she can resume her duties as a sail-training vessel. The gala luncheon provides an opportunity to raise funds towards the restoration, as well as a chance for like-minded individuals who support the project to mingle. Those at the event will be able to learn about the progress of the project as well as directly hear about personal experiences of individuals who have previously taken part in the Alma’s youth sail training program.

There will be an auction of rare and unique experiences including a Tug Boat Experience, Port Phillip Sea Pilot Experience, Young Endeavour Experience, Dock Tour and Crane Experience, Behind the Scenes Channel 9 News Experience and a Race Experience on 1987 America’s Cup yacht Kookaburra.

Voyage of a Lifetime fundraising luncheon will be held on Friday August 16 from 12 to 2:30pm at the Hotel Windsor. Booking Information is available at almadoepel.com.au/luncheon.

Open Alma!

By Sarah Bartlett

Did you know that the Alma Doepel restoration is open on Tuesdays for historical and heritage tours of the 155-year-old Australian three-masted topsail schooner?

Located at No 2 Victoria Dock, locals are invited for an exclusive behind the scenes tour of the Docklands community restoration project every Tuesday from 12pm to 2pm.

The openings provide visitors with the chance to look up close at the ship as the restoration takes shape, as well as meeting the makers responsible for the tall ship’s restoration.

Attendants can learn about the role of the Alma Doepel and her extensive part in Australian maritime history. There is also the opportunity to observe the preparations being made for re-planking as well as witnessing the bending, shaping, and steaming of the frame restoration. Visitors can view firsthand the skills and craftsmanship being applied by the shipwrights as the Alma Doepel prepares for the next chapter in her history.

The Alma Doepel has a rich past, originating from 1903 and built in Bellington, NSW by Frederick Doepel. The ship was a trading vessel that sailed mostly around the coast of Australia carrying goods such as timber, wheat and jam.

From 1917, the Alma Doepel carried jam from D.L. in Tasmania to the mainland. She set a delivery speed record time of 58 hours and 30 minutes.

The vessel was also used in World War II as a supply vessel in Papua New Guinea, before returning to commercial service around Tasmania in 1946. Funds were raised in 2007 for the return of the vessel to Melbourne.

The Alma Doepel has been berthed at Victoria Dock since 2009 for an extensive restoration to help restart her work as a sail-training vessel.

The restoration project has to date raised $2.1 million though sponsorships and donations. There is a remaining $1.2 million needed to complete the project.

The tours are open every Tuesday from 12-2pm. For more information or to donate visit almadoepel.com.au

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Docklands cameos in new TV series

A new television series, which premiered on July 17 on Channel Ten, shows Docklands in a slightly different light through the lens of murder mysteries.

My Life is Murder is a new crime-comedy series starring Lucy Lawless (Xena, Battlestar Galactica, Spartacus).

“Basically, it’s about a character called Alexa Crowe. She’s an ex-detective and she retired but is kind of very good so her former colleague convinces her reluctantly to look into cases no one can solve,” executive producer Claire Tonkin said.

A new guest character every episode turns the show into a modern take on Murder, She Wrote.

“We spent a lot of time in Docklands. We go all over Melbourne, but we do keep returning to Docklands because it’s changing so much and it’s so fresh and new.”

“Not everyone in the crew had even been there. The buildings are so interesting, and one of the philosophies was we always liked to have the city in the background wherever we were.”

“We were very much focused on that side of the city, and also the water in Docklands and hanging around those areas.”

Ms Tonkin said when the main character is assigned a case, she’d often be meeting someone in a Docklands location like the Melbourne Star, or getting to a suspect along the water. Three months of shooting wrapped up in autumn.

“What’s interesting for us with Docklands is that it’s a different world and in every episode there’s a different story, and so Docklands kind of recurs throughout because it’s so varied,” she said.

Calling out for language volunteers

The City of Melbourne is looking for English as a Second Language (ESL) volunteer teachers to start up conversation clubs at the Library at the Dock.

Last year, the clubs, currently running at the City Library, Kathleen Syme Library in Carlton and Southbank Library, had 2186 attendees from 51 different countries.

Annie Rubira, an ESL volunteer in Southbank, said the benefits of ESL for students went far beyond language.

“I think the greatest thing is a sense of connection, more so than language skills,” she said.

“I have quite a few people who come on a regular basis, some come occasionally, some are only here for a month.”

“But often when I’m leaving and saying goodbye, the participants are out the front of the library exchanging numbers and organising to do something else together.”

She said many of those in need of ESL lessons were isolated and found it difficult to break out of their own languages without the lessons.

“They might be here basically alone and only knowing their family at home, who they speak a different language to,” she said.

Ms Rubira said her best experience had been learning about other cultures.

“It’s a very informal structure. I have a conversation point at the start, but if the conversation goes in another direction we go with it.”

“So, we talk about the customs and cultures in other countries a lot.”

“We do a lot of laughing in our class, and I think ultimately you’re assisting people with their development and connections to each other.”

Volunteers should be native English speakers with good local knowledge of Melbourne and who can commit to one hour per fortnight for six months. To volunteer follow this link: app.betterimpact.com/PublicEnterprise/EnterpriseSearch?EnterpriseGuid=a9eb22b8-7b7b-4a3a-a590-22fd125e5e66&SearchType=Organization&SearchId=25798
ACS opens

The Australian Computer Society (ACS) Victoria opened its new purpose-built 2000 sqm Docklands office at 839 Collins Street on July 25.

The “new technology and innovation hub” was developed by ACS, the professional association for Australia’s technology sector, to drive the development of digital communities.

The office features digitally-enabled floorspace, private workplaces, high-tech meeting rooms and an interactive media wall.

President Yohan Ramasundara and Victoria’s parliamentary secretary for jobs Jane Garrett opened the office.

“We’re delighted to be able to contribute to Victoria’s vibrant technology scene,” president Yohan Ramasundara said.

“The opening of our Melbourne hub is also part of ACS’s commitment to be a catalyst for human development while helping the creation and adoption of emerging technology.”

The collaborative workspace was designed to create a venue where tech professionals and businesses can come together and tackle some of the nation’s pressing technology challenges.

ACS CEO Andrew Johnson said he believed Australia could be a world leader in technology talent “and the Docklands hub is part of realising this vision”.

“The hub creates a meeting place for Victoria’s technology community and gives entrepreneurs a venue to demonstrate their products to a broad audience, gain important insights and iterate throughout the development process.”

The hub will house over 150 tech professionals, and, along with over 50 trades employed during the fit-out, brings 200 jobs to Victoria.

Loving our streets

By Janette Corcoran

Docklands will soon have its own Love Our Street (LOS3008) group. LOS is the “off-beach” arm of Beach Patrol Australia – a volunteer organisation that helps keep the beaches of Melbourne clean.

And like Beach Patrol, LOS draws upon the concern and energy of local people who want their surrounds to be better.

LOS believes that bringing local people together as a community to look after their own environment will not only improve local surrounds but – perhaps more importantly – help break the “litter supply chain”. This is where rubbish from streets throughout Melbourne makes its way into creeks to “grow and flow” on to our beaches and oceans.

And as Docklanders, we see this “litter supply chain” first hand.

We see the constant stream of rubbish that flows down our waterways and we also see our own contribution in the form of litter strewn on our streets that joins this flow – one hated culprit being the discarded cigarette butt.

This was the motivation behind a group of like-minded Docklanders - Adriana Brudan, Faye Cowling, Ali Hoffmann, Sierra Laidman, Adam Weiss and myself - forming LOS3008.

These Docklanders share the belief that Docklands is a wonderful place to live and work but that litter (and the issues of waste in general) is undermining wellbeing.

And so LOS3008 – Love Our Street Docklands – is being born on September 21 at Spring Clean The City (SCTC) 2019. Registration to SCTC is through eventbrite and more details about LOS3008 will be shared in the next edition of Dockland News.
**Fun park closes after 10 years**

Wonderland Junior Fun Park has closed its doors after a decade in Docklands, but will be reopening at Federation Square this September.

Having been part of the Docklands furniture for the last 10 years, the park originally operated on Pearl River Road adjacent to the O’Brian Icehouse, but moved to underneath the Melbourne Star in 2015.

As its lease ended this year, however, park owners Wonderland Entertainment and Leisure could not agree to new terms with management and shut its doors on July 14.

A statement said the closure was also down to “a change in the area’s demographics”.

In positive news, however, the park will open its doors again at The Paddock in Federation Square on September 12.

And in perhaps the biggest news yet, live entertainment travelling tent the Wonderland Spiegeltent will also feature at the new location.

The Spiegeltent, Dutch for “mirror tent”, has welcomed world-class performers and productions over the years, including the annual Blues Music Festival, Mystique Illusion and comedians Dave Hughes and Jimjeen.

From its inception, Wonderland Junior (previously Wonderland Fun Park) in Docklands saw over one and a half million visitors experience amusement favourites including the Wacky Worm Roller Coaster, Crazy Wave, Dodgem Cars, Dragon Flyer and the beloved Teacups and Grand Carousel, along with special school holiday and seasonal events programming.

For more information about the Wonderland Spiegeltent Festival at Federation Square (September 12 to October 20) visit wonderlandsiegeltent.com.au

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**Welcome Quest!**

By David Schout

**Development Victoria (DV) has now officially opened the 221-apartment hotel Quest NewQuay after it opened its doors earlier this year.**

The NewQuay development is now the largest property among Quest’s portfolio of over 170 properties throughout Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

And on July 15, members of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, DV and developer MAB Corporation joined together to celebrate the official launch.

Development director at DV Karen Cowden said the new apartment hotel, located on Caravel Lane, would become a vital part of an area that continued to grow.

“NewQuay is a significant contributor to Docklands,” she said.

“It’s a vibrant precinct for Melburnians to live, work and play and the new Quest NewQuay will provide visitors with another fantastic option for accommodation – one that’s close to the water, the refurbished District Docklands, the Melbourne Observation Wheel, Marvel Stadium and the free tram service linking the CBD.”

The hotel, which opened in February, is designed to cater towards a premium “home-away-from-home” experience for visitors and accommodates both extended and short-stay travellers.

It achieved full occupancy within just a month of opening earlier this year; something franchisee Stacy Andronikos attributed to the dynamic business surrounds in Docklands.

“High occupancy of premium accommodation is a sign of a healthy business environment,” Mr Andronikos said.

“We’re thrilled to be part of NewQuay’s development and want to thank MAB, Quest and Development Victoria for helping us reach this point.”

Mr Andronikos and business partner Daniel Hibberd promised staff earlier this year that, should they fill the facility within the first month, they would walk over to Victoria Harbour and jump into the water – suits and all.

And sure enough, when the goal was achieved they plunged into the drink, happily captured on camera at the time by Docklands News.

Mr Hibberd’s family has also owned Quest Bourke St since 2005.

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Photography prize
By Sarah Bartlett

This year the Australian Photographic Society (APS) has created a new award for photographers nationwide. The winners were announced at Docklands’ Magnet Galleries on July 4.

The Australian Conceptual Photography Prize (ACPP) aims to promote emerging conceptual photographers from across Australia. Conceptual photography is photography that illustrates a specific, pre-conceived idea. The idea could be simplistic, such as themes of happiness or sadness, or it could take on something more complex such as existential issues or gender identities.

The winner was Otways photographer Deb Gartland and her photograph Self Reflection. Ms Garland was also awarded the prize for best entry by a member of the Australian Photographic Society (APS).

Second prize was awarded to Brisbane photographer Anne Pappadarlo for her photograph When the son becomes a father.

There were over 100 entries submitted and 39 images by 29 photographers were selected as finalists by a judging panel. The panel included head of the school of Art and Design at ANU Denise Ferris, curator of photography at the National Gallery of Victoria Anne O’Hehir and renowned contemporary photographer Roger Skinner. The finalists’ exhibitions were displayed at Magnet Galleries from July 4 to 29.

Ms Garland received $8000 for the ACPP and $2000 for the best entry prize by an APS member. Ms Pappadarlo received a $500 voucher from Emergent Designs for second prize.

Magnet Galleries Melbourne Inc. is a not-for-profit and aims to preserve and celebrate the best of Australian photography as well as embolden emerging photographers.

Hundreds flock to Melbourne Quarter for Open House

Nearly 700 visitors descended on developer LendLease’s ground-breaking Melbourne Quarter development over the weekend of Jul 27 and 28 as part of Open House Melbourne.

The precinct featured three different spaces for the event, with One Melbourne Quarter, design and engineering firm Arup’s offices and the Melbourne Sky Park opened to the public to explore.

“We had almost 700 visitors through for what was a great showcase of LendLease’s workplace, the One Melbourne Quarter building and the MQ precinct,” state manager, external affairs at LendLease Victoria Amelia Cater said.

“With Arup also opening its doors to the public, the weekend was a great demonstration of LendLease’s capabilities in workplace, urbanisation, construction and place creation.”

“Initiatives like this are a very important part of building LendLease’s social licence in the community and in promoting the MQ project.”

The Open House weekend saw Arup offer guided tours and conduct experimental lab demonstrations in its three-level workspace designed by architects Hassell.

The 2000 sqm Melbourne Sky Park also proved a popular attraction to visitors, which features a landscaped garden, lawn and outdoor seating created by Denton Corker Marshall in collaboration with Aspect Oculus. The park also has wi-fi connection complete with power outlets and USB charge points.

The entire Melbourne Quarter project, which once completed will cover an entire city block, is anticipated to be completed in 2022.

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Understanding our geography

“When Europeans came here, they had a particular view of what the landscape was about. Part of that view was that swamps were of no particular value or, more accurately, that they were a source of disease.”

On July 23, Dr Gary Presland spoke in Docklands about the area’s geography, both pre- and post-colonisation. The Docklands swamp epitomises the differences.

“If you were to look at a map of Melbourne 30 years after settlement the Melbourne swamp was just the biggest of many swamps in the general area. They were thought of as being areas to avoid,” Dr Presland said.

“In a completely contrary view, the Aboriginal people looked upon them as being highly productive places.”

Aboriginal people could camp in these areas for longer than usual and could make use of the resources in them – both food and plant material.

“People constructed little floating rafts they could use to pick up roots and float them back. There were plants growing in these wetlands that provided medicines for them.”

“For Aboriginal people they were a boon.”

Dr Presland said the people of the Woiwurrung language group, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation that stretches to the Murray River, would gather in the Docklands area to exact business.

“They needed places like the wetlands in order to provide resources for people to be able to gather,” he said.

“About a couple of times a year large numbers of people would gather. They’d come up from Greelong, from the other side of the dividing range, from the Mornington Peninsula, and other places.”

“They’d all camp in traditional areas for those groups to camp in around the wetlands, and for a couple of weeks he in those areas enacting business – contracting marriages, deals, catching up on things happening in different areas.”

But since then, the actual geography of Docklands has been altered. Dr Presland said he became aware of those changes while working as an archaeologist for the state government in the 1980s.

“The area of Docklands is an important part of showing what people thought of the landscapes and how they altered it,” he said.

“There was a big problem in Melbourne in that the town itself was something like seven kilometres up the river from the bay.”

“In the 1870s people started thinking about having a canal, and the river itself was narrow and stilted.”

“They decided the river would be widened and the docks would be built close to what at that time was Spencer St railway station.”
Delving into the Docklands archives

Docklands History Group will delve into the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) on August 13 to survey the changing face of Docklands.

Dr Sebastian Gurciullo will present to the group at the Library at the Dock. “We’ll look at visual records from the state archival collection of the PROV like photographs, maps and plans from a variety of agencies including the Melbourne Harbour Trust, Victorian Railways and the old Division of Survey and Mapping,” Dr Gurciullo said.

He also said he would be demonstrating how Docklanders could access the “remarkable historic records” online.

The Melbourne Harbour Trust collection is currently being digitised by PROV volunteers. The photographs provide a visual record of the development of the Port of Melbourne and Docklands between 1880 and 1976.

Photos range from portraits of trust commissioners to conferences, workspaces, special Melbourne events and photographs of the physical works and aspects of the area.

The beauty and frustration of the Melbourne Harbour Trust photographs is that most of them are unlabelled and undated. Those with a knowledge of the area will often be able to “date” the images themselves through a bit of detective work, and Dr Gurciullo will touch on this in his presentation.

An “Enterprize” out of water

The Docklands-berthed tall ship Enterprize was sailed to Appleton Dock slipway last month and raised out of water for maintenance works for the first time in three years.

While the ship’s general manager Michael Womack admitted that such works should normally be carried out each year, the event marked a sight rarely witnessed. “It used to be done every year but this has been three years now since it was last done and that’s too long,” Mr Womack said. “With a wooden hull the maintenance is crucial.”

While maintenance is important, as a not-for-profit organisation, the process of utilising the slipway isn’t easy and Michael said that the Port of Melbourne was very supportive in waiving a lot of fees associated with using the facility.

A reproduction of the original 1830s topsail schooner Enterprize that founded Melbourne in 1835, the current Enterprize was built over six years using the traditional methods of the original ship.

With hemp rope sourced from Holland, flax sail cloth sourced from the United Kingdom and sheep fats used for lubricating the masts, everything about Enterprize is as traditional as it gets and its volunteers care for it with the same level of passion.

Volunteers Jeff and Kevin sailed the ship from its berthing place at 2 North Wharf Rd in Docklands on July 15 to the slipway, which slides into the water underneath the ship before cranking it up on land using nothing other than a very thick cable.

With maintenance carried out by a number of different volunteers over two to three weeks, Jeff described the process of looking after the ship as a real “labour of love.” “It’s very nice to work with materials and do that type of work whereas some of the other ships I work on use synthetics so it’s cheaper, it’s easier to maintain but it’s more of a pain to work with,” he said.

“When you’re splicing lines with hemp rope and do seizings and stuff like that it’s just very nice and all very simple engineering. We do a lot of stuff the same the way that we would have done it back then.”

The boat provides a truly authentic 1830s experience and is the most accurate replica of an early 19th century top sail schooner in the world. It is the only tall ship training vessel operating and based in Victoria and provides education experience to over 3000 primary and secondary children each year.

For more information visit enterprize.org.au
Runners descend on Docklands

From page 1.

Merging back onto Harbour Esplanade, runners ran back along the waterfront towards Victoria Harbour, eventually crossing the Yarra River at Webb Bridge, which represented the 5km mark.

After the Docklands section of the run, participants continued along Southbank and completed the rest of the run around the Botanical Gardens and sports precinct, before finishing at Birrarung Marr.

Some NewQuay and Victoria Harbour residents were temporarily land-locked from about 6.30am and 8.10am on the Sunday morning as runners came past in droves.

This year was the 12th staging of Run Melbourne, an annual event that also offers 10km, 5km and 3km races alongside the half marathon.

Over 20,000 participants were expected to hit the streets in this year’s event, some of whom were raising money for charities close to their heart.

This year’s goal was $2 million.

Photos: Samuel Costin
Maritime art on again at the Mission

Entries for the Mission to Seafarers annual ANL Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition close on August 30.

Stories of life at sea are seafarer stories and the Mission to Seafarers Victoria hears them every day. Maritime art is a genre significant to Australians, as the sea embraces it with 25,760 km of coastline.

It is for this reason that the theme for the 2019 ANL Maritime Art Prize is The Relationship of Humanity and the Sea.

The prize attracts around 300 entries every year, with a final selection of 80 artworks, that compete for five awards including the major Maritime Art Prize, Best in Traditional, Runners Up Award, Emerging Artist and the People’s Choice.

The Maritime Art Prize is an acquisitive award of $15,000, sponsored by ANL Containers.

Among the traditional beauty of oil paintings and watercolours of maritime subjects in the exhibition, last year’s winners demonstrated a move to include more contemporary works, with the overall winner being a mixed media work by Joni Dennis with a feminist representation of women ship’s captains.

This year’s judges are:

- Dr Charles Green – professor of contemporary art at the University of Melbourne, artist and author of several books on contemporary Australian art;
- Mr Graeme H Williams OAM – art collector, board member of the Lorne Sculpture Biennale 2020 and past curator of Melbourne Savage Club Art Prizes; and
- Ms Catherine De Boer – artist, designer and educator.

The event aims to raise the profile of our international seafarers and is the fundraising initiative of the Mission to Seafarers. The longevity of the prize, which has now been running for 17 years, is evidence of the recognition of both artists and the public have for the reputation of the prize.

Entries are now open and close on August 30. The 80 finalists will be notified on September 7 and the exhibition will launch on October 3. The finalists will be exhibited to public from October 4 to 20.

For more information email artprize@missiontoseafarers.com.au or visit missiontoseafarers.com.au/art-prize

UFC to return to Docklands

Marvel Stadium is set to see record crowds flock to Docklands, with the return of the blockbuster Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) on October 6.

In 2015, Marvel Stadium hosted the largest crowd in UFC history for the UFC 193 blockbuster bout between Ronda Rousey and Holly Holm, which drew a capacity crowd of 56,214, with many more gathering outside the stadium to watch on big screens.

Acting Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Jaclyn Symes welcomed the return of UFC to Docklands last month, with UFC 243: Whittaker vs Adesanya to take place on Sunday, October 6.

The contest will see Australian fighter Robert Whittaker take on New Zealander Israel Adesanya to unify the UFC world middleweight title.

The event will provide a significant boost to local businesses in Docklands and Victoria, with UFC 243: Rousey v Holm generating more than $100 million for the state’s economy, with 40 per cent of tickets sold to fans from outside Victoria.

The UFC made $9.5 million on ticket sales alone in 2015, which remains a house record for Marvel Stadium.

Saluministi celebrates!

The team at Saluministi celebrated its third birthday last month.

Having also recently obtained a liquor license, owners Peter Mastru and Frank Bressi (pictured) marked the occasion on Friday, July 26 with an evening of aperitivo along with Italian wine, beer and cocktails, as well as DJ tunes by Rob Sama.

Located at 892 Bourke St next to Library at The Dock and Buluk Park, the business has become a favourite for many locals since opening in Victoria Harbour.

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The District Docklands

Photography is a powerful medium

Good photography excites our senses, challenges our perceptions, and helps us better consider our world.

The District Docklands is excited to welcome MAGNET, a gallery space established with togetherness at its core, uniting people with an interest in and a passion for photography. It’s a place to share their knowledge, experience and aspiration; a place to gain new insights and expertise.

MAGNET is a non-for-profit organisation, founded to help on many levels, using photography as a tool to raise money for worthy causes. At MAGNET, established and emerging photographers are supported in a place where the best in Australian photography is preserved and celebrated.

MAGNET was founded four years ago in a historic building near Southern Cross Station. Founder Michael Silver has been working with photographers (OC) and their first job was at Alain’s Studios on Smith St in Collingwood at just 15 years of age. Michael is passionate about helping charities, most recently travelling and photographing for the Emergency Medicine Foundation.

MAGNET first joined The District in 2017, opening a gallery in the Docklands Art Collaborative Project, an initiative of Renew Australia. Today, MAGNET continues to enhance the customer experience at the precinct with a new and unique space to explore.

Michael Silver said: “At MAGNET, everyone is welcome.” The space is made up of two large galleries of different character: In Gallery 1, you will find Photonet Fine Art Printing, the best quality archival printing available. Michael and his wife Susanne provide a tailored service for each client to ensure they get the best possible result. They also scan film, glass negatives and prints.

Gallery 2 is the main event space, which is currently hosting a bi-monthly get together of female photographers with Joyce Evans Women’s Circle. Former president of the Australian Human Rights Commission Gillian Triggs will join a session later in the year as key speaker. Music and performance events are a regular occurrence at MAGNET organised by a wonderful group of Brazilian friends and led by Julia Calasso. The space is available for events beyond photography including corporate and private events, book launches, poetry readings, lectures and gatherings, a vibrant accessible and interesting environment that fosters creativity.

MAGNET would not exist without its volunteers. Michael said: “We welcome people of all walks of life, with skills and interests that can help strengthen our ethos of supporting and helping others.” MAGNET also collaborates with many groups and organisations, including The Royal Society, Fuji, University of Melbourne, Manning Clark House, Australian Photographic Society and more. “With the new space at The District, more collaborations, activations and events are now possible,” Mr Silver said.

MAGNET has already had resounding success since its re-launch in the new space, seeing many new and returning visitors. Its first exhibition was a very special awards night when the Australian Photographic Society revealed the winner of its inaugural Australian Conceptual Photography Prize, with many attendees travelling from interstate to be a part of the event. MAGNET at The District is open for everyone to explore, so why not check out the next exhibition, Still Beautiful by Kaz Leong, opening Sunday, September 8 at 4.30pm, on exhibit until September 29. Still Beautiful celebrates and empowers women who, through their skill and creativity, have bought beauty and joy into others’ lives and who have been role models and trail blazers socially and in the arts.

Magnet Galleries Melbourne Inc. is located at Wharf Street, The District Docklands and is open Thursday to Sunday, 12pm to 4pm daily.

Ivana Molnar
Marketing & Communications Manager The District Docklands
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10-year caretakers’ agreements

Joint owners’ voting rights have been put under the microscope by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

There is a very interesting proceeding winding its way through VCAT presently, and once determined, it will no doubt have seismic consequences throughout Victoria for owners’ corporations (OC) and their relationships with caretakers, building managers and concierges.

The proceeding involves two OCs in the same large development in Mount Alexander Rd, Travancore, alleging that agreements to appoint a building manager entered into by the developer (initial owner Bensons Property Group) at the Inaugural AGM, are invalid.

The OC claims that the terms and conditions of the contracts were most disadvantageous to owners. Principally, that a 10-year duration for the contracts is excessive, and that the fees and charges payable to the building manager under the contracts are also excessive.

The OC alleges that Bensons Property Group breached its duties under the Owners Corporation Act to act honestly and in good faith with due care, skill and diligence in the OC’s interests, and acted in breach of fiduciary duties owed to the OC and all original owners.

It is indeed very common for developers to act on behalf of OCs to enter into service contracts on non-competitive terms and bind the OC to potentially long-term inequitable arrangements. And, not just for building management services. Bulk electricity, gas and hot water service contracts, as well as essential services and fire service maintenance contracts are all now under the microscope with this proceeding.

Some bulk electricity agreements that I have seen from clients can run for terms of up to 25 years, and the longest caretaker contract I have come across sought to bind the OC for up to 55 years to the caretaker.

In this instance, the caretaker manager named himself as the returning officer to count the ballot forms and to declare the outcome of the ballots.

Interestingly, by doing so, the decisions made by him as caretaker were only amenable to challenge if (i) a decision was made in bad faith, or (ii) the caretaker made an error of law by reaching a decision that was so unreasonable no other caretaker could reach.

In this instance, there were multiple ballot forms filled out by owners where only one of the co-owners of the lot signed the ballots. However, the caretaker declared the votes as valid, and counted them towards the final outcome of the special resolution.

Bensons Property contended that if these votes were invalid, then the interim special resolutions did not pass and the proceeding against them could be dismissed.

In ruling against Bensons Property, VCAT backed the chairperson’s declaration, finding that “there is no provision in the Act about how a vote for a co-owned lot is to be treated, other than section 90 (which directs that joint owners of a lot have only one vote between them)”.

VCAT found that “there is no general principle that a document signed in respect of a co-owned lot must be signed by all owners in order to be effective.”

While it is always best practice for joint owners to sign a ballot form or proxy form, this case shows that a ballot or proxy will not be invalid even if signed by only one owner, unless the chairperson declares it so.

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Unrivalled inner-city living

By Jack Hayes

Nestled impeccably between city and sea, the streets of South Melbourne are set to welcome Lenny – a unique six-level luxury development in the heart of the buzzing South Melbourne.

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Marketed by Eton Property Group, Lenny will stand at 161 Buckhurst St, an easy walking distance to South Melbourne Market, Bay Street shopping precinct, South Melbourne Primary School and the nearby Montague light rail station.

The development is the first of its kind for the suburb, with five full-floor boutique residences, boasting unbridled views of both the city skyline and nearby bay. Each residence has direct and secure private lift access.

With ceiling heights ranging up to nearly three metres, the spaciousness of each apartment is complemented with three bedrooms, two full bathrooms plus a powder room, a substantial open plan living and dining area and two roomy terraces that capture sunlight with ease. Each residence has two car spaces.

Richard Newling-Ward of Bayley Ward Architects said the kind free-flowing attitude to space was rarely seen in South Melbourne and was perfect for those looking to downsize. "The inspiration for Lenny was to design something targeting a sophisticated buyer. The owner-occupier market really understands what South Melbourne has to bring," he said.

"From the living room you have clear views of the city, and as you walk through the apartment to the master bedroom, you have a terrace at the back which looks towards Port Melbourne beach where you get a really good sense of space. This is what inspired us to believe one apartment per floor was the path to go."

Each home’s glamorous, eye-catching form enjoys an entire level. "When you go through the apartment, there isn’t a need for any more space than what you have already got," Mr Newling-Ward said.

Lenny’s location is recognised with a Walkability Rating of 94 per cent, which means all the essential amenities such as transportation, shopping, schools, medical and more are all located within close proximity.

Style and luxury have been a keen focus on the design of these five apartments, with lavish bedrooms, superbly serviced by fully fitted robes, and luxe bathrooms complete with modern innovative tapware.

With construction beginning in September, Eton Property Group’s James Burne, said this boutique development was going to gain immense interest from buyers from the South Melbourne area and surrounds.

“Right now, we are taking expressions of interest in our soft launch phase, and we won’t be long before we have our grand launch,” he said.

For all enquiries visit etonproperty.com.au or contact Bradley Dean on 0413 508 866 or Barbara Giannarelli on 0421 666 447.
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String Bean Alley opens at QVM

Queen Victoria Market (QVM) has unveiled Melbourne’s newest laneway experience, with String Bean Alley officially opened on July 19.

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26 independent traders in bespoke shipping containers now call String Bean Alley home, providing a uniquely Melbourne shopping experience in the heart of the city’s favourite market.

With a history dating back to 1936, the name String Bean Alley pays tribute to the laneway where green string beans were once sold.

12 new businesses have joined existing traders to offer a variety of locally designed, sourced or produced fashion, vintage, jewellery, art, craft, skincare, toys, books and more.

From indie bookshop Mary Martin Books to handmade cards and gifts from Paper & Wood Co., unique clothing from Miss Brown Vintage, and artisan chocolate makers Melbourne Cocoa, String Bean Alley offers something for everyone.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the revival of String Bean Alley, located between L and M sheds, was part of the City of Melbourne’s $250 million renewal of the QVM precinct.

"String Bean Alley is the new place to find Melbourne’s best independent makers, creators, designers and artists," the Lord Mayor said.

"We expect the unique shopping experience and facilities to attract more customers to this part of the market, as well as provide weather protection and storage for traders."

"More than nine million visitors come to the Queen Vic Market each year for its traditional open-air market experience, and this magnificent new precinct will be a drawcard for new and existing customers."

"This is the latest project we have delivered to improve the experience for customers, traders and visitors to the market. We’ve also installed new seating, fruit trees and umbrellas in the new pedestrian plaza on Queen St, along with our red coat volunteers at the Visitor Hub."

"QVM CEO Stan Liacos said the rejuvenation of String Bean Alley was crucial to encourage new visitors to the market while celebrating its rich history.

"The String Bean Alley precinct represents a new era for the market," Mr Liacos said. "This section of the market is now acting as a small business incubator, providing a platform for specialist traders offering products and services that are locally designed, sourced or produced.”

"String Bean Alley marks another part of a series of crucial market improvements as identified in the QVM Precinct Renewal Master Plan."

"String Bean Alley traders are open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and Wednesday evenings during The Night Market event series."
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Docklands-based businesses wishing to be profiled in this section should email: advertising@docklandsnews.com.au

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Fear of the dentist? Fear not!

For some of us, it’s been many years since we’ve scheduled a dentist appointment.

We might think of sitting in the chair, the sound of the drill, and the sharp-edged memories of the mobile dentists from childhood with their rough hands; vivid memories we’ve tried – and failed – to forget.

Dr Wessam Atteya, who’s now the principal dentist at Pinnacle Dental Docklands, was once a victim himself of dental fear. At the age of six, he had an infected tooth, and his dentist at the time decided it needed to be pulled out. The dentist forcibly opened Dr Atteya’s mouth and, without warning, “yanked” his tooth out, and to his surprise, his mother was restraining him for the dentist.

But it seems this traumatic experience didn’t break Dr Atteya; it instead inspired him to become an outstanding dentist who has since become the go-to dentist for many anxious patients, including children. Research indicates that high dental fear affects approximately one in six Australian adults and about one in 10 children. Among some sub-groups of the population, such as middle-aged women, the prevalence can be as high as one in three individuals.

Dr Wessam Atteya started Pinnacle Dental with one thing in mind: a dentist visit should be a positive experience. Pinnacle Dental offers some strategies to overcome your dental anxiety:

- Start the conversation and put yourself in control;
- Rest easy; you have options;
- Play your favourite show or music during treatment;
- Happy gas sedation;
- Digital drug-free sedation (virtual reality); and
- Premedication using relaxants when needed.

Remember that one day, the pain of a decaying tooth will force you to take the step of finally coming to the dentist, and by then, it may be too late for routine dental care.

Pinnacle Dental is located at level four, 100 Harbour Esplanade (on the Marvel Stadium Concourse). For more information or to book an appointment call 9052 4422, email info@pinnacledental.com.au or visit pinnacledental.com.au

JustInTime moves into Wharf Club

By Jack Hayes

The picturesque Wharf Club fitness centre has handed over management to local stalwart, and long-time Southbank Local News (Docklands News’ sister publication) contributor, Justin Moran.

Mr Moran and his team at JustInTime Personal Training have secured a two-year contract to manage the building developed in 2017 to cater to the needs of the growing Yarra’s Edge community. Nestled scenically on the banks of the Yarra, the Wharf Club boasts panoramic views of the river, providing an exercise experience like few other gyms. Despite the beautiful scenery and fully equipped facilities, which include a 25m pool, steam room and fitness centre, Mr Moran said there were still many challenges in getting people out of their apartments.

“I’m really passionate about getting as many people active as possible. You don’t necessarily have to be spending time in the gym; you can come in and create a program with us to do at home or for rehab,” he said.

“Essentially we are trying to get more community engagement out of the gym, not just the Forge apartments here, but the rest of Docklands.”

With over 20 years’ experience in the industry, Mr Moran has always placed a significant emphasis on bringing communities together through social endeavours, big and small. “If you look at the statistics, only 20 per cent of the population are technically considered ‘active’, so gyms aren’t always going to be the answer for people,” he said.

“That is why we have been looking at social initiatives, such as getting a team to do the Kokoda Challenge, Great Victorian Bike Ride or Around The Bay In A Day, as well as less intensive activities like walking groups, or lawn bowls and barbecue days.”

The Wharf Club is one of two facilities of its kind in Victoria where there is a capacity for paid building management. With the only personal training company in Melbourne exclusively employing university qualified trainers, it seems the Wharf Club is in safe hands. “As well as managing this facility, we also offer a mobile personal training service. We come to your apartment and train you in the comfort of your own gym,” he said.

JustInTime Personal Training services clients throughout the Southbank, Docklands and CBD areas. For more details visit justintimept.com
Docklander

Getting better with age

Docklands resident Dr Ian Brammar shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

At 84, Ian could be easily forgiven for spending this stage of life enjoying its finer things from the comfort of his Docklands apartment at Victoria Harbour. But instead, the inspirational former metallurgist continues to work tirelessly on an exciting and innovative business venture that he is passionate about sharing with as many companies as possible.

Originally from Sheffield, England, Ian and wife Wendy have lived in Docklands for three years. Moving with their three kids, Ian was first brought to Australia in the late-1970s to help mining giants BHP develop a better steel in the aftermath of the collapse of the King Street Bridge.

Ian’s original role saw him living in Newcastle for four years where he was hired by BHP to develop stronger steels for gas pipelines, helping to move to Melbourne to start work in a research laboratory developing steels.

He said that, ironically, it was through working with some of the largest companies in the world throughout this period, which motivated him to switch careers in an effort to help solve widespread problems he saw in business management.

“I began to realise that companies were still going out of business and I realised that it all comes back to these strategies,” Dr Brammar said.

“Only half the story for a company is developing its products and so on. You can still become a world-beating company if you have world-beating products but that’s very rare. That’s why I started getting into management.”

Leading up to forming his own company International Executive Strategies Pty Ltd in 1990, Dr Brammar had discovered that the corporate strategies were too heavily focused on products, rather than operations.

Having worked on the modules, survey design and program over the course of the past 20 to 30 years, he said that only last year had his company found the solutions required to form the “extra half of top-down” high performance management.

The Expanding Value Scientific Management (EVSIM) system developed by Dr Brammar is the only one of its kind in the world and its main focus is to connect corporate strategies and employees directly to a company’s profitability.

Dr Brammar said that of all companies who had tested and implemented the program to date each had shown a doubling in profit, enhanced employee satisfaction and had been able to effectively measure corporate culture. However, with companies having operated under the same systems for hundreds of years, he said it was proving a challenge to sell.

“The top-down management system of companies is virtually unchanged since 1865 when companies were first incorporated. We found that some things can’t be done with that top-down system,” he said.

“If you look at the current situation in Australia at the moment we’ve got some major problems and we’ve got to a situation where all these tactics that we’ve been adding on since the early 1900s to increase the productivity are running out of steam.”

“Standard of living is not keeping up with salary and wages. There is a ceiling on profitability of about 15 per cent to earnings before interest and tax. Over 30 per cent of investments are locked into operations that companies can’t use. Each one of these we can solve.”

Before moving to Docklands, which is now his home office, Dr Brammar and Wendy had a property in Steeles Creek where they had established a winery together 45km north-east of Melbourne.

Sadly, the winery and much of the property was wiped out in the Black Saturday bushfires of 2009, and with him and Wendy survived by hiding in their cellar. Miraculously, with their home built to specifications issued after Ash Wednesday fires, the house too survived the fires.

“We didn’t get any warning of the fire coming so we couldn’t get out,” Dr Brammar said. “Fortunately, our house withstood the blaze thanks to having these specifications, which included metal shutters and a sprinkler system and we hid in our fire-resistant cellar in the hillside under the house.”

“The house was built so well that the only damage we got was two cracked skylights and the only person who got injured was our dog with burnt paws.”

Once they got their devastated property back into a condition that they could sell, they moved to Victoria Harbour so that Ian could continue his dream of growing his business and raising awareness about the EVSIM system. He hasn’t looked back.

“We moved to Docklands because at that stage I hadn’t quite finished all the development of this method and Docklands was an excellent place for us to be because we were close to the CBD,” he said.

“We’re overlooking the harbour on the 15th floor. Living here is like living in a little village because it’s five minutes from everything with the banks, the supermarket, the doctors, so it’s all there.”

SkyPad Living

Vertical village voting

Vertical villagers’ voices might now be better heard, but voting remains vexed.

The key, we are told, to growing our sense of vertical village community lies with our willingness to participate – both inside and outside our residences. Current wisdom holds that we should keep ourselves with our willingness to participate – both inside and outside our residences. Current wisdom holds that we should keep ourselves with our willingness to participate – both

But there are moves afoot.

One solution involves lowering voting thresholds - generally from a 75 per cent majority to a 50 per cent majority - and many states are considering this option with the ACT leading the pack, followed closely by Western Australia.

Also helping are advances in areas such as online voting, with products like StrataVote coming onto the market. These are tools that support (among other things) online voting, which is conducted in a manner that satisfies the requirements of the respective state.

Once set up, these systems can reduce the time and cost associated with voting.

Together, these changes may make easier our path to sustainable innovation in our vertical villages – but acknowledging that care must also be taken to ensure that additional costs do not become burdens forced on those that cannot bear them.

Janette Corcoran
Apartment living expert
https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/
Health and Wellbeing

Pain in the neck

Neck pain is one of the most common problems treated by physiotherapists. In fact, it is so prevalent that one in five readers of this article are probably currently experiencing it.

Studies show that over the course of a lifetime, half of us will suffer from neck pain. It is more common in women and it tends to peak in middle age.

Most often in Docklands, office workers are particularly susceptible to neck problems. Sitting at a desk with poor posture and hours of computer work can lead a person susceptible to pain in the neck joints, muscles and tendons.

Interestingly, research has also shown that office workers experience more neck pain when they have low job satisfaction or perceive that they are employed in a negative workplace. In my experience, the combination of high stress and sustained desk postures are common features of office workers seeking treatment for neck pain.

Headaches are also often related to neck pain, as is shoulder pain.

Pain can also be caused by degeneration of the spinal discs and bones. This can lead to compression or irritation of the spinal nerves and result in recurrent or persistent tingling and numbness in the shoulders, arms, or hands. If you experience these referred symptoms, it is vital that you seek physiotherapy or chiropractic treatment to prevent long term problems.

So, what can be done? Typically, relief is provided via a multimodal combination of manual therapy, postural correction, education, and exercise. Manual therapy involves gentle loosening of stiff joints, muscles, and identification of painful active trigger points. Education about ideal work station ergonomics is vital to address postural causes. Stress management strategies are also encouraged. This may include referral to a remedial massage therapist or psychologist.

Neck pain can be successfully treated by a tailored treatment plan, though recurrence is common over the long term. Chronic neck pain is ideally treated with an initial phase of intensive treatment before transitioning onto preventative care strategies such as strength and conditioning techniques. The aim is a better quality of life and fewer days missed from work and family life.

About me …

I am a physiotherapist and long-term resident of Docklands. My physiotherapy education began in the United States and was completed at the master’s level at the University of Melbourne. I have had the pleasure of working with patients and conditions across the lifespan – from the Royal Children’s Hospital to private nursing facilities. With a special interest in shoulder and neck pain, I have additional training in dry needling, clinical exercise (pilates) and shoulder rehabilitation. You can contact me at info@docklandshealth.com.au

Adam Plausinaitis
Physiotherapist
Docklands Health
docklandshealth.com.au

Precinct Perspective

I would love to hear your ideas for the next edition as this is our community. That means a collective of all of us, so let’s make it even better.

Keith Sutherland
NewQuay resident
keith@sutherlandproperty.com.au

Precinct Perspective – Yarra’s Edge

I appreciate the opportunity to talk about our beloved Yarra’s Edge but it can only be as good as the information you all provide. This column will come out every third edition of Docklands News.

I would like to start by updating you all on a topic that is close to my heart and that is, opposing the tram bridge between Collins and Lorimer streets. The Andrews government has agreed to further assess two options that we have presented. We believe they are far better, cheaper and less mean a collective of all of us, so let’s make it even better.

Keith Sutherland
NewQuay resident
keith@sutherlandproperty.com.au

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The Docklands Secret

Secret solved: Docklands’ apocalyptic public art

Last month we asked readers to help us solve a Docklands secret: why 757 Bourke St is donned with a big, Vegas-styled ‘ON THE BEACH’ sign.

Responses have been enlightening.

Trish Boal wrote in to ask if it was a reference to the Nevil Shute novel On the Beach: “Would be interested to know if the building had any link to Nevil Shute. He may have lived at or near the site, or wrote the novel there? Movies were made based on the novel in 1959 and 2000.”

Nevil Shute died in 1960, so it’s unlikely he ever visited the actual building, but the reference is on the right track.

Trish included the Wikipedia extract: “On the Beach is a 1957 post-apocalyptic novel written by British author Nevil Shute. The novel details the experiences of a mixed group of people in Melbourne as they await the arrival of deadly radiation spreading towards them from the northern hemisphere, following a nuclear war a year previously. As the radiation approaches, each person deals with impending death differently.”

Nicholas Geever wrote in and directed us to a page on a travel website: “On The Beach by Melbourne artist Janet Burchill was erected in 2007. The artwork references Nevil Shute’s novel about the aftermath of nuclear catastrophe during World War Three. The film adaptation was shot around the Melbourne area in 1959.”

“At the time the lead actress, Ava Gardner, [apocryphally] commented that Melbourne was an appropriate place to film a movie about the end of the world. During this time Docklands was a thriving port, which is not necessarily picturesque, causing this opinion.”

The film also starred Fred Astaire, Gregory Peck and Anthony Perkins.

“The artwork is located in this area because it symbolises the end of the world setting that occurred in Docklands after the decline of industry in the area and before its redevelopment. The artwork uses a neon medium symbolising the area coming back to life.”

And Rose Mercer wrote in to add that original builders in Docklands’ redevelopment were required to erect a piece of street/public art.

Thanks everyone!
State government follows UK lead on cladding

Daniel Andrews’ pledge of $600 million to fix half of the 1000-plus buildings in Victoria with flammable cladding is welcome news for some ‘lucky’ owners.

The policy shift by the state government follows the lead set by UK Prime Minister Theresa May earlier this year when the UK government allocated 200 million pounds to address the flammable cladding issue in that country.

The UK cladding fund, announced in May this year, is estimated to pay for the rectification of half of Britain’s affected apartment buildings.

The U-turn by the Victorian government follows the release of the final report of the Victorian Cladding Taskforce, headed by former Liberal premier Ted Baillieu and former Labor deputy premier Prof John Thwaites.

The state government now has plans for “risk-tiering” to be applied to determine who gets the golden tickets to have the rectification costs covered.

The Cladding Taskforce deemed 1,069 buildings as having cladding that is a “risk to life”.

Of the 1069 buildings classified as dangerous by the Cladding Taskforce:

■ 72 are rated as an extreme risk
■ 409 are rated a high risk
■ 388 are rated a moderate risk and
■ 200 are rated low risk

What rating is your building? Good luck trying to find out, because the webpage of the government’s newly established agency Cladding Safety Victoria gives scant information, saying simply: “To be eligible for assistance from Cladding Safety Victoria, your privately owned [sic] apartment building must first be assessed as part of the State-wide Cladding Audit, led by the Victorian Building Authority. Was this page helpful? Yes, No.”

That’s the site’s whole page on eligibility... So you’ll have to go into the lottery to find out if you win a prize.

Mr Andrews expects his Cladding Safety Victoria fund to remediate the cladding issues for the top 500 dangerously clad buildings in Victoria.

Of these buildings many are hospitals, schools, aged care or other government-owned facilities. The Taskforce report says: “The 2019-20 Budget provides $150.3 for the rectification of State-owned buildings. We are reasonably certain Ted and the professor meant to say $150.3 million. That’s a big chunk of money that would retrench the $600 million somewhat.”

To be accurate, should Dan have announced a budget of $458 million to rectify apartments?

Instead, the Premier has made a media-release appeal to the federal government for matched funding. It seems to be a bid to cover the tens of thousands affected apartment-owners who, as it stands, will miss out.

“There needs to be a true national partnership to put community safety first, to rectify these most dangerous buildings,” the Premier said.

However, federal industry minister Karen Andrews flatly rejected Mr Andrews’ long-distance supplication.

“The Commonwealth is not an ATM for the states. So, no, this problem is of the state’s making and they need to step up and fix the problem and dig into their own pockets,” Ms Andrews told Radio National.

It seems to be a clever buck-passing move by Andrews, promising to fix 50 per cent of the problem and blaming Canberra for not being able to fix the whole problem.

At least the ill-fated Cladding Rectification Agreement loan scheme seems to have been put to rest. With its voluble silence on the concept, the Cladding Taskforce effectively damned the loan scheme. The Taskforce report essentially said “A loan scheme was set up. We recommend funding.”

We look forward to seeing how much of the budget relieves affected owners - watch this space!

Finally, to put the cladding disaster in a community context: an apartment resident in an "extreme risk" building told ABC radio: “The great Australian barbeque is under threat...we’re concerned that one wrong move and you might burn down all your friends.”

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Lunch Break

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MELBOURNE CBD
College dropout turned street cleaner

By Alex Dalziel

Sarah is worried that people know her dog Anika better than they know her!

Working as a lawyer in Docklands, Sarah said she regularly walked Anika in the local area.

And since bringing her into her dog friendly office every day, Sarah said that Anika had made a lot of friends.

The 11-year-old Labrador gets walked every work day during lunch and after work.

Sarah said that when she got Anika as a puppy, she was a trainee for a sniffer dog school.

"She has an elbow that was a bit faulty, so she is a college drop-out," Sarah said.

And the "dropout" is now "the boss of the pack" of the other trainee dogs, whose owners Sarah knows.

"She has just transitioned to running the show now and she has skillfully convinced every person in the building that she needs a snack, so all the humans are trained to feed her at regular intervals," Sarah said.

When out on a walk, Anika has the special talent of being able to find an apple core in any bush in Docklands. During the lunch time rush, Anika will dutifully clean the streets of any discarded lunch time treats, keeping them squeaky clean every time.

"If you train her to find a café, she will always take you to the nearest café for a coffee, and there are plenty of choices in Docklands," Sarah said.

So, next time you are enjoying the clean sidewalks and public spaces of Docklands, you have Anika the Labrador to thank!
Winter is for comfort, right?

Comforting food (high calories), comforting drinks (alcoholic – to keep you warm), comforting blankets, comforting fires, comforting marshmallows … the energy of winter is slow and warm and well … comforting.

It’s a reprieve from the summer months of heat and activity. Winter is the break we need to rest, relax (put on weight) and re-generate. It’s calmer energy, often less frantic with social engagements, often a time of reflection … and sometimes of feeling a little glum. It’s like all the hectic activities are over and you’re sitting there waiting for this glorious time of relax and to kick instead your mind floths with things you “should’ve done.”

Well, I’m here to make you feel better about it. Because I’ve been thinking about it a lot. You see, all through the summer and even the autumn months I’ve been flat out doing things. Whether it be out and about with business events, working like crazy towards business goals, kids’ sport every weekend, early starts every day to get in early exercise … I’ve been looking forward to the “comfort” and break of winter, a chance to relax, a chance to stop such a hectic schedule for a while, a chance to sleep in, to restore. So, why does it feel less like a rest, more stressful than we imagined?

It’s all about energy and how we process it. You see, having finally arrived in my time of “restful comfort” being winter, I’m now actually dealing with all the stress that I was under in the crazy warmer months, all the activity and fast pace priorities that left me with no time to “process” let alone get a good night’s sleep. You think that you’ve dealt with them and moved on because they’re not part of today’s picture, but what you find is that all things you need to process start to emerge and run through your mind the moment your body is restful and in a comfortable place … like winter.

It’s emotional energy, and just like your muscles have memory for exercise and gym workouts, your inner self, or gut instinct or whatever you may like to call it, remembers all the things that you haven’t dealt with and brings them back up for you to face when you finally pause long enough to see it. This is nothing to be concerned by at all, but what does need to happen is you need to face them – the concerns, or stress or worry, the anger or frustration that you have pushed aside is best dealt with so that you can actually get to a place of restoration.

This happened to me recently, when a simple text message from someone long ago (well, summer, but you know …) popped through as I was sitting by the fire enjoying a slow whisky. I felt all agitated, angry and a million responses ran through my mind … but mostly I was confused as I truly thought I didn’t care about this person, and was long past the anger. In fact, I simply hadn’t dealt with it.

So, if like me, you’re finding when you pause that it’s a little more restless than you would like, then I suggest you look at the energy that is still stored inside your being, settle and look inside yourself and see what is there – for me, I was able to say to myself “it’s ok you feel angry, it’s ok that you felt upset, it’s ok that you felt sad”. And in acknowledging these emotions and truly seeing the impact, I was able to thank my body for reminding me of these emotions so I could deal with them properly. Energy needs to be moved on, in all things in life. And in recognising these emotions and “hearing” them properly … they actually do go and leave you feeling a lot more, well, comfortable.

So, if you have been struggling to completely relax in your designated downtime, don’t be afraid to let emotions wash over you – it is not weak to “release” things, but is sometimes required so you can process how you feel, deal with it and let it go. And once you have worked through these things, the relaxation is that much sweeter, the restoration is that much clearer, and you will truly be ready to emerge and conquer so much more.

What a woman wants to feel strong by not being overcome with negative feelings, but what a woman needs to realise is that the strongest people do have emotions to deal with – it’s just that they have learned how to move that energy on. I hope that in your time of rest and restoration you can clean out the energy you no longer require – it’s like a reverse spring clean, it’s a winter cleanse of the mind and soul!

I hope you have beautiful peaceful sleeps after a lovely night by the fire. May winter restore us all!

Until next month, Abby x
PS You can reach me at life@docklandsnews.com.au or on social media @abbyjanecrawford

Abby Crawford
life@docklandsnews.com.au

What next for the Docklands Chamber of Commerce?

Two years ago, we were asked to write a strategic plan for the City of Melbourne as to where we could see our chamber progressing. Key goals such as hosting in excess of 200 members, having a social media reach over 100,000 and having viable business events have already been achieved.

Our next major item is to bring permanent, world-class activation to Victoria Harbour. Melbourne is commonly named as the world’s most livable city, yet it pales in comparison to places like Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai or Miami when it comes to night-time events and entertainment based around the water. The DCC has invested in a fully-funded business case that we will share with all levels of government and the public. We hope you’ll follow the journey and believe in our harbour just like we do.

Shane Wylie
Media Director
www.docklandscc.com.au

New Yarra’s Edge development takes shape

Poised to become one of Melbourne’s finest addresses, Mirvac’s river precinct at Yarra’s Edge is fast taking shape with construction well advanced.

The stylish terraces and home office community will incorporate 82 exclusive freestanding homes featuring a distinctive, contemporary architectural style with a façade colour palette reminiscent of the Melbourne of old.

The riverfront homes offer exceptional designs over three and four levels and enjoy uninterrupted views, marina berths, lap pools and opulent finishes.

Stylish terrace homes in the heart of the precinct span over two and three levels, and innovative, functional home offices offer the chance to conveniently work and live in this great environment.

With stage three due to be released in mid-2010, Mirvac is currently taking expressions of interest. A spectacular riverfront display home will also be completed at this time.

New Year, New Challenges

With the festival a month away, comes the anticipation of what lies ahead. Will it be like last year? Will we be able to share in the same amount of joy? Will the community be able to come together and enjoy the festivities as it was meant to be?

For the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, this past year has been one of consolidation and growing our business, bringing new faces to the fold and spreading our coverage to North Collingwood.

We need to pause for a moment and appreciate that having a social media presence has enabled us to reach over 300 members and at least 500 unique visitors a month. Our community, the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, is strong.

As we move into the new year, we have a mighty new year ahead of us.

Chamber Update

Bricks and Clicks

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCC) is hosting a special presentation from David Koch’s media empire – Pinstripe Media.

The business lunch, to be held at Berth on August 16 will be all about capacity building, digital media, marketing, exposure and sustainability. The event is free for businesses to attend as it is proudly sponsored by the Docklands Chamber of Commerce.

Please check our website www.docklandscc.com.au for the news section or our destination website www.visitdocklands.com.au for ticket availability. The presentation includes a full business lunch at Berth.

Speed Networking

Our first speed networking event was a hit so we’re backing up in short succession. On August 23, we’ll again be hosting 50+ local businesses for a night of networking at Quest Newquay. Again, the night will be fully catered – beer, wine, sparkles and canapes from one of our member restaurants.

Tickets are already up on Eventbrite and both of our websites.

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<td>FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 9.30AM-12PM LIBRARY AT THE DOCK CHINESE BOOK CLUB</td>
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<td>7 AND 7.30 AM ON FRIDAYS AT THE HUB BASKETBALL COURTS EARLY MORNING FITNESS</td>
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<td>EVERY WEEKDAY 6.30AM CORNER OF SOUTH WHARF DR AND POINT PEARCE, YARRA’S EDGE</td>
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Plans for Docklands sports club

By David Schout

Ron Barassi Snr Park could soon house Docklands’ newest sports club after a group of local volunteers assembled to form a club based on the park’s facilities.

While details remain scarce at this stage, including which sports the club will play, the City of Melbourne revealed to Docklands News that following last year’s community consultation on the park, a community taskforce had begun brainstorming ideas.

"After a well-received engagement and consultation process with the Docklands community, we are pleased to announce a group of dedicated community members has volunteered to form a local sporting club – to be based at Ron Barassi Snr Park," a council spokesperson said.

"This group will meet from August to begin the formal process to create the club, and will update the community on its progress at an upcoming Docklands Community Forum."

While it could not confirm yet, the council said soccer and cricket were the likely candidates of sports around which a club would be formed.

Last year, the council conducted surveys with almost 300 residents, workers, business owners and visitors to hear their feedback about the park, which opened in 2015.

Six in 10 (61 per cent) respondents believed there was a need for a local sporting and recreational group based at the park, which is situated on Docklands Drive, below the Bolte Bridge.

Over a quarter of respondents (26 per cent) claimed to be "very interested" in being part of a local sport and recreation group based at the grounds, while a further 52 per cent claimed they were "somewhat interested". Soccer was the most popular sport among respondents, with 32 per cent citing an interest in playing the world game at the park.

Other outdoor sports nominated among those who were "very interested" in being part of a local sporting group included ultimate frisbee (16 per cent), touch rugby (12 per cent) and AFL 9s (10 per cent).

Since its opening, external clubs have used the park to play organised sport, but no Docklands-based outfit has played at the grounds.

The council has been on record as saying it wants to see the park activated for the local community, and reinforced this recently.

"The City of Melbourne believes a sporting club at Ron Barassi Snr Park will offer great benefits to the wider Docklands community. This has been reinforced by the feedback we’ve received through the engagement and consultation process undertaken via Participate Melbourne," a council spokesperson said.

Other findings to emerge from the surveys included the fact that 28 per cent of residents did not know the park existed at all.

The council acknowledged they wanted to improve this.

"We will also work closely with the new sporting club to help facilitate further activations and increase awareness of the park."

Two six-week Mini Roos soccer programs for children have recently been held at the park, with more than 40 children and their families participating in the weekly sessions.

Ron Barassi Snr Park is a community recreational and sporting facility that features a sports field, community pavilion, playground, barbeque facilities and a walking circuit.

The park is named in recognition of Ronald James Barassi Snr, who played for the Melbourne Football Club from 1936-1940 and died in Tobruk, Libya, in 1941 while serving in World War II.

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