

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Memorable local Australia Day



Meron Hailemariam and her son Manuel were among the thousands in Docklands for Australia Day. The atmosphere was family-friendly and fireworks were impressive. Photo: John Tadigiri.

Correction and apology

In our last edition, Docklands News published a front-page lead story about Shivesh Kuksal headlined "Docklands is in dispute".

In the third paragraph, *Docklands News* said: "He has been embroiled in contested magistrates' court intervention orders brought by building and property managers as well as Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) actions from local real estate agents wishing to terminate leases alleging non-payment of rent. Many of these matters are ongoing, with Mr Kuksal countering with allegations of his own."

Docklands News has since learned that only one local real estate agent has taken Mr Kuksal to VCAT seeking recovery of leases alleging non-payment of rent. We have learned that Mr Kuksal voluntarily returned three apartments to the other local agent we believed was involved.

Docklands News is sorry for making this mistake and apologies to Mr Kuksal for any embarrassment caused.

Lacrosse cladding is being replaced

By Meg Hill

Work to remove flammable cladding on the Lacrosse building has started after more than four years of confusion and indecision.

Builder LU Simon offered to replace the non-compliant cladding in a confidential agreement with owners. The offer, which LU Simon said was a gesture of good faith, was made in 2017.

Docklands News understands the work will replace the cladding on 270 of the building's 328 units and is expected to be completed in May. Some 58 apartments were not fitted with non-compliant cladding.

A spokesperson for LU Simon said: "The contract is commercial in confidence". The replacement has been reported in the media to cost around \$5.6 million.

The use of flammable cladding was revealed in 2014 after a fire spread from an eighth-floor apartment to the 21st floor (the top) in a matter of minutes. Some estimates say the fire reached the top in less than 10 minutes. Official liability for the use of the non-

compliant cladding, and therefore responsibility for paying for replacements, is still undecided.

The Lacrosse case is seen as a test for resolving where liability will fall, and it may be shared proportionally across multiple stakeholders.

Owners, building companies, building

Continued page 2.



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Lacrosse cladding is being replaced

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surveyors, architects and fire engineers have all been implicated in a blame game over the past four years.

A six-week Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) hearing ended in October 2018, but the judgement has still not been made. It is expected soon.

In July last year, the Victorian Government announced it would offer apartment owners loans to finance cladding replacements in an effort to resolve the dispute.

But the idea that owners, and not those involved in the process of building and approval, should pay has been unsurprisingly controversial.

Apartment owners have also reported difficulty in establishing whether or not they're affected by non-compliant cladding in the first place.

Barbara Francis from lobby group We Live Here writes in *Docklands News* this month that "owners' corporations have been telling us they are getting mixed messages about whether there is a cladding issue at all."

"Is our building on a danger list or not? Some buildings just could not find out what was going on," she said.



Builder LU Simon has started work to replace non-compliant cladding on the Lacrosse building.

"And other buildings not 'on the list' were misled into inaction."

The Victorian Cladding Taskforce, established in 2017, initially found that the material could be on as many as 1400 buildings in Victoria.

It was later clarified that many of these were still in planning stages or under construction, and the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) then warned against the use of the material.

The VBA's warning was criticised by building

experts interviewed by the ABC who said that it was "no change at all", as such cladding was already prohibited by the Australian Building Standards.

Questions remain about how the cladding came to be used prominently in the industry despite being prohibited. Investigations have shown that the material is prevalent across Australia, not just Victoria.

The cladding, combustible aluminium polyethylene, is the same material that fuelled the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017.



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Chinese New Year comes to Docklands

By Jessica Carrascalao Heard

Docklands is set to bring in the Year of the Pig with a bang, with events planned from the Melbourne Star to Victoria Promenade for the Chinese New Year Festival Melbourne 2019.

The District Docklands has partnered with Chinese New Year United, and will host a weekend of family-friendly activities to ring in the new year.

From February 8 to 10, there will be a lion dance blessing, cultural craft activities and a fireworks display at The District, as well as fortune cookie giveaways “with something special” from selected stores.

There will also be cultural performances and craft activities at the Melbourne Star, and two lion dances on ice at the O’Brien Group Arena.

Chinese New Year United chair Thomas Ling said this year’s festival would be “our biggest celebration yet”.

“We want to make every year bigger ... we try to be more unique and more creative and bring up more, other aspects of the Chinese New Year heritage,” he said.

February 16 and 17 will see Chinese New Year Festival Melbourne’s first ever Dragon Boat regatta kicking off at Victoria Promenade.

Mr Ling said he was excited about incorporating dragon boating into this year’s festival.

The regatta will be a two-day event, with social races on February 16, and dragon boat club races on February 17.

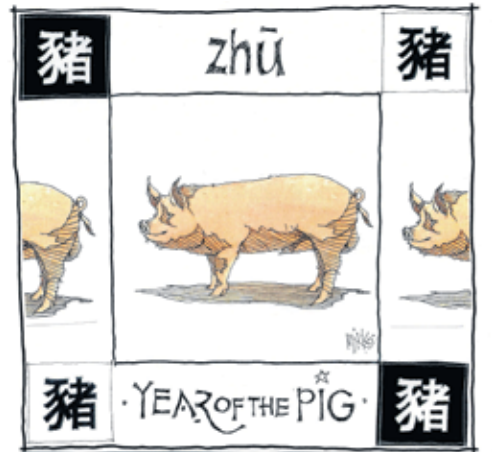
“We hope to build this into an international racing event in 2020,” he said.



Jonathan Low (left) and Thomas Ling (right).

Dragon Boat Victoria’s business manager - finance and communications, Jonathan Low, said the organisation had been thinking to bring Chinese culture back to dragon boating.

“This is a good opportunity to attract people to Docklands, to get involved in the festivals, to watch the cultural performances, and lion dances as well,” he said.



The regatta will run from 9am to 5pm each day.

The Chinese New Year Festival Melbourne 2019 is set to stretch all over the inner city, from Docklands, Southbank, Melbourne CBD and up to Melbourne Museum.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who will officially unveil the festival on February 2, said the festival was one of Melbourne’s favourite events.

“The Chinese New Year Festival Melbourne 2019 unites families and friends to celebrate Chinese culture and traditions across the city,” she said.

The festival will officially open on February 2 at Queensbridge Square, and will run until February 17.



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Corporate kids on the move

By Rhonda Dredge

Parents are happily bringing their children to corporate offices at the ANZ, NAB and Latitude during school holidays, making the financial sector in Docklands a popular place to work.

It's 4.20 pm on a Thursday and Vanessa and Charlie Sayers are knocking off after a long day at Latitude.

Vanessa has put in a full shift as a change manager while Charlie has made a tool kit.

"This is the first employer I've had who let me bring Charlie to work," Ms Sayers said. Mum and daughter have spent four days together at work and they're a bit emotional about the experience.

Nearby at the NAB corporate centre, dads and their kids have been seen slipping out to the library at lunch time, all wearing their blue security passes.

Other parents are using their working-from-home days to bring their children down to Docklands to play in the library while they work on their laptops.

Working families are forced to be flexible,



Vanessa and Charlie Sayers leaving work together.

said the children's librarian, who is keen to promote the kid-friendly face of Docklands.

"You have to be able to survive."

The library provides books, toys and computers for kids and they can make friends with others in Buluk Park at the front. Even the librarian has brought in his

partner's kid during January.

Some 50,000 people are employed in Docklands, mostly in the corporate sector, and children are a common sight at knock-off times.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics some 64 per cent of couples with children have both parents working and 25 per cent work full-time.

"It's fabulous," said Ms Sayers of her company's policy. "I believe this is the first time they've offered a holiday program."

Ms Sayers said she came back to work a week early because of the program. "They've got 40 kids in the training space. They're building robots and today they made a toolbox."

In the past parents who faced the clash between school holidays and the need to keep working, left children with grandparents or booked them into school holiday programs.

"For us it meant that one parent had to stay home," Ms Sayers said. "Charlie's an only child and with this type of program she can mix with her peers."

Docklands is a relaxed place to work, employees say, and companies are encouraging, with some subsidising child care. Parents pay just \$25 a day for the two-week holiday program at Latitude.

"It's lovely to have these two weeks together," mother and daughter agreed.



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Of love and the open sea

By Jessica Carrascalao Heard

Love at first sight is rare, but that's exactly how Melburnian Leanne Grant felt when she stepped on to her beloved boat "Caprice" for the first time.

"I fell in love. Loved her. And I knew she was going to be safe ... a strong ocean-blue boat which would get me home safely," she said.

It was November 2016. Leanne was in Connecticut in the US to buy the boat she hoped would take her on an adventure.

It took more than a year of preparation and setbacks, but finally in June last year Leanne and her companions, set sail from Florida, bound for Docklands.

For six months *Caprice* and her crew, which fluctuated between two and five members on different legs of the journey, meandered through the deep blue waters of the Bahamas and the Caribbean, traversed the locks of the Panama Canal, and then set sail across the South Pacific.

The journey ended in December, with rough, blue-grey waters greeting *Caprice* at Port Phillip Heads.

They arrived home just in time for Leanne to see her teenage son for Christmas, after being away from him for eight months.

Caprice is moored at Docklands, which Leanne said was always going to be her final destination.

"Docklands is magnificent. It's so beautiful and it's right in the middle of the city. It's got everything you could possibly need right on your doorstep," she said.

The six months at sea for Leanne was living her dream. She has two big passions: sailing and travel, both of which she loves for the freedom they bring.

"Oh my gosh, I loved it," she said, while describing 31 uninterrupted days on open water, sailing across the South Pacific Ocean to Tahiti.

"I loved being out at sea. It was magical. So beautiful and just, to be switched off from everything ... the weather was spectacular. We had no storms, no pirates. We just had beautiful sailing literally the whole way."

Love was a recurring theme on the trip.

Aside from crewing for yacht racing at



Leanne Grant relaxing in Melbourne City Marina in Docklands.

Sandringham, Leanne didn't have much sailing experience before the big voyage.

She knew she needed help, so she asked a friend from Sandringham to go through his contacts list to find people who would have the time, resources and sailing experience to help her on her journey.

One of the contacts he came up with was Gordon Buchan, who recently crewed on the *Hartbreaker* at last year's Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

On the trip, Leanne and Gordon fell in love,

and are now in a relationship.

Leanne said she knew that if she took a chance to take the trip, doors would open.

"Take a risk. Go do something that's really different. It's something that's going to fulfil your dream and just see what doors do open," she said.

In another life, Leanne worked in customer service and management roles in the health industry.

Although she's always loved travel, she said

one of the catalysts that prompted her to seek this adventure was her son's decision to live with his dad.

"I said to him, 'Well, I'm going to have a broken heart, so how about I go and have an adventure?'" she said.

As they had been taking annual holidays together since he was young, her son was well aware of her passion for travelling.

"And he was like, 'Go for it.' So off I went," she said.

It was not long before she had bought *Caprice*, which she said had been on the market for two years.

The fifty-two foot vessel was originally custom-built for a cool US\$1.5 million in Finland in the mid-1990s for the then-chairman of KONE Elevators, Pekka Herlin.

It's this Finnish connection that Leanne hopes will help shape the next chapter in *Caprice's* life, in a way that allows her to combine her passion with paid work.

Key to Leanne's plans is connecting with Finnish tourists and the Finnish community.

She said she wanted to host VIP charters with beautiful champagne and catering, and to "let them have a sail on Pekka Herlin's last toy".

"If we can just get her back to her former glory, which won't take much at all, we can take people out on amazing charters and share her with them," she said.

Doing what she loves is important to Leanne, not just for herself, but as a role model for her son.

"I want him to find that thing that he loves to do, that at the end of the work week he feels like, 'Well, that didn't even feel like I was at work. I loved it,'" she said.

It's that feeling she wants to share with people.

"If we can all find that passion, and do that, then it's going to make a lot less depression and a lot more happiness, you know?" she said.

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New Quest to set the standard

Docklands has further cemented itself as Melbourne's favourite place to stay with the opening of the 221-apartment Quest NewQuay.

Situated in Caravel Lane, the business is jointly operated by Daniel Hibberd and Stacy Andronikos. The Hibberd family are Docklands pioneers, having established the suburb's first Quest in Bourke St in 2005. Mr Andronikos is a new-comer but is rapidly establishing himself as a contributor – as evidenced by his new voluntary role as an executive member of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce.

But while new to our suburb, Mr Andronikos is no stranger to the industry and is expert on the marketing side of things. He has made a conscious decision to play to his strengths and has appointed experienced managers for the day-to-day operational side of things.

He is joined by Stuart David as general manager and Matthew Camilleri as rooms division manager.

The new Quest is a glittering showcase and is certain to set new standards of

accommodation in the industry. For starters, it has the highest number of two and three-bedroom apartments in and around the CBD. This is further strengthened by flexible design, which gives management the ability to convert single-bedroom apartments into multi-units.

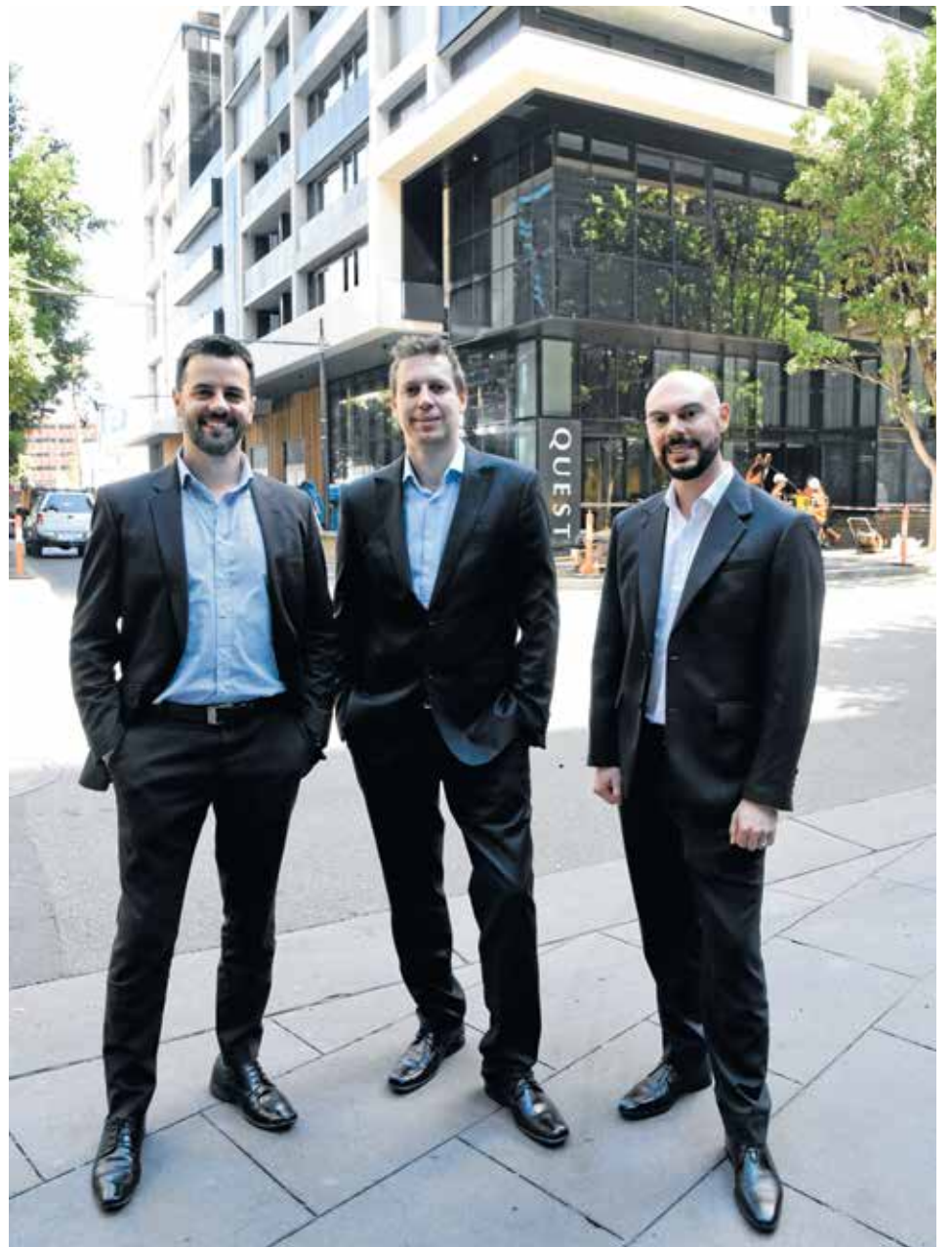
Even the studio apartments are generously sized and appointed and nearly all units have balconies. Every room has a view and double-glazing as well as king-sized beds are standard throughout.

With an opening date of February 2, Mr Andronikos was confident of filling the facility from day one. He said the demand for apartments of such quality just wasn't being met in the market.

And, while he'd love to sell out from the get-go, it will come at a personal price – he's promised his staff should that happen in the first month of operation, he will walk in his business suit the short distance to Victoria Harbour and jump in!

Docklands News has asked for prior warning of this event, so watch out for an interesting photo in our March edition!

(From left) Stacy Andronikos, Stuart David and Matthew Camilleri outside the new Quest in Caravel Lane, NewQuay.



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Docklands Art Collective closes doors

By Meg Hill

The Docklands Art Collective (DAC) had its last day of trading on January 25, two weeks after The District Docklands confirmed the artist residencies could no longer be kept available.

The project, which never had a definitive time-frame, ran for 13 months and was a collaboration between Renew Australia and The District Docklands.

Selected artists were given empty retail spaces at The District rent-free in a bid to activate the mall and bring in more visitors. The spaces are now needed for the Marriot Hotel development.

"The space currently occupied will be affected by the new Marriott development and due to potential disruptions, the space is no longer suitable," a spokesperson for The District said.

"The District Docklands is speaking with individual DAC operators about potentially staying on in alternative locations as we are keen to continue to engage with the local community and artists."

The DAC residents included: Janicke Johansen, Crowther Contemporary, Tree Paper Comics, The Artist's Guild, Trash Puppets, Loose Print, The Band Presents, Fat Yarn Store, Visual Economy, Studio Xl Xs, Magnet Galleries, The Australian Cartoon Museum, Octave Music, Tiger in the Jungle and Dodgy Paper.



Renew Australia manager Angela Simons said it had been "delighted" to work with The District Docklands to activate vacant space on Wharf St.

"Renew Australia curated the available spaces with interesting and diverse creative enterprises with a view to bringing a new demographic to the shopping precinct while providing a high-profile Melbourne location for our participants to trial an idea or further develop their practice," she said

The artists are heading in different directions, but believe the relationships and collaborations they have established at the DAC will continue.

Some of the artists are moving to home-based studios, online modes, to different locations or simply adjusting their operations.

The Artists Guild said it would continue

running a number of its programs, but would also take time out to focus on its own art.

"We can proudly say that since we opened our gallery in December 2017 we have held 17 exhibits, 255 artists have exhibited with us, hundreds of people have attended our talks, workshops and openings," co-director Karima Baadila said.

"We have offered and delivered three major art residencies, a university internship and five mini-residencies."

"This year we are taking our own advice and making more time for our own work. We will continue to run our fellowship circle program and make space monthly for artists to connect and support one another."

"However, we will be running this alongside our own art practices so we can ensure that The Artists Guild is not asking its own team to stop their art in order to help others with theirs."

Jim Bridges from the Australian Cartoon Museum (ACM) said the ACM would probably now focus on its website, which has more than 200 films it has put together.

Lynda Sharp's Fat Yarn Store, which started out online, is likely to go back to focusing on

that medium too.

Sam Emery from Tree Paper Comics said he would go back to a home studio for the time being and open back up in Brunswick or Fitzroy in the future.

"I learnt a lot from my time in the Docklands. My initial proposal was to build an arts community through social drawing nights, group exhibitions, life drawing and printing workshops," he said.

"As well as making many artistic connections I gained the valuable experience of running a multi-faceted art business."

Jonathon Crowther of Crowther Contemporary said he would continue to work on his painting and has an exhibition coming up in Sydney

Michael Silver from Magnet Gallery said he would go back to focusing on a single gallery – the Magnet Gallery on Bourke St. He said the DAC experience has been unusual.

"Being in a shopping centre was an experience. But for us it gave us some remarkable space which meant we could hold some really large events, which really, I suppose is what the owners were after," he said.



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Dr. Jia Hui Leong

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Dr Jia speaks conversational Mandarin. You can see Dr Jia on Wednesdays and Thursdays at Docklands Dental Studio.

Dr. Boris Mirmilstein

Dr Boris graduated in Queensland from Griffith University in 2015. Since then, he has worked full time in private practice in our capital of Canberra before very recently returning to Melbourne, where he grew up.

Boris speaks fluent Russian. Dr Boris works at Docklands Dental Studio on Mondays and Wednesdays.



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Lauren Douglas with Lord Mayor Sally Capp on Australia Day.



Petra Harmer-Shrowder at the ceremony.

Locals sign up for citizenship

Two locals became Australian citizens at a ceremony at Melbourne Town Hall on January 26.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp naturalised more than 100 new citizens from 34 nations at the Australia Day ceremony. Docklanders Lauren Douglas and Petra Harmer-Shrowder were among them.

Lauren, 32, of North Wharf, was a New Zealander and has been living at Flinders Wharf for the past four years.

Lauren said Australia had always welcomed immigrants and had benefitted from the richness such diversity contributed.

"As a New Zealander, I have the right to live and work here but I firmly believe that if you regard yourself as a permanent resident, you should be serious about contributing in other ways and be able to influence the direction of the country by having the right to vote, and therefore be part of the culture and take some responsibility for it," Lauren told *Docklands News*.

"I love living in Docklands. It is so close to the many eateries, retail shopping and public transport. Being close to the river and harbour is also a wonderful attraction which

means you can step out of your apartment and, in minutes, be surrounded by water, greenery and fresh air."

Petra, 55, has been living with Australian husband Brian at Yarra's Edge for the past four years.

The Englishwoman said she "absolutely adored" Docklands and the couple had recently bought into the tower where they had been leasing.

"I feel very much at home in Australia. It's such a beautiful country," she said. "It had always been in our master plan to retire here."

"I want to be able to vote and I want to be a

little more involved in the country I live in."

"Since arriving in Australia I have found the Australian people very warm, welcoming and inclusive and likes to learn more about the aboriginal heritage and culture."

"Having lived previously in the Middle East for 20 years it is wonderful to see such inclusiveness in a multi-cultural society," Petra said.

Unfortunately, the timing of the citizenship was challenging, with Brian being recently admitted to hospital.

He was able to attend the ceremony but Petra was compelled to cancel a party with 40 guests to celebrate her new citizenship.



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Central Pier repair works

Works to stabilise a substantial part of the main entrance to Central Pier is under way, after structural faults were discovered late last year.

Central Pier is more than 100 years old and Development Victoria (DV) says the current works are part of a structural upgrade program to ensure the pier's integrity and continued use.

DV is managing the program and is also working with tenants and users of the pier to ensure minimal disruption during the busy summer period.

"We have liaised with tenants and stakeholders of Central Pier and they understand the importance of this program," DV's group head precincts, Geoff Ward, said.

"Central Pier is such an iconic piece of maritime infrastructure in Melbourne and this work is important for its future use."

The state government agency predicts the works will take several months and includes removing pre-cast concrete slabs and replacing them with a reinforced slab, removal and replacement of timber bearings, and the removal and reinstatement of the steps on the north side of Central Pier, including a new wheelchair accessible ramp.

All work has been designed to ensure minimal impact to Atlantic Group businesses on Central Pier, which remain open.

Atlantic Group CEO Hatem Saleh said the pier was one of the nation's oldest and most valuable waterfront destinations.

"Historically the thriving working piers in Docklands played a critical role in the development of Melbourne as an international city. Central Pier is the only existing wooden pier structure of its kind in



Australia, and the oldest in the world, and it needs ongoing rejuvenation," he said.

"We are privileged to call this iconic waterfront runway our home and we will continue to support Development Victoria with the ongoing maintenance program but also want our loyal customers and patrons to know we will remain open during the maintenance program."

The current program is the third phase in a series of works that started in 2017. Development Victoria has also worked closely with Heritage Victoria and the City of Melbourne to safeguard this prominent heritage asset.

Some sections of Central Pier have been closed to users. DV encourages patrons of the restaurants and hospitality venues, residents, commuters and other users of Central Pier to take note of contractor signage and access instructions during the maintenance works.



Gong for Jackie

Melbourne councillor Jackie Watts has been awarded an Australia Day honour for services to local government and to the community.

Cr Watts was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the general division.

She told *Docklands News* she was humbled and honoured to receive the award.

"Knowing how much others do for the community, it is particularly humbling," she said.

Cr Watts also said it was also pleasing to represent women in the award system, where gender equity was yet to be achieved.

She has been a councillor since 2011 and most recently has taken a keen interest in the maritime heritage of Docklands.

In particular, Cr Watts wants to see a maritime heritage museum established in Docklands. She chairs the City of Melbourne's "Knowledge City" portfolio,

which covers education and museums.

"There is general acknowledgement among stakeholders that an opportunity exists to establish a Docklands museum as a permanent tourism attraction in Docklands," Cr Watts told *Docklands News* last July.

"The absence of a Docklands museum should be understood to be an undeveloped cultural asset. The point of 'differentiation' for this proposed museum is the specific focus on commerce or trade, stevedoring and specialist shipping."

Speaking on January 28, she said momentum appeared to be growing and she would be concentrating in the new year on developing an appropriate governance model which could be taken to government.

Cr Watts has a track record in community activism, advocating on behalf of residents and ratepayers through her work as Convener with the Carlton Residents Association, CoRBA-Melbourne (Coalition of Resident and Business Associations) and more recently, with the Carlton Alliance, a group dedicated to reunifying North Carlton with the City of Melbourne.

Julie Chambers answers your legal questions

Q. What happens if I die without leaving a Will?

A. On 1 November, 2017 significant new laws came into effect in Victoria affecting intestate estates. If you die without leaving a valid Will your estate will more than likely come under the new Intestacy provisions in Victoria.

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Friday 8 – Sunday 10 February

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Friday 8 February

Lion Dance Blessing – 1pm
Fukutontei Ramen

Lion Dance on Ice – 8pm
O'Brien Group Arena

Saturday 9 February

Lion Dance on Ice – 12.45pm
O'Brien Group Arena

Cultural Craft Activities – 11am to 2pm
Near H&M

Cultural Performances – 11am to 2pm
Under the Melbourne Star

Spectacular Fireworks* Display – 9.30pm

Sunday 10 February

Cultural Craft Activities – 11am to 2pm
Near H&M

Cultural Performances – 11am to 2pm
Under the Melbourne Star

Plus, pop into HOYTS The District to see the calendar of Chinese titles screening over the Chinese New Year.

Visit thedistrictdocklands.com.au for full details.

*Weather permitting.



Steve Irwin here for summer

By Jessica Carrascalao Heard

Crowds gathered at Docklands over the summer break to visit Sea Shepherd's recently-retired vessel, the "Steve Irwin".

The ship was docked at Victoria Harbour Promenade while waiting for an opening at Sea Shepherd's Southern Operations Base at Seaworks in Williamstown, where the pier was full.

While at Docklands, the crew opened the ship to the public, with tours being held on weekends in late December and January.

Steve Irwin ship manager Haans Siver said showing people through the ship helped educate the public on Sea Shepherd's work.

"Letting them into our lives is letting them be educated on the positive sides of what Sea Shepherd does," she said.

Tours also help to raise funds, with donations being taken and merchandise being sold on the ship.

Being berthed at Docklands has meant that interest in ship tours exceeded Ms Siver's expectations.

"It's prime location ... it's been great to get more and more people to come on to the ship and have a look and we can sell more merchandise," she said.



Haans Sivers on board Steve Irwin.

Luke Vasiljevic, 45, visited the ship with his wife and young son.

He said he brought his son as he had an interest in boats, but the couple also wanted to show him what was happening in the world.

"I suppose basically the social issues around the whaling side of things ... it's of interest to myself and my family," he said.

Georgia Verschoyle, 35, was another visitor to the vessel.

In the past she has participated in Sea Shepherd's beach clean-ups and thought it would be a good opportunity to see the ship.

"[It would] be nice to actually be on board

- something that doesn't come here very often," she said.

The *Steve Irwin* was the flagship of the Sea Shepherd fleet for more than a decade until it was retired last December.

In that time, it had been instrumental in saving thousands of whales, as well as intervening in illegal fishing operations.

The ship, which is over 40 years old, is being retired due to its age, with the maintenance of its aging parts no longer being financially viable.

Ms Sivers said there were a couple of options for the future of the ship.

"I think they're still weighing up the costs and effectiveness of either recycling the ship or making it into a museum," she said.

Once there is an opening to dock at Williamstown, the *Steve Irwin* will move there and await its fate.

Its replacement as flagship in the Sea Shepherd fleet is the *Ocean Warrior*.



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The symbolism of the docks: James Pasakos’s depictions of Docklands

By Meg Hill

James Pasakos grew up in Docklands before you could really grow up in Docklands, at least in the way kids grow up here today.

James lived in South Melbourne, but both his parents worked in areas peripheral, but at the time much more connected, to Docklands. It was the 70s and mid-80s, and the area’s workforce was markedly different.

“My parents both worked in the factories. My mum worked at the Holden factory,” James said.

James was in Docklands and surrounds most afternoons with his parents. Often his dad would also take him to the back areas of Port Melbourne and the docks to go fishing.

So James’s childhood came largely to be defined by Docklands before the area was residential at all. In fact, his parents were post-war Greek migrants who found their way to Melbourne on a ship that docked in the area.

“I was observing the industrial maritime areas. They’re my childhood memories growing up in that period.”

James built his art career out of those humble origins. At exhibitions, snappy artist bios often describe his art as inspired by his childhood in Docklands, a picture that, for someone who’s visited recently but is unacquainted with the area’s history, wouldn’t quite fit the canvas.

“I see the cranes and the shipping, that industry, as almost my iconism. It’s sort of my beauty, it’s where I grew up.”



Artist James Pasakos.

His depiction of ships, docks, bridges and water are also about processes of human movement, immigration, cultural interactions and belonging. The Greek community may now have a relatively stable place in the Australian social landscape, but there was a process in getting there.

James mostly makes prints. The prints set in Docklands and surrounds are dark, even haunting. They contrast or connect – depending on your disposition – the might of industry and the might of the sea.

“I think a lot of the times when I used to go down to the docks was during the winter. I like that whole area when there’s a lot of fog

or mist. I love the colours, the earthy greens and the reds, the dark greys and blues.”

James notes that he was into German expressionists when he was at university. He loved their “dark works” and how they “ask the viewer to look a bit deeper into it”.

Australian artists with influence include Rick Amor and Jeffrey Smart, who also make “mysterious works”.

“I’m not just painting an urban scene, I’m trying to create almost a myth. It’s almost like a narrative that I’m trying to create. It’s not just a representation of a landscape, but [to] create some sort of narrative or myth about it.”

It’s tempting, in a sense, to connect James’s work as a printmaking artist with that of his working class parents. James uses his hands, assisted by a number of tools and machinery, to make his art.

But much of the time James is making monotypes, which are one-offs. Hands and tools in factory lines produce countless replicas of the same item.

“I paint on a surface, on a plate – Perspex, metal or plastic – using rollers, or paintbrushes, or cotton wool buds, and getting effects from that plate.”

“Then I put it through an etching press and put a piece of paper over the top – high end quality paper. It goes through the press and comes out the other side with ink or paint off the surface transferred onto the paper.”

“Lift off the paper and you’ve got an image.”

An example of a “one-off” is *Run Aground* which is currently featured in the *Marvellous Melbourne* exhibition.

“I see the Docklands for me as losing a bit of its identity,” James said.

“I’m not against progress but I still feel that Docklands has run aground a bit, lost itself a bit.”

Run Aground is a bit of an anomaly within his titles – many of his prints are titled simply: *Docked*, *Boat II*, *Untitled*.

He lives in Ballarat now, where he lectures in fine arts at Federation University, but comes back to Docklands regularly.

James said he found Ballarat both beautiful and different. Far from the coast and with little in the way of industrial working class history, he’s still drawn back to Docklands.

If his parents were the process of arriving, James is the process of leaving.

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A different class of visitor

Two super-yachts, owned by billionaires and worth hundreds of millions of dollars, called Victoria Harbour home over January.

The 74-metre *Aurora* arrived on January 9, and the 65-metre *Callisto* on January 11.

The City of Melbourne tweeted a video of the *Aurora* in the harbour, highlighting that the visit coincided with the Australian Open.

Aurora is reportedly owned by Russian billionaire Andre Molchanov and is worth \$170 million. It was custom-built for Mr Molchanov and delivered to him in 2017, making it one of the most expensive and state-of-the-art super-yachts in the world.

It can accommodate 16 guests and has a crew of 22, but little is known of the creature

comforts inside the super-yacht.

Aurora appears to have sailed down the east coast of Australia – *The Courier Mail* reported the super-yacht arrived in Brisbane in December, and *Super Yacht Times* reported it was in Sydney in early January. It had left Victoria Harbour by January 21.

Callisto, worth \$70 million, is reportedly owned by Barbados-based billionaire Derreck Smith, a currency trader and property developer.

The Herald Sun reported that *Callisto* cost \$415,000 a week plus expenses to charter and included a gym, a spa, multiple large sun decks, an elevator, satellite TV, air-conditioning and wi-fi.

Callisto was built in 2006 and accommodates 12 guests in six cabins with a crew of 16.

A smaller yacht, *Infinity Pacific* also arrived on January 11.

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COLLINS
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The journey of developing Docklands

By Julia Angove

In the late 1990s, an ambitious urban planning student was studying Melbourne's Docklands as a case study at university in Glasgow, Scotland.

Fast forward 20 years and development director Ronan Mellan has played a leading role in shaping this waterfront precinct of Melbourne – with a hope that it will soon enter the city's psyche as a landmark destination.

"My original role was as a development manager looking after a few precincts in Docklands, including what is now known as Collins Square," he said.

"I am really proud of what has been achieved at Collins Square. Many hours were spent on this project with Walker Corporation and getting it to where it is today – it has made a huge difference to the Collins St precinct in Docklands."

Ronan has been with Development Victoria for eight years and in that time the changes in Docklands have been enormous.

"The point where you reach critical mass is the point you tip from emerging to mature and Docklands has now reached that point, particularly in and around Collins St," he said.

"Something has really clicked in Docklands, even though it is still only 60 per cent complete. Now, more than ever, the people that live and work in Docklands are passionately supportive of it which is fantastic."

He also believes Docklands regularly surprises visitors, including first-time visitors and those who haven't been there for a while.

"The actual size of Docklands amazes people. It is roughly 200 ha in size which is the same size as Melbourne's CBD," he said.



Ronan Mellan surveys his realm.

"There are such contrasting experiences in Docklands, depending on where you are, and that is a real benefit."

While Docklands has flourished in the past eight years, Ronan is still enthusiastic about future potential along the water, particularly around Harbour Esplanade and Central Pier.

"My aspiration is to see Harbour Esplanade and Central Pier embraced by Melburnians as their waterfront. I would love these spaces to become as well known and loved as other landmarks such as Federation Square, Fitzroy Gardens or Flinders Street Station steps for example."

While he is proud of working with a range of stakeholders to progress development in Docklands, he is also proud of his achievements at Development Victoria where he leads a small team.

"My greatest legacy will be to build a team which is as passionate about urban renewal and Docklands as I am," he said.

Not a bad achievement for a lad from Scotland who had never set foot in Australia when he landed in Melbourne 10 years ago.

Free outdoor cinemas this month

Two free outdoor cinemas will be operating in Docklands this month – both at Yarra's Edge Point Park and Victoria Harbour's Buluk Park.

Movies Under the Stars at Yarra's Edge will have screenings on February 7, 8 and 9 – *The Great Gatsby*, *Black Panther* and *Peter Rabbit* respectively.

Free bean bags will be provided for the first 100 attendees, and there will be food available on site. The site opens at 6.30pm and movies start at sunset.

Register here: ye.movies.mirvac.com.

At Buluk Park there will be free screenings of *Labyrinth*, *My Best Friend's Wedding* and *Bride and Prejudice* on February 8, 15 and 23.

Two March screenings will be announced in February.

The Buluk Park screenings open at 7pm and start at about 8.30pm.

Register here: www.eventbrite.com.au/o/park-cinema-presented-by-victoria-harbour-10829439120

Social club

The Docklands Social Club starts 2019 with dinner at Pok Pok in Bourke St on Tuesday, February 12.

The "club" is not a club. It's just an informal excuse to get out and meet some locals and moves to a different location in Docklands each month.

As we all know, the Social Club is a chance for the Docklands community to meet and chat. Many friendships have been formed and wonderful times are enjoyed.

The February occasion starts at 7pm. Pok Pok is at 801/803 Bourke St, Docklands.

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The gondolier's song



Darcy Rankin getting ready for work on the river.

By Rhonda Dredge

A gondola stands out among the yachts moored on the river, its dark archaic bow suggestive of pleasure, palaces and song.

Gondolier Darcy Rankin doesn't sing to customers but he does tell them stories of the Yarra.

He is attracted to the might of the river and being out in the middle of it.

"Originally it would flood six metres," he says. "It formed the biggest wetlands in Australia to the west. The city would have been inundated. That's why Melbourne Water did all the changes."

The maritime environment is in Darcy's blood. He grew up on the north-west coast of Tasmania and went sailing on Bass Strait.

"It's not that rough," he said, gesturing instead towards the Yarra mouth. "The bay's getting bad."

He likes the freedom of the job. He can go out on the gondola at any time.

"It's quite casual for me. I'm generally around on summer evenings when it's getting a bit cooler."

He's been working on different boats at Victoria Harbour ever since arriving to go

to university. This is his fourth year as a gondolier with Venice on the Yarra.

Time gets away from him sometimes. He hasn't brought a watch or phone to work and he discovers that he has to do a wedding photo in five minutes at the Exhibition Centre.

There are preparations to be made.

He's brought a bag of ice down to the docks on his bike and a change of clothes for the part.

First he fills the ice buckets and puts in the champagne. Then he spreads out a fancy tablecloth and attaches a lantern. Now it's time to change into his black outfit.

It gets hot on the river, dressed all in black, he said, and not everything is to his liking.

"I don't like the run off and rubbish from the streets. Often I can't go out because there is so much rubbish in the river."

Today he is positive as he gets ready to paddle beneath the Webb Bridge. You get the impression that the idea of the river is just as satisfying as the reality, something that can't really be tamed.

"I love the river," he admits. "If you go down a bit in the gondola it's a good way to view the city. You get a bit of a look at Melbourne. It's quiet in the middle of the river. You think of how the river always flooded through this piece of land."

Mourners denounce "coercive conversion"

About 160 people attended a memorial service at the Docklands library on Sunday, January 13 commemorating the first anniversary of the death of South Korean woman Ji In Gu.

The mourners allege Ms Gu was murdered during a coercive conversion program, which they said are run by the Christian Council of Korea (CCK) to force religious conversions, often via a victim's parents.

The group gathered as part of international commemorations organised by the Human Rights Association for Victims of Coercive Conversion Programs (HAC).

HAC states that approximately 150 Korean citizens have been abducted as part of the programs in the past 10 years.

HAC also estimates that in February of last year, after Ms Gu's death, 120,000 South Koreans rallied against the programs.

Mourners make a statement in Docklands on January 13.





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Writing of the world, from the library

By Meg Hill

Docklands library users fall into a few key groups – young children and students can be found in after-school workshops or studying in the quiet area.

Many are also obviously “clocked on” – working from the library instead of from home. Tim Richards, a full-time freelance travel writer, is one of them.

Tim, who lives in a CBD apartment, works at the Docklands library at least one day every week. His other libraries of choice are Fitzroy Library and City Library. His wife, also a freelancer, prefers the State Library.

“We live in this market-obsessed economy where basically everything has been privatised and everything has to make a profit,” Tim said.

“So libraries are this last little publicly-owned zone where we agree that it’s a good thing for a community to own and share such a space.”

He’s there once a week, that is, when he’s in the country. Being a travel writer, he spends a lot of time overseas. In March he’s going to New Zealand, then probably Germany, Switzerland, and the UK in May/June.



Tim Richards at Docklands library.

Tim writes mostly for Fairfax (now Nine), but “for anyone really because I’m a freelancer”.

He’s written for News Limited, in-flight magazines, Lonely Planet and a bunch of other publications. He has a process worked out.

First, before you travel anywhere, you pitch to editors. Starting with a few commissions, you approach tourism bodies for assistance getting places and into tours, etc.

Then you travel, take lots of notes and do lots of fun things – including, of course, much

that you don’t have commissions for but will pitch afterwards.

Then you come home and write. For Tim, that often means writing at Docklands library. And one trip can provide material for many stories.

“Sometimes I write a story maybe three years after I’ve been on the trip,” he said.

Tim wrote a number of stories about his two-day stay at Chernobyl, in Ukraine. Writing of the abandoned nuclear wasteland while sitting in a healthy public library, Tim really

would have been in two worlds.

“In libraries kids are doing their homework, people are using them to learn stuff and do workshops, there’s clearly a much bigger dimension to them than simply books on shelves,” he said, expanding on the idea of libraries as democratic spaces.

And for freelancers today, it’s an alternative to the idea that you should pay for a private, luxurious co-working space.

The life of a freelance travel writer seems sporadic, at least when travelling, but at home Tim and his wife have quite the routine. They each spend two-and-a-half days a week (on average) at home, while the other is at a library somewhere writing.

Even Tim’s time at the library is curated.

“Often I’ll write an article in the morning in the quiet room, have my lunch by the cafe and buy a coffee, and then I might sit by the windows where there’s comfier chairs and do a bit more work with my laptop.”

Tim says Docklands has always been “a bit weird” – perhaps he finds it a bit too un-curated: “They made the mistake of allowing all these individual buildings to be built without thinking about how they interact and connect, how they make a neighbourhood.”

“But I think it’s better now. There’s parks and gardens. There’s more human-styled apartments and buildings that feel better to walk among.”

The Exchange in Retrospect

The Exchange at the Knowledge Market in Victoria Harbour is showcasing a selection of its projects in a retrospective exhibition.

The exhibition is running until February 11 and is comprised of a series of prints exploring concepts of environmental and social sustainability – focused specifically on Docklands.

The Exchange has been a partnership

between RMIT University and Lendlease. Students of design ethnography, architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, product design, service design and fashion design have applied their disciplines to projects based on Docklands.

The exhibition marks a process of winding down the 18-month project. A final event/exhibition will take place in the middle of the year.

The exhibition at The Exchange runs until February 11.



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Swan with a profile

By Rhonda Dredge

Who am I? Swan L70 has stopped by the water's edge to ponder this existential question while digging for grub at Australia Wharf.

The swan has quite a presence in the water but if you want to know the truth about her you'll have to check out her profile on the internet.

That takes time and none of the regulars sitting outside ANZ head office seem to recognise her.

"Usually we see two swans," says one, looking up from his phone at her picture.

L70 is undeniably beautiful, but she wears a great white collar that makes her stand out among her peers. How has she remained unnoticed? Has she swum in from another time and place?

"I've seen a mum and its babies," says another regular, "But no swan with a number." She doesn't like to look too closely at the river in case there's an animal in pain.

The underside of the grand human vision of Docklands can be unsettling. River watchers usually look across at the opposite bank, their eyes attuned to bridges and buildings.



L70 swanning around in Docklands.

"The funniest thing I've seen are the rich people all cleaning their boats for New Year's Eve," said a third regular. "We're too self-contained to notice a swan."

With 12 towers along the southern bank as powerful testimony to the dominance of humans here, thoughts are more of pizza

and beer at a nearby bar. Here, the water's edge is not actually visible.

But if you take the time to register your sighting of L70 on *MySwan*, a research site set up by the University of Melbourne, you will be rewarded.

The site aims to study the migration of the birds and it turns out that L70 is seven years old, single and was first collared on November 20, 2012 at Albert Park Lake.

If you upload pictures of your sighting, you will then join a select group of people who are followers of L70 and you won't need to visit the riverbank to stay in touch because you'll get monthly updates and a map that shows where she's been.

The animal/human divide is a complex one with some people, such as wait staff forced to deal with seagulls, not that interested in bird stories and others preferring to experience the magic of this place in summertime by staying in touch via the internet.

Untagged birds can be seen returning home after a sojourn at sea and enjoying the tonic of the balmy air without being the subject of human intervention.

Further research suggests that L70 likes the complexity of this place.

She's a bit of a fixture in the finance sector and has quite a profile, having been sighted here on January 10 and back in August with six cygnets.

Hang on! That means the swan with the outlandish neck gear may not really be single after all? Has she been leading on suitors with her *MySwan* page?

Now that might be a first.

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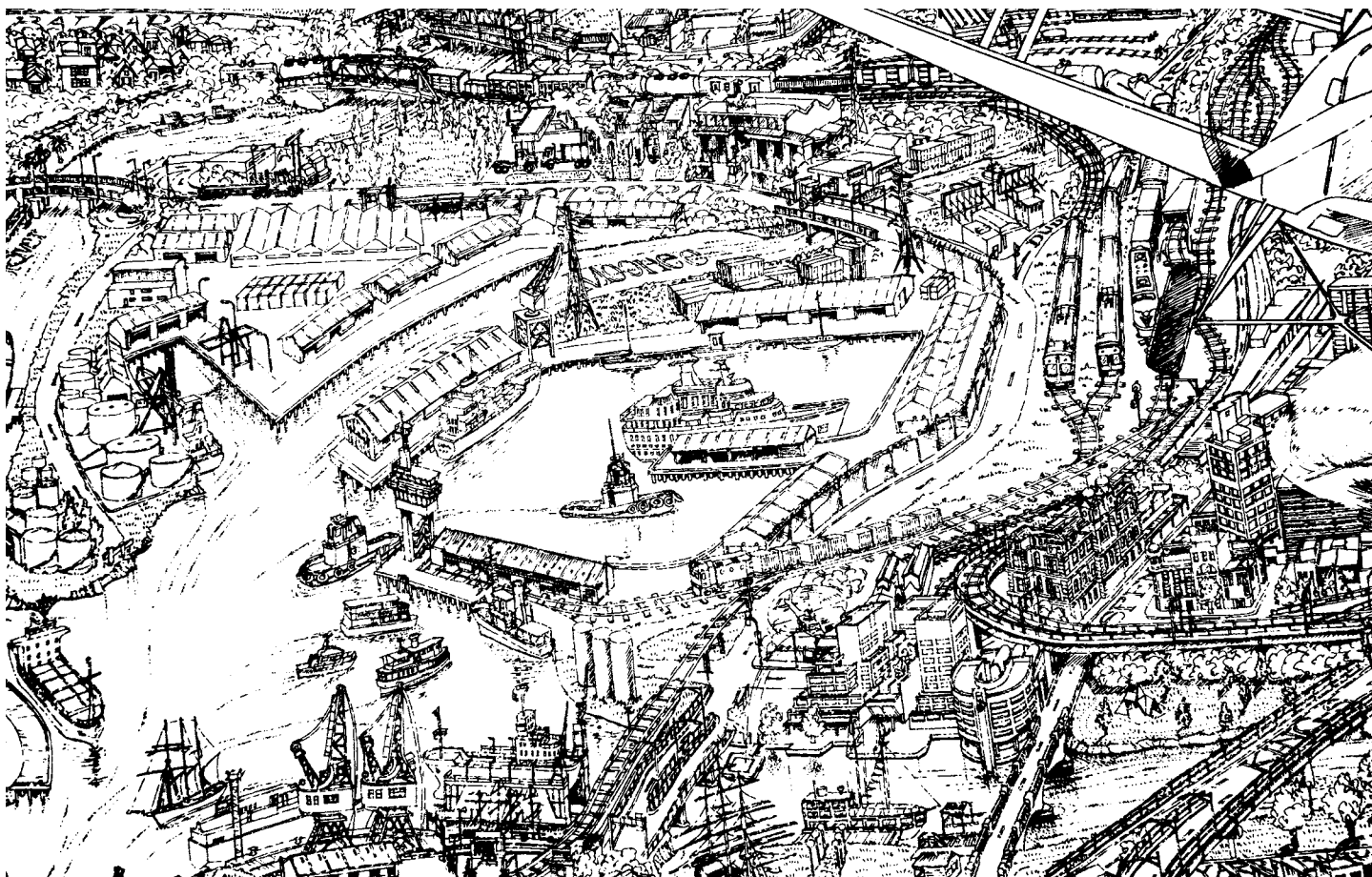
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Look at us now!

It's been 29 years, but the change to Docklands is remarkable – as evidenced by the soon-to-be-released new version of The Melbourne Map.

The original was completed in 1990 and

a coloured 2019 edition is expected to be released in March.

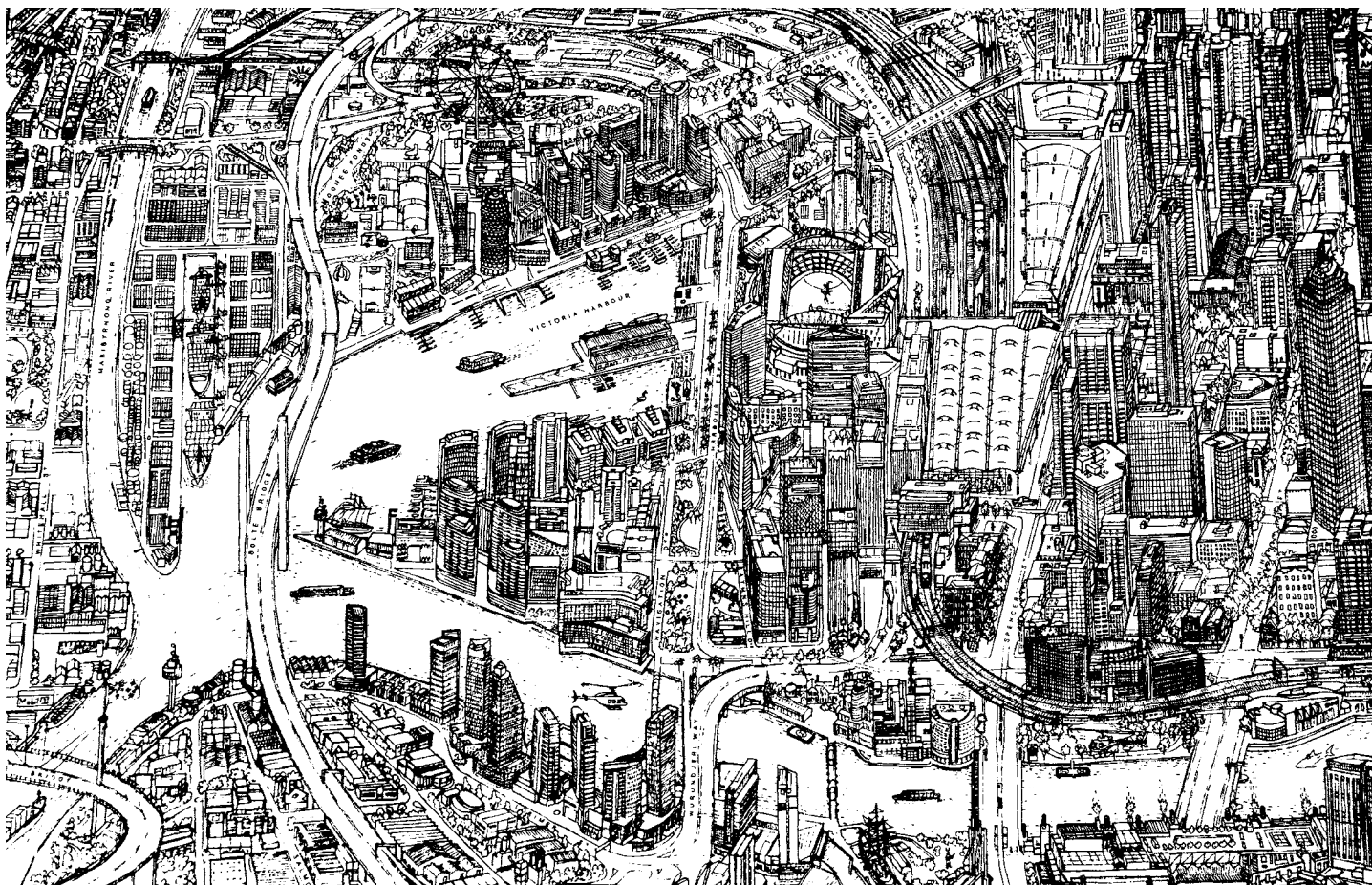
The black and white version is available already, including larger signed limited prints.

Project founder and producer Melinda Clarke shared the uncoloured version with Docklands News, and the result is incredible.

In 1990 Docklands comprised wharfs, sheds

and a preponderance of railway lines. Fast-forward to now and there's hardly room to fit in all the towers and facilities – and that's with 40 per cent more development to come!

General-release black and white prints can be found in a couple of places in the CBD – Clementines, 7 Degra St and Melbournalia, 50 Bourke St. For more, visit www.themelbournemap.com.au



Deakin Downtown in mirrors

Deakin University's Downtown Gallery will show its first 2019 exhibition from February 13 to March 29.

Echo Chambers: Art and Endless Reflections is an exhibition of contemporary Australian artists working with mirrors, mirrored surfaces and reflections.

The project incorporates an audience desire – to see themselves reflected in exhibitions – and also considers the often “duplicate or double” nature of contemporary culture.

Key historical examples will frame the exhibition inviting the viewer to speculate on what they see and how their experiences of representation have changed over time.

The list of artists is long: Chris Bond, Leslie Eastman, Yanni Florence, Dale Frank, Carlo Golin, Justine Khamara, Gian Manik, Kent Morris, Nike Savvas, Linda Tegg, Ebony Truscott, Lyndal Walker, Meng-Yu Yan and others!

The exhibition is curated by James Lynch from Deakin University.

“The exhibition contains rarely-seen photographic and sculptural works which focus on shadows, reflections, duplicates, doubles and doppelgangers, stretching our fixed and complete sense of the self,” Mr Lynch said.

“While taking selfies in exhibitions is now commonplace, we hope the works presented in *Echo Chambers* will spark questions about how social media has changed our cultural and social frameworks, and how our experiences of representation have also evolved over time.”

Deakin Downtown is located on level 12 of tower 2 at Collins Square in Collins St.

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“Blockchain will do for transactions what the internet did for information” and thereby change many aspects of our vertical lives.

The claims for blockchain are impressive. It is widely espoused, for instance, that blockchain will fundamentally disrupt many existing industries, in particular those which “check and balance” our transactions – think accountants and bankers.

Some claim even greater impact with forecasts of profound change for our currency, all types of supply chains and even democracy.

And giving heed to these claims are a swag of both new and established firms.

Among the new in Australia, are start-ups like Shping which apply blockchain to supply chains. Their goal is to allow consumers to view additional product information prior to purchase. There is also Horizon State, a Melbourne start-up which uses blockchain to provide greater voting transparency in emerging democracies.

On the list of more established players giving attention to blockchain are IBM (whose efforts include a tracking tool for retail chains), Eastman Kodak (repositories for stock images) and Spotify (managing copyrights) as well as a host of blockchain investors such as Google, Goldman Sachs, Visa and Deloitte.

Also sharing this belief that blockchain has the potential to cause significant economic and social change are researchers at RMIT. They contend that blockchain could change how we interact online, who controls our information and shift the incentives that

guide businesses and co-operative systems. And they have acted upon this belief by establishing a Blockchain Innovation Hub, claimed as the world’s first research centre on the social science of blockchain.

But what is blockchain and why is it believed so great?

First point, blockchain refers to an underlying technology. It is the digital foundation which supports the offerings of companies such as Shping and Horizon State.

Second point, it is useful to think of blockchain as a sort of distributed digital ledger, designed to be incorruptible and self-executing. IBM describes blockchain as a shared and immutable ledger which records transactions – all transactions – permanently. The name comes from the way this transaction data is stored — in blocks that are linked together to form a chain. The chain grows as the number of transactions grows, with each block having its own timestamp. In essence, this chain is a digital trail and, with the help of a series of algorithms, it is resistant to tampering. This is the key offering and benefit of blockchain – an immutable chain of historical record.

As regards the benefits of uptake, consider the food industry. For reasons of safety, it needs to reliably and quickly establish the provenance of food offerings which, unfortunately, has been all too front of mind with the recent strawberry fiasco. Being able

to quickly and accurately identify the source, route and current location of potentially affected food allows a more rapid response as well as a reduction in associated costs.

Also benefitting from blockchain, albeit in a very different vein, are advocates of digital democracy who view blockchain as playing a key role in preventing voter fraud. In offering an immutable, highly accurate digital voter enrolment and counting system, blockchain holds the promise of equitable, democratic elections.

So, how might blockchain impact us vertical villagers?

Taking inspiration from the two previously mentioned examples, our vertical living sector could greatly benefit from reliable supply chains and a dose of digital democracy.

In terms of transparent supply chains, the biggest impact might actually occur before we move in, that is, during building construction. Being able to reliably source materials – and having proof that what was ordered was that delivered – would be a big step forward (think cladding substitution!). Indeed, having verifiable evidence of a product’s provenance has insurance implications also. And the benefits of accurate supply chain tracking continue once the building is occupied, including cost reductions from the harmonisation of different processing systems (there is the potential to reduce costs by one fifth!).

As regards blockchain-based democracy, having a reliable and immutable way of voting (which is internationally accessible) could greatly help our vexed and ongoing issue of proxies (and proxy farming). In fact, already companies like Horizon State are considering different contexts for voting, such as corporate shareholders, and are devising systems to support remote participation while also reducing the costs involved. Similar applications for owners’ corporations could also both greatly increase owners’ participation, improve transparency of committee decision making (via permanent voting records) as well as decrease costs associated with (the currently expensive) special resolution process.

And these are just a few examples of how our vertical living domain might be impacted (benefit?) from blockchain. Already many more applications are emerging in the property industry where an immutable record of sale and rental data could really change the vertical real estate game!



Janette Corcoran
Apartment living expert
<https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/>

Men’s Shed is looking for new members

Melbourne Men’s Shed in its sixth year is recruiting new members and is also keen to attract more women.

The shed, located in the car park basement of Federation Square, has 70 members but less than 10 women.

Chairman Andrew Stefanetti told *CBD News* the organisation’s facilities were open to the whole community.

He said “shedders” had been busy filling an order book for wooden toys. These ranged from cars, trucks and tops to old-fashioned horses on wheels attached to a push stick.

Eight shedders at Christmas donated a batch of more than 30 toys to the Royal Children’s Hospital. Those children who couldn’t go home picked their favourite.

Apart from toys, the shedders fill requests such as possum nesting boxes to lure

possums out of home owners’ roof spaces. The Bureau of Meteorology wanted its 90-year-old cedar boxes used to house delicate outdoor instruments repaired and refurbished. The renewed boxes are preferred to newer commercial ones.

Another job was a table with adjustable height for standing and sitting, for a wheelchair-bound person. Tailor-made wooden storage bins for kindergartens, schools and sport clubs were also in demand, Mr Stefanetti said.

Shedders enjoy their teamwork and being taught skills by volunteer experts on top-flight equipment.

“The shed gives members a purpose and provides camaraderie,” Mr Stefanetti said. “Men often lose their social network after retirement or illness.”

The shed also runs cooking classes on commercial equipment, resulting in popular lunchtime get togethers. There’s a walking group approved by the Heart Foundation, and computer and photography classes.



Melbourne Men’s Shed chairman Andrew Stefanetti at the workshop.

It’s the only CBD-based shed in Australia. Charity work is free but jobs-to-order are charged for.

For more information on joining the Melbourne Men’s Shed, visit **www.melbournemensshed.org**



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DOCKLANDS FASHION



Fashion on the streets of Docklands

Andras Gaal, 31, Hungary, social media manager

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE

WEARING: Pink shirt I bought here, some orange pants from my country, from Hungary, and usually very dirty shoes, that are bit of partying, so that's why they look like this. Sunglasses and my beautiful cast.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING:

I have a pretty cool shirt ... it's an interesting shirt. It's just a white shirt, with an interesting logo with some weird animals and things like that.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS:

I actually work today. So, just in the library doing some stuff. Free internet, aircon. It's not bad.

STYLE: I usually go casual, put it that way. If I can do more summer kind of things like shorts and shirts, casual really.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

I'm not really a style-following person, so pretty much what catches my eye. So, the colours that are a bit colourful but not too much ... I feel comfortable in these clothes rather than stylish.

Kimi Teoh, 21, Brisbane, fashion graduate

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE

WEARING: A simple white shirt, bralette inside, a pair of Top Shop pants with contrasting stitching, and lastly, just a pair of heels.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING:

I really want to buy a trenchcoat right now ... it is versatile, and it's classic, it's timeless. You can wear it anywhere, and it's always going to be in style, and there's so many ways of styling it.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS:

We're here to pass time, actually. It's good views, really chilled place. Just wanted to sit down, have a talk with my cousin while I was just travelling and see a different side of Melbourne.

STYLE: My sense of style is definitely very classic, so very normal items that you can wear differently and it just really depends on how you want to style it to give it a different mood. Very monotone and black.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Accessories. That makes the biggest difference.

Melissa Guarnizo, 33, Colombia, cleaner

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE

WEARING: Black overalls, with a t-shirt with Stitch [from *Lilo & Stitch*]. And shoes.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING:

It's hot now, and I like shorts and the t-shirts. It's easy.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS:

Work.

STYLE:

Fresh.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Black is a good colour, and you can use it in whatever season. And it's easy to use it with other colours.

10 Years On



February 2009, Issue 39

Rotary Club is coming to Docklands

Rotary activist Ann White has formed Rotary Clubs in both Southbank and Yarraville and has now turned her considerable positive energy on Docklands.

Ms White, who runs a software business in South Melbourne, has had her eye on Docklands for some years now.

She assesses the precinct as now being sufficiently mature to successfully host its own service club and is running two information evenings at Waterfront City.

The hour-long "interest meetings" are being held at 6.30pm on Tuesday, February 24 and Tuesday, March 10 at the Waterfront Room, Level 1, 427 Docklands Drive.

Ms White said a successful club had a mix of members. "Retired professionals are good to have. Executives, small business people and younger people who benefit from the experience are a good mix," she said.

She said the common experience of being in business bound members together and advised that Rotary International was only open to professional and business people.

She also warned not to view Rotary as a "networking opportunity". She said people who were not motivated to give something back to the community should save themselves the bother of applying.

"Business people with skills and talents acquired over many years often feel the need to give something back," she said.

Ms White said she wanted the new Docklands Rotary Club to charter by the middle of this year and that the new club would choose a project to work on straight away.

"Each club is autonomous and has the power to support those projects the members select as worthy of their time and efforts. This makes it very exciting as the charter members will decide the direction of the new club," she said.

"If you've been looking for a way to make some of your spare time useful and productive while meeting people who have similar values, Rotary may be the answer."

"It's always easier when working with a team of like-minded people to make significant changes. This world needs its best and brightest to give of themselves rather than just donate money."

She said a new Rotary Club opened somewhere in the world every 12 hours.

Ms White can be contacted on 0402 306 790 or ann@landmarksoftware.com.au.

Owners' Corporation Law

Opal Tower should serve as a warning

A downturn in consumer confidence about building standards is the last thing that developers and builders of residential apartment buildings need right now.

However, the saga that is playing out in Sydney's Opal Tower is serving as a warning shot to all owners and prospective buyers of apartments about the perfect storm that has been brewing in the construction industry for some time.

The bad news is that the deregulated building compliance laws and standards that led to these issues in NSW's Opal Tower are almost identical to Victoria's laws and standards in much the same respect, meaning that Melbourne may have an Opal Tower somewhere amongst it soon enough.

Structural cracks opened up on level 10 of the 392-unit tower in the Sydney suburb of Homebush on Christmas Eve, leading to the enforced evacuation which left residents without a home during the holiday period and is causing more frustrations as some owners face up to another month of living in alternative accommodation before they find

out if the tower is safe to return to.

An interim engineering assessment has highlighted that some of the cracks in the pre-cast concrete panels may have deviated from the original design.

While the Opal Tower has garnered significant media attention because of the extensive damage that has occurred in an almost brand-new building, the sad reality is that this is just the tip of the iceberg of a much larger issue brought about by the continued de-regulation of the construction industry in both NSW and Victoria.

The current fashion of the construction industry is for developers to enter into contracts with builders known as "design and construct" contracts (or "D & Cs") for all or part of a building to be designed and built by the builder.

These contracts provide builders with free reign over both the design of the building and the types of materials used. The contracts usually also impose financial penalties on the builders if the project is delayed.

In addition, the introduction of private building certifiers and the removal of independent council inspections of buildings has meant that builders no longer have to answer to a strong independent inspector to enforce building standards and compliance. Some private certifiers will have

a conflict of interest as they rely on being paid and selected by the developers and builders to certify their buildings.

On top of this, a similar model of contractual relations between builders and sub-contractors (where contractors are given limited amount of time to complete large-scale works) has created an environment where precision and safety have been replaced by cutting costs and lowering standards in order to meet deadlines and budgets.

Thus, the perfect storm has arrived.

It remains to be seen what overhaul of policy and regulation emerges out of the Opal Tower issue, but without a commitment from government to remove the conflicts of interests between private certifiers and builders, the quality of buildings may continue to plumb new depths.

The Victorian Government ought to take strong and decisive action here, as it has a big financial stake in keeping economic conditions ripe for both developers to continue building apartment buildings, and for citizens to continue to purchase apartments in those buildings.

Needless to say, a strong construction industry creates jobs, keeps the unions happy, increases consumption of steel and building materials and swells the public coffers with stamp duty payments.

Therefore, Premier Andrews needs to jump on the front foot.

Current owners of high-rise apartments should seek guidance from their owners' corporation committees to commission reports detailing whether there are building defects and whether there is still time to bring a claims against the builder and developer.

Alternatively, if you're considering buying an apartment, then be sure that you have conducted your due diligence on the records of the owners' corporation prior to making an unconditional offer. Better to be safe than sorry.



Tom Bacon

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

Chamber Update

The Docklands Summer Campaign

We are so excited to have a whole range of events involving collaborations between Docklands' traders in February.

We have ferry trips coming from Portarlington and combining with the brand new Hoyts Docklands. We have a very special Valentines offer linking Berth restaurant and the gorgeous *Birrarung* from Melbourne Boat Hire.

The Melbourne Star features heavily, as does a fantastic night at Urban Alley and Cirque Electriq and we round out the month at Merchant Society and Tap831 for a progressive dining experience. Jump on our Facebook and hit the events tag but keep in mind these events are selling out.

Hotels in Docklands

This month we welcome another gorgeous hotel in Docklands – Quest NewQuay. That brings our hotel rooms in the precinct to more than 1000 and we still have the Marriott and Hotel Indigo to come in the next two years. While Docklands still struggles to brush the stigma that some Melburnians attach to it, the rest of Australia and the world are in love with us.

Australia Day at Docklands

In late December we put out a call for restaurants who wanted to get involved with early promotions for Australia Day.

Those that did scored some amazing free promotion and high-quality images and videos along with two feature stories in *Leader* newspapers. Follow our pages and socials for the latest promotions from the City of Melbourne, from the state government or huge activations like Run4TheKids.

Run 4 The Kids

Speaking of that, we were the first to announce Run 4 The Kids was coming to Docklands way back in November.

At the time of writing there is already some 10,000 entrants and, for the first time, both the long and the short run will be heading over the Bolte Bridge. Normally only those participating in the long run are rewarded with that view.

April 7 is the date so get your entries in.



Shane Wylie

Media Director
www.docklandsc.com.au



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We Live Here

Cladding confusion continues

We Live Here has been inundated with complaints that it has been almost impossible to get accurate, consistent information about cladding and how to address the issue.

Owners' corporations (OCs) have been telling us they are getting mixed messages about whether there is a cladding issue at all.

Is our building on a danger list or not? Some buildings just could not find out what was going on. And other buildings not “on the list” were misled into inaction.

The whole issue has been managed by the authorities in an ad hoc, shambolic fashion. Owners have suffered from incompetence at all levels of government. Issues include:

- Lack of communication to residents and owners;
- Poor communication between the government and councils;
- No guidelines; and
- Rapidly shifting approaches by municipal building surveyors.

How many of you received a building notice as a Christmas present from your local council grinch?

Yes, that’s what happened. Late last year, the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) and the Municipal Association of Victoria pressured councils to act before Christmas against high-rise buildings with “inappropriate use” of cladding.

The councils responded with a Santa-sack of building notices.

Waiting, waiting ...

Let’s go back to this time one year ago when the CEO of the VBA said: “I understand you might be worried about this issue and I assure you that we are working with owners’ corporations, fire authorities, local councils and other government bodies to help you and to address this issue as quickly as possible.”

If you were lucky, you would have received a postcard from the VBA with this statement in February 2018. Some of us got nothing – until the building notice.

Since then, hapless high-rise owners have been needing information and direction on what to do.

We Live Here does have some good news. The VBA has now updated its website with more detailed information. Google “VBA assessing and fixing cladding”. You will find a step by step process outlined.

What is not on the website is the expected timeframe.

Our members are telling us that, start-to-finish, the process is measured in years, not months.

The VBA website says every building over three storeys will be assessed for unsafe cladding, and is offering free tests to determine if your cladding is combustible.

This could save your owners’ corporation thousands of dollars, but is of no help to those who’ve muddled out for themselves how to go about it.

Who’s next on the cladding hit-list?

The VBA will prioritise buildings for inspection based on several factors, including “intelligence from local councils”, if you can forgive the oxymoron.

Put a fire risk management plan in place NOW

We Live Here encourages all high-rise apartment buildings to implement a fire risk management plan NOW. This will help you avoid getting emergency orders. The plan should set out all the management steps you

have implemented to make your building safe while the assessment is being carried out.

Properly managed, you can get through the whole cladding resolution process with only a building notice, not a building order.

Parliament shapes up

We were pleased to see the Transport Matters Party elected to parliament. We are looking forward to seeing the approach it takes because of the number of parallels between ride-sharing and short-stays.

Living under the Airbnb Bill

High-rise residents will soon be subjected to the limitations of the so-called Airbnb Bill, set to become law on February 1, 2019.

Short-stay guests trash your building? \$10,000 damage? \$20,000 damage?

Bad luck, the maximum you’ll get is \$2000. And under the Airbnb Act you cannot seek redress from the owner of the apartment – you’ll have to chase the overseas visitor who probably just skipped the country.

Airbnb crime and damage has been on a sharp uptick – have a look at our website for links to the latest media stories on the wild times in apartments and our suburbs. How this equates to the “rare instances of bad behaviour or unruly parties”, cited by the government as the reasons for bringing in this “Trojan Horse” of a Bill after the last election⁽¹⁾.

Members are now asking us for advice about how they can use the new rules to impact on rogue short-stay operations in their building. Our reply is they should direct the question to the Minister for Consumer

Affairs as at present there is nothing they can legally do.

We Live Here again calls on Daniel Andrews’ government to:

- AMEND the Owners Corporation Act 2006 to regulate the short-stay industry;
- RESTORE POWERS to OCs to make decisions about use of a lot, lost in Justice Riordan’s Supreme Court decision in July 2017; and
- LISTEN to residents. You did listen to residents down at Apollo Bay. How about up here in Melbourne?

Footnote 1: Press Release May 23, 2016. *Beware of Greeks Bearing Gifts – Minister Garrett has given owners’ corporations a Trojan Horse*

Minister’s decision to introduce laws to stamp out bad behaviour in short-term stays will lead to more (not less) “ghettoes in the sky”.

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to make a donation please visit our website at welivehere.net.

We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests.

We welcome your comments and feedback and invite suggestions for topics you would like us to address in this column.



www.welivehere.net
emails to campaign@welivehere.net

Pet’s Corner

Daughter of a champion

By Jessica Carrascalao Heard

When you think of corgis, it’s likely the Welsh Pembrokehire breed favoured by the Royal Family comes to mind.

But that’s not Taffy. She’s a corgi too, but the 11-year-old pooch is of the Cardigan Welsh variety, originally bred to drive cattle.

She comes from a line of champion herders. Taffy’s owners, Paul and Judy Billett, explained that her father was the Australian herding champion, while her brother was currently herding alpaca in Western Australia.

Taffy (“short for Taffeta,” Judy insists) can’t do heavy-duty herding herself, but it doesn’t stop her trying.

“She was sold off as a pet because she has a slightly damaged front leg. But she has a good herding instinct. She likes to herd

seagulls,” Paul said. Paul laughed when recalling how they met Taffy.

He and Judy had decided, as they were retired and travelling, that they weren’t going to get another dog after their previous one passed away at 17.

He said his daughter helped them find a breeder online.

“We decided to go out and have a look and I knew right there and then, that was the end of ‘no dog,’” he said.

She’s a gentle dog. Soft, caring, loves to give licks and hardly ever barks.

“I’ve never seen her be aggressive to anything except another dog when she’s on a lead, and that’s usually just to say, ‘Keep out of my space,’” Paul said.

She’s hardly ever naughty, though Paul and Judy did recall one transgression: she and another dog once dug holes in the garden at their holiday home.

“She was led astray by our friend’s dog,” Paul laughs.

“They tell the story the other way. We’re



sticking to our side!” Judy said.

Taffy, Judy and Paul moved to Docklands from Tasmania two years ago.

On this particular morning they were walking down NewQuay Promenade, but Paul said they like to walk her all around the

area.

They moved to Docklands because of the lifestyle.

“Just interested in theatre, and sport, and just access to family as well,” Judy said.

Health and Wellbeing

Are you ready to improve your health?

Welcome back Docklanders – I hope your break was relaxing, energising and you are ready to improve your health and wellbeing in 2019! Achieving your goals is always a balance of knowledge and action, so let's get moving.

What matters most?

If one of your key health and wellbeing goals is to lose body fat, then it's important that you are aware of and address these four key factors for success. While they are all important, there is an element of priority and impact which should also be noted.

The factors are:

- Proper nutrition;
 - Regular resistance/weight training;
 - Proper sleep patterns and stress management; and
 - Moderate cardio vascular training.
- Nutrition will make or break your results. Sugar is the killer here, so make reduction/removal of that your highest priority.

Weight training two to four times per week will help sustain and increase your muscle mass and, in turn, enhance your metabolism.

You will have a tough time losing body fat if you are stressed and not sleeping well – you will not achieve your goals if this is not a focus.

Finally, cardio vascular training alone isn't a fat loss solution and of the four factors will have the least impact on your results. Cardio

is important for maintaining heart and lung health and improve general fitness but shouldn't be seen as a way to burn fat.

Physical and mental health benefits of exercise

We all know that a regular exercise routine can have great benefits for our health and well-being. The National Guidelines for Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour recommends:

- Adults (aged 18-64) should exercise with moderate intensity for at least 300 min/week; and
- Children and young people (aged 5-17) need at least 60 minutes of vigorous activity EVERY day.

Please take a minute to check where you, your family and friends are in this regard – do they need your help to live a healthier life? Working out or exercising with family and friends is a great way to build healthier and happier families and communities – why don't you take the lead?

Have you heard about the brain chemical serotonin? Exercise helps stimulate the synthesis of serotonin and maintain healthy

levels within the brain and body. Low levels of serotonin are associated with depression, whereas higher levels are associated with "feeling great!"

Aerobic activities like walking, running, riding and swimming are noted as better forms of exercise for serotonin production, but of course any form of activity is better than none at all.

So if you notice any of your friends are going through a tough time, one of the best things you could do is to get them exercising!

Fibre is satisfying

Fibre is our friend if we are trying to lose weight and stay healthy. High-fibre foods make great snacks as they leave us feeling satisfied after consumption. Conversely, junk food and fast snacks are often low in fibre which leads to over-consumption and feeling unsatisfied. Therefore, we should increase our awareness and seek out foods high in fibre as this will ensure we stay on track with our weight loss goals.

People often think fruit and vegetables are high in fibre which is mostly true but is a generalisation. It's worth knowing the best,

highest density sources of fibre so you can make the best choices.

Here is a list of six fruit and veggie snacks and their approximate fibre content per 100g: dates - 8 grams; avocado - 7 grams; passionfruit - 10 grams; prunes - 7 grams; coconut - 9 grams; and berries - 6-8 grams.

It is worth knowing that lentils (15 grams) and beans (14 grams) are great sources of fibre but will require some preparation for snack foods.



Andrew Ward

Andrew Ward from
Push! Fitness.
www.push-fitness.com.au

Letters to the Editor

Well done Sam

I was watching Channel 7 this evening and a news grab came up that Sam Newman had another run-in with a young skateboarder. In media talk, it was probably, "here goes Sam again".

Well, Sam is in the right. He was protecting his property, and had the guts to get involved.

These young skateboarders are a nuisance and they damage owners' properties.

I live in The Conder building and 18 months ago we finished a \$450,000 repaint of our building, which included concrete entrance ramps. Well two weeks after completion I encountered a young knucklehead scraping his skateboard along our new paint work.

Skateboarders also thought they had died and gone to heaven when MAB installed new concrete artworks along the promenade,

and they spent months scraping down these slopes on their boards, until the council installed stones and plants to thwart their enthusiasm.

People do not realise that the owners contribute to the upkeep of our building exteriors and we are proud of our precinct. These young people, just don't think and just see a building features as a chance to try a trick they don't know how to do anyway, so they damage our buildings, and the image of Docklands.

So well done Sam, and my advice to the skateboarders go home and skate in your own backyard.

Geoff Cope



Send your letters to
news@docklandsnews.com.au

New late-night trams for LaTrobe St

Visitors to Marvel Stadium, St Vincent's Hospital and the State Library can now stay out later, with the rollout of a new late-night tram timetable for Route 30.

The new timetable, which came into force on January 1, sees tram services from St Vincent's Plaza to Central Pier via LaTrobe St run until 1am on Friday and Saturdays, and until midnight from Sundays to Thursdays.

Minister for Public Transport Melissa Horne said the government was making it easier

to leave the car behind and take public transport.

"We're giving people extra services when and where they need them," she said.

Previously there were no weekend services on this route, with weekday services finishing at 6pm.

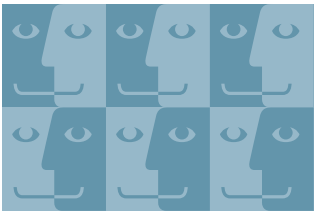
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FACES OF DOCKLANDS

Question: What do you think about Australia Day being on January 26?



JACQUELINE ALLISON, 46, SYDNEY, FINANCE

I'm happy to for it to stay where it is. It's there for a reason. Let's leave it there.



KEVIN EYLES, 44, BROOKLYN, FACILITIES MANAGER

I think the day should be changed. Rather than reflecting a date that convicts were sent out to Australia, I'd rather the date be recognised on, say, when Parliament first sat after Federation, which I think was in March. So I would be leaning to change it to that sort of a day, and obviously something that's a bit more sensitive to the indigenous people of Australia.



LYNNE RICHARDS, 57, SYDNEY, RETIRED

I think it's an arbitrary day, so I think if people are happy to have it changed I'd be happy with that, because I think we could celebrate it on a day where everyone feels comfortable and celebratory.



PHILIP ADAMS, 26, CBD, COPY WRITER

I think it's just an excuse to get pissed. It's not about Australian independence or Aboriginal culture. It's just an excuse to get pissed.



SAHAR KIRMANI, 34, BRUNSWICK WEST, GIS ANALYST

I think if we want to come together as a nation and find common ground, we need to re-think January 26 as a day that we celebrate Australia.



SUSAN RICHARDS, 55, GOLD COAST, RETIRED

I have no strong feeling about it at all and I'd be quite happy if they changed to another day ... the day Prince Phillip arrived, I don't feel attached to that date in any way. And if the indigenous people are upset about it, well I think that's a shame and it would be good if we could all celebrate on the same day. I don't mind if they want to have an indigenous day the day before or something, but it would be nice to celebrate a day together.

What Women Want

It's always about love

I lay awake for many nights imagining how I would react, trying to figure out what I'd do first.

I thought of who I would tell, who I'd need to call, what I'd need to do. Then I'd realise I had forgotten someone in my plans, or hadn't thought of the best approach, until it occurred to me that maybe I simply wouldn't tell anyone and therefore would have more time to work through the details.

Mostly, I thought of how good a person I was in my heart, in my soul and how much I would give - and to be completely honest, I thought of the relief that I would have. How some of the stress in my life, would finally stop.

I didn't win the \$100 million lotto draw that week, and I couldn't help but feel disappointed. I'm sure the lady who did win the \$100 million, in fact \$107 million, deserved it and will be a very worthwhile

recipient. But I did think that I would have done really awesome things with that money, taken care of all my family and friends of course but most importantly donated a lot to medical research and a few other favourite charities.

But that's the thing isn't it - you don't win lotto based on how deserving you are, or how good you are. There's no judgement, no criteria - except for Lady Luck being on your side of course! And so, in that moment, I realised I was nothing more than a gambler - and a losing one at that!

But here's the thing that I really did start to think - that my life was actually pretty good as it was. Yep, there sure are stresses and I'm pretty sure 99.5 per cent of them could be taken care of with a massive win of cash. But how many more problems, albeit of a different kind, would occur as a result of that win?

It seems that in life there is always a price to pay for a win, always an equal and opposite reaction to any action, always something new to contend with. I'm not meaning to sound negative at all, but it sure

did help me to stop wishing for things that just hadn't happened and I started to count my blessings instead.

And do you know what? When I look around, at my glorious son, at the people I'm blessed to be surrounded by, at what the future is look like, I realised I had a hell of a lot more than \$100 million already.

For every bill that a financial win could dissolve, there are a million things that money simply can't buy - and they are really the things I'd rather have.

What a woman wants is to have every stress removed from her life and be able to give generously to all things that are important to her - but what a woman needs to realise is it is her love she gives generously, her soul she creates shelter with, her passion she protects with that makes an incredible, significant and meaningful life.

And this is better than all the money in the world. So please, this year, don't just assess your security by your bank balance or ability to give financially to those around you.

Whilst it is of course admirable and necessary to have financial goals, please

also audit yourself on the things that really matter - your ability to love, your ability to give of yourself, your generosity of spirit. Look around you, make love your currency and honesty your valuation. I promise it will be worth it.

I hope you have a fantastic start to 2019 and I look forward to sharing the year ahead with you.

With much love
Abby x
Please join me on Facebook @ abbyjanecrawford or Instagram @ abbyjanecrawford
And you can email me at life@docklandsnews.com.au



Abby Crawford
life@docklandsnews.com.au

Docklander



Singing my way to new friends

I'm Monica Long, a Docklands resident since March 2013 and a Docklands worker since 2005.

Our Bureau of Meteorology building at 700 Collins St (then known as the Medibank building) was one of the few office buildings in the area when we moved in, but Docklands has certainly grown since then!

I love many things about living in Docklands – access to walking paths by the waterside, Ron Barassi Snr Park, free trams to my doorstep, the view of Docklands Park from my balcony, the amazing library, Kep Whitley's chocolates and ice-creams, wonderful restaurants and cafes within walking distance – the list could go on and on! But my favourite thing of all in Docklands is the Open Door Singers – Docklands Choir.

I have been a member of the choir for just over two years and it has really changed my life for the better.

Through our regular Wednesday afternoon catch-ups I have made many new friends. Quite a few of them live in Docklands or work nearby, but we have others who travel all the way from Dandenong and other outer suburbs to be part of our fantastic group.

What struck me when I first came along to a rehearsal was the warm welcome I received. Margot Islip, who is the co-ordinator extraordinaire of the Open Door Singers groups, gave me a big smile and introduced me to some of the regular singers in the group. Everyone was really encouraging and friendly and I felt like I had come to a second home.

I have quite a musical background, having sung almost since I could talk, and played piano since the age of four. But the great thing about Open Door Singers is that you don't need to have any formal musical training – you just need to love music, love singing and love to have fun.



Monica Long belts out a solo with choir singing Billy Joel's *River of Dreams* at her birthday/engagement party at Harbour Kitchen last year. Photo: Dave Burnett.

We are led by internationally-renowned conductor Shaun Islip, whose energy, enthusiasm and positive encouragement keep us on track – even when we're learning something new that's a bit tricky.

With Shaun's leadership, a backing track and the lyrics projected on to a screen, we sing along together and find ourselves uplifted from the routine of the day or the worries of the week. By the end of the session we all leave with a smile, feeling like we're on

top of the world.

That's what singing together does – it fills your heart like nothing else can. There are formal studies being done on the benefits of singing in a group, but it's something that I've known for a long time. Singing with the Open Door Singers Docklands puts me on a high for the rest of the week.

Our choir sings a large range of music from show tunes, such as *Les Miserables*, *West Side Story* and *My Fair Lady*, to contemporary

bands such as Coldplay and Birds of Tokyo. We sing Disney classics from *The Lion King*, *Aladdin* and *Frozen* plus medleys from Gershwin. One of my personal favourites is a song called *A True Friend* from the new musical *Muriel's Wedding*. In December, we're also singing lots of Christmas music too!

I recently celebrated my 40th birthday and engagement party at Harbour Kitchen in Victoria Harbour. It was a no-brainer that the choir would be part of the celebrations because they really feel like my extended family here in Docklands. We had a wonderful night of celebrating together that I will remember fondly for all the years to come.

The motto of Open Door Singers is to Uplift, Inspire, Unite and Extend Hope and Encouragement to All.

I encourage you to join our friendly and welcoming group on Wednesdays from 5.30pm to 7pm in the Community Hub at the Dock Multipurpose Room – that's the building next to Library at the Dock.

It doesn't matter if you think you can't really sing. It doesn't matter if you don't know anyone in the area – come along and give it a go! There is no audition process and you never know – you just may meet some new friends, find neighbours you didn't know existed and have the time of your life!

We took a break in January – to give Shaun time to rest following a jam-packed December of concerts across his various choirs – but we'll be back ready to go from February 6, 2019. We'd love to see you there with us!

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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE

Local skater wins national title

At just 18, Docklands' speed skater Joshua Kah has become one of Australia's youngest national champions.

The Australian Speed Skating Championships is an open competition but has never been won by another country. Josh maintained this 50-year-old record by holding off Ethan DeRose from New Zealand, who came a close second.

In accepting victory, Josh thanked his father, Danny, and Nicholas Cicero (OWIA) who both volunteered to coach the Docklands' speed skating junior team. He also thanks the University of Melbourne, where he is studying engineering, for its support.

Josh received one of 35 elite athlete scholarships from the university. The scholarship has provided off-ice coaching, subject support and partial-funding for his overseas training in Korea and World Cup 1 and 2 competitions in USA where he smashed out a 1000m / 1:26:34 sec (2 seconds under the Olympic qualifying time).

He participated in the Junior World Championships in Montreal between January 25 and 27.

Later, he will meet up with his brother Skyler Kah and compete for Australia at world cup events in Dresden and Turin.



Joshua Kah. He has become one of Australia's youngest national champions.

Skyler, who is studying medicine at Monash University, is the only Australian to have qualified all three Olympic qualifying times. Both brothers then fly to Siberia in Russia to compete for the Australian UniRoos team at the Winter Universiade.

The Winter Universiade is a biennial, international multi-sport event that brings together the world's best winter sport student-athletes for 11 days of intense competition. The event is second only to the Winter Olympic Games in participant numbers and the number of countries attending a winter competition.

When Skyler and Josh return it will be straight back to study and club training at O'Brien Group Arena on Mondays and Thursdays at 6pm.



BreastScreen van comes to Docklands

From February 4 to 22, women over the age of 40 can get free breast screens – the best way to find cancer early and save lives.

BreastScreen Victoria's hot pink van, known as "Marjorie", is coming to Docklands to give free breast screens to women who work and live in the area.

Women over 40 are eligible for free breast screens and those aged between 50 and 74 should have a screen every two years. They are the best way to find breast cancer early, before there are symptoms and when treatment is most successful.

A breast screen can find cancer as small

as a grain of rice, long before a woman or her doctor can see or feel anything.

All breast screens are with a female radiographer, in a friendly and safe environment. They don't need a doctor's referral or Medicare card and only take 10 minutes.

BreastScreen Victoria CEO Vicki Pridmore encouraged women to book in.

"Marjorie is one of our two mobile screening service vans which travel the state throughout the year. This visit to Docklands has been organised to make sure women can access a potentially life-saving mammogram," Ms Pridmore said.

The van will be at 800 Bourke St (outside NAB) from February 4 to 22.

Appointments can be made online at breastscreen.org.au or by calling 13 20 50.

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