

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

■ **New Planning Minister talks Docklands**

Page 4

■ **Community choir project starts this month**

Page 5



■ **Point Park outdoor cinema a success**

Page 7

■ **Comedy festival hits Docklands**

Page 9



Clockwise from top: Maree Norris, Pam Shrimpton, Linda Longley, Verna Liddle, Lyn Faull, Barbara Rowe and Janyne Williams.

Remembering the Anzacs

A group of crafty Docklanders has been making poppies in the lead-up to this month's Anzac centenary commemorations.

The group has been working away since September, when the Library at the Dock put the call out for volunteers to craft poppies, and so far has made around 600 of them.

"The project started because there's a state-wide initiative for communities to come together and create poppies in commemoration of the Anzac centenary," Melbourne Library Service community heritage team leader Linda Longley explained.

Continued on page 4.

Crime rate up more than 50 per cent

While it remains one of the safest suburbs in Melbourne, crime has increased by more than 50 per cent in Docklands, according to crime data released last month.

Some 1382 offences were recorded in postcode 3008 in 2014, comprising just four per cent of the 32,301 crimes recorded in the City of Melbourne.

Although the 2014 crime rate in Docklands is low, it had increased by 56 per cent on the previous year.

Docklands' crime rate had increased at a slow rate since 2010, with 788 offences recorded, before jumping to 1049 offences in 2012 and declining to 883 offences in 2013.

West Melbourne, Carlton North, East

Melbourne and Parkville all recorded less offences than Docklands, but Southbank, North Melbourne, Kensington, Fishermans Bend and South Yarra all had higher crime rates than Docklands in 2014.

But the CBD proved to be Melbourne's major crime centre, recording 21,624 offences.

The statistics were released last month as part of the Crime Statistics Agency's first quarterly report. The Crime Statistics Agency assumed the role of reporting crime statistics from Victoria Police on January 1.

While the statistics don't provide breakdowns of the different types of crime in Docklands, they do show that the most common crime in the Melbourne Local Government Area (LGA) in 2014 was theft.

Despite being the most common crime, theft offences in Melbourne are down to 9765 from 13,683 offences in 2012 and 10,284 offences in 2013.

Other common offences in the Melbourne LGA in 2014 included deception (4676 offences), disorderly and offensive conduct

(3924 offences), breaches of orders (3312 offences) and assault and related offences (2308 offences).

Overall property and deception offences, which include theft, arson and bribery, dropped from 20,716 offences in 2012 to 17,569 offences in 2014.

Crimes against the person, which include homicide, sexual offences and assaults have remained stable, with 3648 offences recorded, almost the same as the 3644 offences recorded in 2012.





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Editorial Comment

Shane Scanlan



It's taken me months to realise that the future of Harbour Esplanade has minimal connection with the document known as the 'Harbour Esplanade Master Plan Report'

In my view, it is a form of deceit to “consult” and then produce such a report without ever asking: “How much of this land should we trade to developers to pay for the new infrastructure?”

If you, like me, assumed that everyone thought of Harbour Esplanade as Docklands' great public space, then we have been naïve because the authorities see the land as yet-to-be-realised capital.

It has become common for the City of Melbourne to approach public facility development on the basis of a land-for-paid-infrastructure swap with developers. The council did this at the Boyd School site in Southbank and is gearing up for a similar exercise to redevelop the Victoria Market.

It's hard to put a date on the exact time that Places Victoria stopped thinking about Harbour Esplanade as a continuum of “public” facilities. This change of thinking has certainly been since 2008 when there was no suggestion that Vic Urban's (PV's former iteration) “verandah” concept would be funded by anyone other than government.

The verandah project went into the bottom

draw when it was realised that there was no money to fund it. So, perhaps we shouldn't be surprised at what is happening now.

But, while, the authorities have evolved to a new way of thinking, there has been no such conversation with the public.

So why has this conversation not taken place? Perhaps I am wrong about their intent? Or perhaps it is just too unpalatable to talk about the elephant in the room.

There are small clues in the 58-page report, which is understandable because there is precious little detail anyway. The report is a high-level design concept and is purposely “flexible” so as to make itself a smaller target.

On my first reading, I felt myself nodding and agreeing with its rationale and alignment with Docklands' aspirations.

It wasn't until I got to the part where it talks about using half the available space for buildings that alarm bells started ringing.

How could it be in any way desirable to take away 50 per cent of the existing (what was assumed to be “public”) building zones and block out the water with structures?

In 2000, the then major projects minister John Pandazopoulos celebrated the removal of waterfront buildings, saying in a press release: “Around 400 metres of public waterfront between Colonial Stadium and Victoria Dock will be opened up under the plan.”

The “master plan report” justifies the extent of the built form largely as a defence against Docklands' winds. But, as Digital Harbour developer and report critic David Napier points out, you don't need buildings to stop the wind.

And the height of three of the to-be-reinstated wharf decks provides a further clue. Only large permanent structures need be built at RL+2.4 or RL +2.6 metres above the waterline. If modest structures were proposed, Harbour Esplanade could be

aligned at the same RL +1.4 metres such as currently exists at the *Cow up a Tree* rebuilt wharf deck.

The “master plan report” talks about a “continuous waterfront promenade” but, under the multiple-height proposal, a pedestrian will need to either climb or descend more than a metre no less than six times along the distance.

This is clearly ridiculous, unless viewed in the context of the scale and form of future buildings.

But there are only fleeting references to buildings in the “master plan report”. In one place, it says: “The addition of new built form within the precinct is encouraged and will bring new attractors and activity to the harbour's edge.”

It goes on to talk about possible markets, restaurants, galleries, event and performance spaces.

The only reference to how these structures are to be paid for can be found at the very beginning when it says: “Through detailed site and opportunities analysis, a clear and purposeful set of layouts and objectives are defined herein. Importantly though, these remain inherently flexible to accommodate different modes of delivery, whether through public or private means.”

This paragraph contains both grand fabrications as well as a snippet of honesty.

The lies are that the report is detailed, clear and purposeful.

The use of the term “mode of delivery” is a set of weasel words that means how the project is going to be paid for. The snippet of honesty is the admission that the private sector is at least in the mix.

In my view, the “master plan report” needs to be put on hold while a new, honest and open public discussion is conducted about how this “public” land is to be traded.

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Pele visits Docklands

The man widely regarded as the greatest soccer player of all time visited Docklands last month.

Retired Brazilian soccer player Pele was in Docklands for both a celebration of Les Murray's contribution to football and for a theatre show exploring his life.

Both events were held at Docklands' Central Pier on March 26.

Call for Yarra River protection

A report released last month has called on the State Government to introduce a new governance structure to protect the Yarra River.

The *Let's Act for the Yarra* report released by Yarra Riverkeepers and Environmental Justice Australia last month calls on the State Government to enact the Yarra River Protection Act it promised pre-election.

The report seeks a new governance model for the whole of the Yarra River, differing from the approach of stakeholders in Docklands, who continue to advocate for a single port authority to govern local waterways.

Before last year's election the Labor Party promised to introduce a Yarra River Protection Act to protect the river corridor from inappropriate development. It has also promised to establish a trust that would develop standardised planning controls for the Yarra and work with agencies to promote the river's amenity.

According to the *Let's Act for the Yarra* report, the biggest challenges currently facing the Yarra River are overdevelopment, environmental stress and poor water quality.

In addition, the report outlines how the number of municipalities and agencies with jurisdiction over parts over the river, alongside a complex mix of laws and regulations, make it harder to address the river's problems.

The report advocates for the introduction of a Yarra River Protection Act and independent trust in order to "cut through the complexity of the current regulatory situation, making it easy to ensure good decisions are made to protect the river".

"We congratulate the Government for committing to enact a Yarra River Protection Act with its own independent body to better manage the river from source to mouth," Yarra riverkeeper Andrew Kelly said.

"The Government has recognised there are problems with the Yarra, but one plan after another had failed to fix them. The Yarra is facing so many development pressures and its management is so fragmented that efforts to clean it up are at risk. With Melbourne's population set to soar, the river will be squeezed."

"The Yarra is at the crossroads right now and we need to take advantage of the opportunity to enact a Yarra River Protection Act if we're going to ensure a truly world class river for the world's most liveable city," Mr Kelly said.

The report has called for the Yarra River Protection Act to include:

- A greater ambition for appropriate planning, river health and sympathetic catchment management;
- A coherent regulatory structure for the Yarra as a whole, from source to mouth;
- An independent agency to care for the Yarra; and
- The right for the community to step in to have good environmental rules enforced and pathways to improved environmental outcomes considered.

Director of advocacy and research at Environmental Justice Australia, Nicola Rivers, says the Government needed to start working on the legislation.

"The Yarra is such an important, iconic river, its deserving of its own legislation and it needs its own independent agency to be a champion for the river," Ms Rivers said.

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The best job in town

By Shane Scanlan

New Planning Minister Richard Wynne says he's got the best job in town.

"People say I've been training for this for 20 years and maybe I have," he said. "So I want to bring all of what I've learnt to try to use this term of government to put into place longer-term strategies for our city."

"I am very passionate about the city. I was the lord mayor of this city. I know this city intimately. I know it as well as anyone knows it. I walk it. I live it. It's where I have grown up," Mr Wynne said.

"I've lost none of my enthusiasm for it and that's why you enter public life - to put in place good things, good structures."

He is talking design standards - "We have lower standards than Sydney. It's both physical size and urban amenity. They go together."

He is talking amenity: "In terms of light and overshadowing, I have a position which is very clear on this. I am looking towards amenity. What gets approved during my time as a minister will be high-quality development which addresses the street and is active on the street level, that deals with some of the impacts of wind, and overshadowing."

"I will not approve developments that rely on borrowed light. I simply will not approve them. That is just not on."

"Similarly, developments that over-shadow our parks, over-shadow the bay, over-shadow the rivers I won't approve."

"And you don't want to be looking out of your apartment into someone's kitchen or their lounge room. You want at least a civilised level of space between them."

But, just as he is very happy to talk about amenity, he is equally tightlipped about what might be in the wings regarding his relationship with the City of Melbourne.

Apart from saying that he is retaining the right to determine planning applications for buildings greater than 25,000sqm, the minister gives the impression that something significant is happening.



New Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

He warms up with: "I've met with the Lord Mayor and we see a crucial role for the City of Melbourne and the State Architect in terms of the decision-making around that."

The council has been asking for significant developer contributions to pay for the social infrastructure to support the current population boom. On this subject, Mr Wynne said: "We're looking at that all at the moment and it's probably wise that I don't go much further at the moment."

He certainly appreciates the wisdom of urban renewal close to the city centre.

"When you think about the fact that the demographics suggest we are going to have to house 100,000 people a year until 2050, that's a massive challenge for any government," he said.

"We've probably got, within 5km of the GPO, 30 year's worth of developable land. We're not short of it, but let's get it right."

Docklands finds itself in the middle of this remaining urban redevelopment. To the south we have Fishermans Bend and to the north and west we have E-Gate and Arden-Macaulay.

On Fishermans Bend, the minister says it is wrong to conclude that the new government has less interest in the area.

"We are more than hot about how to fix the mistakes," he said. "The previous government just overnight rezoned the land to Capital City Zone, massively lifting the value of the land and, not surprisingly, the development community has moved in seeking to take advantage of that opportunity without any proper assessment about what

key infrastructure was needed - trams, trains, public open space, schools, community health facilities, libraries - stuff that needs to be in the public realm."

On E-Gate, he says it is still to be determined which government agency will develop the 20-hectares.

"That's still to be resolved. But that's okay," he said. "This is a really important parcel of land which the state controls completely. And we want to get it absolutely right."

One thing you can expect to find at E-Gate is inclusionary zoning for social housing.

As a former community activist and later as a housing minister, Mr Wynne says he has been advocating for inclusionary housing for 20 years.

On future developments on government land, he said, he is aiming for up to 15 per cent social housing.

"We will trial it and see how it goes," he said. "We're looking for somewhere between 10 and 15 per cent of social housing and it doesn't always necessarily have to be within the development but the opportunity will be there for the developer to sell into the social housing market."

"That's a developing policy and we'll be looking to develop that over this term of government. It's not a silver bullet but it's going to help a lot in terms of supply."

"We're saying to the development community 'this has already been tested in the market place' and these units sold like there was no tomorrow. So there is nothing to fear in mixed developments."

Remembering the Anzacs

Continued from page 1.

"We thought it would be a great idea to do something with the local Docklands community."

Since last September, 12 local women have been working on the project, meeting once a month at the Library at the Dock to craft poppies together.

"Most of the ladies are from the local crafting group but we've also had other members of the community join us at times who have been crafting independently," Ms Longley said.

The local craft and social group has been meeting each Friday in Docklands for years and were keen to get involved with the project.

"We accepted the challenge and every body has interpreted the task a little bit differently," New Quay resident Barbara Rowe said.

Amongst the 600 poppies created by the Docklands community are weaved poppies, knitted poppies, paper poppies and crocheted poppies of varying shades of red.

And the group has been so busy making poppies that some have even taken to knitting on trams and crafting poppies at the pub.

"We've really enjoyed this project," Ms Rowe said. "We want to continue on with other similar projects that give back to the community."

The poppy crafting project culminates with the launch of an exhibition at the Library at the Dock, featuring a window of poppies and photos of Docklands residents' ancestors.

"Everyone in the (crafting) group had some ancestral connection with the Anzac centenary so there will be images and stories as well," Ms Longley said.

Ms Longley also invited community members to bring along their own photos of relatives for the display.

The exhibition will be launched at the Library at the Dock on April 21 at 6pm.

Local residents interested in sharing their photos and stories in the exhibition can contact Ms Longley on **9658 8017**.

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Open Doors Singers' Lynn Grantham invites Docklanders to join the community singing project at the library this month.

Raise your voice

Whether you have the voice of an angel or prefer to contain your warbling to the shower, you're invited to take part in a community singing project at the Library at the Dock, beginning this month.

The eight-week project is being run by Open Door Singers, with the support of City of Melbourne, and aims establish the foundations for an ongoing choir in Docklands.

A not-for-profit organisation, Open Door Singers also hopes to unite Docklands' residential and business community in song.

Open Door Singers director and professional conductor Shaun Islip said the project would allow people from diverse backgrounds and cultures to find their voice and experience the joy of singing in a choir.

"The choir is open to everyone, no auditions required," Mr Islip said. "There will be lots of laughter and learning, friendship and fun."

Open Door Singers vice president Lynn Grantham was one of the founding members of the first Open Doors community singers choir, based in Camberwell, which has around 250 members.

She said community singing was a great medium for people to connect with each other.

"What we've seen is people derive pleasure

not only from singing itself but from forming friendships, getting to know other people and feeling like they're part of something that's outside of themselves," Ms Grantham said.

"All of us would say that when we come together and sing we discover something within ourselves that we didn't know was there."

"We also see people's confidence and self-esteem lift. Not only through weekly rehearsals but we also perform regularly. We're excited to put together a performance at the end of this project," Ms Grantham said.

She said Open Door Singers was also excited to rehearse at the Library at the Dock.

"We're very privileged and excited to rehearse and perform in a fabulous venue. The Library at the Dock performance centre is first class and we can't wait to make the most of that facility."

Ms Grantham said the organisation believed the by the end of the eight-week program there would be significant momentum to allow the choir to continue on a self-funding basis.

"Through the generous support of the City of Melbourne, rehearsals for the first eight weeks are free. Thereafter, on an ongoing basis, there is a small rehearsal fee and a small yearly membership fee."

Rehearsals begin at the Library at the Dock on April 14 and will be held weekly on Tuesday evenings from 5.45pm to 7.30pm.

"Come along, have fun and find your voice," Ms Grantham said.

Residents are the big spenders

City of Melbourne residents spend four times as much as city workers in Melbourne's shops, cafes and bars, new research has revealed.

SGS Economics & Planning research shows that residents each spend \$10,000 on retail and hospitality each year within the city.

Workers spend \$2500 each year on retail and hospitality, while students spend just \$1800.

The research was commissioned by the City of Melbourne as part of its recently-released Retail and Hospitality Strategy First Year Report.

The research show that, as a group, workers spend the most in the city on retail and hospitality - \$1.09 billion annually.

But there are about 500,000 workers and only 105,000 residents. Despite their numerical disadvantage, residents spend only slightly less than workers - estimated by SGS at \$1.04 billion.

Students were estimated to spend \$459 million as a group on retail and hospitality within the city each year.

The *Retail and Hospitality Expenditure Study*, City of Melbourne/SGS Economics & Planning 2014 research also showed

that visitors to Melbourne spend an estimated \$885 million.

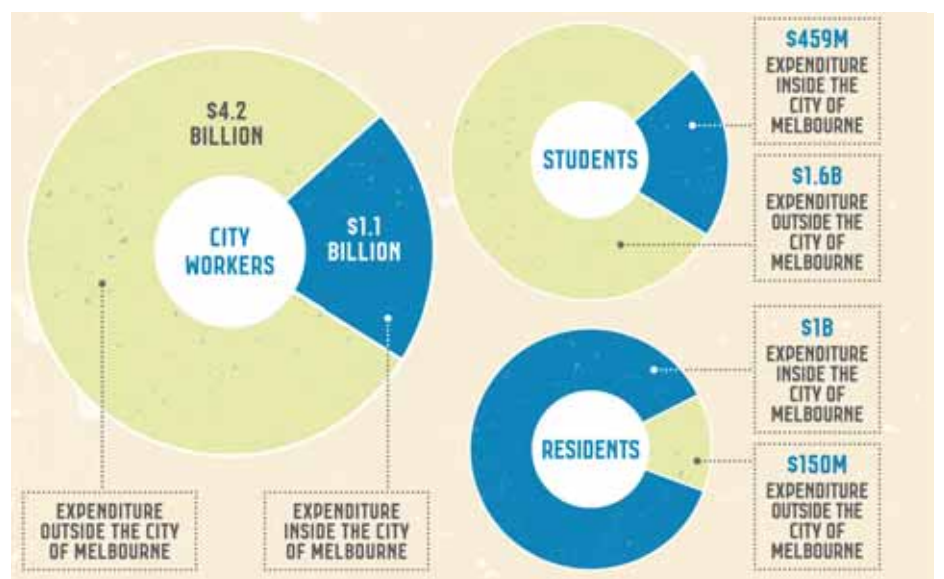
The researchers also looked at "leakage" and found that, again, residents were the most loyal group of retail and hospitality customers within the city. Residents expend 85 per cent of their total spend within the city, and forked out only \$150 million (15 per cent of their total spend) on retail and hospitality in other places.

In contrast, students and workers were found to spend four times as much as they spent in the city in other places. Workers annually spend \$4.2 billion elsewhere, while students spend \$1.6 billion in places other than the City of Melbourne.

The researchers pointed out that there was considerable overlap between these groups.

The *Year One Report* showed Melbourne's CBD was home to 18,221 businesses and had a weekday population of 844,000 people and a weekend population of 579,000 people.

The Report estimated that 439,000 people were employed in CBD retail and hospitality businesses.



Source: SGS Economics and Planning

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The company behind the Docklands fountains and flames project has been meeting with various stakeholders.

Fountain project gains momentum

The Docklands fountain and flame show is gaining momentum, with the consortium behind the project briefing key stakeholders over the past month with the aim of securing funding.

With the project tipped to cost \$10 million to build and \$600,000 per year to maintain, a combination of corporate, council and government funding is being sought.

According to the consortium behind the concept, FCT Flames and Avante-Garde de Studio, the return on the investment would generate \$230 million for the state each year while putting Docklands on the international tourism map.

“The fountain and flame show will be world class, it will be the jewel in the tourism crown for Australia and be a beacon for the arts community,” FCT Flames general manager Mark Ryan said.

The fountain, which could also be transformed into a floating performance and event stage, would be located in Victoria Harbour, at the end of Central Pier.

Choreographed to music, the fountain would be programmed to music during the day and flames, pyrotechnics, video projection and lasers could be added at night.

Alongside meeting key corporate and

government stakeholders, Mr Ryan said he had also briefed the Docklands Community Forum and had spoken to many local hospitality businesses.

“They can’t wait to have the fountains up and running,” Mr Ryan said.

Although the project is gaining momentum Mr Ryan did say the process was slow.

“We are talking about a major investment, a major attraction, one that will bring over five million people into the Docklands precinct to watch his wonderful artistic display,” he said.

FCT Flames CEO David Retallack said the project would bring an estimated 1000 new full-time jobs to Victoria.

“We will bring Victorian excellence and experience into the project. Two of the world’s top fountain engineers are from Melbourne, they installed the fountains into the Dubai ponds, and the barge that is needed will be built in Melbourne shipyards,” Mr Retallack said.



Jessica Gomes and Montana Cox at last month’s fashion festival.

Photo by: Lucas Dawson

Fashion sweeps Docklands

The Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival kicked off in spectacular style at Central Pier in Docklands last month.

Thousands of fashionistas attended various shows to witness the largest designer collections of the festival between March 14 and 22.

Opening night was presented by David Jones and featured collections from top Australian designers including Camilla and Marc, Josh Goot, Ginger & Smart and many more.

David Jones ambassadors Montana Cox and

Jessica Gomes were among the long-legged models that strutted the catwalk in the latest autumn winter trends.

The festival has become a signature event for Docklands and it is clear that Australia has world-class designers.

The waterside atmosphere at Central Pier added to the excitement and provided the perfect fashion hub.

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Frozen proved to be a popular Movies Under the Stars session.

Movie review

More than 1000 visitors and residents attended Docklands' very own outdoor cinema during February and March.

The free event saw movies played at Yarra's Edge's Point Park over three Thursday nights starting on February 26 and finishing on March 12.

Organised by Destination Docklands, it's the second year the Movies Under the Stars at Yarra's Edge has been held in Docklands.

"Everyone enjoys a night out at the movies

so we again collaborated with Mirvac and the City of Melbourne to create an outdoor cinema event at Yarra's Edge," Destination Docklands director of marketing and events Kelly Jensen said.

"All three movies were very popular and the venue was unique, the waterways and the stunning city views were a perfect backdrop."



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Docklands 55 / 55 Victoria Harbour Promenade
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This spectacular and luxurious 2 bedroom apartment is now available for sale. Located on the 5th level, this apartment includes Modern kitchen fittings, generous stainless steel appliances including cook-top, oven, range-hood and dishwasher. This immaculate apartment has two generous size bedrooms with BIR in master bedroom and second bedroom. Additional features include blinds to all windows, laundry facilities located in the bathroom, video intercom, storage cage and resort style facilities.



Docklands 2706/241 Harbour Esp
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Located on the 27th floor in The Quays building and has a car park and a storage cage. Located on the harbour in New Quay and minutes from Melbourne City Centre, The Quays harbour-side development puts you in a location that is close to everything. You will be only minutes away from fantastic shopping, great food and Etihad Stadium in Docklands, as well as tram stops literally at your front door. Residents have exclusive access to The Quays Health Club - complete with gym, swimming pool and spa, rooftop garden.



Docklands 1705 / 60 Siddeley Street
FANTASTIC VIEWS OVER DOCKLANDS
2 bed 2 bath 1 car
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Inspect By appointment

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



Docklands 1309 / 39 Caravel Lane
NEW QUAY GEM
1 Bed 1 Bath 1 Car
Private Sale \$420,000
Inspect By appointment

Situated in New Quay's prized and much sought after "Nolan" residential complex is this 13th floor versatile designed apartment. The "Nolan" offers the resident an incredible life-style where you have a waterfront location, surrounded by superb restaurants, specialty shopping and 15 minutes from the city centre. What a lifestyle!! The apartment itself is spacious and has a contemporary styled bathroom with European type laundry. The hostess kitchen with s/s appliances adjoins the spacious living room.



Docklands 1402 / 8 McCrae Street
SUIT BOTH OWNER OR INVESTOR
2 bed 1 bath 1 car
Private Sale \$540,000
Inspect By appointment

A stunning property where you not only get water views from every room of this home, you also get 2 bedrooms with built in robes and a large living room. But wait there's more! Storage cage, balcony, stone bench tops, integrated fridge and the use of the stunning leisure centre that Lorimer Street has been renowned for. The facilities include access to Mirvac's Rekdek which includes indoor heated lap pool, spa, steam and sauna room, and fully equipped gymnasium.



Docklands 705 / 1 Point Park Cres
ABSOLUTE WATERFRONT
1 bed 1 bath 1 car
Private Sale \$610,000
Inspect By appointment

Fully furnished north facing luxurious apartment with spectacular panoramic views of the harbour, Docklands and Melbourne's dynamic cityscape; This light filled luxury apartment on the 7th floor of this near new Yarra Point development boasts a spacious 63 sq.m of internal space, plus 7 sqm of balcony ideal for entertaining family and friends. The bedroom has amazing views and soaks up the sunlight through glorious floor to ceiling windows. This prestigious apartment / home consists of: 1 car park, spacious living area and dining.



Docklands 1306 / 50 Lorimer Street
VIEWS AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE
2 bed 1 bath 1 car
Private Sale \$620,000
Inspect By appointment

A stunning property where you not only get water views from every room of this home, you also get 2 bedrooms with built in robes and a large living room. But wait there's more! Storage cage, balcony, stone bench tops, integrated fridge and the use of the stunning leisure centre that Lorimer Street has been renowned for. The facilities include access to Mirvac's Rekdek which includes indoor heated lap pool, spa, steam and sauna room, and fully equipped gymnasium.



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

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



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Comedy fun in Docklands

By Louis Blake

Docklands gets giggly, silly and just a little bit crazy during the comedy festival's at the Wonderland Spiegel tent.

A variety of acts for all tastes and interests will be on show during the comedic festivities from March 25 to April 19.

The League of Sideshow Superstars rock into town for one night only on April 11. Featuring a motley crew of sideshow talent, led by the one and only Shep Huntley, the League of Sideshow Superstars promises to shock, amaze and inspire.

The "League" formed in 2000 and have since honed their craft of slapstick, acrobatics and physical stunts. This night of the seemingly impossible also features the talents of Aerial Manx.

Aerial is one of the only men in the world who can perform acrobatic sword swallowing and was the first sword swallower in the world to swallow two 2000-volt neon tubes simultaneously.

The League also features Samora Squid who is one of the world's tallest contortionists and has been described as defying medical science.

Audiences are encouraged to be brave and to challenge themselves for a truly unforgettable night of performance. Shep Huntly returns to the Spiegel tent over the April school holidays with a family-focused show of an entirely different nature. The Big Bubble Show comes to Docklands and promises to be fun for the whole tribe.

The young and the young at heart will be amazed by what The Big Bubble Show can do with the humble old bubble. The show features bubbles inside bubbles, square bubbles, smoke bubbles, explode-a-bubbles and, for one lucky child, even the chance to become the incredible human bubble.

The fun continues when Canadian Marty Putz crash-lands with his cheeky and



Acrobatic show *Elixir* will be held at the Wonderland Spiegel tent in Docklands during the comedy festival.

charming show *Putzing Around*. Be prepared for lots of audience participation, crazy gizmos and marshmallow fights in his manic performance that will surely have you gasping for breath and cheering for more.

Be warned however, over his run from March 28 to April 12, Marty will have you acting like a 10-year-old.

If death defying jumps and flips are more your style, then maybe the acrobatic show

Elixir may be up your alley. Featuring the incredible talent of acrobats and choreographers Cal Harris and Thomas Gorham, *Elixir* is the story of a group of scientists' attempts to create the elixir of life.

The show combines circus skills, live music, wild projections and laughs in a performance that is sure to thrill all those lucky enough to see it.

To find out more and order tickets please go to www.wonderlandspiegel.com.au

City Circle tram reprieve

Docklands retailers have been given a reprieve after a proposal to reduce the City Circle tram service was shelved.

Concerns were raised after *The Age* last month reported Public Transport Victoria and Yarra Trams were proposing to run the City Circle tram in one direction only, halving the service.

With the City Circle bringing many tourists to Docklands, and in particular Harbour Town, retailers were concerned a reduction in services would impact their businesses.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell said the chamber was very concerned when it heard about the proposed changes and quickly requested a meeting with Public Transport Victoria.

Mrs Maxwell said Public Transport Victoria had advised that, following stakeholder engagement, it decided not to make any changes to the City Circle tram at this point in time.

"Public Transport Victoria has agreed to keep Docklands stakeholders informed if any changes are planned," Mrs Maxwell said.

Prior to the meeting Public Transport Victoria had told *Docklands News* that it regularly reviewed timetable and routes across all modes of public transport and if any changes were proposed would need to be approved by the Minister for Public Transport.

"PTV and Yarra Trams will provide the full details of the changes to the community if a proposal goes ahead," a spokesperson said.

Peter Weller answers your legal questions.

Q What areas of law can Tolhurst Druce & Emmerson assist me with?

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Local tall ships in good company

Docklands' tall ships have a new companion after the Alexander Stewart sailed into Victoria Harbour last month.

Moored close to the NAB building on Victoria Harbour Promenade, the wooden tall ship had made a 3500 km, six week journey to Melbourne from Cairns, including stop-overs to avoid cyclones.

Owner Ivan Mitchell (pictured left with daughter Elsie) said his grandfather started building the Alexander Stewart in Sydney in 1969 and was joined by his sons (including Ivan's father) in construction throughout the '70s and into the '80s.

More recently, the boat has spent more than a decade operating as a charter boat in the Whitsundays.

After his family moved to Melbourne a few years ago, Mr Mitchell decided to bring the boat down too and he hopes to eventually

run day sails and overnight trips.

According to Mr Mitchell, the boat is modelled after The Spray, which was used in the first solo navigation of the world.

"It's built along the same lines as the ship that Joshua Slocum used as the first person to sail around the world solo," Mr Mitchell said.

The Alexander Stewart is in good company in Docklands with tall ships Enterprize and Alma Doepel nearby.

"Having a boat like this, I'm a tall ship fan and a wooden boat person," Mr Mitchell said. "The Alma Doepel is something that has a historical connection with Melbourne and will be something fairly iconic for Melbourne once it's finished."



Alma Doepel fundraising update

A large injection of funding is needed to ensure the future of Docklands' historical top-sail schooner, the Alma Doepel.

The Alma Doepel restoration team continues to campaign for more donations from Docklands corporate community, with the hope of acquiring more sponsors.

At the same time, the Docklands Chamber of Commerce is also working hard to raise awareness of the cause and support the work of the Alma team.

Around \$1.7 million is needed to complete the restoration project, which would see the wooden ship become an iconic part of Docklands.

Later this month an art exhibition celebrating the historic ship will be held at Shed 2. The exhibition opens 6pm on Friday, April 17 and will be open 10am to 5pm on April 18, 19, 25 and 26. A percentage of sales will go toward the Alma Doepel Restoration project.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce vice-president Bill Reid said the chamber was also planning a gala lunch and auction to raise money for the Alma Doepel restoration fund.

"Plans include a keynote address from a high-profile speaker and a distinguished VIP guest list," Mr Reid said.

Currently the fundraiser is planned for Friday, August 28 and enquiries be can be

made by contacting Mr Reid on breid@docklandsc.com.au

The total fundraising tally for March is \$812.50:
International Fellowship of Yachting Rotarians Victorian Fleet: \$500
Donations to National Trust Alma Doepel appeal fund: \$312.50



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'Spaces' project spreads to Victoria Harbour

Victoria Harbour's Docklands Spaces contingent opened their doors last month, providing an insight into their projects.

Although projects started moving into the Lifestyle Working building in October last year, the March 19 event signalled the official welcome to the precinct.

The Docklands Spaces project initially started in April 2013 with a focus on the Waterfront City Piazza. It then expanded to Harbour Town and last year jumped across to the other side of the harbour.

The initiative allows creative enterprises and independent initiatives to access unused spaces on short-term rolling licences on a rent-free basis.

Projects at the Lifestyle Working include Wheel Women, PLGRM, Branch Studio Architects, MUSK, Paradise Music, Marlow and Grump and House House Studio.

Victoria Harbour project director Tim Campbell said Lifestyle Working's communal spaces, shared meeting rooms and forward-thinking environmental design allowed for cross-pollination of ideas.



The Lifestyle Working building is now home to a range of Docklands Spaces projects. Photo by Docklands Spaces.

"The Docklands Spaces project has furthered the ethos of Lifestyle Working Collins by bringing together a diverse mix of businesses, operating in close proximity to each other," Mr Campbell said.

"Businesses have moved in to the building and have certainly brought their own energy not only to Lifestyle Working Collins but to the broader Victoria Harbour community."

Docklands a place for people

Docklands will be included in City of Melbourne's Places for People study for the first time this year.

Previously conducted in 1994 and 2004, the Places for People study aims to understand how people use public spaces throughout the city.

"Every 10 years we have put Melbourne under the microscope to observe how public spaces shape people's experience of the city," Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said. "This investigation and resulting analysis help us plan for the next decade and beyond."

"In this third study we want to hear directly from members of the community about how well their neighbourhood is meeting their daily needs. This will help us better understand the neighbourhoods we have and plan for the neighbourhoods we need."

"We want to zoom in and hear about how people actually access daily requirements, from fresh food and groceries to education, recreation and community services."

Quantitative research examining the use and built form of Melbourne's public spaces has been completed and now the City of Melbourne is gathering qualitative research about how people perceive Melbourne and use and experience their local neighbourhoods.

Consultation with the community started on March 23 and one pop-up has already been held in Docklands. The next pop-up is from 10am to 2pm at the Docklands Sunday Market on April 12.

You can find out more about the consultation details at <http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/projects/placesforpeople>

Changes at Destination Docklands

Destination Dockland is undertaking a review of its operations and has changed its management structure following the resignation of former CEO Anita Donnelly.

The destination marketing and events organisation has appointed former engagement and events manager Kelly Jensen to the position of director of marketing and events, replacing the role of CEO.

The organisation is also carrying out a strategic review of its operations with the

assistance of Destination Docklands deputy chairperson Darren Walls.

Mr Walls is director of Darren Walls Consulting and has experience in tourism and destination management through his previous role as general manager of Grollo Leisure and Tourism.

Mr Walls will work with Docklands stakeholders and the Destination Docklands board to complete the review, which will look at how the organisation can better serve business and stakeholder needs.



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Parkmore S.C (Keysborough)	\$495,000	\$12,765
Fountain Gate	\$545,000	\$16,000
Fountain Gate Kiosk	\$245,000	\$10,000
Newcomb	\$295,000	\$8,000

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Northland	\$229,000	\$17,000
Bell Post Hill (Geelong)	\$279,000	\$10,000
Wendouree (Ballarat)	\$149,000	\$6,721
Rosebud Plaza	\$279,000	\$10,000

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Australia's best property manager

Local property manager Dylan Emmett (pictured right) has been named Australia's finest property manager.

Mr Emmett represented Victoria at last month's REIA National Awards for Excellence in Perth.

"It was an unexpected surprise," the Lucas Real Estate property manager said of the March 12 win.

Mr Emmett said the award was based on a range of criteria, with the two main qualities being customer service and business growth.

"It is an amazing achievement and fantastic to be acknowledged for the hard work of our team over the past 12 months. Our team has worked incredibly hard over the past year to really elevate our level of service for our clients," Mr Emmett said.

Lucas Real Estate principal Glen Lucas said the award was a win for Docklands.

"Considering Docklands is such a new market, it's a real credit to the area and its residents," Mr Lucas said.



The award completes a "trifecta" of real estate awards won by Mr Emmett in the past year, adding to his REIV Property Manager of the Year 2014 and Australasian Real Estate Results Awards - Property Manager of the Year 2014.

Lucas Real Estate's property management team was also named Australasia's Property Management Team of the Year at the Real Estate Results Awards in 2015.



MAB Corporation has begun work on Promenade and AQUI.

New Quay projects underway

We could soon see a lot more construction activity in New Quay, with early works starting on two major projects in the precinct.

MAB Corporation has begun work on its 18-storey Promenade and 22-storey AQUI residential towers on the eastern side of the New Quay piazza.

With a combined gross floor area of 30,033 sqm and development value of \$240 million, the towers, which will share a podium, will add 436 apartments to New Quay.

Meanwhile, early works have also started on the opposite side of the piazza, on the site MAB Corporation sold to Singaporean developer Hiap Hoe in 2013.

Hiap Hoe will construct a 43-storey apartment building called Marina Tower, which will comprise 441 apartments. It will also build a 15-storey Four Points Sheraton hotel with 273 hotel rooms and 20 apartments.

The residential building and hotel have a development value of \$360 million and a combined floor area of 46,269 sqm.

With a shared podium, the buildings will share recreational facilities including a 25-metre lap pool, decking area and two gyms.

DCA investigates cage-fighting

Docklands Community Association (DCA) wants to find out whether the local community opposes cage-fighting events proposed for Etihad Stadium.

The move comes after the State Government lifted the ban on cage-fighting last month.

Etihad Stadium has been tipped as the location of the first Victorian UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) event later this year.

However neither Etihad Stadium or the UFC have confirmed that a cagefighting event would be held at the venue.

DCA president Roger Gardner said the association did not currently have an official position on cage-fighting at the stadium, but said anecdotally some concerns had been raised amongst members.

You can complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HDDNXKT>

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Networking is under way

Around 50 local business people came together last month for the first Docklands Networking Lunch of the year.

Attendees gathered at Renzo's Bar Café Italiano on March 13 and enjoyed an afternoon of networking and a three-course meal.

Jointly hosted by Docklands News and the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, guests also heard an update from Chamber vice-president Bill Reid.

The next Docklands Networking Lunch is from 12 noon on Friday, June 12 at Merchant Society, 71 Merchant St, Docklands.

Merchant Society is new to Docklands but proprietor Charles Ng has a string of successful restaurants behind him. His new Asian fusion offering in Docklands has filled a badly-needed gap and is quickly gaining a reputation for freshness and quality.

The menu for the June lunch is:

Entrée: Vegetable spring rolls; chicken satay; prawn cakes.

Mains (alternating): Beef cashew and

chicken spare ribs. Vegetarian option: mixed seasonal stir fry.

Dessert: BoBo Cha Cha.

Beverages: White and red wine, heavy and light beers.

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

Contact Docklands News via **lunch@docklandsnews.com.au** or call the office on **8689 7979** to book.



Claire Holden and Cr Ken Ong.



Lisa Fluck and Paul Webster.



Jassie-Bree Salmond and Jennie Hill.



Jan Gielnik and Jeff Gordon.



Fun and games at the Docklands Social Club

Docklands Social Club is mixing it up this month with a games night at the Mission to Seafarers on April 15.

From 7pm you can join in the fun of ping pong and billiards! Drinks can be ordered at the bar and dinner will be order-in take away from the nearby new fish and chip shop.


And we're mixing the date of the monthly catch-up too. From now on the Docklands Social Club will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, rather than the second Wednesday.

Plenty of Docklanders attended and enjoyed last month's event at Merchant Society. Why not join in the fun this month and get to know other people living in your neighbourhood.

The next Docklands Social Club is at 7pm on Wednesday, April 15 at the Mission to Seafarers at 717 Flinders St.



Attendees at last month's Docklands Social Club event.



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IT'S A GOOD REID

Docklands has seen some great water-based events. Visitors from around Melbourne and regional Victoria were drawn to Docklands for the Melbourne Regatta, Seniors Week, Australia Day celebrations, and the recent SummerFest in Victoria Harbour. Docklands continues to grow in popularity.

The water is Melbourne's undervalued and underutilised asset, and yet the water is helping Docklands become a leading event precinct in Melbourne. This apparent neglect is largely due to the fact the water is not owned by anyone and so it is not nurtured in the way it ought to be.

Our waterway is governed by a myriad of authorities, meaning there is no single authority that can decide on a desirable solution to water activation. There needs to be an overarching authority with the mandate to make the best use of the water -

otherwise our unique point of difference will struggle to realise its full potential.

The good news is events in Docklands that include a ferry service as part of its activation are giving the Melbourne community a taste for water-based transport and a new outlook on the magnificence of our city and its skyline. During such events, there are many enquiries as to why we have no permanent service to places such as Williamstown, St Kilda, Federation Square. A very good question and one that goes to the governance issue.

Docklands, with its waterways, is a perfect place for a Maritime Heritage Precinct creating a permanent home with back-of-house facilities to ensure the longevity of our historic vessels, the Alma Doepel, the Enterprize, the Polly Woodside, steam ship Wattle and others that are in need of

REPORTING FROM THE DOCKLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

rescue. This will be a popular attraction and would be a much-needed centre-piece for Docklands.

Imagine this, coupled with a permanent exhibition such as the proposed Flames and Fountains that is topical at the present time. An all-year-round spectacle providing a welcome injection into the economy of our water-based precinct, its businesses including cafes, restaurants and passenger vessels.

Other events in Docklands include the ever-popular Docklands Networking Lunches. These are sponsored by *Docklands News* and the Docklands Chamber of Commerce and the March event at Renzo's was well patronised. The lunches are scheduled every quarter and the next one will be on June 12 at Merchant Society near Woolworths in Merchant St.

Alma Doepel fundraising continues to be a focus for the chamber. Plans are in progress for a gala lunch leading into the 2015 Melbourne Regatta and Melbourne Day. Proceeds will go to the restoration of the Alma.

Some of you may have noticed a new Tall Ship berthed in Victoria Harbour. This is the Alexander Stewart. Peter Harris of the Alma tells GNB that the owners have generously offered their services to raise funds for the Alma. You can help too as a \$500 donation buys Alma a plank, and the donor will have their name recorded on the Donors' Honour Roll.

Support the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, become a member and make April that decision month. Let me wish all readers a great Easter and an enjoyable April. After all, Docklands is beautiful!

Taking time out for some musical trekking



It never fails to excite, intrigue and delight me how easy it is to be totally transported from one's environment simply by slipping some headphones on and putting on some tunes.

It's probably not as amazing as astral travel or having an out of body experience, but I think it's pretty impressive.

It's something I've taken to doing on lunchtime and home-time walks - transporting myself to New York in the 1950s with Miles Davis has become a favourite destination, and somehow seems to complement the vistas around me.

Books, also, have become a favourite form of escape ... or, depending on the book, of no escape, as some books tend to encourage introspection and soul-searching. Let me re-phrase that. I am drawn to books that encourage introspection and soul-searching being the introvert and dissector of human experience/motivation/passion that I am.

Speaking of which, I just turned 50. Away from my desk (and at my desk) I am now officially middle-aged. To say this has brought on a mid-life crisis is perhaps overstating it, but it does tend to give cause to pause, breathe and survey the life you have around and in front of you - kind of like a meerkat.

My meerkat surveillance has brought about mixed emotions. Initially it was dissatisfaction with things in general. Where I lived, what I was doing with my life, my mothering skills, the car I drive, the shape I'm in, etc, etc. The common theme of these musings was abject misery mixed in with generous amounts of entitlement and self-pity. Harsh, yes, but I can afford to be because I have recently moved on ...

The second stage is where I am at now. This morning I had an epiphany of sorts when I realised that hey, maybe things are not so bad after all. Maybe things are ok. Maybe

things are more than ok. Oh, and maybe I need to count my blessings and live in gratitude of them. And that the things I want to change, I actually can. Big big leap from last week - and one that I needed to make.

So then I had to follow on from that thought with a list. My grateful list is something like:

- My health;
- My ability to earn an income doing something I kinda dig with people I like in a safe environment with water views;
- My friends who love and support me;
- My knowledge and attitude to life;
- My beautiful children - even Grumpy;
- My sense of optimism;
- Where I live - I love Brunswick; and
- Of course, there's the ability to express myself regularly in this column!

Until next time.

x Maria

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

When I was a little girl, my world was a safe place.

My dad's broad shoulders carried me high above the crowds at the Easter Show, his arms were my surfboard over the waves in the ocean, and every little dress I put on for birthday parties would win his praise for my style and elegance (as only a six-year-old can do!).

My sleep was filled with dreams of ponies and ballet, of happiness and wonder, and most importantly my place in his heart was unquestionable to me. I was loved, and very secure.

As I grew up, whilst we all became busier and studies and life got more involved, the love of my father was never something I had to question. Never judging, never counselling, he would offer his opinion when asked and support whatever decision I made.

On the whole, he has been enormously proud of me and what I have achieved. But there have been more than a few occasions, when he has also been there to pick up the pieces after a few "great decisions" turned out to be disastrous.

I have known, my entire life, that I can turn to him in celebration or crisis, and be safe in his love and support. He set the bar high, showing me how it feels to trust, to be loved, to be believed in. He gave me the freedom to be completely myself in this life.

I realise how rare these qualities are, or perhaps more specifically, how rare this relationship between two people is. And when it's there, you can actually see its existence - a connection and love that is unconditional.

I have certainly seen it exist in others - in parent/child relationships, in marriages and between close friends. It's not something that is easy to come across, and it's not something that can be created - it just happens when you have the right connection, and you know when this happens. Perhaps it's the voice of your intuition, but you know when you have met someone worthy.

My previous relationships have fallen short of the secure love of my relationship with my father, and I realise how much we sometimes

sacrifice what's really important to us, perhaps because we simply believe we won't encounter it again.

We get swept up with the fast pace of life and overlook what we truly want. We compromise.

Well, I think the time for compromise is over. Chalk up the past mistakes to learnings, and hold high the values you respect and know you deserve. Relentlessly hold on to the purity of your own worth, and know that you deserve a love that is built on honesty and trust, an extraordinary relationship that elevates you and allows you to feel safe and secure ... just like a child knowing her father is never more than a few steps away if needed.

I think this type of relationship is worth being patient to find, and whilst there are plenty of people who will offer you something nice - but ultimately a lot less - well, I'd rather just wait it out until I do connect with the man of my dreams - wouldn't you?

So here's to holding onto our values, here's

to not compromising on what we are worth, and here's to waiting, patiently, for someone incredibly special to make all the "learnings" worth leaving in the end.

The path might sometimes be lonely, but it's much better to walk alone with pride, than to be walking down the wrong path and trying to settle when your heart will always yearn for what you believe could exist.

If, like me, you are single then stay strong and believe that the universe will provide that which you hold so dear. And if you have found someone special to you, nurture and develop the bond you have, and enjoy the powerful connection that comes with a secure relationship of trust and love, which ultimately give you the freedom to be completely yourself. And who better person to be, than exactly who you are.

Have a wonderful month,

Thank you for your emails. Stay in touch.

Abby x

life@docklandsnews.com.au

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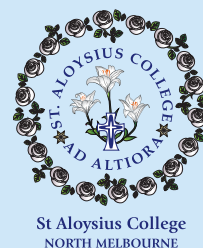
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Living the Docklands dream

Mark Scholem has more connections with Docklands than most who live here.

He's not just a local resident, but also co-owns a Docklands business and works for a Docklands-based company.

Mr Scholem and his partner John first moved to Docklands in 2006 after realising how much potential the area had.

"I think we immediately saw the great potential for apartment living and having a city lifestyle but without the density and hustle of the city," Mr Scholem said.

"The promise of things that were going to come, that we'd seen in the master plan, looked so promising and still does and a lot has been delivered of course."

He said being one of the earlier Victoria Harbour residents provided a great opportunity to contribute to Docklands development as a community.

"My thought was that if we were part of the early stages we'd benefit from that growth and be able to contribute to the culture and the atmosphere and the environment as well."

Two years after moving to Docklands, Mr Scholem and his partner further cemented their connection with the area by opening New Energy Physiotherapy in Merchant St.

Mr Scholem said Victoria Harbour was a vibrant precinct that was quickly developing into a hub for Docklanders.

"It's got the combination of the restaurants, the cafes, the commercial people, professionals of all different ages and services like the doctor, pharmacy and supermarket," Mr Scholem said.

"I think this area has the best combination of development. The library is a fantastic addition and the plan for North Wharf with medium density apartments is going to look fantastic. It will really be an iconic development in Melbourne."

A Docklands resident, business owner and worker, Mr Scholem is also a community representative on the Docklands Community Forum.

"I was looking for a way to take part in the whole of Docklands and a way to contribute my skills and abilities to the whole of Docklands' growth at a community level," Mr Scholem said.



Having lived in Docklands since 2006 (apart from a two-year break mid-way) Mr Scholem has had the chance to watch Docklands grow and change.

Apart from the scale of development, Mr Scholem said some of the biggest changes had been in the perception of Docklands by those who live here and those who don't.

"I've felt the mindset of people change," Mr Scholem said. "People have been more proud of Docklands and perhaps not so self critical."

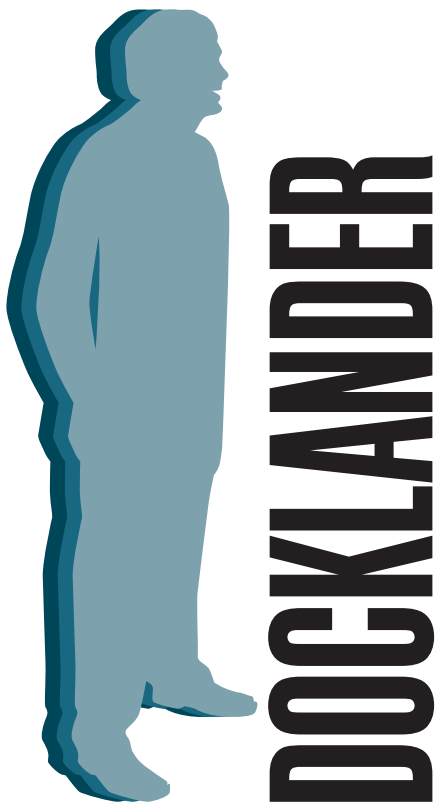
"I think the external community is slowly

looking at Docklands and thinking, 'okay, it might actually be alright,'" he said.

For Mr Scholem, Docklands is well and truly home and he looks forward to what its future will bring.

"We're permanent residents now and wouldn't move away from the area, it's a really marvellous part of Melbourne," he said.

"In five years time it will be very different and it won't be anything like what we saw in 2006," Mr Scholem said. "It will be what we imagined in 2006."



**Profile by
Bethany Williams**

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Businesses in Docklands

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KEEPING THE NOISE OUT OF DOCKLANDS

With noise providing a constant issue for residents living in high-rise apartments in inner Melbourne, Stop Noise director Ron Adams said his company had tapped into a niche market.



Stop Noise director Ron Adams.

“It was an idea I had 20 years ago so I started it up and we just started from a small factory and just worked our way up,” he said. “We wanted to target people who have noise problems as we felt there was a need for that.”

“There wasn’t really any noise products out there because when I started it was just double-glazing. So my research was basically the price of the product, what they could get and the result that they get.”

Established in 1995, Stop Noise’s add-on double-glazing is a family-owned business, which operates out of its showroom and warehouse at Carrum Downs in Melbourne’s south east.

Rather than double-glazing windows, which only reduces noise by an average of 25 to 30 per cent, the Stop Noise product reduces noise by up to 50 to 70 per cent and, according to Ron, for half the price!

He said the product had proven a sweeping success in high-rise apartments where, mostly, it was against body corporate rules to change existing windows.

“There’s noise everywhere but we try to target the city and the high-density apartments,” he said.

“Obviously we’re not a supplier of replacement double-glazing. If their windows are faulty, well then they’ll need a whole new window. We just do the add on system.”

“So they can still open their windows, they can still get fresh air, they can still lift the panels out and clean them. So it’s just a more cost effective solution to the problem that they’ve got.”

The key to the system involves having a large airspace between the two windows, which

works as a cushioning effect.

Using a strong and effective 6.38mm laminated safety glass, the use of the two different thickness of glass helps change the frequency of sound.

The add-on system also acts as an effective form of insulation with the capability to stop up to 60 per cent of heat-loss.

According to Ron, while the average window takes only an hour to put in, installation was never carried out unless a worthwhile result could be delivered for the customer.

“We won’t do a job unless we think we can get a good result out of it,” he said. “If they’ve got problems with the building for example, unless you fix those there is no point in doing the windows,” he said.

“We give people an idea of what level of reduction we can get them and find out what they’re after as well, whether it be for noise reduction or insulation, and then we give them some idea of what we think we can cut it down by.”

Having established a strong connection with businesses and residents in the area for the past 20 years, Ron said he and his team always enjoyed working in what was a “constantly evolving area”.

“It’s just a very fast-growing area and I think there are so many opportunities to make the place better,” he said.

“The road infrastructure is fairly good and, again, there are a lot of the problems in Southbank with apartments being built right next to the busy roads or freeways, which is a good thing for us!”

For more information visit www.stopnoise.com.au

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TREATING THE PROBLEM AS WELL AS THE CAUSE

Businesses in Docklands

At GL Natural Healthcare, the focus is on fixing not only the problem but also the cause.

George Lenon opened the Digital Harbour-based practice last December and GL Natural Healthcare offers both traditional Chinese medicine and chiropractic services.

Apart from being a Chinese medicine practitioner, Mr Lenon is also an academic in the field, lecturing at RMIT University and currently researching Chinese medicine and weight loss, diabetes and allergies.

According to Mr Lenon, Chinese medicine is 4000 years old and within his family is a traditional career path.

Mr Lenon says Chinese medicine differs from Western medicine because it doesn't aim to pinpoint and solve individual problems or symptoms, but rather tries to resolve the larger cause.

"Chinese medicine works in a different way, rather than targeting the problem, we consider the person and what has caused the problem," Mr Lenon said.

"We treat the cause rather than masking the symptoms."

"For people who come with back pain we don't just treat the back pain, we also find out what's causing it."

"We treat the symptoms and work out what parts of the body need to be strengthened to prevent it happening again."



Tim Dihh and George Lenon - practitioners at the new GL Natural Healthcare clinic in Digital Harbour.

According to Mr Lenon, the holistic approach of Chinese medicine involves a range of treatments including acupuncture, herbal medicine, remedial massage and cupping.

With three Chinese medicine practitioners and one chiropractor working at the Docklands practice, there's always someone on hand to help.

"We want to provide a business for the Docklands community with acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine and chiropractic," Mr Lenon said.

"We treat a variety of conditions such as sinus problems, infertility, lower back pain, general pain, flu, neurological and psychological disorders."

According to Mr Lenon, traditional Chinese medicine can work in partnership with western medicine.

Chinese medicine practitioner Tim Dinh explained a recent case where a client, who had previously been unable to get pregnant through IVF was successful after also being treated with acupuncture.

GL Natural Healthcare is currently offering 20 per cent off consultation and treatment fees (excluding herbal medicine) when its advertisement featured in Docklands News this month is presented (conditions apply).

You can find GL Natural Healthcare at shop 5/198 Harbour Esplanade. Contact the practice on **9670 2878**.

For more information visit www.glnaturalhealthcare.com.au or www.facebook.com/glnaturalhealthcare

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THE SPECIAL SKILLS OF BUSINESS BROKING

Businesses in Docklands

It takes a special combination of skills to sell a business and it would appear that Ahmet Ali, Director of AA Business Brokers has them all.

He brings diplomacy and discretion to business deals from his long and successful career as an Australian Diplomat.

He understands small business because he's owned and run a Tattsлото agency, a newsagency and a licensed post office.

Today, AA Business Brokers dominates the Victorian marketplace in the sale of high quality franchises and business and is the preferred selling agent for dozens of franchised brands and hundred of private sellers.

"I put our success down to our attention to detail, rigorous systems and our integrity," he said.

"We are passionate about the work we do and strive to achieve the best results possible for both our vendors and buyers. Our clients just keep coming back to us because they know we offer total commitment to achieve their commercial and business goals."

Ahmet and his wife Vesna started the business in June 2007 and quickly moved it to their current location in Lorimer St, Docklands (Yarra's Edge). They are also very happy residents at Yarra's Edge. "We wouldn't live anywhere else," Vesna said. "We just love it here."

Vesna too has had an interesting career in retail and distribution as well as some senior public service positions.



Melbourne's Leading Business Broker Ahmet Ali and his lovely wife Vesna Petkowska-Ali

The business now employs a team of business sales consultants with a wide variety of specialties and strengths.

"While our bread and butter is franchised businesses across all sectors, we do sell all types of businesses, from under 50k to over \$10 million," Ahmet said.

"The businesses may differ, but the fundamental principles remain the same."

"It's about being committed, accountable, professional and honest," Ahmet said. "If you get those things right, everything else falls into the place and the sales continue to grow."

AA Business Brokers thrived in the aftermath of the global financial crisis - a time which was particularly tough on small hospitality businesses.

"I'm not saying it was easy, but we kept focused on the customer and the customer's needs," Ahmet said. "In the end, the dedication has paid off and we have a very dedicated following to show for it."

Ahmet said his firm was equally qualified to help both potential business buyers or vendors looking to sell.

"We are very happy to meet and advise anyone in the strictest confidence on a no-obligation basis," he said.

"It's far better to get a realistic appraisal from us before you start than to go down a long and difficult path only to be disappointed at the other end."

Ahmet and his team of specialists can be contacted at their Docklands office at Suite 88b/ 90 Lorimer St on **9645 2988** or **0400 650 770** or email **sales@aabusinessbrokers.com.au**

DOCKLANDS DAZE

by Michelle Commandeur



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DOCKLANDS FASHION



Letters to the Editor

Wonderful Thomas

I left my handbag on the 70 tram a few days before Christmas – credit card, keys, everything in it.

I got home to discover no keys to get through security. Panic!

I went back to the stop at NewQuay and waited for the 70 tram to ask them to alert the driver. Low and behold, the same tram had been resting at the terminus and started back with the correct time on the timetable.

I told the driver “I left my bag”, “Yes” came the happy voice “Here it is”.

“What is your name?” I asked. “Thomas,” he replied.

I just wanted to thank the honest man (a rare commodity, honesty!). Who is Thomas the tram driver? What a wonderful man.

Lyn Faull

Putting us on the map

Although I was disappointed to read of the site change for the MAB Corporation’s permanent art collection, I feel this leaves another door open for a museum dedicated to the art of children.

The Museum of Children’s Art and Toys or “MoCAT” for short is a museum dedicated to collecting, celebrating, displaying and promoting the art and toys of children from around the world.

Imagine a display of children’s handmade toys from the Sudan, art projects curated by children from the Pilbara region or a display of children’s landscape paintings borrowed from the Smithsonian.

Currently, there are two such museums in the world: the Museum of Children’s Arts (or Mocha), Oakland, California and the International Museum of Children’s Art in Oslo, Norway. We would be the third.

MoCAT would not only put Melbourne on the map as truly the “City of the Arts” but also, provide Harbour Town with a refreshing venue for families, schools and individuals.

Robert Lee Davis



Hannah McGee, 19

LOCATION: NewQuay Promenade.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: Denim jacket, black jeans and leather boots.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING? This denim jacket.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS? Visiting friends.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT? Black.

Jassie-Bree Salmond, 29

LOCATION: Outside Etihad Stadium.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: Country Road dress and a Veronika Maine jacket.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING? My pair of Dolce and Gabbana satin shorts.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS? I’m going to a networking lunch.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT? Comfort.

Diana Vilic, 31

LOCATION: Outside Etihad Stadium.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: Levi jeans and top, green Zara blazer and a necklace from Singapore.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING? Definitely a blazer. A good blazer can change a whole outfit.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS? I work here.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT? The personality has to be reflected in the outfit or else it’s just an outfit.

Share

Gather your family and friends together to share a slice of Italy at va bene, or in your own home using the delivery and take-away services. Home delivery available Monday to Saturday from 5pm

Feast

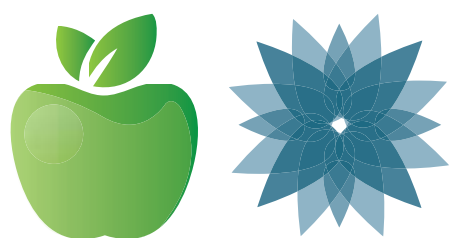
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HEALTH & WELLBEING



By Andrew Ward
YMCA Docklands manager

Time to get snow-ready!

We are just 60 days from the start of the 2015 snow season and NOW is the perfect time to get prepared for your time on the slopes.

Your preparation activities should cover both your personal fitness and your equipment.

Equipment wise, you should do a stocktake of all your gear. Make sure you didn't lose something important like a glove on the last day of 2014. Maybe buy yourself a pair of new comfortable long, thin wool ski socks as a treat to kick off your first run! Check all of your gear for rips, tears and signs of wear. It's also time to get your board or skis tuned and waxed, as well as bindings checked. A poorly-maintained set up can lead to an early injury so don't take chances with that. There are some great pre-season offers around town for tuning, so keep your eyes peeled.

Lastly, and most importantly, it's time to prepare your body. Speak with a trainer or do some research yourself on snow-sport-specific training. Set yourself a plan for the next 8-10 weeks to boost your specific snow fitness.

Such a program would consist of developing the strength and endurance of your legs, glutes and core. You would look to increase your mobility through stretching or yoga, and boost general cardio-vascular fitness.

Some explosive, dynamic sprint, power and agility work would be beneficial as the nature of snow sports is stop and start, and requires on demand response to an ever changing terrain and environment.

Now, time to start snow dancing!

Superfoods - what are they?

As well as being a marketing buzzword, a superfood is a food that has high potency or high levels of important nutrients your body cannot produce on its own. Some superfoods may also have high levels of anti-oxidants which help fight the process of aging and can help in the fight against developing cancers.

Whether you have a deficiency, or just an aspiration to improve your wellbeing, a superfood may provide you with the nutrients you need without taking pills and supplements. Including a superfood in your weekly food selection also supports the preferred concept of long term balanced nutrition as opposed to going on and off diets which is not recommended.

Nutritional rule number one for vegetables - don't overcook or boil all of the goodness out of your veggies. Light steaming, stir frying with quality oil or using a soup base is best.

Superfood examples:

- Kale - The super, superfood - high potency, loaded with vitamins and minerals;
- Salmon - high protein, high in omega-3 fish oils;
- Blueberries - high in anti-oxidants and fibre;
- Oysters - for their zinc and iodine;
- Oats - rich in fibre;
- Avocados - high in protein, mono-unsaturated (good) fat and can help suppress hunger;
- A glass of red - in moderation, a better, healthier choice than other forms of alcohol; and
- Nuts - walnuts, almonds - great for snacks.

Exercise of the month - The push-up

What is so great about the push-up?

The push-up has long been a staple of most exercise programs. It is predominantly a chest, shoulder and triceps exercise, performed in a prone (face down) position. Secondary muscle groups involved are the core, the legs and the greater shoulder girdle.

Used in military training, phys-ed classes, fitness testing or for punishment (give me 20!), the push-up has now become a common feature in most group fitness and training classes on the market.

Here are some great reasons why you should make the push-up a part of your weekly routine:

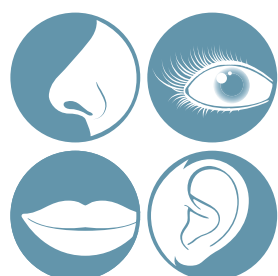
- Variation - Did you know there are more than 20 variations on the push-up you can do for different outcomes?
- No equipment required - it's a completely portable activity;
- Different levels - there are push-ups for beginners through to the elite athlete;
- Measuring progress - you can see yourself improve over time; and
- They are fun!

Push-up facts:

World record in one minute: 123 push-ups

Non-stop push-ups: 10,507

Most in 24 hours: 46,001



DOCKLANDS SECRETS

Urban jungle hides early treasure

If you look closely you'll find a relic from Docklands' past hidden along Wurundjeri Way.

An overgrown urban forest has all but hidden it from the view of passing traffic but intrepid explorers can still uncover a piece of Docklands' early urban renewal history.

Original Docklands Authority signage marketing Docklands as "Melbourne's Docklands - Victoria's new waterfront" is still

in place, along with a billboard marketing the Batman's Hill development site.

The Docklands Authority was formed in 1991, suggesting the overgrown stretch of trees and bushes, which now cover the signage, has grown over the past 15 to 20 years.



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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

By Shane Scanlan

Cr Kevin Louey has made a career out of being connected.

He has been around the town hall for longer than any of his contemporaries but has very little to say on most things.

He is in his second term as a councillor, but has another two terms under his belt as chief of staff to former lord mayor John So.

After 13 years, he says his achievements are in helping individuals with their City of Melbourne issues.

"I believe my achievements are all the small things, the non-sexy stuff. I don't jump up and down and I'm not a grandstander. But I'm happy to go out and get my hands dirty," he said.

Cr Louey was the first councillor to be elected in 2012, having negotiated the top spot on the successful Team Doyle ticket. In local politics, the terms of trade are measured in connections.

Cr Louey's "day job" also comes on the back of long-term connections. He says his major source of income is derived from being on "a couple" of advisory boards of booming, high-tech Chinese manufacturers.

The owners or senior executives of these companies are friends he made in the late 1980s and 90s when he went to China to explore opportunities.

At the time, his own business interests had collapsed due to failed family restaurant ventures. It was also a period which coincided with a China-liaison position he held with the New South Wales Business Chamber (formerly called Australian Business Limited).

Cr Louey said the board positions involved travelling to China for "a couple of board meetings and a couple of dinners" each year.

"They like my feel for it and, because I've known them for so long I'm honest with them so they like my ideas about which is the correct direction to go," Cr Louey said.

"I put it down to luck and I also believe in karma as well," he said.

Cr Louey said he befriended his current benefactors when they were recent graduates, doing their required service in state-run enterprises.

He happened to be at these state enterprises at the same time because of his English skills and thanks to connections via his former Chinese wife's networks.

"This friend of mine, for whom I sit on his advisory board, started in an old farm stables. He developed new technology there and has done wonders in this business," Cr Louey said.

Cr Louey came to Australia from Hong Kong when he was seven years old. His dad had a restaurant in Box Hill "for decades and decades" and the family first settled in East Burwood.

But the family knew a lot about this country. Cr Louey's grandfather was Australian, having been born in Bendigo and later "reverse-migrating" to China.

Cr Louey's father also spent time in both countries, as well as migrating to Hong Kong. During his early years in Melbourne, Cr Louey's father helped his dad run a restaurant in Smith St, Collingwood.

Having being educated in state primary and high schools, Cr Louey attended Monash University where he promptly dropped out. "I was a terrible uni student," he said. "I couldn't concentrate."

This led to his "rise" through the real estate world - starting in rentals with suburban agents, and then sales and ending up in city development - industrial, commercial and shopping centres.

"That's why I can work out on the back of a matchbox where the opportunity is," he said.

The good times didn't last though and his family "lost more than just a packet" on Chinatown restaurant ventures.

"We failed miserably. We lost everything and had to rebuild. But you learn from that for the next phase and you learn how to trust people," Cr Louey said.

It was during this period that he connected with Cr So, who later invited him to run his lord mayoral office. It was also this experience which generated his empathy for



struggling small businesses.

As Cr So's chief of staff, he experienced the full breadth of what local government in Melbourne had to offer. It has given him a positive perspective on the current council.

"Council was not so harmonious in those days," he said.

By contrast, he says the current council is well balanced which, he says, is evidence that the electoral system is working.

"You just have to look at the individuals who have been elected. We haven't gone one end or the other," he said.

"There's no harm in having diverse views as long as you are all able to work harmoniously. And there's no shouting or swearing and there has been in the past."

"It's very collegiate because I think Robert (Lord Mayor, Cr Doyle) has got that knack of bringing people into the camp."

Cr Louey enjoys being a councillor but says he hasn't decided whether or not to stand for re-election next year.

"It gets into your blood," he said. "I like to give people a voice. The interactions with people are tangible. You can't always get a result, but you can always get an answer from management."

"I've enjoyed it. It's rewarding. I've got extensive networks and some made some great friendships."

In next month's Councillor Profile we look at: Cr Stephen Mayne

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GREETINGS FROM THE DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Greetings everybody

Lorimer Draft Structure Plan

This particularly affects Yarra's Edge residents in respect of elements such as the proposed tram bridge and developments on the other side of Lorimer St.

I attended the public briefing by CoM and Plan Melbourne officers held at the library on March 11.

The large resident audience was highly critical of the lack of consultation for particular sites, including heights, shadowing, densities and traffic effects. It was stressed that authorities must take concerns of residents into account when considering development proposals. The meeting was advised of forthcoming consultation sessions for the draft structure plan in March and April.

Residents were encouraged to register with Participate Melbourne, the council's online engagement site, to provide input and follow the public conversation.

Short stays in residential buildings

The first meeting of the panel of enquiry into the practice was held early March at which

the issues were identified and assessed. I submitted to members a listing of serious anti-social behaviour, vandalism, damage, added costs, etc associated with short stays/serviced apartments, together with photographic evidence. The problems are now extended by the emergence into the market of international operators such as Airbnb and Stayz. Future meeting will look at solutions and recommendations.

Cage fighting at Etihad – Resident survey

There is concern regarding the effect on Docklands' image; also safety and security outside the venue resulting from holding cage fighting in Etihad Stadium, which it has been reported in the media will be held there in November. We are, therefore, running a survey amongst residents to obtain their opinion regarding holding it at Etihad. They are not short of events. The police have stated their opposition to this sport.

Esplanade re-development

The director of Digital Harbour, an architect I think, gave a presentation at the Community Forum criticizing the plan by Places Victoria and council to put pavilions along the length of the waterfront. He stated that the harbour views should be maintained and not blocked; also that the public consultation carried out by Places Victoria and council

did not necessarily reflect community views. We have already argued that their public surveys were designed to support their plans. He rejected their claims that built form is necessary to lessen the effect of wind, saying it could be achieved through screening and planting. We argue that in fact the stretch away from the buildings is no windier than any other open space. He stated that this long derelict stretch has created a barrier for visitors and general use for far too long and that the project should be speeded up.

Police and Community Consultation Committee

I attended the PCCC meeting on March 11, which was well attended by business, media, residential, security and other interests. Police provided stats on crime in Docklands. Overall crime has been relatively moderate since the last meeting in December. Police had previously reported that short-term rental apartments are at times used for drug trafficking; nothing new in that area. Theft of cars and motorcycles has risen across the whole city. I again reported the problem of cyclists racing along the Esplanade and NewQuay Promenade commuting to and from work. This scares walkers and can be dangerous. They rarely use their bells although required to do so. Hoon drivers are also a problem.

Other projects

Construction of the Boating and Family Hub adjacent to the library has commenced and due for completion in December. Improvements to Docklands Park will include conversion of wetland area along Collins St end into a public activity space. Along the Bourke St side new street trees are planned with new park entry and garden bed. Collins Wharf development is in the consultation stage.

Coming events

AFL football begins at Etihad on Easter weekend. There's also a messenger bicycling championships scheduled for Easter weekend to run from the NAB down to around Wharf Rd and a women's cycling event scheduled the following weekend – route not yet known.

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

Regards to all

Roger Gardner - President DCA



OWNERS CORPORATION LAW

With Tom Bacon

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

How to obtain records from your owners' corporation

In any given month, I will be contacted by several lot owners requesting assistance in 'getting answers' from a committee or owners' corporation about certain decisions made.

The most common question that owners want to ask are the "why" questions. Why did the committee make this decision? Why did it not seek alternative quotes? Why were other owners not consulted?

Inevitably, the advice that I give to these owners is always the same: by all means, ask the questions, but don't expect any answers. There is nothing in the Owners' Corporation Act to compel the manager, the chairperson, the secretary or the committee to answer the "why" questions?

However, what the owners' corporation must do when requested, is supply certain documents and records for the inspection of owners, and within a reasonable time.

Again, the legislation makes it clear that the owners' corporation does not have to send the documents to owners. An owner or their agent must make an appointment and

physically attend the manager's office. There, they will be entitled to review the documents and records of the owners' corporation and, if they pay a fee for photocopying, they can take copies of the records for their own purposes.

There are certain practical considerations to take into account here. Firstly, many owners' corporation managers will only keep certain records on-site, with the remainder stored in archives and in storage.

Therefore, a request to review "all financial records of the owners' corporation over the last three years" may not be able to be accommodated without at least 7-14 days prior notice.

To avoid disappointment at the appointment, owners should always specify the class and category of documents, with the date range when making the appointment. This will give the OC manager sufficient time to retrieve the

records for the owner.

On this topic, I'm always asked to determine what is a reasonable time period for inspection of the documents, as the OC Act states that an owners' corporation must make records available within a reasonable time.

The answer is that it depends on the nature of the request and the type of documents requested. For instance, if an owner only wishes to see the accounts for the last six months, then that information should be at the fingertips of the OC manager, and it would be reasonable to provide access at reasonably short notice, perhaps a few days.

However, if an owner is requesting a range of documents dating back two or three years, then as mentioned earlier, it could take 14 days to retrieve the archive boxes, with a further two days for sorting through the documents to find what is requested.

Another point to be raised is the issue of whether an owner's corporation can provide private information, such as the telephone numbers and email addresses of owners and residents.

The answer is that an owners' corporation must provide the roll or register of owners upon request. The roll is to contain the "names and addresses" of owners.

A number of computer programs will also include telephone numbers and email addresses in the same document, however owners' corporations need to be aware that this information must be redacted before the roll is handed over.

Otherwise, there may be a breach of privacy under the Privacy Act, and an owner that suffers a breach of privacy may seek to hold the owners' corporation responsible for handing over their private information.



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WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



TUESDAYS 5.45PM - 7.30PM

LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

SINGING PROJECT

Starting April 14, Open Door Singers is running a free eight-week community singing project. Open to residents and workers.

APRIL 15 - 7.00PM

MISSION TO SEAFARERS
717 FLINDERS ST

DOCKLANDS SOCIAL CLUB

Docklanders are invited to come along to a new monthly event to meet each other in a social environment.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

City Lights Methodist Church at St Peter the Mariner's Chapel. Mission to Seafarers, 717 Flinders St.

11am English service
5pm Chinese service

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 10AM UNTIL 5PM
NEWQUAY PROMENADE

DOCKLANDS SUNDAY MARKET

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



TUESDAY 7.30PM - 9.30 PM
WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 12PM - 2PM

LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

TABLE TENNIS

Join in a free and social game of table tennis at the library. Bookings are essential.



TUESDAYS 12.30PM - 1.30PM
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WEDNESDAYS 6.30PM TO 7.30PM
THE LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Docklands Daily Reflections group meets in meeting rooms two and three on level two.
VISIT AATIMES.ORG.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WEDNESDAYS AT 5.30PM AND SATURDAYS AT 8.30AM
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Come and share the wonder of books with us. Enjoy 40-50 minutes of fun stories, songs, rhymes and activities with your three to five year olds.

STOMPERS

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

SONGBIRDS

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

CREATIVE KIDS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

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

BABY BYTES

Last Thursday of the month 10.30am to 11.15am. Ground floor activity room.
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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE

Melbourne Ice Women's side complete 'three-peat'

By Robert Bremner

The Australian Ice Hockey League isn't far off returning for the 2015 season but that doesn't mean that there hasn't been plenty going on in the off season.

The Melbourne Ice Women's side capped off a terrific summer by taking out the Australian Ice Hockey women's league grand final last month. The win is their third championship in succession and looked never in doubt after they remained unbeaten all season.

They were far too good for Sydney on the day, running away with a 6-0 victory. The win came after the side overcame Adelaide 5-1 in the quarter finals the previous day.

Sadly, they were unable to continue this success internationally. Taking part in an international ice hockey championships in Spain, Australia managed to scrape two wins from their five matches. The wins allowed them to remain in their group two division with the team below them, Belgium, relegated for next year's championships.

In the men's competition, The Melbourne Mustangs will be keen to hit the ice and



Melbourne Ice's women's side took out the Australian Ice Hockey women's league grand final last month. Photo by Andrew Mercieca - MosquitoByte Pty Ltd.

begin their title defence against the very same team they knocked out in the semi-finals in 2014, the Sydney Ice Dogs, as well as taking on Melbourne Ice the following week in a repeat of last year's grand final. The Mustangs' win was their inaugural championship from their four years in the competition.

In preparation for the season, The NSW sides

are playing out a pre-season competition - with Newcastle, Sydney Ice Dogs and Sydney Bears all vying for the Wilson Cup. While the Mustangs and Melbourne Ice will play a week before the season starts as part of an exhibition match at the Icehouse.

The season kicks off on ANZAC day with Melbourne Ice taking on the Sydney Ice Dogs in front of a home crowd.

Victorian paddlers compete

Victoria Harbour was filled with dragon boats last month when it hosted the Victorian Dragon Boat titles on March 29.

With 12 clubs from across Victoria participating, competition was fierce.

Local clubs represented included the Yarra River Dragons, Dragons Abreast Melbourne, Dragon Masters, CYSM, Southern Storm and the Melbourne Flames.

They were joined by teams from across Victoria, with regional representation from Geelong, Albury/Wodonga, Ballarat and Bendigo.

"The racing was incredible, with the highlight being the hotly contested 2000 metre race, which saw nine crews battle it out around the rectangular course," Dragon Boat Victoria's Melissa O'Brien said.

"The boats set off at 15 second intervals from slowest to fastest, which makes for some serious pursuits and lots of action on the turns."

The next event on the Dragon Boat calendar is the Australian Dragon Boat Championships, which are set to be held in Perth this month.

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