

DOCKLANDS

community news

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www.docklandsnews.com.au

Council writes “to do” list

By Shane Scanlan

The City of Melbourne has published a “to-do” list of activities it hopes will improve Docklands over the next three years.

Entitled “Delivering for Docklands”, the strategy was launched before Christmas and comprises 89 tasks under the general headings of residential, business and economic wellbeing.

Nearly half of those promises fall within the residential category where the council has identified 10 specific categories for support and improvement – childcare, recreation, public space, retirees, community groups, the arts, council information, pedestrian and bike paths, precinct character and the environment.

Some of the 43 actions listed here include:

- Encourage business such as cinemas, theatres and book shops to locate in Docklands;
- Introduce a comprehensive tree planting program;
- Create additional public toilets where needed;
- Investigate methods to reduce the impact of high winds;
- Develop a Docklands-specific arts grants program; and

- Work with the State Government to provide a pedestrian bridge between Lonsdale Street and Telstra Dome.

The seven areas where the council hopes to support local business are: transport connections, parking, public transport, water transport, new business development, promotion and sustainable design.

Included in the 22 actions for businesses are:

- Install additional taxi ranks if needed;
- Push for an extension of tram services;
- Support an investigation into a linking tram service with Footscray Station;
- Also look at public transport connections with South Melbourne and North Melbourne;
- Encourage the expansion of water taxi services; and
- Assist the Docklands Chamber of Commerce push for essential services such as a post office.

The strategy further identifies five categories where it believes it can boost the economic wellbeing and vibrancy of Docklands – retail, destination awareness, events, water-based activities and tourism.

In publishing the strategy, the council acknowledges that Docklands will need additional support “until it is a fully-developed precinct”.

At the end of 2010, the council is expected to report its achievements against the tasks it has set itself.

In 2010, the council believes Docklands will be:

- Well on the way to becoming a world-class waterfront development;
- A happy and contented local community;
- A commercial hub for local, national and international business; and
- A thriving tourism location.

In his most recent report to the joint VicUrban-City of Melbourne Docklands Coordination Committee, the council’s Manager of Docklands Integration, Rod Burke, commented that the document also aimed to “accurately reflect the limitations imposed on the City, due to its current ‘advisory only’ status in the planning process that currently operates in the precinct.”

The report can be downloaded from <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=317&pg=3663>

Positive response from Community

The Docklands Community Association has responded positively to the Delivering for Docklands strategy.

Association President Liam Jones said: “The strategy is an ambitious, comprehensive plan for the

Docklands area and all of its users. We are satisfied with the level of consultation to date and look forward to its continuance.”

“In its early stages, the action items are only presented in a ‘wish list’ format and will require an enormous amount of work and resources to implement,” Mr Jones said.

“I sincerely hope that the council is serious about the roll out of these initiatives and we will monitor the timely delivery of all promises.”



Tai Chi by a teacher with a surprising body of work

By Sarah Murray

There are many strings to Kathryn Avramakis’ bow, not least her remarkable recovery from a car accident that left her unable to walk for over 18 months.



Now she wants to put some of her skills and motivational techniques into practise and get to know other women who live in Docklands with the offer of free Tai Chi classes.

“I love living in Docklands but sometimes you can feel alone and it would be great to connect with other women,” Ms Avramakis said.

As well as teaching Tai Chi, Ms Avramakis is also a Doctor of Natural Medicine, a fitness and health specialist, a motivational speaker and, most surprisingly, an internationally recognised body sculptor having won the 2006 “Miss Figure Universe”.

Having faced her fair share of adversity and overcome it, today Ms Avramakis understands the importance of faith, community support and friendships.

“Following a bad car accident in 1994 I was left with a spinal injury that meant I couldn’t walk. The doctors said that I had to have surgery or would never walk again,” she said.

Initially rejecting the operation Ms Avramakis relied on her strong faith to get her walking and eventually back to the gym, “I really hit rock bottom and spiralled into a deep depression. But I also had a spiritual awakening and out of this came my

motivation to set goals and work to obtain them.”

Eventually Ms Avramakis did have an operation following a relapse at the gym, but continued to work hard to keep herself fit. This led her to body sculpting, and an incredibly successful run of unbroken wins that eventually saw her obtain the ultimate prize of Miss Figure Universe.

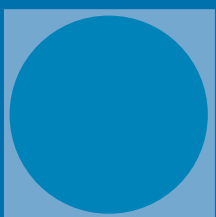
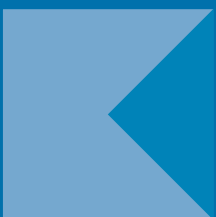
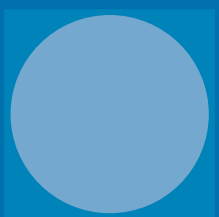
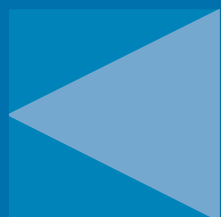
Ms Avramakis said: “One of God’s greatest miracles is to enable ordinary people to do extraordinary things.”

Now as a Yarra’s Edge resident this remarkable go-getter is keen to connect with other women who live in Docklands for the sake of health, fun and social networking opportunities and sees Tai Chi classes as a way to get the ball rolling.

“There are so many smart and interesting people here, I really think that this would be a great way for us to get together, and get to know each other.”

The first lesson is free and will be held near the barbecue at Tower 5 from 6pm on Tuesday, February 12.

For further information, email enquiries@kathrynnavramakis.com



DOCKLANDS community news

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DOCKWORDS

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters in this grid?

All words must contain the centre letter.
No proper nouns, foreign words or plurals ending in 's'.

A	B	C	D					Q	R	S	T
E	F	G	H	I	V	K		U	V	W	X
I	J	K	L	M				Y	Z	A	B
N	O	P			R	A	E	C	D	E	F
R	S	T	U					G	H	I	J
V	W	X	Y					L	M	N	O
Z	A	B	C					P	Q	R	S
D	E	F	G					T	U	V	W
H	I	J	K					X	Y	Z	A
M	N	O	P					B	C	D	E

**Target: 28 words – Private
41 words – Sergeant
58 words – Captain**

Solution to be supplied in next issue

Solution to Puzzle from last edition
concur, construct, conus, corn, cornu, cost, count, court, crocus, crus, crust, cum, curst, curt, occur, scorn, scour, scout, scut, stucco, succor, unco.

Docklands greenhouse pollute tag

By Shane Scanlan

According to the Australian Conservation Foundation, Docklands residents are the worst greenhouse gas polluters in Victoria.

Along with their Southbank neighbours, it is estimated that every Docklander generates 31.6 tonnes of CO2 each year – more than a third higher than the state average of 19.7 tonnes.

The ACF has published estimates for all postcodes at its Consumption Atlas website (www.acfonline.org.au/consumptionatlas).

It has based its estimates on personal spending figures derived from the last census (2006).

The University of Sydney's Centre for Integrated Sustainability Analysis derived and applied a formula to the census figures – resulting in the 31.6 tonne per person figure.

Interestingly the ACF says less than a quarter of lifestyle-generated greenhouse pollution stems from electricity use and fuel burned in motorcars. Most comes from the production and distribution of things we buy and consume.

ACF spokesman Chuck Berger said: "Everything we buy has an impact on the environment, as all things demand energy, water and other natural resources to produce."

"It is better to spend more of our money on services – from sporting event tickets to massages – because services in general demand fewer resources than goods," Mr Berger said.

In the case of Docklands, VicUrban has imposed strict environmentally sensitive design restrictions on buildings.

Docklands claims the highest condensed number of commercial development in Australia and the new childcare centre announced recently (see page 3) boasts an extremely environmental design.

But Mr Berger said: "Even if people are living in eco-friendly buildings, turning on plasma TVs and taking a few airline trips each year can quickly squander all the benefits saved."

The University of Sydney's Chris Dey said: "The households with the biggest environmental impact are high income earning, inner city, small or single-person households."

"While inner city households have better access to public transport and are less car dependent, with their higher incomes, they typically buy more things and travel by air more often."

"But having a high income doesn't have to have a high impact on the environment: all of us must consume smarter and more sustainably," he said.


Green your building

The City of Melbourne is providing environmental advice for building owners and managers in the form of *Greening Your Building* toolkit, available for free online.

The *Greening Your Building* toolkit is aimed at building owners and managers in large or small buildings and provides a comprehensive step-by-step approach to help buildings in the City of Melbourne reduce their environmental footprint and in the process, save money on their utility bills.

Environment Committee chair Councillor Fraser Brindley said: "The step-by-step 'How to' guide covers a vast number of ways you can green your building - from simple changes to management practises through to major plant refurbishment."

For more information about the toolkit or to download a copy, visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greeningyourbuilding



Sustainable Living Festival

The City of Melbourne is sponsoring a three-day Sustainable Living Festival at Federation Square from February 15.

The annual festival, which has been running since 2003, is organised by the Sustainable Living Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation committed to promoting, celebrating and practicing the principles of sustainable living.

It provides an opportunity for renewable energy and recycling industry leaders across Australia and from overseas to showcase sustainable living practices. It's also an opportunity for individuals to find ways that they can green their own homes.

For more information about the festival, visit www.slf.org.au/festival.

THE MONTAGE

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Artist's impression only

Docklands **Lend Lease**



Deal is sealed - 150 child care places for Docklands

Construction of the Docklands' first major community facility, the Family and Children Services Hub, in Victoria Harbour, is underway.

Legal documents formalising the new child care centre were signed just before Christmas and the 150-place facility is on track to open early in 2009.

The centre will offer a range of other services including long day care, occasional care, preschool programs, maternal and child health services, family counselling and intervention services including speech pathology.

"This is a substantial development not only for Victoria Harbour but for Melbourne Docklands. Providing affordable child care through this project is one of the ways we are meeting the needs of people living, working or visiting Docklands and the wider City of Melbourne community," the Lord Mayor Cr John So said.

The City of Melbourne is contributing \$6.95 million to the project.

Councillor Peter Clarke said the project could not have reached construction stage without



PHOTO: NEIL OSBORNE

the combined efforts of all project partners, the City of Melbourne, VicUrban, Lend Lease and the Lady Gowrie Child Centre (Melbourne), which will manage the hub on the City of Melbourne's behalf.

"There are more than 100 families with children under five living in Docklands and more than 40 babies were born in the Docklands area in the past year," Cr Clarke said.

"Melbourne Docklands is one of the fastest growing areas in metropolitan Melbourne and the Family and Children Services Hub will be an ongoing legacy for the City of Melbourne for many years to come," Cr Clarke said.

VicUrban's General Manager - Docklands and Major Projects, Michael Hynes said the Children's Hub demonstrated how VicUrban was working with the council and the private sector to ensure Docklands continued to develop in response to the evolving community's needs.

The building features a range of sustainability features including a living landscape area on the roof, energy efficient lighting, natural ventilation, low energy air conditioning, a vegetable garden and water harvesting from the roof.

It is being built in Victoria Harbour on top of the new Safeway supermarket, the first full-line supermarket to service the Docklands community. It has been designed to meet standards set by VicUrban's ESD (Ecologically Sustainable Development) Award of Merit and is intended to act as a 'best practice' model for the design of inner-city childcare centres.

VicUrban has developed an ESD rating tool specifically for child care centres in association with the project, and Mr Hynes congratulated the project partners on the achievement.

"The Award of Merit acknowledges a move towards best practice and is awarded to recognise an increased level of commitment beyond that of the standard ESD principles all developments in Docklands must comply with," Mr Hynes said.

"Importantly, it reinforces VicUrban's vision to create and maintain Docklands as a development of ecologically sustainable excellence, demonstrating to the market environmental leadership and commercial viability."

Lend Lease Development General Manager for Victoria, Maurice Cococcia, said Lend Lease was proud to be delivering such an essential community facility for Docklands and the surrounding area in Victoria Harbour.

"Victoria Harbour is growing at a phenomenal speed and we are very pleased to be able to offer a true mix of businesses, residential apartments, retail and community facilities such as the Children's Hub," he said.

Photography exhibit reflects Melbourne Docklands

Docklands is the subject of a photographic exhibition in Carlton from February 15.

Penny Calcutt has been taking photos of reflections of buildings and bridges in the waters around Docklands for the last three years.

"The light on the water has a magic, an aesthetic all of its own," she said.

"This collection of photographs is the result of a process of finding the almost unseen reflection and generating the image for the human eye."

Urban Reflections opens at 6pm on February 15 at the Steps Gallery, 62 Lygon St, Carlton and runs until February 26.

For further details and opening hours, contact the gallery manager on 9650 3577 or 0400 678 808.



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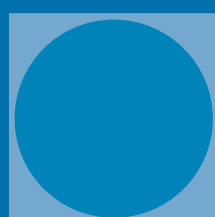
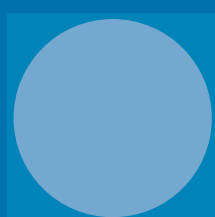
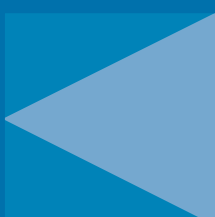


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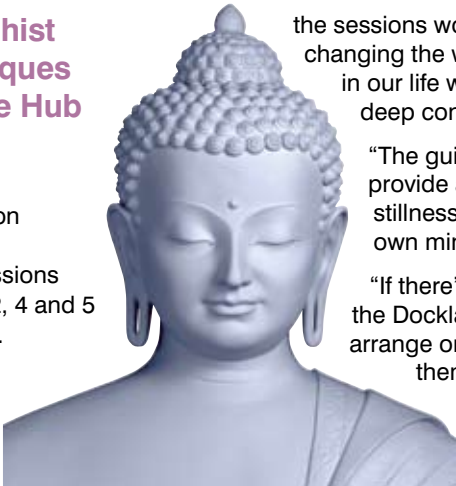


Meditation sessions at the Hub

Lessons in Buddhist mediation techniques will be held at the Hub in early April.

The Kadampa Meditation Centre Australia will be conducting the free sessions for beginners on April 2, 4 and 5 between 7.30 and 9pm.

The National Spiritual Director of Kadampa Buddhism Gen Kelsang Rabten said



the sessions would “show how through changing the way we look at the events in our life we can find inner peace and deep contentment.”

“The guided meditations will provide a practical taste of the stillness we can all enjoy within our own minds,” he said.

“If there’s a good response from the Docklands community we’ll try to arrange on-going weekly classes for them,” he said.

More detail on KMCA can be found at www.kadampa.org.au.

Council to scrutinise licensing

The City of Melbourne has doubled the number of liquor licensing enforcement officers in an attempt to tackle late-night anti-social behaviour.

Four new officers will enforce and monitor planning permit conditions for all licensed premises.

In related initiatives, the council wants new licensees to serve a 12-month probationary period and it wants the State Government to fund an increase in the number of closed circuit cameras.

Lord Mayor John So has called on Liquor Licensing Victoria to mandate a year-long probationary period for first-time licensees which would see them close at 1am. Without violations or complaints, a full permanent license would then be issued.

Harbour Esplanade consultants appointed

The redevelopment of Harbour Esplanade has moved a step closer, with VicUrban appointing consultants to develop design concepts for the project.

Black Kosloff Knott / Taylor Cullity Lethlean (BKK/TCL) will undertake the project, after being appointed by VicUrban late last year.

A features and level survey of the project area and approaches is underway to inform the concept’s development, as well as engagement with the artists of incumbent urban art works.

VicUrban will distribute a special Community Update shortly with further details about how the community can get involved.

The Harbour Esplanade review will include the accelerated delivery of works to

redevelop 400 metres of wharf frontage into public open space on the waterfront section of Harbour Esplanade, as announced by the State Government in 2006.

Additionally, the area now being contemplated addresses Harbour Esplanade in its entirety, covering the 700 metres of public space between Docklands Drive to the north and Bourke Street (adjacent to Docklands Park) to the south including the full width of the tram and road reserves and the footpath outside the Channel 7, AFL House, Bendigo Bank and Victoria Point buildings.

A public display is expected to be erected in The Hub by mid 2008 or general public comment.

The upcoming Community Update publication will outline further details on how the community can contribute to the design’s development.

For further details please visit www.docklands.com



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Cheaper parking at NewQuay

The Docklands Community Association has hailed reduced parking fees at New Quay and Waterfront City.

Association President Liam Jones said: “Finally it would seem the private operators of the New Quay car parks have seen sense and lowered the rates.”

The rates have more than halved in many instances, with the best deals seen in the Doppel Way carpark, where the first half hour is free. The next half hour is \$2.00 and the maximum for 24 hours is \$10,” he said.

“The MAB car parks on Docklands Drive have also reduced their fees, however there is no free period.

“Hopefully over the coming months, the precinct’s various advertising efforts will include publicity about parking improvements, bringing more visitors to the area than ever before.

“On-street parking improvements have also been made by the council. These still have a way to go, but the level of consultation with residents and business has been very encouraging,” Mr Jones said.

Thanks for your support

The Docklands Community News thanks and acknowledges the following outlets where you can pick up your copy of the paper:

- Batman’s Hill** - The Hub, Watergate Convenience Store, Summit Cafe, VicUrban Reception, Flinders Wharf Convenience Store
- Yarra’s Edge** - Promenade Cafe, Lot 50 Cafe, Yarra’s Edge IGA
- Victoria Harbour** - Banc Cafe, Victoria Harbour Pharmacy & News, Harbour Noodles, Harbour Kitchen
- Digital Harbour** - 1010 Cafe
- NewQuay** - Achelya, O’Marche, Metro



- Stadium Precinct** - Telstra Dome Information Kiosk, Cento Celli Cafe, Concourse Cafe
 - Waterfront City** - WFC Food Court, Starbucks, Melbourne Docklands Marina Offices
- If your business would like a quantity of Docklands Community News to distribute to the public, please contact Kris on 9602 2992 or news@docklandsnews.com.au



RENTALS

If you think that rentals in Docklands are high, then you're right, but according to the local agents the demand is just getting stronger.

Keith Bayliss of MICM said: "Rents are high right across Southbank, Docklands and the city area. People tend to look at the area as a whole then decide where they want to live."

"Eighteen months ago there was an over supply of apartments but this has been absorbed and now there is very strong demand. I can't see that there's going to be a drop, there's just not the same volume (of apartments) coming onto the market," Mr Bayliss said.

With rental jumps estimated around 10-15 per cent over the last couple of

Yes you do pay more for a Docklands address

By Sarah Murray

years Steven Heaven of Barry Plant agrees. "Rents are high, but the market has just found its level. We're now also finding a better quality of tenant is coming to the area," he said.

Most agents put the turnaround down to a number of reasons including the fact that construction has decreased, so it's much more peaceful and therefore more attractive, to live in the area. Melburnians are thought to be more familiar with Docklands. They now "get it".

Lucas Real Estate Property Manager James Reich said: "Now people are more aware of what Docklands has to offer – that it's a really good alternative to the CBD but with water and better views."

The proof is in the figures, according to Mr Reich. Lucas Real Estate manages around 400 apartments. "The vacancy rate is now below .5 per cent, whereas two years ago it up around 3 per cent. For any

apartment under \$500 (per week) we get between 20 and 30 groups through in a single opening with at least 10 applications each and every time.

"It's really turned around in the last 18 months, but the overall Melbourne rental market is a lot tighter. This means you can be far more selective with the quality of tenant. It's much better than two years ago."

Today the average Docklands tenants are young professionals, yet to have children, who may work in or near the city, if not in Docklands itself.

Agents also find that empty nesters keen to try the area out before they commit to purchasing their own place may rent for a year or so, "But 80 to 90 per cent love it. They find they can just walk out and shut the door without having to worry about a garden, and there's lots to do," Mr Reich said.

And of course, as Keith Bayliss confirms, for investors, rental returns are very strong, "It's now easy to get a tenant and there is good growth, but it really is down to what you paid for it and your capital investment. Initially though, Docklands was tough."

Currently there is a wide range of rents you will pay for an apartment, which will be determined in part by its size and amenity, but also in which building it is located. Steven Heaven says that Yarra's Edge and Dock 5 tend to have a lot more owner/occupiers so tend to have a slightly higher premium. "The other buildings have more investor properties."

On average though, for a one bedroom you would expect to pay \$350-\$400 and for a two bedroom \$450-\$500. If your tastes, and bank account run to penthouse living, then you can pay up to \$2500 - \$3000 a week, but what a view!

Another 2000 workers for Docklands

After inhabiting the premises of 447 Collins Street for over 40 years, AXA Asia Pacific Holdings has relocated its head office to 750 Collins Street in Docklands.

The project, overseen by Ian Campbell, AXA's General Manager, Product, took three years from the original tender process.

Over 1700 employees from 447 and 120 Collins Street premises were moved into the new building before the New Year. Another

250 or so will be moved in by the end March.

Mr Campbell said the 750 Collins Street proposal not only fulfilled the original brief but stood out due to its "innovation in design, its open floor plan and its transparency".

The new building has a distinctive shape and uses green glass to dramatic effect. The glass is enhanced by the integration of artwork by indigenous artist Jonathon Jones.

"As well as having stunning architectural design, 750 Collins Street is an important step in our journey towards greater sustainability," Mr Campbell said.

The building is on track to get a five star environmental rating from the Green Building Council of Australia and incorporates features such as motion sensor lighting and wintergardens.

Mr Campbell said during the construction of the building, 90 per cent of the waste (measured by weight) was recycled or reused.

Despite seemingly complicated logistics, the move to Docklands went very smoothly and employees have settled well into the building and are beginning to get out and about.

"I hope some of the local businesses have seen an increase in traffic," Mr Campbell said.



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Tram service extension welcome

From the middle of this year, the Number 86 Bourke Street tram route will be extended to Waterfront City.

Announcing the extension, Transport Minister Lyn Kosky said there would be a tram service every four minutes during the peak period and every six minutes during off-peak times and core times at weekends.

"The Dockland's north-west precinct is expected to generate up to 75,000 visitor trips per day once Waterfront City, NewQuay, Central City Studios and Southern Star Observation Wheel are further developed next year," Ms Kosky said,

"Linking our major transport hub, Southern Cross Station, to the developing north-west

Docklands precinct will be a great asset for Melburnians, Victorians and visitors to the city," she said.

This extension of route 86 to Docklands Drive (Waterfront City) will be convenient for patrons attending sports matches and concerts at Telstra Dome and for people heading to restaurants and attractions at NewQuay and Waterfront City."

Ms Kosky said La Trobe Street tram route 30, which currently travels to NewQuay in Docklands (from St Vincent's Plaza) during daytime off-peak periods, would now terminate at Spencer Street.

"As the Docklands precinct evolves in 2008 and beyond, tram patronage will be monitored and adjusted in line with the demand," she said.

The changes to tram services are being introduced ahead of the opening of the Southern Star Observation Wheel later this year.

VicUrban's General Manager Docklands and Major Projects, Michael Hynes, said the extension was a real win for the Docklands community of residents, businesses and visitors.

"This will result in an increased tram frequency to and from Docklands Drive and importantly provide a direct connection between Southern Cross Station and the NewQuay and Waterfront City precincts of Docklands," he said.

"With public transport a key mode of accessing Docklands, it remains a major priority of VicUrban to continually improve access to this vibrant community."



Does your **dog enjoy** apartment living?



Apartment living in Docklands is providing a new lease on life for many empty nesters and the perfect location for overseas students, but is it the case for their four legged companions?

According to Michaela Newell of The Animal Rehoming Service, dogs who may have been used to a family home with a backyard, can find apartment living quite distressing.

"Lots of animals find the transition traumatic. The lack of space, especially the sudden lack of a garden, can be quite hard on them. Most people love their animals and want the best for them, but don't realise that a more confined space can be an adjustment that not all dogs make well," Ms Newell said.

Dogs are also very popular with overseas students, but many think that when they return home the only option is to hand their pet over to a pound, not realising that up to 50 per cent of them end up euthanased when new homes are not found.

"Other than giving them to friends and family or advertising them, unfortunately the solution has been to send them to the pound," she said.

"The Animal Rehoming Service offers a free alternative and, to date, all animals through the service have found homes, which gives people piece of mind."

Running the free and not-for-profit Animal Rehoming Service is a labour of love for Ms Newell who will take on relocating any animal but says about 70 per cent of the demand is for dogs. "About 20 per cent is cats and the rest is an interesting mix of anything from mice to stallions."

Over the years Ms Newell has relocated about 700 animals through the email-based referral system. She also provides a referral service for people who may want to discuss their animal with qualified animal behaviourists or trainers.

If you have an animal that you think has not adjusted to apartment living or you are moving away and can't take your pet with you, Ms Newell suggests contacting her service.

"We relocate the animal free of charge and more often than not, have the owner as the contact person for all enquiries, as they're best suited to deciding which prospective new home would suit their pet. We can also take on the whole rehoming process which may then involve foster care as well."

For more information about The Animal Rehoming Service, contact Ms Newell on 0409 21 31 31.

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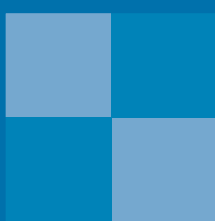
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Steely determination gets results



**Story & photo by
Bart Strzebonski**

**Docklands resident
Roger Gardner has dispelled
the notion that one individual
can't make a difference.**

After moving into a NewQuay apartment with his wife three years ago, he became concerned by the amount of noise coming from the nearby Melbourne Rail Yard. And he has done something about it.

"Not only was I was concerned about the high noise level but more so about the uncertainty of when it would take place," Mr Gardner said.

After researching the origin of the noise, he discovered that the Melbourne Rail Yard was leased by Pacific National and Blue Scope Steel as a major steel off-loading destination.

The disturbance was caused by the constant transferring of steel from trains to road transport.

After unsuccessful approaches to the State Government, Mr Gardner decided to approach the companies direct by writing a letter addressed personally to the CEOs of both Pacific National and Blue Scope Steel.

"It's a good idea to go to the top and the response I received from both companies was very positive," Mr Gardner said.

His persistence and commitment led to a meeting between all parties in late 2006 during which Mr. Gardner was given the opportunity to present his concerns and provide extensive evidence of noise pollution.

"Their people came and stood on our balcony to get the full impact. Representatives from both companies came to the conclusion that there was a problem with practices in the rail yard, which led to excessive noise," he said.

After agreeing to address the issue, both Pacific National and Blue Scope Steel conducted extensive reviews and trials to minimise the noise. Regular two-monthly meetings followed at which Mr Gardner was supported by two other residents.

The major adjustments made included some reductions to the weekday and weekend operating hours of the rail yard, reducing weekend hours and eliminating steel off-loading on Sundays and public holidays.

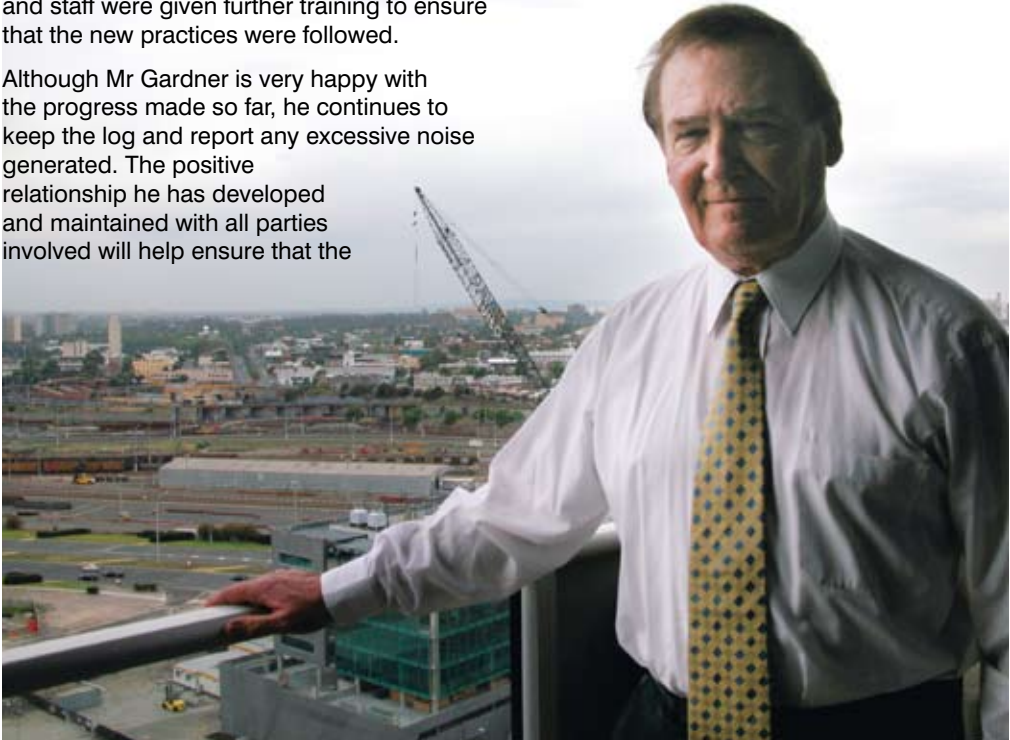
A decision was made to rail in steel beams in bundles rather than individually and to incorporate cushioning in specific trouble areas to reduce the noise.

Unnecessary noise generated by sirens on forklifts and overhead cranes was minimised and staff were given further training to ensure that the new practices were followed.

Although Mr Gardner is very happy with the progress made so far, he continues to keep the log and report any excessive noise generated. The positive relationship he has developed and maintained with all parties involved will help ensure that the

living comfort of the local community will be improved in the future.

It has been reported since that the yard will be relocated in the future to make way for low cost housing planned for the site by the State Government.



Library chute at the Hub

**City of Melbourne library
books can now be returned at
a special chute located at the
Docklands Community Hub
(17 Waterview Walk).**

The Hub will also be a new pick-up point for library patrons who have

reserved books from the City of Melbourne Library Service.

More than 400 Docklands residents are already members of the Melbourne Library Service.

The chute is located near the front door, and people will be able to drop off their books any time of day, seven days a week.

The Melbourne Library Service includes City Library in Flinders Lane and North Melbourne and East Melbourne libraries.

Visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries to find out how to join and more about this fantastic new service, or drop into the Hub.

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DOCKLANDS' COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GROWS

THE DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO DIVERSIFY, WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE 717 BOURKE STREET SITE GETTING UNDERWAY IN JANUARY.

The Batman's Hill development will feature a 17-level tower, education facilities to be utilised by the internationally-acclaimed fashion and design school, Esmod, as well as a 294-room Travelodge hotel.

VicUrban's General Manager – Docklands and Major Projects, **Michael Hynes** says the development introduces important aspects into the growing Docklands community, as well as enhancing and solidifying existing facilities.

"While residential and office towers are a key feature of Docklands and were certainly some of the earliest developments to occur, VicUrban's vision has always been to create a diverse, mixed-use precinct that offers an array of facilities and infrastructure to both attract and promote a strong sense of community," he said

"As the Docklands' population continues to expand, it is great to see an increasing variety of educational and community facilities being introduced to match that demand," Mr Hynes said.

Esmod will offer courses in multi-media, interior design, fine arts and photography.

Docklands already has **Victoria's largest automotive training institution**, Kangan

Batman TAFE's Automotive Centre for Excellence in the Batman's Hill precinct and the Australian Film, Television and Radio School at Digital Harbour.

"Construction has also begun on the first purpose-built community facility for Docklands, a child-care and maternal health centre that will be built on top of Docklands' first, full-line Safeway supermarket," Mr Hynes said.

"We had our first church service held recently, in the novel surrounds of a pub – an appropriate location for many of our young residents – and the education and community facilities continue to grow.

"We often hear about how Docklands is fast becoming a sought after business address and tourist attraction – with major players like ANZ, NAB, AXA and Fairfax moving in, combined with major attractions such as the Observation Wheel taking shape," he said.

"But, there's a real community underbelly developing behind the big stories, with community groups forming to undertake activities ranging from petanque to dragon boat racing," Mr Hynes said.

VicUrban is continually working with the private developers in Docklands to ensure

appropriate infrastructure is introduced to encourage further diversity. From the SoHo (small office / home office) offerings of MAB's first office tower in NewQuay (Aquavista), Site One in Batman's Hill and Digital Harbour's Life.lab, to the low-rise residential developments emerging in Yarra's Edge, Waterfront City and Victoria Harbour. There is now a real mix of both commercial and residential options for those wanting to live, work or invest in Docklands.

Other projects underway to ensure Dockland's continues to develop in line with the growing community needs include a review of the Harbour Esplanade area (see page 4), and a joint planning project between VicUrban and the City of Melbourne to identify and prioritise what facilities, services and spaces the Docklands community requires over the short to medium terms.

For more information on both projects, please see www.docklands.com.au, under the Community Projects page.

Melbourne Docklands is currently one third complete or under construction. By 2020, it is expected to be home to 17,000 residents and 40,000 workers with 20 million visitors annually.

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THE AGE IS DOCKLANDS BOUND

THE AGE NEWSPAPER HAS BECOME THE LATEST MAJOR BUSINESS TO ANNOUNCE IT IS MOVING TO DOCKLANDS

The Age will move to Media House – a seven storey, state-of-the-art facility on the corner of Collins and Spencer Streets.

VicUrban Chief Executive Officer Pru Sanderson said: “VicUrban, the Department of Infrastructure, the Director of Public Transport, Southern Cross Rail Authority, Grocon and Fairfax all worked extremely closely together to finalise this project, which involves building over rail lines and creating a gateway to Docklands – effectively linking it at Collins Street to the CBD.”

Ms Sanderson said the building would have a strong focus on sustainability initiatives.

Construction is anticipated to begin before the end of the year and completion is expected late 2009.

Media House will see an additional 1400 workers move to the Docklands area. Docklands has the highest condensed number of sustainable commercial developments in Australia.

WALKER CORPORATION HAS STARTED WORK ON A \$850 MILLION COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT 735 COLLINS STREET FOLLOWING MASTER PLAN APPROVAL.

735 COLLINS ST IS UNDERWAY

The development has frontages to Collins Street and Batmans Hill Drive and will comprise four commercial towers set over an extensive retail domain of 8,700 square metres including an innovative retail concept for revitalising the adjacent historic Goods Shed.

The first of the commercial towers will be completed in late 2009.

The project will be anchored by an innovative “Laneway-esque” podium featuring an expansive transparent light-weight roof offering patrons year-round weather protection. The concept design will focus on an enlivened and activated space reminiscent of Melbourne’s much-loved laneways with a 21st Century twist.

Walker has appointed the contractor to undertake the early works package including demolition, piling and site establishment, with works commencing late last year. The main contractor will be announced shortly.

Leading Australian architects Bates Smart

have been appointed for the master plan, commercial and retail design.

Roger Poole, Executive Chairman of Bates Smart said: “This is the development that will complete Melbourne’s Collins Street. It presents a unique opportunity for businesses to join other prestigious corporates in the Docklands precinct whilst also boasting the best commercial address in Australia – Collins Street.”

The development’s commitment to a 6-Star Green Star environmental rating will enable tenants to put their environmental credentials and commitment into action through the building of a headquarters that is innovative, creative, technologically cutting-edge, environmentally sustainable and financially responsible. The development will feature a precinct-wide central co-generation plant, and water capture and re-use program.

Lang Walker, Executive Chairman of Walker Corporation said: “I’m very excited about this new approval which we’ve been

SOUTH-EAST STADIUM OUTCOME CLOSER

VicUrban has short-listed two candidate to develop the South East Stadium Precinct.

The final two bidders are Bourke Junction Consortium (ISPT, CBUS Property and EPC Partners) and the joint venture of Leighton Properties and Devine Limited.

VicUrban’s General Manager – Docklands and Major Projects Michael Hynes, said all the proposals received were of a very high standard.

“It was an incredibly strong field with expressions of interest received from 13 development entities in August, of which four were requested to submit proposals in September,” Mr Hynes said.

“The strong interest in the site and the high quality of the bids is consistent with the wider interest in Docklands, which is increasing its

reputation daily as a premier location to live, work, invest and visit,” he said.

The two consortiums will now finalise their bids, submitting their final proposals early in this year with the successful developer to be announced soon after.

The South East Stadium Precinct is a 1.6 ha site, ideally positioned between Telstra Dome and Southern Cross Station, with Bourke Street frontage. It is a key connection between Docklands and the CBD for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.

Mr Hynes said he was confident the final proposal will complement the other activities, facilities and developments in the area.



quietly working on over the past 18 months. We feel that in developing this new master plan, we’ve brought the very best place-making skills to the table to deliver a commercial and retail precinct that will rival international benchmarks.

“This development is one of the most significant commercial developments currently underway in Australia. It will bring together a mixture of innovative architecture, iconic Melbourne elements and leading environmental design to create a thriving new precinct for Melbourne,” Mr Walker said.

Project Director Brad Vercoe said of the 6-Star Green Star commitment, “This is a unique opportunity. While many individual buildings are driving sustainability programs, this development adopts a holistic approach. The end result will be an environmentally responsible development which will deliver bottom-line savings for our tenants – setting new standards in the industry.”

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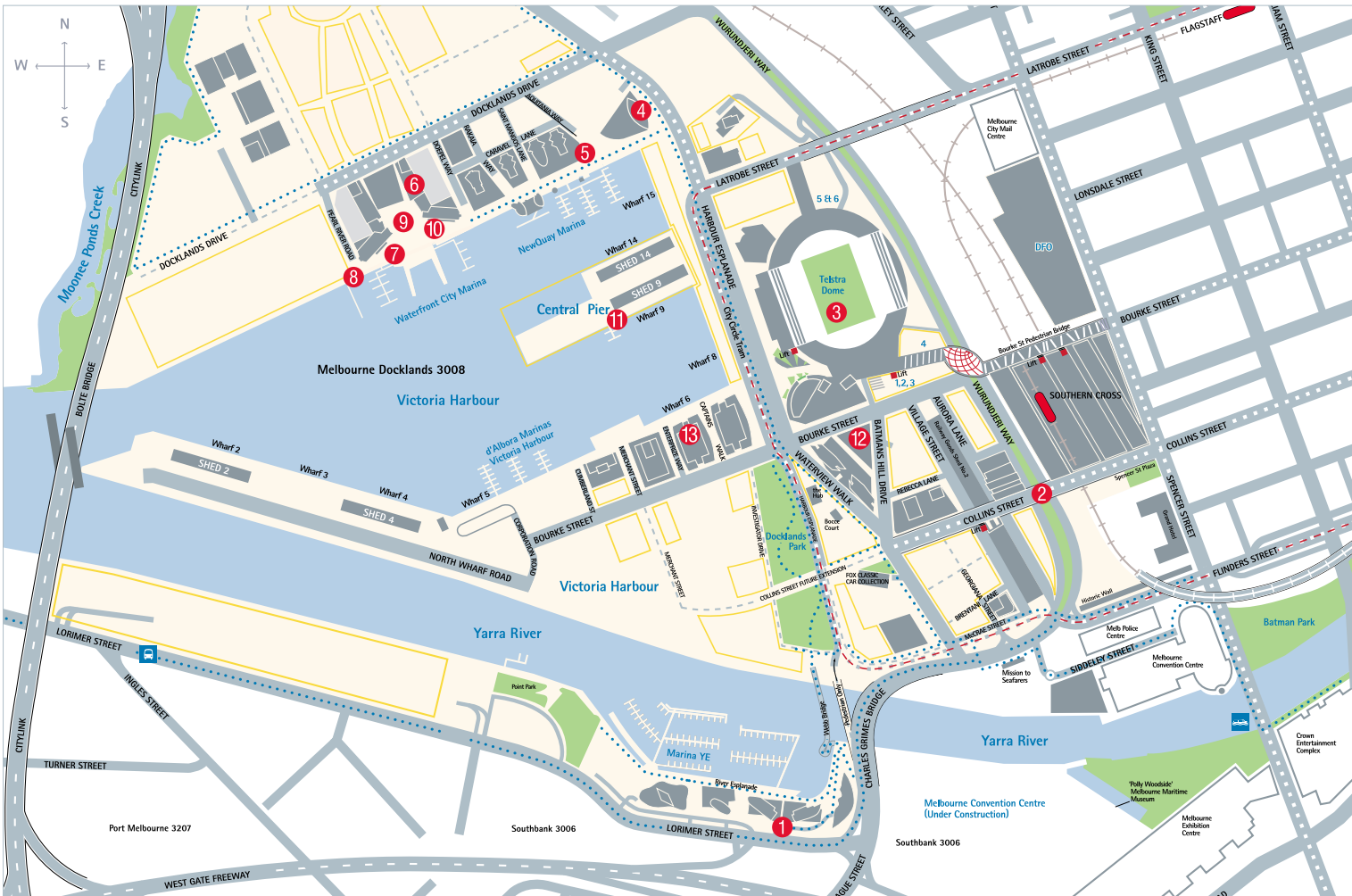


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New Year's resolutions



By Guy, Docklands Church Minister

2008 presents us with many new opportunities, new challenges, and of course New Years resolutions. In search of inspiration I hit the net.

After a quick check on Facebook I stumbled across some resolutions. Our new Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd said: *"My new year resolutions are to get back to my 2006 fitness levels when I walked Kokoda, but without the pain; to begin to make a difference on homelessness in Australia; and to teach Abby, our golden retriever, that the flower beds at The Lodge are not to be dug up."*

Hollywood star, Julia Roberts said: *"I would like to be more of a productive, stay-at-home mother for my three kids. I have long dreamed about growing our own food, then composting and growing more."*

Daytime TV queen, Kerri-Anne Kenneley, said: *"My new year resolution is to be calm and have clarity . . . and lunch!"*

Of all the resolutions I read, it was Russell Crowe's that caught my attention the most. He said: *"I would like to be baptised. I feel I have put it off for too long. I do believe there are more important things than what is in the mind of a man. There is something much bigger that drives us all, and I'm willing to take that leap of faith."*

This is not your average quit smoking, get fit, save money kind of resolution, nor is it something you expect to hear

from a Hollywood heavy weight. But I love it! Why? Because here's a guy who has accomplished so much and yet at the same time recognises that there is something bigger in the world than himself.

It's so easy in our "it's all about me" culture to lose sight of this great reality. As I stand and watch a sun set over our harbor, watch my seven-month old daughter grow up and read about Jesus in the bible I am continually reminded that there is indeed "something much bigger that drives us all."

In 2008 may I encourage you to make a New Year's resolution to "take a leap of faith" and find out more about God and His purpose for your life.

As the minister of Docklands Church, let me encourage you to visit our Sunday service at James Squire Restaurant at 10:30am. You might also like to sign up for a *Christianity Explored* short course, or drop me a line, I'd be happy to catch up for coffee sometime.

We are a welcoming community that seeks to give people the opportunity to encounter God and explore His purpose for our lives. For more info visit, docklandshchurch.org.au

Best contributed photo

Yarra's Edge view of NYE



As captured by Neil Osborne

Congratulation to Neil Osborne of Yarra's Edge for contributing this photo from New Years Eve. Neil wins a gift voucher for a dinner for two, valued at \$100 from James Squires Brewhouse. You can contribute your pictures through our website (www.docklandsnews.com.au) or email news@docklandsnews.com.au.

Getting Mummy Fit

New to the Hub at Docklands is Fit-4-2 (pregnancy exercise) and MummyFit (mums and bubs) classes.

These classes are run by physiotherapist Louise Hateley and are designed to ensure that women achieve a safe and effective workout both before, during and after pregnancy.

Exercises in the **Fit-4-2** classes target the body areas affected by pregnancy,

helping to maintain fitness and stability and therefore reduce the aches and pains.

MummyFit classes focus on increasing general fitness and strength, with an emphasis on regaining abdominal, back and pelvis stability. The ability to bring the babies to the classes makes it far easier for the new mum to find the time to exercise and to do something for herself.

For further information and alternative venues go to www.fitbyphysio.com.au or call Ms Hateley on 0406 581 869.



Contempora festival of sculpture is back

Former Premier Jeff Kennett launched a bigger and better Contempora Festival of Sculpture and Public Art at Docklands on January 30.

This year 30 sculptors will display their works in Waterfront City, NewQuay, Central Pier and Victoria Harbour from March 6 until April 20.

The six week program this year includes for the first time a festival of public art as well as the \$10,000 sculpture award. Part of this festival includes public educational

screenings on the big screen at Waterfront City, a motor art show at Central Pier from March 23 and a young artist initiative at Victoria Harbour from April 2.

On April 18, the public will be invited into the Art Lab at Central Pier to view the outcome of three weeks introspection by 20 RMIT masters candidates based around their artistic response to Docklands.

"I know Contempora has worked when I see young children touching and climbing on the installations, ignoring the pleas not to do so. Who knows which of them will be the next Rodin?" Mr Kennett said.

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Docklands Community Calendar

Date and Time	Event	Venue and Location	Description & Contact details
Ongoing until 15 August 10am to 7.30pm	Disco on Ice at Docklands	Waterfront City Pavilion, Waterfront City Docklands Drive, Docklands	Open 7 days during school holiday periods (incl. public holidays). Open Wednesday to Sunday outside school holiday periods. School and Public Holidays (Open 7 Days) 10am – 7.30pm (Mon, Tues, Wed, Sun) 10am – 9.30pm (Thur, Fri, Sat). Normal Hours (not during school and public holidays) 10am – 7.30pm (Wed, Sun)10am – 9.30pm (Thur, Fri, Sat) Cost: \$7 - 5 years and under, \$12 - 6 to 14 years, \$15 - 15 years and over, \$3 - skate hire, \$60 - Family Pass (including skate rental) 2 adults, 2 kids (under 15 years). Session Times – 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm For more information call 8628 6000 or visit www.waterfrontcity.com.au
Sat 16 & 23 February 11am to 1pm	Summer Fun in the City – Circus Capers	Waterfront City Piazza Docklands Drive, Docklands	Ever dreamed of running away to the circus? Before you jump on that wagon, there are some basic building blocks you will need to learn and Circus Capers is just the place to start. In these two hour Circus Oz workshops, learn the basics of circus games and tricks including juggling, pyramid building and clowning. Followed by an adrenalin pumping performance by the Out of the Blue circus acrobatic troupe. Bookings not required. Presented as part Summer Fun in the City. For more information go to thatsmelbourne.com.au
Sun 2 to 9 March	L’Oreal Melbourne Fashion Week	Central Pier, Docklands	Marvellous March is just around the corner with an exciting month of activity in the city. One of the biggest events will be the 2008 L’Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival at Central Pier Docklands for the first time from 2 - 9 March. Experience all the glitz and glam at Melbourne’s spectacular waterfront complimented by great waterfront dining. Melbourne is renowned as the fashion capital of Australia, so if you’re enticed by the fashion on the Festival’s runways, let your imagination guide you to exciting shopping experiences from the city’s smallest laneways, historic arcades and new innovative retail spaces. Enjoy a world of fashion and waterfront dining in the City during the 2008 L’Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival. Festival tickets are now on sale. Visit www.thatsmelbourne.com.au to find out more about shows, ticketing and great dining offers.
Thur 6 March to 20 April	Contempora Festival of Sculpture 2008	The Hub, 17 Waterview Walk Docklands	Contempora 2008 is an exciting festival of large scale sculpture, public art projects, events and forums. This rapidly expanding festival, which takes place around the waterfront at Melbourne’s dynamic Docklands precinct, aims to showcase the best of Australian sculpture and public arts with an emphasis on community participation and enjoyment.
Sun 9 March	International Dragon Boat Festival	Victoria Harbour, Docklands	On Sunday 9 March, Melbourne’s Docklands will host the 24th annual Melbourne International Dragon Boat Festival. A sport with rich Chinese cultural traditions, dragon boat racing is great fun with participants from across the City re-enacting this ancient legend on the water. The day begins with a traditional Buddhist blessing of the fleet and competitors, followed by the vibrant colours and sounds of lion and dragon dances entertaining the crowds into the afternoon. As the new home of dragon boat racing, City of Melbourne is proud to welcome one and all to Docklands to witness the teams paddle it out for first place. More information visit www.dragonboatsvictoria.com.au
Sun 9 March Noon - 5pm	Moomba@Docklands	Waterfront City and Victoria Harbour, Docklands	For over 50 years Moomba Waterfest has entertained and delighted. With four days of FREE public events including old favourites and first-time additions, 2008 will be no exception. Making a splash at Docklands, Moomba extends the Waterfest celebrations to Melbourne’s newest waterfront precinct with an afternoon of activities for the whole family to enjoy. Try your skills at bungee trampolining, bath tub racing, African drum workshops and Latin dance classes; watch the thrills and spills of Wakeboarding demonstrations (both on and off the water),International Dragon Boat Festival races and be entertained by some wacky roving performers including the amazing Waterheads.



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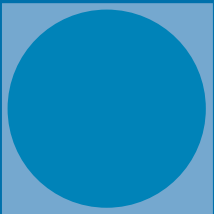
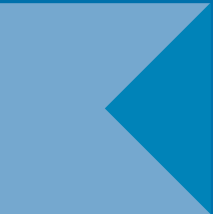
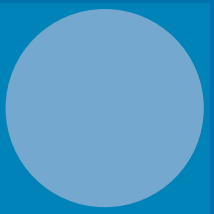
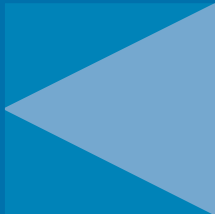
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UFO sighting?

They're known as recumbents and the dedicated cyclists who ride them swear by them. They claim that science supports their view that they are a more efficient means of self propulsion. Until someone wins the Tour de France on one, we're sticking to the conventional bicycle.



Pull on your trainers and get jogging

By Sarah Murray

You don't have to be Steve Moneghetti to enjoy a good jog, and if you like doing it with others then there is lots of opportunity to join like-minded people in Docklands.

YMCA Docklands has been running the Bolte Bolt for the last three years and the NAB has a loose alliance of runners who meet regularly to keep fit.

According to YMCA personal training co-ordinator Billy Santos everyone is welcome. "We have a winter and spring program, but basically we meet every second Thursday and you don't have to be an athlete to join in," he said.

With staggered starts to suit even walkers and a gold coin donation, which is put back into YMCA community programs, Bolte Bolt participants follow a 4.5km course to the Bolte Bridge and back again.

"The group was originally started by a bloke from NAB, but when it got too time consuming he suggested we take it on. Today we have about 300 on our database, who I email regularly with jogging tips, and anywhere between 20 and 50 people will turn up," Mr Santos said.

"Some do it because it's fun while some use it to train for other events such as the Corporate Cup Series which is a team event

run around the Tan. We have real a mix of local residents and workers, including a few from the NAB," he said.

The NAB runners also welcome anyone who wishes to join in. James Atkinson, whose day job is Head of Pricing Mortgages, finds time most days to put mortgages aside and join the group as it heads off to either the Tan or along the beach.

"We're not just NAB workers, we often have people from other organisations join us, which is great. The NAB is really supportive of us doing this and we have entered, and won many team events," Mr Atkinson said.

In fact their team won the 2007 Run for the Kids event and has won or participated in a range of other events including the Puma Corporate Cup, the Corporate Cup Series and the BRW Marathon.

For anyone who may work or live in Docklands and who would like to join either group then contact Billy Santos at YMCA on 8615 9622 or for the NAB runners contact James Atkinson on 8634 1656.



Concerns over site presentation

The City of Melbourne has taken itself to task over its "place management" in Docklands between July and September last year.

While generally pleased with its performance, it believes it let itself down in aspects of "site presentation" and "marketing and promotion".

In a report to the Docklands Coordination Committee, the Manager of Docklands Integration Rod Burke said Docklands needed more grassed open space.

"The increased growth and new building developments in Docklands, particularly on the western border of Docklands Park, will lead to greater stress and demands being placed on parkland due to increased use. This issue has been highlighted and discussed with park and urban planners for consideration of future developments in the area," Mr Burke said.

Mr Burke also identified damage caused by skateboarders as an issue.

"Incident reports outlining amenity issues and vandalism have been received. Security officers are trying to mitigate these problems by moving offenders on," he said.

Mr Burke's other area of concern was in marketing and promotion where he identified four areas for improvement:

- Communications relating to waterways;
- Communications with media;
- Knowledge about Docklands within Tourism Melbourne; and
- A need for new tourist/visitor information "product".

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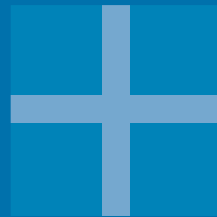
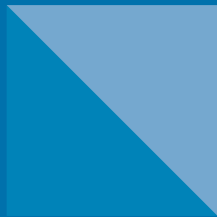
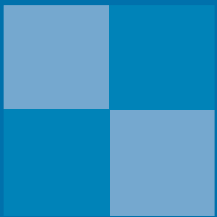
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Docklands Community Sports Page

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Docklands **Cycling Group** presents 'The Coffee Ride'

Love to ride your bike? Love to meet new people? Now you can do both at the same time! "The Coffee Ride" is all about enjoying a leisurely bike ride with a decent coffee break thrown in.



Ride co-ordinator and Docklands Church member Chris Griffioen has organised the rides to start from the "Cow in the Tree" at Central Pier on the first and third Sundays of the month from 3 until 5pm.

Mr Griffioen said the rides would be approximately 30 km, with a break for coffee at the half way point.

"This way you don't have to be super fit, and it's a great way to meet new people while doing something you love," Mr Griffioen said.

"With plenty of places to ride to including along the Yarra, or to St Kilda or along the Maribyrnong, and the fantastic summer weather, it's certainly a great time to get out on your bike, meet some people, and sip a latte or two at a cafe," he said.

Chris sees a bright future for the group. "In the future, we may even organise day trips, for example to one of the rail trails, which are excellent riding."

For more information please contact Chris Griffioen on 0421 075 009 or christhegriff@yahoo.com.



Victoria Harbour hosts **schools sailing**

Schools Teams Racing in Victoria is growing in popularity and in the coming season will attract even more interest with the announcement of the Victoria Harbour Schools Teams Sailing Championships.

Thanks to the City of Melbourne and Lend Lease, this year the Schools Sailing series will include a Victoria Harbour Trophy as the major trophy for the Victoria Harbour State Champion.

Yachting Victoria Schools Teams Sailing Coordinator John Middleton said Victoria Harbour was an ideal location to expand the Schools Teams program.

"More and more yacht clubs are providing a fleet of pacer boats for schools in their region

to use for training or participation in local team racing regattas," he said.

"Teams racing adds another dimension to sailing skills and we are extremely excited to launch a new Championship in such a highly exposed location as Victoria Harbour."

The format of the Victoria Harbour Sailing Championship will be two selection events of two days on 21 and 22 February, and 15 and 16 of March. The State Championship will then be held on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 April with the winner going through to the National Championship.

A maximum of 12 schools will participate on each day of the selection series ensuring plenty of on water time and action. And the top 12 schools will be invited to enter the State Championship.

For more information please visit www.yachtingvictoria.com.au.

Petanque is back at Docklands

Petanque at Yarra's Edge with monthly Friday afternoon sessions starting February 8.

Petanque Victoria will be demonstrating how to play at Point Park from 5.30pm.

Other petanque dates are: March 7, April 11, May 9 and June 6.

For further information, ring Rod and Jackie Phillips or Kevin Ward on 9646 3663, 0417 362 585 or email rodjack@bigpond.net.au.

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