

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS



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Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell and Destination Docklands marketing and events director Kelly Jensen.

Chamber and Destination Docklands to co-operate

Destination Docklands and the Docklands Chamber of Commerce will this month announce greater formal co-operation.

The two organisations will announce their agreement at a stakeholder event later this month.

According to Destination Docklands director of marketing and events Kelly Jensen, the arrangement was still being formalised but both parties were very enthusiastic.

“I think the decision to partner with the chamber is definitely the right move. This collaboration will make it much easier for us to provide feedback and information to each other and our stakeholders,” Ms Jensen said.

Continued on page 3.

Council approves esplanade plan

City of Melbourne councillors have voted to accept Places Victoria’s Harbour Esplanade master plan, providing they get to see and approve all proposed buildings.

At the June 2 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors voted unanimously to accept an alternative motion by Cr Rohan Leppert guaranteeing their future oversight of the project.

Cr Leppert said he feared the motion originally proposed by management could leave councillors sidelined, with approvals being handled by officers under delegation.

Cr Leppert said aspects of the master plan were so vague that “anything was possible” and, therefore, it was important to ensure the “opportunity of public oversight”.

“We have to have a public debate about the specifics of this masterplan,” Cr Leppert said.

Cr Stephen Mayne agreed, saying the City of Melbourne prided itself on its public transparency. He said Harbour Esplanade was the most important and sensitive open space within the City of Melbourne.

He said the specific granularity of the development needed to be argued and debated in a public forum.

Cr Mayne foreshadowed that council funding for Harbour Esplanade would be “challenging”, given its current focus on the Queen Victoria Market redevelopment.

He said it was important that the City of Melbourne prioritise its future capital works and he looked forward to the council developing a 10-year capital works plan.

Cr Leppert’s motion also requires Places Victoria to consult further with the community on the projects as outlined in a letter written to the council on May 29.

Places Victoria general manager Simon Wilson had earlier told the committee that the masterplan was a high-level document and it was always intended that the specifics would come back to council for approval.

The plan outlines a staged delivery of the esplanade over the next 10 to 15 years.

It allows for up to 40 per cent built form and divides Harbour Esplanade into seven zones for redevelopment including a recreation zone, heritage vessel zone, event and exhibition zone, urban plaza zone and water transport zone.

The planning permit granted by council will require Places Victoria to submit a staging plan as well as detailed plans of each component of the development.

Docklands Community Association president Roger Gardner told the committee that residents simply wanted a linear park and that a Places Victoria survey did not include this as an option.

Under questioning from Cr Jackie Watts, Mr Wilson agreed that the linear park option was not given.

He claimed that a linear park was not realistic and, in any event, earlier public consultations had shown that it was not wanted.



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An artist's impression of the NewQuay masterplan.

NewQuay is set to grow

NewQuay is set to grow, with MAB Corporation last month revealing plans for its new residential precinct at NewQuay West.

NewQuay West will include six developments, comprising around 2000 new homes, an urban plaza, new pocket parks and the extension of the existing linear park and promenade.

The developer last month conducted community consultation sessions in Docklands and will next submit its revised development plan to Places Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning for comment, before lodging the plan with the Minister for Planning.

"It's an exciting time for NewQuay," MAB's general manager of residential David Allt-Graham said. "With Monument Park opening last year and three more parks planned for the future there's a strong focus on providing green spaces."

The new precinct will be constructed between the existing NewQuay town houses and the Bolte Bridge, around the developing Ron Barrassi Senior Park.

The existing linear park in the town house precinct will be extended, tripling in size and

forming a "green space link" between central NewQuay and Ron Barrassi Senior Park.

The park extension will add 29,000 sqm of parkland to NewQuay and will include new barbecue and picnic facilities, fitness stations and play spaces for children.

MAB also plans to construct a new public plaza, called Promenade Place, which will be located between waterfront buildings and will provide a pedestrian connection between Ron Barrassi Senior Park and the promenade.

NewQuay West will primarily be residential and, according to material provided at the community information sessions, new residents will stimulate the existing local retail economy.

According to the community session documentation: "The new master plan is sympathetic to the existing commercial landscape at NewQuay by proposing only minimal new retail areas that are ancillary to major uses."

And according to MAB, the proposed plans were generally well received at the community consultation sessions.

"Most of our long-term residents at NewQuay are delighted to see additional green spaces that will continue to cater to the growth of the NewQuay community," Mr Allt-Graham said.

Main access to the new precinct will be through Docklands Drive, which is currently being extended west into the site. Leven Avenue and Augusta Avenue will also be extended to connect with the new section of Docklands Drive.

The development plan for the new precinct is yet to be submitted for planning approval but MAB aims to begin construction on the first lot in early 2018.

It aims to continue developing most of the NewQuay West lots progressively through to 2026, but is yet to provide timing indications for the final lot, located on the waterfront in front of the sports ground.

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Melbourne West station commander Sen-Sgt Mick Wilmott.

Docklands cops move into new station

Local police will have an even greater presence in Docklands, after last month moving into the new Spencer St headquarters.

Officers from the Melbourne West Police Station, which oversees Docklands, moved into the new headquarters on May 12.

The branch had been based at the Victorian Police Centre on Flinders St since 1995 and, according to station commander, Sen-Sgt Mick Wilmott, the new station will provide greater accessibility for the public.

As the largest station in the state, Melbourne West Police Station covers Docklands and the western end of Melbourne's CBD, from Elizabeth St.

Sen-Sgt Wilmott said the ground floor, 24-hour station at Spencer St would provide a more central location for Docklands residents and visitors to the city seeking assistance or advice from local police.

"Not only does the location of the new station make it easy to find for the community but it makes it a much more central location for our police covering the Melbourne West area."

Apart from greater local accessibility, the built-to-purpose tower also has inbuilt security features including bollards, barriers at garage entrances and an elevated floor level making it impossible for anyone to drive up to the entrance to the building.

Alongside the Melbourne West Police Station, the new headquarters will also house the state's largest Crime Investigation Unit, Crime Scene Services, the Divisional Intelligence Unit, the Divisional Response Unit, the Sexual Offences and Child Investigation Team and the Bicycle Patrol Unit.

Employees from Crime and Intelligence commands, North West Metropolitan Headquarters and Forensic Services will also be moving from current offices on St Kilda Road and Flinders St.

Work on the 12-storey police complex at Spencer St started in 2012 and the official opening of the building is expected next month.

No budget action on local school

Frustration is mounting over the State Government's lack of action on a school for Docklands.

Despite the Labor Party last year making a pre-election promise to restart the planning process for a school in Docklands if elected, there has been no evidence so far to suggest this has occurred.

The release of the state budget last month did not see any funding allocated towards the planning process for a Docklands school, despite a \$3.3 billion investment in education, which is the largest boost of additional funding in Victoria's history.

Docklands Community Forum representative and local parent Janine Standfield said the budget outcome was disappointing for Docklands families.

"Nothing's definitive, so it's really disappointing because our kids are still in limbo," Ms Standfield said.

"If you want families to move into the inner-city you have to provide the community infrastructure," she said.

The Labor Party had also promised to release the results of a feasibility study into a Docklands School that it commissioned in 2010 but was not released under the Liberal Government.

Greens Melbourne MLA Ellen Sandell called on the Government to fulfil its election promises.

"In 2010 Labor started a feasibility report on building a school in Docklands, then just last year they promised a second study on it – but today there is still no report and still no school," Ms Sandell said.

"This is the fastest growing area in Victoria – we are looking at 850 kids in the Docklands by 2016. Parents tell me they

want to send their kids to a local school, but there isn't one."

"It's not good enough to have kids travelling halfway across the inner city to schools which are already overcrowded. For example, North Melbourne Primary already has 200 kids more than it has capacity for."

Ms Sandell also called the Government out on failing to fulfil its election promises relating to Carlton Primary School, contributing to overcrowding of inner-city primary schools.

"This is a budget which saw a \$10 million promise to Carlton Primary School broken – suddenly there is only \$1 million. Overcrowding in the City of Melbourne is a serious problem, but Labor only seems to care during an election year," Ms Sandell said.

Following the release of the budget, an Education Department spokesperson said the Government was determined to ensure families in Docklands had access to high-quality education.

"To this end, the Government has restarted the planning process and will release the feasibility study, commissioned in 2010 by the government of the day, in the next few weeks," the spokesperson said.

"The department will be providing the study to the Minister's office shortly."

A local primary school remains an important priority for Docklands residential and business community.

A survey of local workers conducted by Docklands News in March revealed 70 per cent of respondents would enrol their children in a Docklands primary school.

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Lend Lease

Owners' Corporations (OCs) and short-stay operators around Victoria are awaiting the outcome of the Watergate Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) case.

Member Rowlands is expected to release her decision in June or July.

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New Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Stefanie Schulz.

Welcome to Docklands

According to Stefanie Schulz, Docklands “has it all”.

The new Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer only had good things to say about her new workplace when she caught up with *Docklands News* last month.

“Where else do you get modern living, history, entertainment, sport, shopping, water and all this on the edge of the CBD and walking distance from the city?” she asked.

Ms Schulz began her new role in April and says so far she is thoroughly enjoying her new role.

Born in Germany, Ms Schulz moved to Canada in 2000 where she worked in a range of roles, including as executive director of a chamber of commerce.

“It was a chamber that was well established, over 70 years old and with 750 members and similar challenges to any other chamber in the world,” Ms Schulz said.

In 2013, she moved to Melbourne with her husband after the construction company he worked for began a joint venture project with Grocon and the State Government on the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

According to Ms Schulz, the job offer came “out of the blue” and within five weeks the

pair had moved to Melbourne.

Now living in Southbank, Ms Schulz said she often walked down to Docklands and was looking forward to getting to know the area better in her new role.

“This Docklands job feels like a great fit for me,” Ms Schulz said. “And while I’m still learning about all of the different precincts I hope this means I’ll be able to take a fresh approach.”

And she says she’s enjoying working with the Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive members who have been very welcoming.

“It’s been so positive,” Ms Schulz said. “I’m truly amazed by the executive.”

In her previous role with a Canadian chamber of commerce, Ms Schulz said its chamber had a team of staff, whereas the Docklands Chamber of Commerce has just one part-time employee (Ms Schulz herself).

“If you look at the executive committee, these people run their own businesses or work in the corporate world and yet they still devote so much of their time to the chamber,” she said.

Budget let-down for Docklands

By Bethany Williams

Docklands has received a disappointing Council budget result for the second year running.

And the council appears no closer to committing significant funding towards the redevelopment of Harbour Esplanade.

Released last month, council’s 2015-16 draft plan and budget includes just \$1.7 million worth of capital works funding for Docklands. This follows a \$2.06 million capital works commitment in 2014-15.

Included in the funding is \$1 million for the implementation of the Docklands Community and Place Plan, which is allocated to a Docklands Park Play Space, Western Park Play Space and Harbour Esplanade.

Accordingly, it appears Docklands will be waiting at least another year before council invests a significant amount into the redevelopment of Harbour Esplanade.

In contrast, the council has committed \$80.64 million in this year’s budget to the renewal of the Queen Victorian Market.

The 2015-16 budget also includes \$150,000 for the purchase of new Christmas assets for Docklands and \$110,000 for the maintenance of existing Christmas assets.

Other capital works investments for Docklands include a \$100,000 recording studio upgrade at the Library at the Dock, \$207,000 for public lighting maintenance and \$150,000 for wharf and marina maintenance.

Outside of capital works funding, the council has also committed \$280,000 funding for the community hub expected to open next to the Library at the Dock later this year.

The budget also allocates \$330,000 for the continuation of the Docklands Winter Activation Program, which will see fireworks light up Docklands each Friday

night during July and August.

In total, council will spend an estimated \$16.2 million in Docklands over the next financial year, according to the Docklands Income Statement.

With council expecting to draw \$26.8 million in revenue from Docklands in 2015-16, this will lead to a predicted surplus of \$10.6 million.

However, the statement also says about \$2.5 million worth of indirect costs have not been reflected in the projected expenditure, leading to an overstatement of the predicted surplus.

More broadly, the 2015-16 budget includes an underlying surplus of \$9.3 million which council says will be achieved by containing operating costs, while at the same time, delivering an \$85.1 million capital works program, more than \$40.5 million in promotion and events and \$55.2 million worth of community services.

The budget also revealed a 3.6 per cent increase for ratepayers, which will generate an additional \$8.71 million for the council over the next financial year.

According to Cr Stephen Mayne, the rate rise was one of the lowest in the state and was reasonable if Melbourne was to maintain its position as one of the world’s most liveable cities.

“Well-functioning cities need strong investment,” Cr Mayne said. “We’re mindful of the impact rate rises have on our ratepayers and considerable deliberation goes into determining what we need and how we spend what we have, to ensure we keep rate rises to a minimum.”

“Despite the economic challenges of our time, we are keeping underlying cost increases contained to 1.7 per cent – significantly lower than the forecast 2015-16 inflation level of 2.75 per cent.”

The City of Melbourne’s Draft 2015-16 Annual Plan and Budget is available for public inspection until June 5 at a range of locations including the Town Hall Administration Building and the City Library.



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Docklands' new marina lounge opens

Melbourne City Marina has opened its new lounge and its operators hope the facility will attract more boats to Victoria Harbour.

The new facility includes an outdoor deck with water and city views, a lounge area, a kitchen and shower and laundry facilities.

The City of Melbourne's waterways unit has also moved into new offices in the facility.

The new lounge and office is located in the former Fix nightclub at the NewQuay Piazza, which council purchased for \$1.95 million in 2013.

According to Cr Richard Foster, the new facility offered a unique boating destination in the heart of the city.

"The marina lounge and on-shore facilities aims to increase boating visitation and on-water activity in Docklands and create a

hub of activity within the Victoria Harbour precinct," Cr Foster said.

He said the new marina lounge reaffirmed the council's commitment to ensuring Docklands was a thriving community with imaginative and well-designed places.

"We believe that fostering more colour and movement on the water will enhance the waterfront experience for visitors, and create a drawcard for the Docklands community," he said.

"The new lounge, where the waterways office is located also provides our officers with greater observational control of the precinct and waterways."



City of Melbourne waterways team Angus Craig, Jade Lo, Mathew Snape and Adam Buchholtz.



Docklands' Community and Boating Hub is taking shape in Victoria Harbour.

Docklands' Community and Boating Hub on track

Construction of the \$8.1 million Community and Boating Hub in Victoria Harbour is on track for completion by the end of the year.

Building works began in November last year and are scheduled for completion in October, according to the City of Melbourne's works program third quarter report presented at its May 26 council meeting.

The two-storey mixed-use building will become home to the Docklands Yacht Club, the Victorian Dragon Boat Association, Melbourne Outrigger Canoe Club and

Docklands family services.

Places Victoria, Lend Lease and the City of Melbourne have jointly funded the project.

The council works program report revealed Places Victoria had contributed \$3.48 million to the project, Lend Lease \$344,000 and council \$4.26 million.

Project completion, including fit-out, is scheduled for December.

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Hotel proposed for Victoria Harbour

Another hotel could be on the cards for Docklands, with Lend Lease seeking investors for a luxury Victoria Harbour hotel.

The proposed 4.5 star, 280-room hotel would be located on a waterfront site between ANZ and a residential development currently awaiting planning approval.

“There is strong demand for hotels in Melbourne and we’ve been approached by a number of hotel investors,” Lend Lease’s managing director of urban regeneration, Jonathan Emery, said.

The hotel would feature conference, wellness and rooftop food and beverage facilities, according to Lend Lease.

“We’re in the early stages of exploring options for the site to achieve the best outcome for Victoria Harbour. A hotel, in this prime Collins St riverfront location, would be a major addition to the Docklands’ hospitality offering with quality accommodation for both tourists and business travellers,” Mr Emery said.

The proposed hotel is just one of a number of hotels expected to be built in Docklands over the next few years.

Singaporean developer Hiap Hoe has already begun construction of a hotel at NewQuay, while Digital Harbour’s The Altus will also include a hotel component. The M Docklands building currently under construction on LaTrobe St will also include a Peppers hotel.



An artist's impression of the proposed hotel.

“A luxury hotel within Victoria Harbour would be a welcome addition to the emerging hotel offer in Docklands,” Places Victorian general manager Simon Wilson said.

The expression of interest process for

potential investors is being managed by Savills and closes on June 5.

Managing director of Savills Hotels Michael Simpson said there had been significant interest from investors.

“Given this opportunity enables investors to select their preferred operator, we expect the opportunity to gain strong interest from investors and owner-operators alike,” Mr Simpson said.

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Getting to know you

Should the federal government run its full term, Docklands voters will have plenty of time to get to know endorsed Melbourne ALP candidate Sophie Ismail.

Ms Ismail, 37, beat a strong field of candidates last month for the right to represent the Labor Party as it attempts to wrest back from the Greens the federal seat of Melbourne.

While some observers have already noted that Ms Ismail’s credentials out-muscle the Greens at their own game, she points out that there is more to her than her identity.

“People are very interested in my identity and I am proud of my identity as a gay woman from a mixed race background and as a woman and proud feminist,” she said. “But I’m also a lot more than that. And it’s important not to allow yourself to be reduced to your identity.”

“I’m putting my hand up because we need a strong, progressive voice on the national issues – marriage equality, refugees, renewable energy targets, sustainability issues – but we also need a member for Melbourne who can deliver for the community on the local issues that matter to Melburnians.”

Originally from Brisbane, Ms Ismail says Docklands reminds her of that city’s Southbank redevelopment.

“It reminds me of Southbank in Brisbane and early on there was a lot of negative perceptions – that it was manufactured and soulless,” she said. “But it’s actually fantastic. Melbourne does have a lot of unique little zones and each has its own qualities that should be celebrated.”

Ms Ismail is a lawyer with national and international experience in trade negotiations, labour law, human rights and discrimination.

She identifies housing affordability, health and jobs as issues of importance to local people.

“I am concerned that people are missing out in Melbourne,” she said. “I see the people who are slipping through the cracks and only a Labor government can deliver for those people. That’s my motivation.”

“I have nothing against the Greens. I am not intending to be negative about them. I haven’t met Adam (Bandt) yet. I think he’s



Melbourne ALP candidate Sophie Ismail.

well intentioned, but my concern is that there has to be a capacity to deliver. To me, that’s what progressive politics is – that ability to make real change in real people’s lives.”

Ms Ismail is the eldest of four children in a family which migrated from England in 1988. She came to Melbourne in 2009 seeking arts, culture and diversity.

“As a young, gay person growing up in Brisbane, I had some unpleasant

experiences and I was looking for a community that was more welcoming of me,” she said.

Ms Ismail admitted she did not know the specific local issues within her diverse electorate.

“I’m in a listening phase,” she said. “I’m getting around to as many people as I can and finding out that is a concern to them. It’s good to know what people want before starting to talk about their issues.”

Chamber and Destination Docklands to co-operate

Continued from page 1.

“Each organisation has different strengths so, by collaborating, we’ll be able to achieve much more,” Ms Jensen said.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell agreed, saying a joint focus on maximising opportunities for events and business would continue to showcase Docklands and its waterways.

“Along with stronger outcomes for Docklands, it makes sense for us to work together rather than in isolation,” Mrs Maxwell said.

“Destination Docklands understand the marketing and events side of things, while the Docklands Chamber of Commerce has connections with local businesses, so we’ll be able to draw them into the new opportunities that will develop from this relationship.”

Further cementing the new working relationship, Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Stefanie Schulz last month began working from the Destination Docklands office.



Destination Docklands’ Kelly Jensen with Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell.



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Ms Woodward pictured with the crew from PAN EDELWEISS in the Norla Dome.

Seafarers chart their journeys

An installation at the Mission to Seafarers' Norla Dome last month saw the space transformed into a large-scale compass.

Drawn on the floor in chalk, the actual journeys of visiting seafarers were recorded on the compass throughout the two-week installation.

Created by associate professor of design Margaret Woodward the project aimed to connect with the journeys of seafarers who visited the mission and was part of an ongoing research project into the "social life" of souvenirs.

"Background research for this project involved discussions with volunteers, staff from Port of Melbourne and ex-seafarers, whose concern is for the welfare of seafarers," Ms Woodward said.

"They highlighted the loneliness and isolation of contemporary seafaring, quick turnarounds and short stays in port, dangerous conditions at sea, the regimented working life and the impact of these factors on seafarers' families."

Across two weeks, Ms Woodward welcomed seafarers into the gallery and recorded journeys from 22 visiting ships and seafarers on the large-scale compass.

Seafarers were also welcomed with tea and cake and offered a souvenir enamel mug printed with a QR code, which they were invited to use to record their future journeys.

Ms Woodward thanked all the seafarers who had been scanning their mugs from their new destinations including Singapore, Brisbane, Fremantle, Adelaide and Busan.

"The project aimed to make a personal connection with the seafarers, using a souvenir object, as a vehicle of welcome and connection and also to trigger intangible, affective qualities – reminders of journeys and places, and new associations with tastes sounds and people," Ms Woodward said.

Housing affordability fears

Planning Minister Richard Wynne has started the long-anticipated debate on standards for apartment construction with the release last month of a discussion paper, 'Better Apartments'.

While most people agree on the need for standards relating to adequate natural light, ventilation and privacy, it is feared that mandated minimum size will adversely affect affordability.

The Property Industry Council estimates that a 50sqm apartment could cost \$90,000 more than a 40sqm inner city apartment.

Property Council Victorian executive director Jennifer Cunich said: "Disappointingly, the discussion paper barely mentions housing affordability, which should be the Government's number one priority."

"Consideration of housing affordability must remain front and centre. A five square metre increase in size can add as much as \$45,000 to the price of an apartment. Cost increases such as this can easily place home ownership beyond the reach of many aspiring home buyers."

Mr Wynne says higher standards of apartment design are needed to avoid poorly designed homes lacking space, light and ventilation.

According to the report, another 480,000 apartments will be needed in Melbourne alone to accommodate a projected population of 7.7 million by 2051.

"Melbourne is set to house almost 100,000 new residents each year and we need to plan for that growth," Mr Wynne said.

The discussion paper aims prompt conversations with community and industry stakeholders to shape future apartment design guidelines.

Ms Cunich says the industry was grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the standards but also warned that developers would not support the outcome unless it co-authored with other stakeholders the final standard.

"History in this policy space has shown that design standards developed without industry support have failed to meet the expectations of their authors, facilitators or the broader community," she said.

Mr Wynne said: "This is more than establishing minimum standards, it's about keeping pace with how people want to live."

The *Better Apartments* discussion paper raises a number of issues relating to apartment design in Victoria, including:

- Lack of natural light;
- Apartments too small or poorly designed;
- Achieving a quality outlook for all apartments;
- Lack of natural ventilation;
- External noise;
- Access to outdoor space; and
- Long-term adaptability of apartment buildings.

Submissions on the discussion paper are due next month and community forums and industry roundtable events will also be held. Draft guidelines will be released in late 2015 and the final report will be handed to the Minister in mid 2016.

To view the discussion paper visit www.dewlp.vic.gov.au/better-apartments

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An upcoming documentary series will take a look at why the people who love Docklands feel the way they do about it.

I Don't Get It is a web-based documentary series focusing on modern Australian curiosities and the first episode will focus on Docklands.

Zac Millner-Cretney, one of the producers behind the project, says the series "takes a light hearted-look at objects of curiosity or mystery, or things that are culturally divisive in modern Australia".

Focusing on a range of topics, from people who are obsessed with collecting sneakers to people who listen to rave music in the bush on the weekend, the documentary series aims to explore various cultural ideas.

"We'll try to explain what it is about these things that mystifies us and find someone who loves it and see if they can make us understand why," Mr Millner-Cretney said.

According to Mr Millner-Cretney, Docklands is quite a divisive subject in Melbourne.

"There are some people that seem to really love it and some people that seem to really hate it," he said.

"We want to figure out what makes people feel so strongly about it one way or another."

Mr Millner-Cretney said his own experiences of visiting Docklands had felt like entering a foreign space.

"This immediately made it an object



Documentary-makers Lewis Evers-Stott and Zac Millner-Cretney.

of curiosity for me," he said. "The more research I did the more I realised there's a really strong element of love for Docklands from the people who live here."

"I wanted to know why and I wanted someone to explain it to me."

Mr Millner-Cretney said the *I Don't Get It* production team planned to interview academics, business owners and people who

lived and worked in Docklands. They also hope to speak with people involved in the planning stage of Docklands' development.

He said the aim of the project was to gain a greater understanding of why people love Docklands, something he and the rest of the team didn't necessarily comprehend at the moment.

"It's totally different to my personal experience

and personal taste, but that's where the interest lies," Mr Millner-Cretney said.

"We start out not getting it, and we want to end up getting it."

The Docklands episode will be the first in the series, which is expected to be available online next month.

For more information, visit www.dontgetit.club


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State MP explores Docklands

State MP and leader of the Australian Sex Party, Fiona Patten, visited Docklands last month.

After winning an upper house seat in last year’s state election, Ms Patten (pictured right) is keen to get to know more about specific areas of her electorate.

“This is my turf now and, as the upper house member, I really want to get to know how I can help this area and what I can do as a member of parliament to improve the space, not just for business but also for the residents of the area,” Ms Patten said.

While in Docklands Ms Patten visited a range of businesses including Etihad Stadium, the Icehouse and the Melbourne Star.

“We’ve got a world class ice-skating rink in Docklands, which I suspect a lot of people in Victoria don’t know about,” she said.

She also met with members of the Docklands Chambers and representatives from Housing Choices Australia, which is responsible for The Merchant and Mariner developments in Docklands.

“There are some fantastic opportunities down here but there are some issues in realising what could be a really successful part of Melbourne, Melbourne’s tourism and Melbourne life,” Ms Patten said.

According to Ms Patten, Docklands is a great part of Melbourne with many strengths but this story was yet to be told.

“I certainly would love to be an ambassador for this region to start telling that story,” she said.



Melbourne Visitor Shuttle price to again rise

The City of Melbourne has again increased the price of the Melbourne Visitor Shuttle (MVS).

Councillors last month unanimously voted to change the previously one-day ticket to a two-day pass and up the price to \$10 per ticket.

The shuttle started as a free tourism service during the 2006 Commonwealth Games and in 2013 the council introduced a \$5 charge per passenger over the age of 10.

The move saw patronage decline by 49 percent in the following 12 months and by 7 per cent year-on-year decline since the introduction of the fee.

Docklands has two visitor shuttle stops, one

located near Etihad Stadium and the other at Harbour Town.

But Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell doesn’t believe the increase in price will greatly impact on Docklands visitation.

“Ideally it would be great if it was free but we do already have free public transport so we can’t have everything,” she said.

“Visitation is growing and the Docklands Chamber of Commerce is confident that numbers will continue to grow.”

“Docklands has lots to offer visitors to Melbourne and with the increase to fees the council will be able to allocate more funding to promoting the service which, in return, will help to boost numbers and increase the number of visitors using the shuttle.”

The City of Melbourne plans to increase MVS marketing and promotional expenditure by \$100,000.

Cr Pinder-Mortimer defended the decision to increase the price of the tickets at the May 26 Council meeting.

She said 88 per cent of respondents to a

recent customer survey said the current \$5 ticket price was good or excellent.

But the same survey indicated that fewer than 50 per cent of respondents would be happy to pay more than \$5 per ticket.

“Capturing the MVS customer with an attractive two-day ticket for \$10, compared to commercial operators who charge upwards of \$35 I believe is important, which would also give us a marketing budget for online marketing as well as being able to project to international visitors the facility to book in advance,” Cr Pinder-Mortimer said.

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Alma Doepel update

More than \$4000 was donated towards the Alma Doepel restoration project last month.

And so far this year a total of \$14,705 has been contributed to the project.

But there's still plenty more fundraising to be done with around \$1.7 million needed to complete the restoration of the historic top-sail schooner and return it to Docklands' waters.

The Alma Doepel Restoration team, with the support of Docklands Chamber of Commerce, is holding a gala fundraising luncheon at Etihad Stadium on August 28, to assist the fundraising efforts.

Chamber of Commerce vice-president Bill Reid says it was "full-steam ahead" with plans for the lunch.

According to Mr Reid the event will include auctions, a VIP guest list and key-note speakers.

Enquiries about the gala lunch can be made to Mr Reid on **0416 153 116**.

The total fundraising tally for May is \$4442.

Maggie Chiara Cowling Alma Art Exhibition at the Docklands Ocean Education Centre: \$942

Walker Corporation Collins Square project: \$1500

Dandenong Valley Historic Car Club: \$500

Donation to National Trust Alma Doepel Appeal Fund from Peter J Kelly: \$500

Donation to National Trust Alma Doepel Appeal Fund from Robyn and Margaret Miller: \$500

Donation to National Trust Alma Doepel Appeal Fund from Fiona Williams in memory of Frank Williams: \$500.

For more information about the Alma Doepel visit **www.almadoepel.com.au**



Progress on Docklands' Ron Barrassi Senior Park

Docklands will soon have its own sports ground, with construction of Ron Barassi Senior Park not far off completion.

Construction is expected to be finished in July with the project to be handed over to the City of Melbourne in August.

But the grounds won't be ready to use until later in the year due to turf establishment.

The \$18 million project has been funded by the State Government, constructed by Places Victoria and, when completed, will be owned and operated by the City of Melbourne.

"Ron Barassi Senior Park is a new park and sports field in Docklands opening later this year, providing space to kick a ball, walk the dog and take children to play," Places Victoria general manager Simon Wilson said.

"New Docklands-based sports clubs are encouraged to express interest in calling Ron Barassi Senior Park home."

"As well as traditional programmed sports such as soccer, AFL and rugby, the sports field could be used for yoga, personal training, bootcamp, Quidditch, Ultimate Frisbee, Bubble Soccer, Swordcraft and more."

Mr Wilson said construction of Stage 1 of the project included the sports oval, playground, community pavilion and car park. It is planned to finish in August and the park will open to the public in late 2015, subject to turf establishment.

According to council officers at the April 29 Docklands Community Forum, the council is already fielding enquiries from sporting groups interested in making the sports ground its home.

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Docklands' native water rat the rakali.

Encounter with a native water rat

By Derrick Koo

A few weeks ago, I encountered a rakali, a native water rat, for the first time.

On this night, the creature crossed my path, strolled along the wooden curb by the water and weaved around pedestrians in the shadows, displaying a certain kind of cautious intelligence. It then proceeded to gracefully dive into the water before emerging again to continue to forage.

Spellbound by this beautiful creature, I trained my camera on it and followed behind at a respectable distance. This was challenging due to the darkness and only the white tip of its long tail was visible at times.

As a photographer, I refused to give up on my quarry and persevered. My movements alerted several passers-by to the rakali's presence and one of them proceeded to ambush then kick it!

Thankfully, it escaped unharmed and went about its business of finding food. I even

managed to take a photo of it with the Bolte Bridge in the background! When I last saw it, it had its head deep inside a paper bag to find some morsels, completely oblivious to my presence.

I have been a resident of the Docklands since 2005 and this was the very first time I had seen them. Their appearance seems to coincide with the removal of the concrete platforms.

I believe that their burrows were located beneath these structures before being exposed to the world by construction work.

Even though the rakali are not endangered, I believe that there should be greater awareness about their existence within the community as they are our fellow Docklands residents too.

Progress on fountain and flames show

The consortium behind the Docklands fountain and flame show plans to submit its business case to the State Government this month.

FCT Flames and Avant-Garde de Studio are the team behind the project and estimate the show would generate more than \$200 million for the state each year, while bringing five million visitors to Docklands annually.

Since publicly announcing the concept via *Docklands News* in February, the consortium has been busy briefing government groups, investment groups and businesses.

CEO of FCT Flames David Retallack and director of Avant-Garde de Studio Dr Peter Kok visited Docklands last month to put the finishing touches on the concept.

According to Dr Kok, the Dubai fountains and the Bellagio fountains in Las Vegas have proven to be major tourist

attractions and the same would apply to Docklands.

And the project has the wholehearted support of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce.

"As an art exhibition at Docklands, a world-class musical fountain and flame show could not be surpassed," chamber president Joh Maxwell said.

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

The fountain show could be programmed to music - while flames, pyrotechnics, video projection and lasers could be added at night.



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An artist's impression of the proposed towers.

New towers for Victoria Harbour

Lend Lease is awaiting planning approval for a major residential development in Collins St.

Located on the riverfront, west of ANZ, the proposal would see twin apartment complexes built over two stages.

Each development would consist of a podium and two towers, and combined would add 1070 apartments to Docklands' residential market.

Stage one of the project would see the first building constructed at the western side of the site, while stage two will see construction of an apartment complex at the eastern side of the site.

The proposal also includes the creation of a new lane called Waterside Place between the buildings and public realm works.

A new sea wall and wharf rebuilding works to the Yarra River bank are also proposed as part of the development. This area will eventually be known as the Australian Wharf Promenade East.

The City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne Committee last month endorsed the proposal, subject to a number of conditions.

Although he supported the proposal, Cr Rohan Leppert questioned the possible inclusion of ground floor apartments in the building's design.

"I envisage of course, as we all do, that once Docklands is a fully established suburb and extension of the city that the waterfront here and indeed the extension to Collins St will one day be busy pedestrian thoroughfares," Cr Leppert said.

"I do worry about the amenity of the ground floor apartments in this development in decades to come."

Docklands to host Edinburgh Tattoo

The world-famous Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is coming to Docklands next year.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and the producer of the tattoo, Brigadier David Allfrey, made the announcement last month at Etihad Stadium, where the show will be staged next February.

"If there was one world event that we do not currently have that I would like to attract, it is the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and I am pleased to today announce that it is coming to Melbourne," the Lord Mayor said.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo was first performed in 1950 and is performed annually at Edinburgh Castle, attracting an annual live audience of 220,000 and 100 million television viewers around the world.

According to Brigadier Allfrey, in more than six and a half decades, the event has only been staged internationally on three occasions. It was held in Wellington, New Zealand in 2000 and in Sydney in 2005 and 2010.

"Australian audiences have always embraced the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Edinburgh every August and comprise one of the largest international supporters of the event," Brigadier Allfrey said.

"We are delighted to be returning, this time to Melbourne, with a brand new show with the best bands and performers from around the world."

The Etihad Stadium event will feature a full-size replica of Edinburgh Castle, the massed pipes and drums of Scotland's famous regiments and performers from around the world.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will be held at Etihad Stadium on February 12 and 13 next year. Tickets went on sale last month.



The Edinburgh Military Tattoo performed a routine at Etihad Stadium last month.

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Book your seat at the table

Get in quick to secure your seat at the June networking lunch.

Jointly hosted by Docklands News and the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, the quarterly lunch is a great way to meet other local stakeholders.

The June 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: to come.

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.



Actors Steve Gome and Dan Walls will portray James Joyce and Charlie Chaplin next month. Photo by Bernard Peasley

Bloomsday in Docklands

Bloomsday, the annual celebration of author James Joyce, is coming to Docklands this month.

The events of Joyce's book *Ulysses* take place on June 16 and each year this day is recognised as Bloomsday through a range of events and celebrations around the world.

In Melbourne, not-for-profit, volunteer-led society Bloomsday In Melbourne has been staging theatrical productions each year since 1994.

This month, for the first time, the organisation will stage its Bloomsday performance at the

Library at the Dock's theatre.

The original play, *The Reel James Joyce*, focuses on a fictional scenario questioning what would have happened if Charlie Chaplin had decided to adapt *Ulysses* as a silent film.

The play opens in Docklands on June 10 and closing night is on Bloomsday, June 16.

For more information visit www.bloomsdayinmelbourne.org.au

College football on the horizon

Docklands could host Australia's first US College Football Bowl next year.

Etihad Stadium last month confirmed it was involved in negotiations to secure the event.

"We are hopeful that within a couple of months we may be in a position to make a formal announcement, which would be tremendously exciting," Etihad Stadium CEO Paul Sergeant said.

He said there was widespread research to demonstrate that an authentic US College football game would generate massive interest in Melbourne.

"We have little doubt that demand will outstrip supply and we would sell every seat of our stadium," Mr Sergeant said.

"It will attract tremendous interest locally as well as across Australia and you can see the opportunity for tourists to visit Melbourne for the occasion."

Mr Sergeant also said Etihad Stadium's vision for the event involved more than just the game day.

"We can envisage working with our local business and creating some sort of festival experience on or around the Dockland waterfront for the week leading up to the event," Mr Sergeant said.

Staging the event would involve bringing an entourage of up to 800 people to Melbourne.

"We're actually talking about two teams with players and support staff, including cheer leaders and a band," Mr Sergeant said.

If it goes ahead, Etihad Stadium management predicts the event would be held between mid-December 2016 and mid-January 2017.

Stadium management hope to make a further announcement about the event next month.



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Police Update

Motorcycle theft increasing

Thefts of motorcycles are on the rise in Docklands according to local police.

The most recent theft occurred sometime between 8.30am on May 15 and 4pm on May 16 after a man left his scooter parked near 850 Collins St.

According to Sen-Sgt Mick Wilmott, when the owner returned on May 16 to retrieve his scooter it was missing.

The motorcycle theft trend has also been observed in East Melbourne and North Melbourne and more than 100 motorcycles have been stolen in the CBD since the start of the year.

Police currently want to speak with two men, who have been seen loading motorcycles into the back of a white van.

Police say most of the thefts have taken place at night and have occurred both from the street and from secure parking.

Police have asked residents to keep an eye out for people loitering or behaving suspiciously in apartment car parks and to pay attention to tailgating.

They also ask people to be aware of suspicious activity, particularly in relation to men driving white vans and to take down registration numbers if you notice suspicious behaviour.

In addition, owners of motorcycles are asked to take care where they park and ensure it's in a well-lit area.

Residents and workers who observe suspicious behaviour around motorcycles should contact Crimestoppers or call 000.

Drug dogs at Southern Cross station

A police operation at Southern Cross Station last month uncovered seven people carrying illegal drugs.

Operation Packthread took place on May 2 and saw police use drug dogs to detect commuters carrying illegal substances.

The operation coincided with the Groovin' the Moo music festival in Bendigo, which saw hundreds of commuters travel from Melbourne via public transport.

Sen-Sgt Andrew Martin said the operation allowed police to track down and confiscate illicit substances before they made it into the venue.

During the operation the dogs made 38 detections, resulting in seven confirmed detections and seven individuals were subsequently charged with possessing a drug of dependence.

"Last year we ran the operation at Bendigo Railway Station and detected 27 people with illicit drugs including methylamphetamine, cocaine, cannabis, ecstasy and GHB."

"It is concerning that despite the warnings, there are still people who choose not only to do the wrong thing but also do something that can cause so much harm," Sen-Sgt Martin said.



The new Fireboat 2 was unveiled last month.

New fireboat for MFB

A new \$1.4 million fire-fighting boat will help protect Docklands waterways.

Presented to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) last month, Fireboat 2 is a 12-metre long, 18.3 tonne, water-jet powered craft.

At full capacity the boat can pump 16,000 litres of water per minute, which is the equivalent of two MFB trucks.

Minister for Emergency Services Jane Garret said the vessel would be critical in fighting fires on the waterways and shipping channels around Melbourne.

It will respond to incidents in Docklands, the Port of Melbourne and Port Phillip Bay.

"The Fireboat 2 is a major boost to the MFB's marine capabilities and will make our waterways safer," Ms Garrett said.

"Many people are living on our waterways so it is critical that emergency services remain equipped to respond to complex incidents on and around the port."

The boat will undergo an operational commissioning phase and is expected to be operational from August. The boat will be moored at Pier 35.



Social Club is back

The Docklands Social Club returns this month with a community get together at VaBene on Central Pier on June 17.

Held on the third Wednesday of the month, the Social Club is a monthly opportunity for Docklanders to get to know each other in an informal social setting.

Meeting at 7pm, the first hour will be spent mingling at the bar before those with an appetite sit down for a meal. All arrangements are between the customer and

the business, with the only involvement of Docklands News being the choosing of the venue.

In the past, we have seen up to 30 people come out to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances. All welcome.



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State budget action on development applications

The State Government has committed \$1 million in its 2015-16 budget towards clearing the back-log of development applications awaiting planning approval.

According to the Government, there are currently 26 central-city permit applications under assessment within the department, which is equivalent to a year's work.

There are also 150 planning scheme amendments, which are yet to be finalised.

"The Andrews Labor Government is getting on with clearing the backlog of planning applications left by the previous Liberal Government," Planning Minister Richard Wynne said.

"Certainty in the planning system is good for business, good for jobs and good for Victoria."

The budget also provides \$1 million to protect the Yarra River against inappropriate development.

According to the budget a dedicated trust will be set out to establish planning controls to preserve the future of the river.

The Yarra River Protection Bill will also be introduced to establish rules about what can and can't be built near the river.



Some 150 guests enjoyed Berth's "Biggest Morning Tea" and helped to raise over \$6000.

Berth celebrates fundraising success

NewQuay restaurant Berth raised more than \$6000 for the Cancer Council last month through its "Biggest Morning Tea".

After successfully holding a fundraising morning tea last year, the restaurant decided to up-the-ante this year.

"It was a huge success and the event has doubled in size since last year and we hope it will keep growing," restaurant owner John Scardamaglia said.

"We were blown away by the amount of support and donations that were given from our staff, suppliers and local businesses."

Some 150 people attended the event on May 28, which included morning tea, entertainment and an auction.

Waterways group to make decision

The Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Group is expected to make its recommendations on the future governance and management of the waterways this month.

Chairperson of the group Tony Kelly said the group would meet for the final time in mid-June and would then submit its recommendations to Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Lisa Neville.

The group, which includes representatives from industry and government groups, was formed in October last year.

The group includes independent chairperson Tony Kelly and representatives from Parks Victoria, City of Melbourne, Yarra River Business Association, Melbourne Passenger Boating Association, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries.

Its aims included identifying ways to improve management of strategic and operational issues within the current governance structure and considering the future management of the waterways.

Currently there are at least 15 intersecting Acts governing various parts of the Lower Yarra and Docklands waterway, resulting in bureaucratic paralysis and difficulty introducing reforms that would activate the waterways.



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Celebrating the water

According to Adam Buchholtz, no two days in Docklands are ever the same.

For the past 12 years Adam has worked on the water here in Docklands and is currently operations co-ordinator of City of Melbourne's waterways unit.

"One day I'll be pumping out a boat that's sinking and the next I'll be sitting in a planning meeting," he said. "That diversity certainly keeps it interesting."

Adam says his role can involve anything from day-to-day operations to place management, design, engineering and strategic work.

Having been involved with boating since he was child, working in a waterways unit is a perfect fit for Adam and he says there's always plenty happening in Docklands.

One of the more interesting stories Adam can recall is a phone call he received from a distressed office worker.

"She was quite concerned because she was looking out the window of her office building and she could see a 'lost' dolphin in the harbour," Adam said.

"My question after she hung up the phone was 'how did she know it was lost?' Was the Melways upside down?"

According to Adam, dolphins often visit Victoria Harbour and a seal is often known to frequent the area. "He's notoriously hard to photograph," Adam said.

Adam said Docklands was a great area to work and he describes himself as a vocal supporter of the suburb.

"For anyone who knows me, one of their greatest fears is to even mention the word Docklands because it prompts a whole lot of opinion about the place," he said.

Adam said criticising Docklands at the current stage of development was like criticising a painting when the artist was halfway through.

"With Docklands, everyone likes to make comment at a quarter-built and half-built stage and I'm sure going forward there will be plenty more comments," he said.

Moving forward, Adam said he was looking forward to seeing the end of construction in Docklands and watching the area "come into its own".



"It's still a young child, it may be an adolescent now, but I think it still needs propping up," he said.

Adam says there are many things about Docklands worth celebrating.

He said one of his favourite things to do in Docklands was to enjoy a meal and a drink at local restaurant Cargo, overlooking the water.

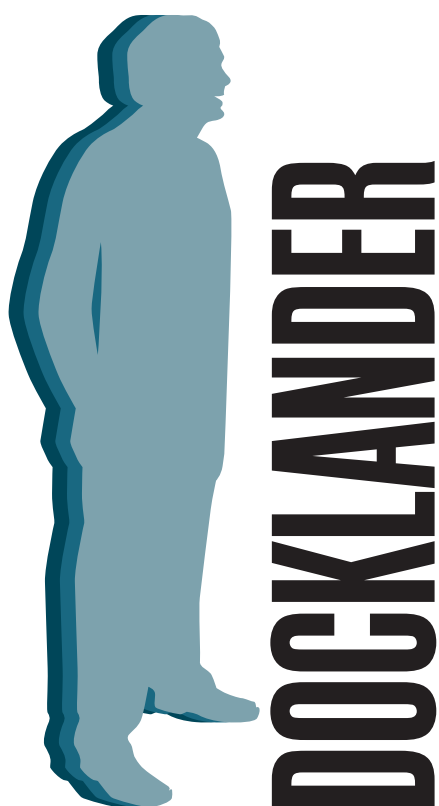
However, when asked where his favourite

place in Docklands was, Adam said without a doubt it was out on the harbour in a boat.

"In all honesty it has to be on the water, I know that's a cliché," he said.

And after 12 years of working in the area, Adam said he couldn't picture himself anywhere else.

"My experience of Docklands has been hugely positive," Adam said. "Although I don't live here, I breath it every day."



Profile by
Bethany Williams

Merchant Society Restaurant

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DOCKLANDS FASHION



Fashion and cosmetics collide

By Laura Timberlake

RetroStar Vintage Clothing is one of the largest vintage clothing stores in Australia. If you love vintage, it is one of the ultimate spots to visit in the Melbourne CBD for your dose of fashion.

RetroStar has now collaborated with Deanna Amato to add a new element to the store. Deanna is a talented make up artist, who has been working in the field for several years.

She has opened a studio called Tempeste – Speakeasy Salon in part of the RetroStar store, so that customers can have a vintage make up experience to match their new clothes.

Deanna also works at RetroStar, and she admits it is partly her love of vintage clothing that led to this new venture.

“For a long time I have been an avid vintage shopper... The opportunity to combine my love for vintage styling and provide hair and make up services was perfect,” she said.

Deanna has done numerous advertising campaigns, weddings and shoots before starting her new studio. I met Deanna when I commissioned her to do my wedding party’s make up, and the entire party was awestruck by her talent.

She says it’s the customers’ excitement over their transformation that is the most rewarding moment for her.

“It motivates me to keep on creating and taking on new challenges,” she said.

A good make up artist will make you feel good about yourself. A great one has the power to make a person question if it’s really them in the mirror – and Deanna has that ability.

And the Tempeste – Speakeasy Salon is still growing. Deanna plans to offer workshops and parties, allowing people the chance to create their own vintage look.

RetroStar Vintage Clothing can be found at the first floor of the Nicholas building, 37 Swanston St, Melbourne.



Fashion on the streets of Docklands

Heath Walters, 21

LOCATION: NAB building.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE

WEARING: Black-on-black-on-black. Some Dangerfield, Roger David, Ray Bans and Betts boots.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM

OF CLOTHING: My onesie.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO

DOCKLANDS: Work.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Don't wear jeggings!

Rachel, 28

LOCATION: NAB building.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE

WEARING: Black top and skirt, vintage belt and boots, fringe vest and faux fur coat.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM

OF CLOTHING: Fur jackets.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO

DOCKLANDS: To have lunch.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Dressing for your mood.

Bez, 28

LOCATION: NAB building.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE

WEARING: Sheep fleece coat, black shirt and jeans, RM Williams boots and an Akubra hat.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM

OF CLOTHING: Hats.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO

DOCKLANDS: Meeting my mum for lunch.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Comfort.



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FACES OF DOCKLANDS

Would you rather be wealthy without fame, or famous without wealth?



MIA DOKOLAS
Dancer, 25

Wealthy without fame, because I don't have intentions to be famous. That's pretty much it. I want to be out there and do whatever I want and not be in the public eye.



JASMINE AUSTIN-GRANT
Student, 19

Wealthy without fame because I don't really see the importance of being famous.



PARIS THORPE
Hospitality, 19

Wealthy without fame because I don't want the whole paparazzi thing, I don't really want to be in the spotlight and I'd rather live a modest life.



GEORGINA NOBLE
Student, 17

Wealthy without fame because there are too many pressures being famous.



JASON SCOTT
Butcher, 18

Wealthy without fame because I don't reckon I could deal with people following me around.



DANIEL QUINN
Student, 22

It's a hard one but I'd rather be wealthy with fame.

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Winter has arrived in Docklands with the weather turning chilly!

This is a great time to rug up and take a walk around Docklands' waterways, enjoy winter warmers at the numerous cafes and restaurants, discover our rich maritime heritage and even learn about the people who lived here before Melbourne was born.

Melbourne is turning 180 this year! She has been a major port city for over 100 years and we owe our development to the many people and the trade that arrived by sea. Today, with the restructure of our ports that used to be our back door, Docklands is emerging as a vibrant new precinct. In amongst all of this there are great stories to tell.

Docklands' emergence provides a unique point of difference for Melbourne with our vast expanse of water. It is worth telling that the ports we see today were excavated by hand and steam shovels during the late 1880s. The project was completed in 1892. More than 2.3 million cubic metres of earth was removed and relocated to fill West Melbourne Swamp.

Originally Docklands was part of the Lower Yarra Delta and a low lying area of wetland

that supported an essential ecosystem of waterfowl and fish. For centuries the area had been a hunting ground and meeting place for local Aboriginal communities. Looking at Docklands today it is hard to imagine all that!

Docklands represents a unique opportunity to showcase our rich maritime heritage alongside the stories of the original peoples who roamed these shores. People visiting Docklands should be able to learn the history of the place and how we became what we are today.

These are great stories and represent the building blocks to create a living museum home to a heritage fleet and a place to discover the people who lived here before. What a unique attraction that would be for the world's most liveable city.

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce is working hard to support businesses in Docklands.

Our new executive officer Stefanie Schulz has started in her new role, with the first order of business supporting the executive in reaching an agreement with Destination Docklands on an office share arrangement. This will help forge stronger collaboration between the two organisations.

Please join me in thanking Alan Maxwell for his role as executive officer during the

REPORTING FROM THE DOCKLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

interim period whilst we searched for a replacement for Nandini Bose. We also welcome a new member to our executive, Paul Salter.

The chamber continues to remain focused on a number of initiatives. The Fountains and Flames project is attracting strong interest from both the community and the corporate sectors, and we are happy to support this new attraction gain the momentum it needs to become a major attraction to Docklands.

Coming up as part of Docklands - An Aged Friendly Program and working with the senior community, the chamber will be hosting two members in customer service training sessions in June. There will be one breakfast and one evening session. Members are encouraged to send representatives to this. Invitations will be out shortly.

July and August will also see a return of the Friday night Fireworks at 7.00pm, courtesy of the City of Melbourne. Make sure you and your business are ready to welcome the visitors to our waterways during this time.

The ever-popular joint chamber/Docklands News networking lunch is on again Friday, June 12, at the Merchant Society in Merchant St. Make sure you book soon, as this event sells out, because it is always a great opportunity for businesses to mingle and build relationships.

Looking further ahead preparations are under way for a number of events that will bring visitors to Docklands. These include supporting the Melbourne Regatta and Blessing of the Fleet as we celebrate Melbourne Day on the weekend August 29 and 30. At the same time the event will acknowledge the original people who lived here for centuries and ensure that story is told.

Chamber members are also working with the City of Melbourne and DHHS Seniors Program to bring the Seniors Festival to Docklands on the weekend of October 10 and 11. We will again have the free ferry services running for this festival to bring Victoria Harbour alive, with entertainment across Docklands. Both of these events will proudly showcase our magnificent waterways.

Also, Melt Away Chocolate Festival will be coming to Docklands in August and will bring with it the delights of chocolate, chocolate and more chocolate. Watch this space for more information on this new event to Docklands. Also the whisper is that there will be special guests from a very high rating TV show joining in the festivities.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSION Waterfront City Outline Development Plan

Capital Alliance Investment Group, as the owners of **3-43 Waterfront Way** and **28-38 Pearl River Road Docklands**, propose to lodge a masterplan amendment with Places Victoria in an exciting step in the regeneration of the Docklands Harbour Town precinct.

Capital Alliance is proud to introduce its vision for both properties and they welcome all local residents, business owners and stakeholders to view the proposed plans and provide feedback.

SESSION DETAILS

Thursday 11th June at 442-444 Docklands Drive, Docklands 3008

Informal Viewing 11.00am - 1.00pm

Capital Alliance Q&A 5.00pm - 7.00pm

If you would like to submit feedback, get more information, or receive a fact sheet on the proposed masterplan amendment, please contact info@capitalalliance.com.au

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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

By Shane Scanlan

Behind every great lord mayor, there's . . .

By Shane Scanlan

Susan Riley's remarkable career as deputy lord mayor is a by-product of being driven to succeed.

Cr Riley says she never asked for the role but successive lord mayors John So and Robert Doyle have both enlisted her services.

She says she never imagined herself in the role nor aspired towards it. These qualities make her an ideal lieutenant. Loyal, trusted, down to earth and capable, she manages the internal relationships which allows the Lord Mayor to shine.

"I've never considered myself to be ambitious, but I'm definitely a driven woman," she said.

Cr Riley is the eldest of five children, born into an inner city working class family. Leaving school at 15, she had already had a grounding in small-business accounting through working in a family cake shop.

It wasn't long before she had learned everything there was no know about publishing via myriad roles at Syme Community Newspapers in the 1980s. It wasn't too much longer before she started publishing for herself, starting her own commuter magazine as well as successful mastheads in St Kilda Rd and the CBD.

The business had taken a hit around the time that lord mayoral hopeful John So approached her to run as his deputy in 2001.

"At the time I didn't think it possible that Melbourne would elect a Chinese lord mayor and an unknown publisher," Cr Riley said.

When John So first approached her, Cr Riley saw an opportunity to sell magazine advertising to him.

"He said, you can have as much advertising as you want, but that's not why you are here," she recalled. "He said do you want to think about it? I was walking back to the car park and I thought 'what an opportunity'. I didn't even ring my husband. I rang him back and said John if you think that you and I can do this, then I will say yes."

She freely admits that she had no idea about council when she was first elected and had to learn "on the job".

"There was no job description for a deputy lord mayor we literally made it up as we went along," she said.

Cr Riley said her business suffered though,



and she decided not to contest a second term.

Four years later, she was approached again to run as deputy - this time by Robert Doyle, whom she had never met.

"It was the 11th hour when Robert rang up one day and said 'I'm looking for a deputy, are you interested?' So I said: 'can we meet? I know who you are, but can we meet?'" she said.

"So we met and at the end of the discussion he said 'I think we'll be fine'.

He said 'who do you barrack for in the football' and I said Geelong. He said 'high five, we'll be fine'. So, we're both Geelong people and that was the start of the relationship," she said.

Melbourne has now had four terms of popularly-elected lord mayor and deputy and Cr Riley has been in office for three of them. Drawing on the lessons she learned during her first stint, she says she was able to help Robert Doyle make the transition from state politics to local government.

"In local government there's no power as such. There are 11 councillors and that power has to come as a united force," she said.

She says one of her major roles as deputy lord mayor has been to make sure the councillors stay together. She rings them all every week to sound them out on issues and policies and then reports to the Lord Mayor.

"These are their thoughts. We need to go

around them or we need to go with them," she said.

Cr Riley says she complements the lord mayor because she reads everything, meets everyone and is across the issues and potential issues.

"I could never, ever do what he does as the lord mayor. I think he has been a remarkable lord mayor. But he could never do what I do either," she said.

"That's why we work so well as a team. I can alert him to an issue that is growing and he can advise me on how to handle it. The trust that comes with that is something that you have to build and earn, remembering that six years ago we were total strangers."

Cr Riley says the current council is the best she's been associated with. She says its diversity and balance is the envy of surrounding municipalities.

"I think the way we work as a team is incredible. I know we're admired by other councils around us because they have a lot of in-house fighting, but we just don't have it. And I put it down to the fact that my door is always open and the councillors come in. I'm a good listener and you do need to listen," she said.

Her passions are small business and involving women in what happens at the town hall.

"My thought were how do I bring women into council. How do I bring the business women into this building and make them feel welcome?"

Since then, she says she has built a women's business network of 500 and has helped build Melbourne Spring Fashion, the Lord Mayor's Commendation Awards and the Melbourne Awards.

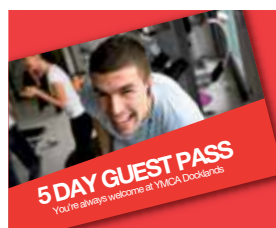
"The things that were really small acorns back in that first term have become a really big part of what council can offer. It's nice to make a small difference," she said.

"There is a job satisfaction here that I have had with publishing but you get to a level and think what more could I achieve? Being in council has given me that extra goal."

"I can't get out of bed in the morning without writing myself a mental list about what I want to achieve in the day."



In next month's Councillor Profile we look at:
Cr Robert Doyle



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GREETINGS FROM THE DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Greeting everybody

Trust you are well. A couple of significant things have recently occurred as reported below.

New Quay tower approved by council a disgrace

The May *Docklands News* reported council's unanimous approval for MAB developers to build a 17-storey residential tower on the existing piazza in Waterfront City, which will destroy the iconic open event area. The article did not refer to that or to substantial residents' objection and other background. It was the first we knew of council's consideration and approval, given quietly at its April 21 meeting.

There are a number of important criticisms.

There was no consultation with the Docklands community. Council's unanimous approval is a disgrace. Some councillors have notified a conflict of interest when it comes to development proposals; apparently one declared a conflict of interest in this case.

Importantly, the building should be constructed at the rear of the area fronting Docklands Drive and leave the piazza alone. Instead, as a puny offset they propose to put a small "park" at the rear (approx. 45m by 45m) which will lack an open view of the water; also the "park" will have a roadway

on the side to provide access to and from the building at the front.

We voiced this to Places Victoria and Council previously, as well as the Minister who expressed concern, but nobody in authority has been prepared to go against what the developer wants. As I've said previously, developers rule.

Due to the proposal to put the building on the piazza we have already lost major events held on it including the annual Japanese cultural festival, attended by up to 10,000, as well as concerts, shows and markets. It is also used by families for relaxing.

A public meeting attended by over 100 people was held on the Piazza on October 6, 2011 protesting against the proposed building. It was reported at the time. It is the only public protest meeting ever held in Docklands. This was not mentioned at the council meeting. The agenda documents for the council meeting made no reference to this background.

Ironically, council could have applied for an amendment to the Master Plan for the area but apparently officers talked them out of it in a closed meeting beforehand saying it was unlikely to succeed. This was not mentioned at the public council meeting. The only aspect queried by a councillor was parking.

Any development over 25,000 sqm requires ministerial approval, Anything below that can be approved by the council. Apparently the developer marginally reduced the size to

enable approval by council.

I sent an email to all councillors criticising the quiet approval and providing the background. Robert Doyle responded he is investigating. Only one other councillor responded, saying he had visited the site. This lack of response from others is par for the course.

From what I've seen, there is a distinct lack of energetic debate at council meetings. That's totally different to what I was used to as a mayor and councillor of a large metro council where heated debate was regular and divisions were called for to record who voted for what. This is partly explained by MCC having no ward system that requires each councillor to be responsible for his/her area and no councillor lives in Docklands.

The process and the decision again shows that, when it comes to development in Docklands, council has no regard to community amenity.

Cage fighting proposal for Etihad

We passed on the result of the resident online survey, with 75 per cent of 124 responses voting against, to Etihad management, with copies to the Premier and the police commissioner. The police are already against it.

The Etihad CEO was not happy. So be it, as we are trying to protect the welfare and image of the densely-populated residential area. This is the first time we have objected to

any proposed event over the years at Etihad. They have plenty of events without the need for that.

Short stay/ serviced apartments – State Government Panel of Enquiry

The panel of which I was a member has finished its sittings and recommendations are to be put to the Minister. I was the only representative of affected residents, with some support from one other member. The area covered by the enquiry was inner Melbourne including Docklands.

I was outnumbered by industry and tourism representatives. Council abstained on the basis that they do not have the resources to handle registration and enforcement of any requirements. I have put in separate recommendations which will go to the Minister.

That is all I have space for this month.

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

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

Regards to all

Roger Gardner
President DCA



OWNERS CORPORATION LAW

With Tom Bacon

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

Time is important

Owners' Corporations (OCs) need to observe time limitation periods for bringing a building defect claim.

An OC owes a strict duty to repair and maintain its common property, and this duty can be enforced by any member of the relevant OC.

The duty to do so arises whether or not the damage to the common property is brought about from fair wear and tear, defect, storm event or from any other cause.

If an OC suspects that there is damage to common property (or accelerated deterioration) from either:

- Defective workmanship or building practice; or
- Defective design by the builder / developer/ architect

Then the OC should immediately engage

an expert engineer to inspect the common property and commission an expert report on the exact cause of the defect and an explanation as to how it should be fixed.

It is well known that an OC has only 10 years from the date of the occupancy certificate to bring a claim for defects of the common property.

What is not as well known is that the time limitation period is reduced to six years in circumstances where the OC becomes aware of the existence of the defect (or is "reasonably" taken to be on notice of the existence of the defect).

If the OC has missed the time period in which to file a claim, then it will have no choice but to fund any repairs itself by

raising special levies.

It is not compulsory for a builder to have insurance to cover his workmanship faults if the building was constructed after 2003 and if the building is in excess of three storeys.

Care should also be taken to find out whether the builder's company is still in business. If it has been de-registered, then there will be no utility in bringing a claim. An OC should also investigate whether the builder sub-contracted to an alternative company to complete a particular part of the building, as this will have a bearing on who the OC can chase for rectification.

Earlier this year, the Supreme Court further confirmed a long-held view that an OC may sue a developer for defects under the

Domestic Building Contracts Act, although only in circumstances where the particular contract between the developer and builder makes explicit reference to the nature of the building work to be performed.

This is a complex area of the law and great care should be taken in engaging any expert or in taking any steps to bring a claim. However, it is recommended that an OC ought to be commissioning building-wide reports from around the five-year mark after completion with a view to bringing a claim for any defects against all relevant wrongdoers.

It is very rare that a builder's company would still be registered 10 years after the project is completed, limiting the window of opportunity for an OC to seek redress.



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with Mike Cairnduff

Keeping sweet in Docklands is a French thing to do

I'm going to say something I shouldn't say: getting away from my desk is one of the best things about working. Let's hope my boss doesn't read this!

Getting out and about in the Docklands on my lunch break, and occasionally before and after work, keeps me motivated and helps put things into perspective. And I'm learning that there really is more to life than getting wound up over other people's food getting mouldy in the staff fridge.

Luckily, Docklands is massive – and growing – and I'm still discovering cool little places all the time.

One such cool little place was recently introduced to me by a colleague. While I can't tell you the name of this place (as I'm sure it will mean the "end" of this place staying cool), I can tell you that it's a French patisserie down by the sheds at Victoria Harbour (surely that's a big enough clue?).

The last time I was there, just before Anzac Day, I popped in with my work mate, Tam. We both squealed with delight when we spotted a never-seen-before "Aussie/French ensemble" – chocolate mousse sandwiched between two homemade Anzac biscuits. Ooh la la!

Our hearts melted and our tongues salivated and we parted with a few gold coins for what I now see as a true privilege. As we chatted along the promenade on the way back to work, Tam devoured the said privilege before I could say "c'est la vie" (that's the only French expression I know).

I honestly didn't see her take one bite – all I saw was an empty brown paper bag. When I got back to my desk and devoured my biscuit equally as quickly, my judgement towards Tam's fast-eating etiquette instantly dissipated.

Best. Sweet thing. Ever.

We talked about how good the biscuit tasted, how well the soft and hard textures worked together, how it quite possibly changed our lives, and ... well then we realised we had deadlines and work to do.

The following week, Tam and I went back to the patisserie. We (or at least I) felt like relapsing junkies, craving another biscuit hit no matter what the cost.

"No more Anzac biscuits until next year," we were told. Our hearts almost stopped and our tongues dried up.



Illustration by Tam Shardlow.

Biggest. Disappointment. Ever.

As we walked back to the office, we talked about what would have, could have, should have been. But then we both realised that there would be other delicious things to eat next time, like crème brulee, custard tart, chocolate éclair, opera cake, macaron ...

Tam and I are heading back to the patisserie next week. This time, though, we're going to focus on the lovely views of Victoria Harbour, the fine bone China and the authentic

staff. And maybe, just maybe, we'll have something sweet to eat (who are we kidding – of course we'll have something sweet to eat!).

Vive le Docklands!

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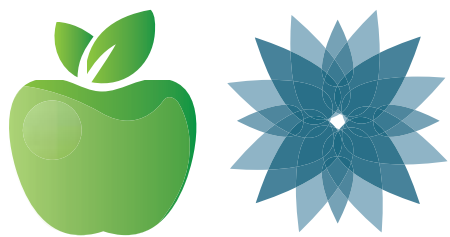
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HEALTH & WELLBEING



By Andrew Ward
YMCA Docklands manager

The amazing, but complex, foot

We put socks and shoes on them most days and, for sure, we know our size.

Feet to most of us are pretty much where our legs end and where the shoe goes.

We spend a lot of time considering what goes on our feet from a functional and fashion perspective, but with little consideration for the foot itself. The only time we stop, think and appreciate our feet is when something goes wrong, and when it does – “Ouch!” and “Help!”

The foot is an amazing and complex structure, so much so that they require their own functional specialist, the podiatrist. Here are some foot facts so you get an idea why.

The foot is made up of 26 bones, 33 joints and hundreds of muscles, tendons and ligaments. Every one of them has an important role to play in your posture, ability to move freely and stand.

Use and overuse with poorly fitted footwear can lead to problems with the feet and ankles. These alignment issues, especially wearing high heels, will impact your normal weight balance. These alignment problems can then be referred to the hips and spine.

High-impact sports can also lead to fracture and stress fracture of the bones in the feet, which can be incredibly painful and isolating.

If you suffer from foot pain, consult your podiatrist for assessment of your gait.

Strong joints

Like your feet, the only time you care or sit down to learn more about your joints is when something goes wrong. In between now and then, we take joints for granted.

“You have amazing knees” or “your elbows look amazing in that dress”, said no one – ever. But tweak your knee playing netball, or roll your ankle on a pothole jogging and, all of a sudden, your joints are the highest priority.

And for your efforts, there is a dual sentence:

- 1) a healing time penalty; and
- 2) a pain penalty.

That’s not to mention now diverting your discretionary income towards rehabilitative costs.

So how do you strengthen your joints? In general, you need to tackle this from two angles.

Firstly you need proper nutrition. To ensure your joints are not weakened by deficiency, you must consume your recommended daily calcium intake, and ensure sufficient Vitamin D for calcium absorption.

Secondly, you must train with weights or with resistance. Weight bearing exercises strengthen bones and joints. They also develop the muscles and tendons around joints that provide the stability and strength of the joint structure.

Poor muscle conditioning leads to reduced co-ordination and stability. This, in turn, can bring on a slip and fall and subsequent bone and joint damage, which we definitely don’t want. Remember that aging works against us, and you should tackle aging with regular exercise and proper nutrition.

Farewell YCMA at Victoria Point

After 10 years of operating a gymnasium and pool at the Victoria Point apartment complex, we closed the doors on this wonderful chapter in Docklands on May 31.

Over that time and in that centre alone, we serviced well over than 1 million workouts to Docklanders and residents of the Victoria Point building.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners in setting up this space: Victoria Point Joint Ventures our landlord, Places Victoria and the City of Melbourne. We would also like to thank our key corporate partners Bendigo Bank, NAB, Etihad, AFL, Lion, Channel 7, Myer, ANZ and *Docklands News* for their support over the years.

We will continue to offer health and wellness services in the Docklands out of our centre within the ANZ headquarters. Facilities and programs in the location have been increased from June 1 accordingly.

An important note is that, while the YMCA has left the gymnasium as a tenant, both Pinnacle Health Group and Gate 10 Café will continue trading from the space.

And thank you to all of our members – we look forward to continuing our relationship from the Collins St location in the future.

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

Somewhere, over the rainbow . . .

We all have clouds that surround or follow us for short intense periods or, even worse, long drawn-out timeframes and I think we've all imagined a land far away that would free us from our pain and allow us to live in a place where dreams really do come true.

When our realities aren't quite the way we want them, or are dramatically far away from how we ever imagined them, we can ache for an imaginary place where everything is better – where we can paint the picture that we want; Where we can control the outcome; Where everything is perfect.

I have had a cloud around me, not a storm, but a fog of discontent for the last month. It's been generated by energy driven from fear, a fear that what I want isn't going to happen.

It's been hard to shake, difficult to remain positive, and damn near impossible to move on. It's hard to exist in the usual space I occupy, one of determined busyness, passion for opportunity, love for the unknown, excitement for the idea of possibility.

I'm thinking too much, and it's holding me in a space lacking clarity. It undermines my confidence and makes me question the very thing I would never have questioned before – myself.

And that's the risk with over-thinking a

situation. I've done a little bit of reading on this and it actually is more harmful than we might think. You see, when you start to truly "overthink" something, it creates this situation called analysis paralysis – you just can't seem to get through it to the other side. Generally what happens is that the negative thoughts keep circling in our minds (questioning and pulling apart anything positive) and it ends up actually sustaining our sadness and negative fears – interfering with our initiative and problem-solving skills.

So what to do? How do we "fix" the problem we're thinking about?

Well that's the trap. You see you can't go away and think for a week on how to fix the problem, as the reality is the problem is actually the habit to overthink! And, like all habits, you have to consciously act to break it.

Give yourself a time limit, say 15 minutes to "overthink" the issue you're facing, write down everything you feel, you fear, you hope and don't worry if it makes sense or not – just put it all down.

The next thing to do is to take ACTION. Decide on the next step. This avoids you being stuck in a period of inactivity and negativity. Take a step, even if it is just tiny, and you'll feel better for "doing".

But what step to take? OK, good question. Think of the big picture. Remove yourself from the immediate and think of the big picture of what you want to achieve. Bite the bullet and step – break the cycle of just "thinking".

The most important thing to remember is you are not perfect, nor should you have to be. So striving for perfection is a recipe for disaster and the sooner you move past those perfectionist tendencies the quicker you'll move past the issue that's occupying all your thoughts.

It's also a good idea to overcome some of that fear. Ask yourself quite simply what the worst thing could be. And make peace with it. It is amazingly freeing.

So I am now realising that I have been trying to be the perfect person acting in the perfect

way to make a dream come true. And, as that situation stretches on, I have instead started to doubt my own abilities. I have started to fear failure and I am overthinking to the point it is affecting the joy of everything else that is wonderful in my life.

But now I have a plan – one that focuses on action and not overthinking. I will keep my focus on the big picture and take the steps to get to where I am meant to be. I will not doubt myself or my worthiness to have that which I wish for.

What a woman wants is to wish upon a star and wake up where the clouds are far behind her. But what a woman needs is to realise she doesn't need to be perfect, she just needs to be herself. And all else will fall into place.

Until next month

Abby x

PS please keep writing, I truly feel blessed to receive your letters each month.

You can get me at life@docklandsnews.com.au

I hope to be back

The Docklands is not merely an address. The Docklands is a way of life.

I have recently spent two most memorable months with my family living in Docklands, since the beginning of April, in one of the five high-rise buildings, at Lorimer St.

The exact address may help postmen to deliver mail and packages, but to live in Docklands is much more than that. It is a lifestyle that is rather different from other parts of Melbourne.

I came to this conclusion by simply observing day-to-day behaviour and activities of my family.

As soon as they stepped into their new home, all of them quickly accepted the fact that their everyday lives won't be within the walls of their new apartment or on the balcony, but within the entire neighborhood where they can fulfill their different needs and interests.

Two adults with tight working schedules, a teenage girl and a first grade school kid, every day (on their own or together) they are exploring and discovering new pleasures – from delicious cuisines in the nearby restaurants, cafes and shops to beautiful walkways, recreational facilities

and entertainment.

I am now enjoying my retirement days but I have worked as a journalist and been editor-in-chief of several newspapers in Serbia.

I have certain regrets that my home city Belgrade abandoned the great idea, it presented few years ago at a well-known investment fair in Cannes, France.

The city's vision was to turn over the current Port of Belgrade, on the Danube River, to a contemporary residential, commercial, cultural, entertainment settlement, while preserving the docks and hangars – just as it has happened here in Docklands.

Well-known and eminent architect, Mr Daniel Libeskind, put this vision into drawings and a project waited to be carried out.

However, with new elections and appointment of new government officials in the Serbian Parliament and in the City of Belgrade Assembly, this project has been replaced with another one – "The Belgrade Waterfront", a vast development planned to be on the Sava River instead.



Ivan with his granddaughter Ana.

Just to clarify, Belgrade lies on the two big rivers, but barely uses 10 per cent of its potential and what those beautiful rivers can actually provide.

That is one of the main reasons why I am so impressed by Docklands and the story behind it – A successfully accomplished vision of connecting and uniting a city's facilities with its natural resources.

I hope to be back soon, as there is a lot more to be seen in the Docklands.

Ivan Mrdjen



Businesses in Docklands

DOCKLANDS-BASED BUSINESSES WISHING TO BE PROFILED IN THIS SECTION SHOULD EMAIL: ADVERTISING@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU

TAKE THE HIGHROAD TO SUCCESS

The team at Highroad aim to do design a little bit differently.

“What sets us apart is that we’re designers who print,” Highroad creative director Henry Ngo said.

Located in Docklands at the base of the Watergate building, the Highroad studio offers graphic design, web development, printing and sign writing.

With a design studio and printing lab, all work can be done in-house, which allows the Highroad team to follow each project from start to finish.

“We aim to do something different in that we want to be involved in the whole process,” Mr Ngo said.

“We offer clients a consultative approach. We consult our clients and are involved in the whole design and printing process. We offer a real assessment of what we think is the best approach.”

Highroad has been operating as a design studio for a number of years and the printing lab was added when the business moved to Docklands in January.

According to Highroad business co-ordinator Darcy Sudholz, one of the benefits

of opening a design studio in Docklands was the existing creative community.

“We’ve found there’s a real creative community here, which we didn’t realise before the move,” he said.

“We’re enjoying making connections and there’s a lot of potential for growth in the area too, given it’s only 50 per cent developed.”

According to Mr Ngo, the move to Docklands has opened up Highroad to a whole new raft of clients.

“What we’ve found to be great about this community is that there’s a very tight cluster of businesses of all sizes.”

In addition, the close proximity of a range of Docklands businesses has made it easy to forge connections and add the personal touch of delivering orders by hand.

“It’s very much a personal connection, we’re willing to put in the hours to ensure jobs are delivered on time. It’s a really personal touch we hope to offer,” Mr Sudholz said.

You can find Highroad at 7 Waterview Walk at the base of the Watergate building.

For more information or to get in touch with the Highroad team visit www.highroad.com.au



Darcy Sudholz and Henry Ngo at the Highroad design and printing studio in Docklands.





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LOTS OF SUPPORT FOR NEW FOOD EXPERIENCE

One of Docklands' newest restaurants is already developing a reputation for great food and a great atmosphere.

Merchant Society opened in Merchant St at the end of last year and has quickly gained a collection of loyal customers.

"Lunch is very busy with local workers and we always have plenty of local residents coming in for dinner," owner and operator Charles Ng said. "We've had a lot of support."

Mr Ng is no stranger to the restaurant game, having operated restaurants in Surrey Hills, Mentone, Hawthorn, Patterson Lakes and in Perth.

His newest venture is an Asian fusion restaurant, offering Malaysian and Thai cuisines.

Fully-licensed and offering eat-in and take-away, Merchant Society has a range of fresh and delicious meals to please any customer, according to Mr Ng.

"All of our meals are cooked fresh after each order, nothing is pre-cooked," Mr Ng said. "We offer freshly cooked cuisine and service with a smile."

"I think that is the reason we have had success so far – because of the delicious food and excellent service," he said.

The restaurant is also pet-friendly, with Mr Ng encouraging locals to bring their furry friends with them to dine in the al fresco area.

"We are very pet-friendly, we welcome residents to bring pets with them to enjoy a meal outside. I've got four big heaters out there and we have bowls of water for the dogs, so you'll be very comfortable," Mr Ng said.

Apart from delicious dine-in options, Merchant Society also offers takeaway and last month introduced freshly-prepared takeaway salads for lunch.

"Salads are made and packed daily and are ready to pick up and take with you for lunch," Mr Ng said.

According to Mr Ng, the Merchant St area is quickly developing into one of Docklands' hot-spots.

"It's definitely an up-and-coming area," Mr Ng said. "This restaurant is a long-term commitment for me and I'm looking forward to watching the area develop."

Merchant Society is located at 71 Merchant St in Victoria Harbour. You can contact the restaurant on **9078 5844**.



Charles Ng says Merchant Society already has a collection of loyal customers.

MEET YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT



Local travel agent Beulah Phillips wants to help you plan an amazing travel experience.

The team at Docklands Travel considers itself to be Docklands' local travel agents.

Having worked in the travel industry for 35 years, Beulah Phillips last year joined Docklands Travel at Yarra's Edge.

A Docklands resident herself, Ms Phillips says building relationships with clients was Docklands Travel's number one priority.

"I think the key to my business is the personalised service that we do offer," Ms Phillips said.

"When I work with a client I follow it from beginning to end. I have clients who have been booking travel with me for more than 20 years."

Offering a full range of services to assist with any travel plans, Ms Phillips says Docklands Travel aims to make every travel experience the best it can be.

The company also specialises in travel to South Africa, with Ms Phillips having worked in the country for 10 years at the beginning of her travel industry career.

Docklands Travel is also moving into the field of medical, cosmetic and wellness tourism and Ms Phillips recently travelled to India and Thailand on a research trip.

"Everyone wants to look after their health

and appearance so this kind of travel is becoming more popular," she said.

Docklands Travel facilitates international procedures by ensuring the correct medical provider is selected to suit the client's needs, organising flights and accommodation and providing on-the-ground contacts to assist clients before and after procedures.

Docklands Travel can also provide information about health and wellness retreats.

"I've done all the research and now we are just putting this next phase of the business into practise," Ms Phillips said.

Alongside her work at Docklands Travel, Ms Phillips is also the brain behind a Customer Relations Management (CRM) tool that is used widely across the travel industry.

The software, known as Zuma Technologies, provides businesses with a process management system, a database management system and web management system.

"Initially it was developed as a tool for the travel industry but it can be adapted for any business," Ms Phillips said.

Ms Phillips said the system would suit many of the small and medium businesses across Docklands.

You can contact Ms Phillips and the Team about Docklands Travel or Zuma Technologies by calling **9646 2056**.

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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE

Stadium chief defends cage-fighting plans

Etihad Stadium CEO Paul Sergeant has defended plans to host a cage-fighting event in Docklands.

The Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) is planning to bring an event to Melbourne later this year and Mr Sergeant said there was a good chance it would be held at Etihad Stadium.

Mr Sergeant predicted the proposed event would sell-out, bringing a crowd of more than 50,000 people to the area.

The stadium has the support of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce for its intention to bring the UFC event to Docklands, but has been met with opposition from the Docklands Community Association (DCA).

The DCA last month released results of a survey of more than 100 residents, which saw 75 per cent of respondents oppose the proposal to bring cage fighting to Docklands.

Association president Roger Gardner told the April 29 Docklands Community Forum his association had concerns about the event in relation to safety, security and anti-social behaviour.

But Mr Sergeant dismissed the results of the DCA survey, saying they were based on opinion rather than reality.

“It’s stereotyping the sport and stereotyping the followers of the sport, based on nothing other than opinion,” Mr Sergeant said.

“It’s not the crowd people might anticipate, in fact far from. They are as well behaved as any crowd you can come across,” he said.

Mr Sergeant said he had been involved



Etihad Stadium CEO Paul Sergeant.

in two UFC events in his previous role as general manager of Allphones Arena in Sydney and had never experienced any issues with the crowd.

“It’s a myth that it’s followed by hoodlums,” Mr Sergeant said. “The vast majority, I know from first-hand experience, are lawyers, doctors, accountants, professional people who are massive followers of the sport.”

Mr Sergeant said the event would be a major coup for both the stadium and for Docklands.

He said the venue for the event was dependent on which fighters the UFC was able to secure and at least two world championship fighters would need to be on the card to warrant a venue the size of Etihad Stadium.

“If they get the card together, we think it would sell pretty strongly,” Mr Sergeant said.

“It would probably sell-out, such is the following in Australia for the sport of UFC.”

According to Docklands Chamber of Commerce President Joh Maxwell, a cage fighting event at Etihad Stadium could only be good news for Docklands.

“The chamber supports the activation of Etihad Stadium and Docklands through large-scale events,” Mrs Maxwell said.

“All our businesses welcome the guests that come through Docklands as a result of these kinds of events.”

“We don’t hold any security or safety concerns about a cage-fighting event and believe in Etihad Stadium’s ability to manage an event of this kind,” she said.

Mr Sergeant said the event would attract a national audience and, with a weigh-in the day before the main event, would span a weekend.

“Certainly in terms of inbound tourism there’d be thousands of people coming here for the weekend.”

The event would be held during the day, starting around 9am in the morning and continuing into the early afternoon, in order to reach the US television audience.

A venue decision is expected in the next few months and the event would be staged towards the end of the year.

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