

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

# DOCKLANDS NEWS

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## Making a scene in Docklands

Crowds of people (and a few seagulls) flocked to Docklands last month to take part in creative event, *Scenes on the Yarra*. See our story on page 8.

## OC to appeal short-stay decision

*The Watergate Owners' Corporation (OC) will appeal the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) short-stay decision after achieving an interim special resolution last month.*

The interim resolution was passed at a general meeting on September 14, attended by around 100 people.

Achieving a special resolution is commonly considered to be a difficult task for OCs, however Watergate managed to collect enough proxy votes in support of the resolution before the meeting started.

According to Watergate OC president Barbara Francis, 374 of the building's 665 lots voted via proxy or at the meeting.

She said of those that voted, 95.5 per cent were in favour of the resolution while 4.5 per cent were opposed.

Ms Francis said this equated to 53 per cent of the total lot entitlement in favour of appealing the VCAT decision.

As long as less than 25 per cent of owners oppose the resolution in the following 29 days it will be passed as a special resolution and the OC will be able to proceed with the Supreme Court appeal.

The appeal relates to a VCAT decision, which found the OC did not have the power to make a rule prohibiting stays of less than 30 days.

Speaking at the general meeting, Ms Francis said: "We live in a lovely residential building

that's classified as such and I don't want to see it turned into a hotel."

There are currently 13 short-stay apartments in the building and the OC is appealing the VCAT decision because of concerns that the current operators could expand and new operators could establish themselves in the building.

The OC's lawyer Tom Bacon told the meeting that the specialist panel convened to advise the Planning Minister Richard Wynne and Consumer Affairs Minister Jane Garrett had resulted in an impasse and the government was consulting more widely.

A Consumer Affairs spokesperson confirmed the Government was currently consulting with the bodies represented on the panel before finalising its position.

"The Victorian Government is committed to improving the regulation of apartment buildings so that property is protected from unruly short-stay parties."

"It is aiming to make any necessary changes to the Owners Corporations Act 2006 by early next year," the spokesperson said.

Addressing the general meeting, Mr Bacon encouraged owners to take the fight to the Supreme Court because the Government was "watching".

"Consumer Affairs representatives are watching to see what Watergate does," Mr Bacon said.

Although the resolution was passed, the OC was also faced with questions from owners at the meeting about why Watergate owners should fund further legal action when other buildings affected by short-stays stood to benefit.

*Continued on page 6.*

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*Docklands businesses will come together this month in support of the Docklands Seniors Festival.*

On October 10 and 11 Docklands will offer a range of experiences when it hosts the closing weekend of the annual Seniors Festival.

Organised by the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, with the support from the Department of Health and Human Services and the seniors program, there will be free and ticketed events during the weekend.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell said she hoped to see thousands of people enjoying the festival in Docklands.

"This year's festival is aimed at discovering Docklands," Mrs Maxwell said. "There are lots of people who have heard of Docklands but have never visited."

It's the second year Docklands has hosted a Seniors Week event and Mrs Maxwell said she was looking forward to watching the event grow.

"We believe this could become an annual festival for Docklands," Mrs Maxwell said.

There is a range of activities running for seniors and their friends and families across the weekend.

Two ferries, MV Grower and Restless Wind, will be running from 11am to 5pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

Departing from Water Plaza at Victoria Harbour, the ferry will travel down to the Alma Doepel, where passengers can disembark and take a tour of the workshop and hear talks about the restoration process, before heading across to NewQuay.

Ferry rides will be free for seniors card holders and children and a gold coin donation for others, with all funds raised going towards the Alma Doepel restoration fund.

You can also take a cruise on the Lady Cutler and enjoy high tea at the same time. The two-hour cruise is ticketed and bookings can be made online.

The Alexander Stewart is also offering sails on both days of the festival and tickets can be purchased online.



Visitors explore Docklands via ferry during last year's Seniors Festival.

Harbour Town is offering a free morning tea to the first 750 seniors who visit Harbour Town on both days of the festival.

Seniors can also enjoy free entry to the O'Brien Group Arena on Sunday, 11 October to view figure skating and a hockey game.

There will be an afternoon of entertainment at the Wonderland Spiegelentent on Saturday, October 10 from 2pm, with a jazz session from Nichaud Fitzgibbon. The event is free for seniors card holders and \$20 for others. Bookings are required and can be made at [www.wonderlandspiegelentent.com.au](http://www.wonderlandspiegelentent.com.au)

There will be entertainment at NewQuay, between Berth and Cargo restaurants and performances on the Victoria Harbour side of the waterfront from Callum Gleeson as well as Docklands' very own choir, the Docklands Open Door Singers.

Seniors-focused exhibitors will also be set-up along Victoria Harbour promenade, and there will be a trike show-and-shine on the NAB forecourt.

The Life Activities Club Victoria will help visitors discover Docklands with a free orienteering activity and the Library at the Dock is also hosting a range of activities including table tennis, origami workshops, pilates, laughter yoga and tai chi.

And don't forget to take a free tour of the Mission to Seafarers on Flinders St at 2pm on both days of the festival.

Docklands involvement in Seniors Week is part of the Chamber of Commerce's participation in the aged-friendly precinct program with the Department of Health and Human Services and the City of Melbourne.

According to Mrs Maxwell, the chamber is keen to continue developing strong customer service practices for the seniors demographic and wants to ensure they feel welcome in Docklands

Mrs Maxwell said the seniors group was the fastest growing demographic within the community and she hoped the festival would show them what a great location Docklands was.

"There are plenty of walking paths, it's flat, there are facilities for people in wheel chairs or who aren't so mobile," Mrs Maxwell said.

"Docklands is easily accessible and a great place for seniors to visit."

The chamber is currently looking for volunteers to assist with the Docklands Seniors Festival on October 10 and 11.

Contact Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive officer Stefanie Schulz via [admin@docklandsc.com.au](mailto:admin@docklandsc.com.au) if you're interested in volunteering.

For all the activities taking place in Docklands during the Seniors Festival visit [www.docklandsc.com.au/seniorsfestival](http://www.docklandsc.com.au/seniorsfestival)

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From left: Campbell Walker, Michael Ibbott, Matthew Reid and Michael Aladjem

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# Steam Tug Wattle returns to the water

*Historic Steam Tug Wattle returned to the water last month after six years of restoration in Docklands.*

As *Docklands News* went to print on September 30, the 82-year-old boat was being relaunched into the Yarra River by two of Melbourne's largest mobile cranes.

The two cranes lifted the 132 tonne tugboat from its restoration site at 19 South Wharf and placed it onto a special mobile platform.

The boat was then transported under the Bolte Bridge to a nearby stable wharf at 24 South Wharf, where the boat was gradually lowered in to the Yarra River, while Bay Steamer Maritime Museum volunteers checked that the restored hull was watertight.

The historic ship is returning to operation and is one of the last compound steam engine tugboats in the world.

Launched in Sydney in 1933, during the great depression, the Wattle is the first tugboat to

have been completely designed and made in Australia.

Steam Tug Wattle served with the Royal Australian Navy until she was decommissioned in the 1960s and retired from towing duties in 1970. She was then converted to steam charter and tourism duties and the Bay Steamers Maritime Museum brought her to Melbourne in 1978.

Since 2009 the Wattle has been under restoration in Docklands by a team of volunteers from the Bay Steamers Maritime Museum.

The restoration was funded by Sorrento Steam, a group of businessmen interested in preserving Australian maritime history, along with individuals and businesses that donated materials and equipment.



*Steam Tug Wattle is prepared for the lift on September 30.*

# Council doubles Docklands profit

*The City of Melbourne more than doubled its profit from Docklands in the last financial year.*

Council's budget surplus for Docklands was \$9.16 million, more than double the almost \$4 million profit it made in the 2013-14 financial year.

According to the Docklands Finance and Infrastructure Plan 2014-15, presented to the Docklands Co-ordination Committee last month, the council's Dockland's surplus was \$11.16 million, a positive variance of \$3.5 million against its budget.

However, the report also noted that indirect costs of more than \$2 million were included in the figures, leading to an overstatement of the surplus.

The higher than anticipated surplus was associated with higher revenue and lower expenses.

The council had a slightly higher revenue of \$25.18 million against a budget of \$24.9 million due to higher supervision and civil works fees from Docklands' developments and higher than anticipated wharf berthing fees.

The council also saved more than \$1 million on maintenance and community service costs due to the Library at the Dock opening later than expected.

It also made a \$230,000 saving due to lower than expected costs for contractors and consultants in relation to Docklands waterways and Marina YE management.

The Docklands Co-ordination Committee also approved a five-year finance and infrastructure plan at its September 15 meeting.

According to the report, the council estimates a surplus of \$11.7 million from Docklands in the current financial year.

It plans to spend \$16.2 million on Docklands expenses and has budgeted \$3.1 million

for capital works. The council estimates its total revenue from the suburb will be \$26.8 million during this financial year.

The council also estimates that in the following four years, between 2016 and 2020, it will make more than \$82.9 million from Docklands.

However, this figure doesn't take into account council's capital investment in Docklands, which are subject to budgets for each financial year, and will reduce the surplus figure.



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The finishing touches are currently being put on Ron Barassi Snr Park ahead of the open day this month.

## Artists converge on NewQuay

Head down to The Food Court Gallery this month to view a unique group exhibition.

According to curator Callum Jackson, *Mutt* is a group exhibition featuring emerging Melbourne-based artists from a range of artistic practices.

According to Mr Jackson, the combination of artists selected is integral to the exhibition.

"I've selected a broad spectrum of artists who use found objects, paint, sound, photography, collage, installation and drawing in their practice to reflect on ideas, reality and emotions."

During the opening week of the exhibition last month, Mr Jackson and exhibiting artists hosted a number of workshops at the gallery.

"I have created this exhibition because I feel as though experimentation is seldom seen in galleries. It's as if an individual is far too concerned to make a mistake or take a risk," Mr Jackson said.

You can visit the exhibition at The Food Court Gallery at 427 Docklands Drive until October 20.



# New park to open this month

Docklands' newest community facility will be launched with a morning of activities next month.

Construction of Ron Barassi Snr Park at NewQuay is now complete and an open day will be held on Saturday, October 10.

The \$15 million first stage of the project was delivered by Places Victoria and features a sports field, pavilion, playground, barbecue facilities and a walking circuit.

This month's open day will include children's sports clinics by Melbourne Football Club and Melbourne Victory, along with face painting and entertainment by club mascots.

Visitors can also enjoy a barbecue, fresh fruit and hot and cold drinks

Planning Minister Richard Wynne and Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle will

attend the open day to officially open the park.

"Ron Barassi Snr Park is the latest community facility to be constructed in Docklands," Places Victoria general manager Simon Wilson said.

"Ron Barassi Snr Park will provide somewhere for Docklands residents, workers and visitors to play a variety of sports, have a barbecue, take the children to play or walk the dog."

The new community facility was named following a public vote and recognises Ron Barassi Snr, who played for the Melbourne Football Club between 1936 and 1940.

Within weeks of being a member of the

1940 premiership team, he was posted overseas to serve in Australia's Second World War campaign in North Africa. He was killed in action in Tobruk in 1941.

The Ron Barassi Snr Park open day will be held on Saturday, October 10 between 9am and 12.30pm.

The park will be owned, operated and maintained by the City of Melbourne and Docklands sporting clubs are encouraged to contact the council to express interest in calling the park home.

New or existing sports clubs can express their interest by contacting the City of Melbourne at [recreation@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:recreation@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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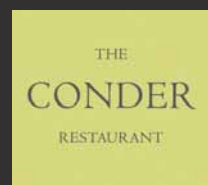
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# Don't be blue this October

By Katie Wong Hoy

*Docklands will be hosting a musical extravaganza this month for the annual Docklands Blues Music Festival.*

The event is in its fourth year and will be produced by Wonderland Spiegelent. And, this year, it is set to be bigger than before.

Organiser and Wonderland Spiegelent owner, Melissa Head, said the festival would feature plenty of entertainment and offer something for all ages.

"We expect the festival to be bigger and better with more bands and more continuous music running throughout the day," Ms Head said.

"The festival features something for all ages. The precinct is completely family-friendly and all the stages in the Harbour Town shopping precinct and Melbourne Star will be providing free entertainment."

One of the acts serenading audiences on the day will be award-winning blues band, Dreamboogie.

Dreamboogie started in 2010 and have performed at the Docklands Blues Music Festival every year since 2011. They describe their music as a mix of contemporary rhythms and old-school blues.

Guitarist Sam Buckley said he had watched the event grow over the past four years.

"Each year it's kind of grown and developed each time. Last year it really started to take off," he said. "I think the first one had about nine bands now we've got around 22 so it's double the bands."

Connor O'Neill, who plays the bass for Dreamboogie, agrees. "It moved into the Spiegelent last year and that was kind of the turning point really," he said.

The event will be hosted in the striking Wonderland Spiegelent and Fun Park in Harbour Town. There will be 12 hours of continuous entertainment and, best of all, it does not cost a cent to attend.

The headline act will be Chris Cain, an accomplished jazz musician from the USA. The festival will also feature a number of local bands and performers.

Kelly Auty is another one of the Melbourne artists who will be gracing the Spiegelent stage.



Melbourne musicians Connor O'Neill, Sam Buckley and Kelly Auty will perform at the Docklands Blues Music Festival this month.

She performed at the Blues Festival last year and thinks the venue will draw audiences to Docklands.

"Certainly I think the Spiegelent is unique. I think people like to go to festivals because they meet up with like-minded people. People feel comfortable with it because they know what they are going to get," Ms Auty said.

"I think Melbourne is brilliant. It's got so much to offer artistically, musically, creatively and it's an honour to be able to be involved."

Mr Buckley said the Docklands Blues Music Festival was a showcase of Melbourne's talent and could be enjoyed by everybody.

"We have a lot of the cream of Melbourne

blues playing here – the best of the local artists – so it's always an exciting event to see that," he said.

"There's kids here, there's grand-parents here. It suits everyone. It's going to be unreal!"

Ms Head said there would be plenty of music options with the entertainment spread across four stages.

"We want people to have plenty of options of stages so they can wander around and take in a different sounds, relax, have a bite to eat or grab a drink in a bar and have a dance," she said.

The Docklands Blues Music Festival will run from 10.30am to 10.30pm on October 4.



## Alma Doepel update

*Donations towards the Alma Doepel restoration fund have decreased over the last month, following a record amount received in August.*

Almost \$5000 was donated towards the cause last month, compared with a whopping \$66,000 donated in August.

A large percentage of this figure was raised through a gala luncheon held at Etihad Stadium in August, along with an individual donation of \$20,000 from a supporter of the project.

According to restoration director, Peter Harris the funds raised at the luncheon represent three weeks of required fundraising.

"This is based on the rate required to have Alma back in the water next year and at the current rate of fundraising it will take 17 years to complete the project," Mr Harris said.

"Raising funds to complete Alma's restoration requires community support. We have a variety of sponsorship packages available for individuals, corporations and other organisations to facilitate this," Mr Harris said.

He encouraged anyone interested to visit the restoration site, describing it as a "real eye opener" and said most visitors were amazed such a significant and substantial project was being undertaken in Docklands.

Anyone interested in learning more about the project can contact Mr Harris on **0427 829 134** to arrange a visit to the shed and learn more about how you can help.

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# OC to appeal watergate short-stay decision

Continued from page 1.

Ms Francis said she agreed Watergate shouldn't be funding the legal action on its own and said the OC was currently investigating avenues for financial support from other parties.

Ms Francis confirmed the OC had spent \$150,000 at the Building Appeals Board (BAB), when it was adjointed with the City of Melbourne in a case between the council and short-stay operator Paul Salter in 2012.

She said the cost of pursuing legal action against short-stays in the building had been around \$180 per apartment per year, since 2012.

"We've made extraordinary progress so far," Ms Francis said.

While the OC was successful in passing the resolution, one Watergate committee member raised concerns about the appeal, in a media release created by a group of owners calling themselves the "Executive Committee of Concerned Owners".

"Changes in the short-term accommodation industry cannot happen without legislative change or cooperation and collaboration from the industry bodies," committee member Jamal Hakim said.

"This is not a Watergate specific issue and I am strongly against Watergate owners bearing the cost of this proposed action in the Supreme Court, which will negatively impact apartment prices and unlikely result in any change."

Addressing the meeting after the vote, Mr Salter, who is also a resident of the building, called for an end to legal spending.

He has also posted all owners a letter and proxy form, urging them to change their votes.

"As an owner, I feel that giving this committee authority to have an open cheque book to launch a Supreme Court action because of a fear that a rogue operator may enter the building is negligent," Mr Salter said.

Since the initial BAB case, the OC has not formally been adjointed to the ongoing legal battle between council and Mr Salter, which



Over 100 people attended the Watergate special meeting last month.

ended in a settlement at the BAB in 2014, without curbing short-stays in the building.

However, last year the OC decided to take nine owners of short-stays apartments in the building managed by Mr Salter's Docklands Executive Apartment business to VCAT over alleged breaches of OC rules.

This case resulted in a VCAT decision, which found the OC did not have the power to make rules restricting length of stay and which the OC now plans to appeal at the Supreme Court.

On September 15 the Watergate OC and Mr Salter returned to VCAT for a final orders and costs hearing.

However, given the OC's plan to appeal the decision, Member Rowlands agreed to make orders in two of the nine matters, which would then be appealed at the Supreme Court.

The matters pertaining to the seven remaining short-stay owners would be struck-out with right of reinstatement if the appeal was successful.

Member Rowlands indicated at the September 15 hearing that her preliminary view was that the OC should bear the cost of the VCAT case, however was yet to make a final decision.



An artist's impression of the approved tower.

## Minister approves Docklands tower

*Docklands' northern end is set to receive another boost of residents, with the approval of an apartment tower at the corner of Harbour Esplanade and LaTrobe St.*

Planning Minister Richard Wynne last month approved the \$120 million project, which will see the construction of a further 383 Docklands apartments.

There are number of residential projects currently under construction or planned in Docklands' northern end, including MAB's Banksia, Promenade and Aqui projects, Hiap Hoe's Marina Tower and Capital Alliance's plan to build apartment towers above Harbour Town Shopping Centre.

The approved permit for the Salta Properties development replaces an earlier proposal for the site, which would have seen construction of a 38-storey tower.

Mr Wynne said the revised design would result in better places for people to live,



offering more daylight to the 383 apartments.

The 27-storey tower will be 92 metres tall, which is higher than the discretionary 75 metres allowed on the site.

However, Mr Wynne said he approved the project because the apartments were well designed, would not rely on borrowed light and the additional 14 metres would have little broader impact.

"This will be a well designed tower, providing more liveable apartments for people to live close to Southern Cross Station, the waterfront and the CBD," Mr Wynne said.

The project will also include 2213 sqm of office space, 670 sqm of retail space, 309 car spaces and 142 bicycle spaces.

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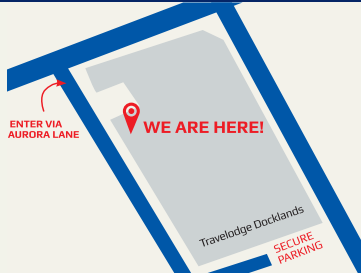
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# A helping hand for sisters

*When Luz Restrepo arrived in Australia five years ago, she spoke no English and carried with her just two suitcases.*

A political refugee from Colombia, Ms Restrepo said she felt like “a nobody” when she first arrived in Australia in 2010.

“When you first come here you understand that you are no-one if you don’t know how Australia works, the culture, how to meet people and you can’t understand what people say,” Ms Restrepo said.

Five years on and Ms Restrepo is now the founder and executive officer of SisterWorks, a social enterprise that helps women from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds develop entrepreneurial skills.

Based at NAB’s “The Village” in Docklands, the organisation encourages women to use their entrepreneurial abilities to become self-sufficient.

With an academic and professional background as a university professor and marketing consultant, Ms Restrepo said the SisterWorks journey began when she started taking free English classes.

“I started to go to free English classes and started to meet women in the same situation as me,” she said.

“Amazing women with amazing



SisterWorks business co-ordinator Sachie Seneviratne, sisters co-ordinator Zena Lythgo and founder and executive officer Luz Restrepo.

backgrounds, with a lack of English, lack of confidence and many experiencing domestic violence, isolation or depression.”

“They’d been living here for two years, five years, 10 years, 20 years and feeling that they were nobody,” Ms Restrepo said.

Initially SisterWorks was known as the Multicultural Connections Centre and was a place where women of different cultures could come together to develop their English skills and socialise.

However, Ms Restrepo soon realised that, while learning English, the group could also be developing their business skills and the women began to make and sell craft, changing their name to Handmade by Multicultural Women.

In 2013 SisterWorks was founded and today employs four part-time staff.

According to Ms Restrepo, SisterWorks’

focus is on learning by doing and sharing knowledge and experience.

The grassroots enterprise offers work labs, where participants learn to do business and make an income through markets, pop-up shops, online sales and workshops.

They also participate in design labs, where marketable products are developed and business labs where participants, business mentors and industry experts come together with the aim of creating sustainable micro-enterprises.

Ms Restrepo said it was important to foster entrepreneurs amongst refugee, migrant and asylum seeker women.

“This is SisterWorks, the beginning of vulnerable women dreaming of being entrepreneurs and changing their lives.”

For more information about SisterWorks visit [www.sisterworks.org.au](http://www.sisterworks.org.au)

# Chamber AGM next month

*The Docklands Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) next month.*

Scheduled for 6pm on Wednesday, November 11 at Melbourne City Marina, the meeting offers financial chamber members the opportunity to elect the executive committee.

All financial members of the Chamber of Commerce are eligible to stand for election and interested members should nominate by 12pm on Wednesday, November 4 by contacting [admin@docklandsc.com.au](mailto:admin@docklandsc.com.au). Nomination forms are available on the chamber’s website [www.docklandsc.com.au](http://www.docklandsc.com.au)

All current financial members are encouraged to attend the meeting, which will include drinks and canapes.

The meeting will start at 6pm with registration, before the AGM and election at 6.30pm, followed by networking and socialising.

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# Making a scene

*Locals and visitors saw a different side of Docklands last month during a unique artistic event.*

Scenes on the Yarra saw artists gather in Docklands during September to create a series of site-specific artworks and performances

On Sunday, September 27 the works were presented to the public during a two-hour walking performance.

Beginning with a smoking ceremony at Buluk Park, participants were then guided down North Wharf Rd.

Corralled by a group of noisy seagulls, and guided by storyteller Simon Oats, the group was ushered along the waterfront, stopping to view performances and installations at various points along the harbour.

Featuring roving performers, live music, dance, projection and some colourful characters, the event certainly covered all bases.

Stopping along the harbour, the group received a dance lesson, reflecting on Docklands' 1990s rave history.

It then moved on to the Alma Doepel where Mr Oats shared tales of the tall ship and of the dockworkers whose livelihoods centred on Victoria Harbour.

After viewing projections and artworks in the atmospheric Shed 2 and Wooden Boat

Builders Centre, the group continued along the waterfront, before stopping for a public poetry session.

As the sun started to set, the group could see a pair of sunbathers resting on the pier below.

At the penultimate stop, a dramatic dance captured the toil of a dockworkers life, as the sun burned orange on the horizon.

The seagulls then pushed the group right to the end of North Wharf Rd, for the final stage of the performance, below the Bolte Bridge.

An illuminated boat installation, matching the illuminated bridge, was brought up from the banks and carried through the crowd, acting as a beacon to lead the group back down the wharf.

Docklands' Scenes on the Yarra event was funded by the City of Melbourne, Melbourne Water and the Yarra River Keeper Association.

It was the sixth instalment in a series of events that have taken place at various points along the Yarra River, from the headwaters down to the sea, since 2013

The final Scenes by the Yarra event will be staged in Williamstown in 2016.



The crowd gathers around the Alma Doepel to hear from storyteller Simon Oats.



A lesson in 90s rave dancing.

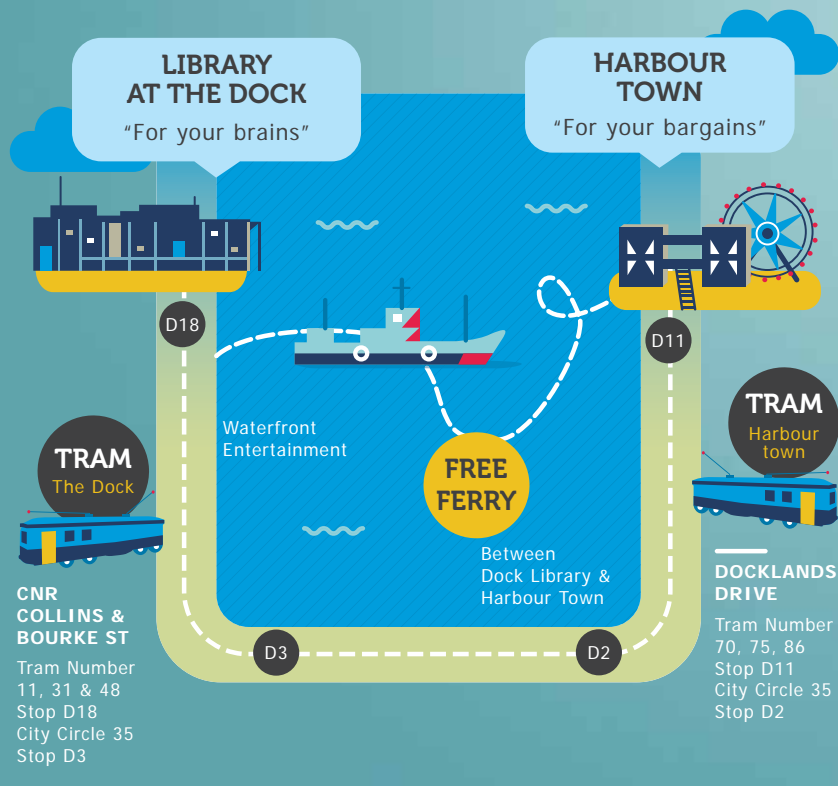


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## Docklands is beautiful!

*Regular visitor to Docklands Dwarak Calayampundi captured this stunning image of Docklands recently.*

Originally from Brisbane, Dwarak moved to Melbourne recently and says he often visits Docklands to take photos.

"My passion for photography started two years back and I have been learning and teaching landscape photo to people who really want to excel in taking pictures," Dwarak said.

"I am very passionate about my style of photography and specialise in long exposures, which created a surreal look."

# Sky sign approval for Docklands ice rink

**City of Melbourne councillors voted against their own planning officers' recommendations last month and approved three sky signs at the Docklands ice rink.**

Councillors voted 6 to 3 to approve the signs, which will be affixed to the top of the ice sports facility despite council officers recommending the signs be attached to the facade of the building.

The facility, which until last month was known as the Medibank Icehouse, was renamed O'Brien Group Arena after the hospitality and leisure company signed a 25 year lease for the site.

Speaking at the September 8 Future

Melbourne Committee meeting, Michael O'Brien said the company aimed to ensure the arena became a recognised venue within Melbourne.

He said the O'Brien Group was seeking sky signage because it was competing in an environment where it needed to be easily identified.

"We want the place identified, recognised and its location marked. We aim to most effectively display both our corporate identity and the location of what is an internationally and nationally important ice sports stadium venue in the city," Mr O'Brien said.

"We do exist down there in a commercially competitive environment in the back corner of Docklands that is at times very hard to find," Mr O'Brien said.

Sky signs are discouraged under the council's policy for advertising signs, however a number of councillors spoke in support of

allowing the signs in this case due to the difficult conditions in Docklands.

Speaking in support of the proposal, Cr Stephen Mayne said it was a proposal, which required councillors to weigh up a strict interpretation of the rules, with broader goals of supporting and activating business.

"I think the proposal coming forward here is from a competent operator looking to invest to stimulate and invigorate a part of Docklands that needs some love," Cr Mayne said.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said that, in this individual case, the approval of sky signs would result in a better outcome.

"In the end we need to give the operators the room to succeed," Cr Doyle said.

"We don't want to set up new operators to fail in what Cr Mayne has described quite properly as one of the most difficult corners

of Docklands to activate."

However, Cr Rohan Leppert questioned whether putting a sign above the top of the roof or just below the top of the roof was a deal breaker as far as attracting businesses and expressed concern about setting a precedent.

"I do agree that it is a difficult area out there in Docklands and we do need to make sure we're not adversely impacting on businesses trying to activate that area," Cr Leppert said. "I don't think by disallowing the sky sign we are doing that."

The approved sky signs will be located on the east side of the building, fronting Pearl River Rd, the north side of the building to Footscray Rd and the west side of the building to CityLink.

All three signs would be less than two metres high above the roof of the building.

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An artist's impression of the inside of the replica Colosseum.

# Bringing a touch of Rome to Docklands

*Docklands could soon have a distinctly Italian feel, with a proposal for a replica Roman Colosseum on the waterfront.*

The plan is the brainchild of event coordinator Connie Paglianiti, who pitched the idea to City of Melbourne, State Government and Places Victoria representatives at a luncheon in Docklands last month.

The former Carlton Business Association president said she had received a positive response from the attendees and hoped she would receive support for the plan.

According to Ms Paglianiti, the Colosseum is already constructed and is waiting in a warehouse ready to be installed.

Made from MDF, the Colosseum structure would be surrounded by a glass enclosure and would be lit up at night.

A four-metre-high leaning tower of Pisa replica would accompany the Colosseum and Ms Paglianiti says she also has designs for a mini Venice.

Ms Paglianiti said the Colosseum could be used as a function venue, as a restaurant or gallery, for fashion shows or as a theatre. She said the Colosseum would also be a visual attraction for locals and visitors.

"It would bring people to the area with events, but it would also bring visitors to take photos," Ms Paglianiti said.

"Not everyone can go to Rome to see the real Colosseum so they might like to see a replica."

Ms Paglianiti said she initially hoped to install the Colosseum at the NewQuay Piazza, however this was not possible due to construction works.

She is now looking at the current site of Hortus on Harbour Esplanade as a possibility.

However, Places Victoria spokesperson Simon Wilson said Harbour Esplanade wasn't suitable for the Colosseum for a number of reasons, including construction works set to begin in 2016 as part of its redevelopment.

"We are in discussions about alternative sites that may be able to accommodate the proposal," Mr Wilson said.

Ms Paglianiti said she planned to install the Colosseum at a fixed site for three years and had also had interest from the City of Port Phillip and Sydney.

She hopes to have the structure in place by February but said she was aware the approvals process would take some time.

"As they say, Rome wasn't built in a day," Ms Paglianiti said.



## A walk on the wild side

*Visitors had a "wild" experience at Harbour Town during the school holidays last month*

Harbour Town's Safari Animal Zoo gave kids the chance to see a range of animatronic animals including an elephant, panda, parrot and monkey.

Kids also enjoyed safari craft activities and an animal jumping castle.



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Docklands Relay for Life participants gather at Etihad Stadium.

# Docklands relayers walk for a cause

**Docklanders helped to raise more than \$62,000 at the Docklands Relay for Life last month.**

Held at Etihad Stadium on September 14, the third annual Relay for Life saw 23 teams take to the boundary of the oval to raise funds for the Cancer Council.

The aim of the relay is to have a team member on the track for the entire eight-hour event.

More than 200 people took part in the relay and participants also took part in a "carers and survivors lap" and a candlelight ceremony.

Companies and businesses from across Docklands were represented at the event, with teams from the ATO, Australian

Customs and Border Protection Services, ABS and Simone Perele taking to the track.

One team, of family and friends from Newport, called Inshalla, managed to raise more than \$17,000 on its own.

# Spooky fun at Harbour Town

**Halloween comes to Harbour Town this month when the centre opens its doors to trick-or-treaters.**

Between 11am and 2pm on Saturday, October 31, children are invited to visit the centre and take part in the Halloween fun.

Kids can collect a trick-or-treat bag from Harbour Town Centre Management, along with a map of the centre highlighting which retailers are offering treats.

And don't worry if you haven't got a costume

organised, as kids can create their own at the Halloween craft village, located in the kids play area near Le Cirque Cafe.

Children will have the opportunity to create their own witches hat in order to get into the spooky Halloween spirit.

The Halloween craft village will also be open from 11am until 2pm.



Samuel, Sophie and Eliza DeBoer got a sneak peek of Harbour Town's trick-or-treat fun last month. The siblings are pictured with Harbour Town's Rita Simonetta and Jane Minahan.



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# Dignitary visits Docklands

*Hong Kong's most senior government official visited Docklands last month.*

Carrie Lam, Hong Kong's Chief Secretary for Administration, was invited to visit Australia by the Federal Government.

She arrived in Melbourne on September 13 and, amongst other activities, took some time to visit the Library at the Dock and tour Etihad Stadium.

According to City of Melbourne councillor Kevin Louey, Ms Lam met with Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and the council provided Ms Lam and her delegation with a site visit to the library and a presentation about Docklands.

"She heard how Library at the Dock was developed through a tri-partnership arrangement between the City of Melbourne, Lend Lease and Places Victoria. It has made a significant contribution to building infrastructure and a sense of community at Docklands," Cr Louey said.

Ms Lam first visited Docklands in 2008 when

she was Secretary for Development.

During her visit last month she was provided with an overview of the development and was briefed on the future plans for the area.

"Our government is proactively transforming Kowloon East, a former industrial heartland, into another major business district to support our economic growth and strengthen our global competitiveness," Ms Lam said.

"The success story of Docklands has set a good example for us to follow."

While in Melbourne, Ms Lam also visited the Royal Children's Hospital, met with chairman of the Victorian Major Events Company Rod Eddington and visited the National Gallery of Victoria.

She also met with Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and Victorian Leader of the Opposition Matthew Guy.



Chief Secretary of Hong Kong Carrie Lam takes a tour of Docklands' Library at the Dock.

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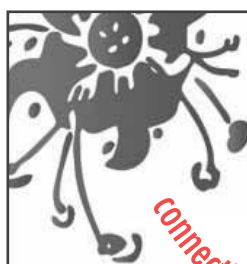
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The Shandong mayors gather with local Docklands Chamber of Commerce representatives Joh Maxwell, Josephine Tan and Yvonne Zhou-Grundy.

# Mayors explore Docklands

Some 20 mayors from China's Shandong Province visited Docklands last month.

Hailing from China's second largest province, which is home to 97 million people, the mayors explored various aspects of Docklands during their visit on September 24.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell said the chamber hosted the group at the Library at the Dock, sharing

some of the Docklands' history through the library's resources.

The group then enjoyed morning tea at Vin Tam Bakery before taking a ferry ride on MV Grower across to NewQuay for some shopping at Harbour Town.

The mayors then returned via ferry for lunch

at Victoria Harbour restaurant Igg.

The group was visiting Australia as guests of the South Australian Government but also visited Victoria.

The mayors also met with Places Victoria and City of Melbourne representatives while in Melbourne.

## Social Club is back

Docklands' very own social club is back this month after a brief hiatus.

Now headed up by a group of local residents, the social club will again provide an opportunity for locals to get to know each other in an informal setting.

Docklands resident Andrew is one of a group of six locals who will be organising the future social club events.

He hopes the renewed social club will become a regular feature on local residents' social calendars.

"I'm hoping more and more people come along and enjoy the community of Docklands in a relaxed social setting where they can get to know their neighbours and enjoy each others' company," Andrew said.

The next Docklands Social Club will be held at the Nixon Hotel at 757 Bourke St on Wednesday, October 14 from 7pm. Come along for a drink or sit down for a meal. Everyone is welcome.



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# Networking success

*Local business people gathered for an afternoon of food and successful networking in Docklands last month.*



The September Docklands Networking Lunch at NewQuay's Berth restaurant was well attended and guests enjoyed a three-course meal on the waterfront.

Hosted by *Docklands News* and the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, the quarterly lunches offer a great opportunity for local business people to meet and network.

The final networking for the year will be held in the Harbour View room at the Woolshed Pub, Central Pier from 12 noon on Friday, November 20. We've chosen November to avoid the busy December period.

The menu for the November lunch is shared starter, alternate drop main course (dietary requirements catered for separately) and

shared dessert platters. House white, house red and tap heavy and light beers, soft drinks and juices will be served.

The networking lunch is \$60 per person and must be paid in advance.

To book your seat contact *Docklands News* via [lunch@docklandsnews.com.au](mailto:lunch@docklandsnews.com.au) or call the office on **8689 7979**.



Sue Callahan and Grace Azzan.



Mark Scholem and Karen Woo.



Jennie Hill and Jenny Longstaff.



Dylan Emmett and Scott Jessop.



David Phelan and Danielle Nitoli.

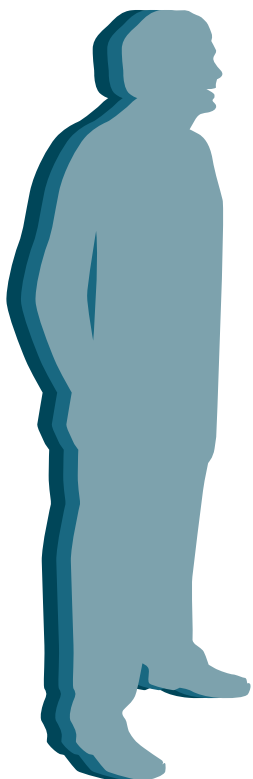


Michelle Cummins and David Napier.





## The local developer



# DOCKLANDER

Profile by  
Bethany Williams

*David Napier has the shortest commute of anyone he knows.*

Each morning he steps out of his front door, walks down one flight of stairs and then steps into his office.

His 30-second commute is just one of the reasons Mr Napier loves living and working in Docklands.

As an executive director of Digital Harbour Holdings, Mr Napier has been involved with Docklands since 1999, when he was part of a successful bid to develop the Digital Harbour precinct.

When the development agreement for the precinct was signed in December 2000, Docklands was still at a very "embryonic" stage, according to Mr Napier.

"At that time, the only development that had been undertaken and was nearing completion was the stadium," Mr Napier said. "Very shortly after that the residential towers started at NewQuay."

Development of Digital Harbour was kick-started by the construction of the

Innovation building, then 1010 LaTrobe, followed by Life.Lab.

After construction of the mixed-use strata Life.Lab building was completed in 2008, Mr Napier moved in to an apartment there from his Toorak home and hasn't looked back since.

"We intended to live here for one or two years just to see how we liked it and how we fitted in and then planned to go back to Toorak," Mr Napier said. "But, as it turns out, we love it here."

"We love it for the access to the city," Mr Napier said. "We walk everywhere, the cars sit in the garage for most of the week."

"We enjoy the restaurants in the city, the cinema, we walk to all of those things or we jump on the tram because it's right outside the front door."

And it appears Mr Napier will be sticking around, with plans to move into Digital Harbour's next residential and hotel project, The Altus, once completed.

"We love it here, we've watched it grow," Mr Napier said.

He says he has also watched the progress of London's Docklands and says the two urban renewal projects are incredibly

similar, albeit the Melbourne's Docklands being 10 years behind.

"The building out of that area (London Docklands) has basically reached saturation and the value of the property there has now increased substantially in-line with that saturation," Mr Napier said. "I think that's going to happen here."

"In Melbourne's Docklands, in another five to ten years when we reach close to saturation, people will wake up and look in this direction and say 'wow, that's so close, so convenient,' and the prices will reflect that," he said.

Evidently committed to the success of the area on a personal and professional level, Mr Napier also also been a vocal advocate for the completion of the Harbour Esplanade redevelopment.

"I'm passionate about getting that done because I think that is the link between the north of the harbour and the south of the harbour, the stadium, the city and the waterfront," Mr Napier said.

"It really is the bit of blank canvas in the middle that will make it all come together."

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# An experience maid in Japan

*I recently returned from a trip to the land of the cherry blossom, Japan.*



with Mike Cairnduff

Although I didn't get to see any cherry blossoms (it's a seasonal thing), I did get to see the blossoming of Japan's tourism industry.

I was amazed at the number of attractions, the delicious food, the efficient transportation system and the friendly people. Japan truly is a tourist's heaven.

Despite what some people may tell you, almost everyone can speak English (at least in the touristy spots). That really pleased me, seeing as I forgot to bring along my old-school Lonely Planet phrase book.

In the main cities like Tokyo and Kyoto, there were tourists everywhere. And I mean everywhere. Sometimes I actually forgot where I was.

I heard a plethora of Asian languages being spoken, including Chinese and Korean, as well as pretty much every European language under the sun. As one of the tour guides proudly proclaimed, "Japan's tourism industry is booming!"

So what's this got to do with Docklands? Well, if you wanted to emulate a world-class tourist destination and draw people in, you'd look to places like Japan.

While Docklands is still developing, wouldn't it be a good idea to benchmark against the best and then try to better it?

I digress. Back to Japan.

I decided to follow one of my boss's recommendations for a truly cultural experience. "Mike, you must go to the maid cafe," he told me.

Not knowing anything about this phenomenon, I booked a ticket online which got me a meal, a photo of a maid (i.e. a waitress dressed as a maid) and a "performance".

Now before you start huffing and puffing, this is an all-ages experience. Touching is not allowed, let alone taking a photograph!

I arrived at the cafe mid-afternoon to avoid the lunch rush. I was the only customer there, which was probably a good thing as one of the maids welcomed me by attaching a pair of pink, fluffy bunny ears to my head. Not a good look.

My meal came out soon after, which



Illustration by Dave&Tam.

comprised of a few beef rissoles in the shape of a teddy bear's head. To make the teddy more realistic, the maids had drawn on some eyes and a mouth using tomato sauce. It was cute, in a weird kind of way.

What threw me off, however, was when a number of men sauntered into the cafe. Old, seedy men. Men who smoked inside (which is legal in Japan, by the way). Men who probably had wives at home and wanted to be served by young, giggly girls.

I probably shouldn't judge them - they

could very well have been non-seedy, single men who have a thing for eating teddy-shaped rissoles. Who knows?

The performance, which I had been eagerly awaiting for almost an hour, was lacklustre. Would you deem a go-go dancing, lip-synching maid, good entertainment?

I quickly slipped out of the cafe. Sayonara, seediness.

Did I learn anything that day? Absolutely. A maid cafe is exactly what Docklands doesn't need.



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# Now watch me whip, watch me stay... stay!

By Katie Wong Hoy

*Jane Langton-Bunker and her slender whippets moved to Docklands in July.*

Ruby and Valentine are both 13-years-old but enjoy a leisurely afternoon stroll along NewQuay Promenade.

While they may seem like your typical whippets, this is certainly not the case.

"They've got the highest obedience of any whippet in Australian history and this is confirmed by the VCA with whom they've done exams. They are UD (utility dog) titled," Jane said.

Jane still takes them out and trains them to keep their minds' active and to prevent forgetfulness. She says Ruby and Valentine love socialising with other dogs.

"They sat with nine German Shepherds for one exam ... they're very good with all dogs," Jane said.

"It's so much more pleasurable having a dog that's trained and will stay when you want it to stay and doesn't attack other dogs."

Jane and her award-winning dogs are settling in well to their new Docklands apartment. She says training her whippets has helped her gain more confidence in herself.

"I don't have a lot of confidence and they've made me much more confident," she said.



## It has never been easier to get around Docklands

***Docklands was not designed to be a car friendly. Anyone complaining about driving in Docklands is obviously not aware of this or in denial.***

Harbour Esplanade is the main arterial route through Docklands and it is a single lane. It starts from Montague St, Charles Grimes Bridge and goes through to Dudley St. However, it is not possible to traverse in the opposite direction back to Wurundjeri Way.

Once you are in Docklands, the only way out is via Dudley St, LaTrobe St or Collins St. You can also try Bourke St, where it terminates on busy Wurundjeri Way. So until the driverless car becomes available

in Docklands, consider travel by public transport.

With the introduction of the free tram zone in the CBD at the beginning of this year, it has never been easier to get to or around Docklands. There are frequent trams to NewQuay and Waterfront City with the City Circle tram, route 30 via LaTrobe St, route 70 via Flinders St and route 86 via Bourke St/ LaTrobe St. Access into Victoria Harbour/ Collins St is as easy as route 48 and 11. You just need know what part of Docklands you are wanting and get on the right tram!

There are no long waits for a tram during normal hours. My experience has been that on approaching a tram stop - there is usually one coming. However, seeing a tram does not mean you will catch it, I have discovered! Due to safety reasons it almost impossible to position yourself for the best access to the tram stop. I usually find myself approaching

from behind the tram and having to run the full length of the platform in order to catch the tram.

If you are lucky enough to approach a tram from the front of the platform you have a much better chance of success. It is curious to reflect that because of the tram frequency, I find I have to run to catch a tram more often than I have to wait for one. It is better to have missed a tram than not catch one at all!

Trams still not frequent enough for you? Have you considered the bike share scheme? What an underutilised resource this is. For \$58 a year you can purchase an access key that enables you to use the bikes for up to 40 minutes at a time without further charge.

Most trips around the CBD can be completed in that time. You only need know where the bike stations are located and plan your trips accordingly.

In Docklands there are a number of

stations. There is one in Docklands Drive close to Harbour Town. One on the corner of NewQuay Promenade, another over in Victoria Harbour next to NAB and one next to ANZ in Collins St. There is one behind the Mission to Seafarers building next to Seafarers Bridge and another over at Yarra's Edge. I reckon that covers Docklands perfectly. Maybe one more near the Icehouse and Costco. No need for trams when you have a bike share key! Why not get one today!

Still wedded to the car? It is only a matter of time before we see the emergence of the driverless car - even an electric driverless car! What a game-changer that is going to be, and how well suited to Docklands' conditions. Imagine a queue of empty driverless cars in a continuous circuit. Simply jump in the next available empty one, key in your destination, sit back and relax!



## Ron Barassi Snr Park Open Day

Celebrate the opening of Melbourne's newest park at an open day featuring children's sports clinics by Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Football Club, entertainment by club mascots, face painting and a community barbeque.

**Saturday 10 October 2015, 9am - 12:30pm**  
**Ron Barassi Snr Park, Docklands Drive (Bolte Bridge End)**

Sports clinics from 9:30am










# DOCKLANDS FASHION

## Flower race

By Laura Timberlake

Every major race day in the Spring Racing Carnival has a specific flower dedicated to it. These serve as an official emblem, a symbol of celebration and (for the dedicated punters) a symbol of luck.

To create a twist to your race day outfit, why not consider incorporating one of the symbolic flowers?

These are the flowers for the appropriate days:

- White Freesia – Turnbull Stakes;
- Lavender – Caulfield Guineas Day;
- Dutch Blue Iris – Catanachs Jewellers Blue Sapphire Race Day;
- White Rose – Crown Golden Ale Caulfield Cup;
- Cecil Brunner Rose – Cox Plate Day;
- Cornflower – AAMI Victoria Derby Day;
- Yellow Rose – Emirates Melbourne Cup Day;
- Pink Rose – Crown Oaks Day; and
- Red Rose – Emirates Stakes Day.
- Leucadendron (Safari Sunset) – Spring Carnival in the Country

Men traditionally wear the flowers as buttonholes on the day, but fortunately the ladies can have a lot more fun with them!

It's advisable to use a florist for any floral pieces, because garden flowers can end up drooping. (And if you're entering any fashion on the fields competitions, that's the last thing you need!)

A florist can also deliver to your doorstep, taking some of the hassle out of the race day frenzy.

Popular options to consider:

- A floral fascinator ;
- A floral bracelet or wrist corsage;
- Colour co-ordinate your race-day outfit with the symbolic flower;
- Decorate a hat with the race-day flower; and
- Consider a single flower or a cluster through your hair.

The flower theme doesn't have to stop at attending the races, either. Are you planning on a barbecue with friends to watch the race? Or maybe a night out at the pub with your mates? You can still have a flower theme!

The beauty of it is that it's really up to you. Some people choose to plan their outfit from the shoes up (or vice versa) – but if you plan around a specific flower, half the decisions are made!



## Fashion on the streets of Docklands

### Marty Janzerli

**LOCATION:** Harbour Town

**DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE**

**WEARING:** Bardot slip-dress, Bardot top and a Review peplum jacket.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING:** A nice pair of jeans, because a good pair is hard to find.

**WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS:**

We are going to Etihad Stadium to go see the UFC fighter.

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE:**

Simple but stylish, elegant and comfortable.

**WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:**

A nice handbag!

### Damir Narovic

**LOCATION:** Harbour Town

**DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE**

**WEARING:** Just jeans, a T-shirt and a jacket.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING:** Jeans.

**WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS:**

We just went ice-skating.

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE:**

I don't really have a style. Casual, very casual.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:**

I don't know how to answer this question! No comment.

### Muskan Sharma

**LOCATION:** NewQuay Promenade

**DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE**

**WEARING:** It is his (my partner's) birthday today so that's why I am dressed up. It's a dress, just a one piece. It's from Valley Girl ... he got it for me.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING:**

I normally wear what makes me feel comfortable.

**WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS:**

His birthday! (We are) shopping so that's why we are here.

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE:**

Comfortable, elegant and simple.

**WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:**

I think if a girl is smiling, any girl can look beautiful and good in any outfit.

## Merchant Society Restaurant

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

*Waking from my dreams, a smile still lingers, the warmth of touch still tingles, and the happiness still cocoons me, strengthens me and prepares me for the onslaught of the reality of my days.*

I look forward to my nights as welcome relief, I fully open my mind, heart and soul to that place between awake and asleep, that place where you allow yourself to see what your heart longs for. That place where you remember your dreams. That place where you wish you could live, where you can see how it all could be. I can see how beautiful things could be, can't you?

There are many people who discourage this type of dreaming, this visualisation of what could be. I think they fear you are only hurting yourself by imagining that which you don't have. That you should let go of these things, and be more "realistic". More accepting of your reality.

I think they fear you are at risk of hoping for something that may never happen, for surely, to them, if it was going to happen it would have.

Sometimes I understand their protective encouragement to let go of my dreams. I face each day so hopeful, so positive, as though my dreams have sprinkled a little bit of courage to keep believing that wonderful

things are about to happen.

It's sometimes like waiting for a knock on the door, and expecting there to be a huge bunch of flowers delivered. For no reason. When there's not even someone in your life who would do that.

So I get why sometimes people encourage you (well, me anyway!) to live "within your reality". I guess they just really believe the chances of those flowers coming are very unlikely, and they worry that unless something incredible does happen one day, that you'll eventually run out of hope and crumble.

I'm talking figuratively about the flowers of course. But you get my point. It's not that I'm not happy with my reality, far, far from it.

I love my home, and my son is a constant source of amazement, pride, joy and giggles. He's fantastic company, and nurturing his growth and development is my greatest dream come true.

And here's my point. I have raised my son as a single mum for 12 years. I dreamt of raising a beautiful boy and, against the

odds (single mum since he was six-weeks-old isn't exactly living the dream to many people), that's exactly what I've done. And it's wonderful.

My reality today is wonderful, my business is doing well (OK, I'm living on a very tight budget and we haven't had a holiday in years, but it's growing!). I'm happy. It's just that I'm not happy to the point that I don't still wish for more.

I believe I deserve more and my son deserves more. I believe we all deserve to have a level of happiness that we dream of, that we are prepared to work towards, that we would fight for and that we would protect. A level of happiness we would write books about.

I dream of my happiness elevating. For the picture, I imagine for myself to be coloured in with glorious colours. I dream of how it feels to be in the arms of my soulmate, to feel the protection of their love, to look forward into a future that is complete.

It's not that I'm not happy with what I have, far from it. It's just that I can also see

what I still want. And I'm not afraid to dream of it, to ask the universe to help me bring my dreams into my reality. To recognise the things I believe with all my heart are missing, despite my gratitude and happiness with my current reality.

And my dreams, in turn, help me to stay strong, to believe that it will come. My dreams keep me open to hope and possibility. They keep me thinking that maybe, just maybe the flowers will turn up today. I don't feel disappointed when they don't, I just think "maybe tomorrow".

It costs us nothing to dream, and everything not to. Don't be afraid of your dreams, no matter how far they may feel from your reality right now. For we have to dream, before our dreams can come true.

With love  
Abby xx  
Don't forget you can reach me at life@docklandsnews.com.au. Please join me on Facebook and Instagram @abbyjanecrawford, I love sharing stories and journeys with you.

## DOCKLANDS SUDOKU

Welcome to Docklands Sudoku.

This Sudoku is medium difficulty.

In order to solve the puzzle each column, row and block must contain the numbers 1 to 9, with no numbers repeating in each column, row and block.

Good Luck!

Sudoku solution: Edition 112

3	5	7	4	9	1	8	6	2
6	9	4	8	2	7	3	5	1
8	1	2	3	5	6	4	7	9
5	2	9	6	7	3	1	8	4
7	4	8	9	1	5	2	3	6
1	6	3	2	4	8	5	9	7
9	7	1	5	8	2	6	4	3
2	3	5	7	6	4	9	1	8
4	8	6	1	3	9	7	2	5

		5	8	3		2		6
			9					
				2	4			
				8		6		
4	9							1
		1						5
				6		8		
7	5		3					4
1		3				9		



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**DOCKLANDS Chamber of Commerce** 2015 Annual General Meeting

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce 2015 AGM will be held on Wednesday, November 11 at Melbourne City Marina. All financial members of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce are encouraged to attend. Drinks and canapes will be served.

The AGM includes election of Executive Committee members (new or continuing). All financial members of DCC are eligible to stand for election. We urge interested members to nominate by November 4 at 12 pm at [admin@docklandsc.com.au](mailto:admin@docklandsc.com.au). Nomination forms are available on the DCC website.

[www.docklandsc.com.au](http://www.docklandsc.com.au)

Provisional timetable:  
6:00pm Registration  
6:30pm AGM and Elections to commence  
7:15pm Networking and Socializing  
9:00pm Conclusion

...it's YOUR business



**FACES OF DOCKLANDS**

**If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?**



**FRANCES CORNELIUS**  
Retired teacher

Italy, specifically in Tuscany. I went there a few years ago, it's absolutely beautiful, it's cheap and the weather is lovely.



**PAULINE TYRES**  
Receptionist

I'd like to live in many places but I'd say Turkey because it's got a beautiful coastline.



**KELSEY VICKRIDGE**  
Assistant manager at a bank

I'd like to live in London because it's central to Europe so you can visit France and travel around Europe easily.



**LISHA COLLIS**  
Student

That's a tough choice but I fell in love with Paris. I have to go back. I left part of my heart in Paris. I'd go back there in a heartbeat.



**KASUN THAMBAWAITA**  
Student

Melbourne because it's the greatest city in the world.



**NIPUNI BANDARANAYAKA**  
Student

Melbourne because this is the best city in the world.

**Solve the puzzles**



**PUZZLE**

Welcome to a new monthly instalment in Docklands News, where you'll have the chance to win some wonderful prizes.

Over the next three months, *Docklands News* will be collaborating with the Rotary Club of Docklands to bring you a new puzzle each edition.

Each month readers will be asked to solve an anagram and identify a pictured Docklands icon.

Submit your answers online at [www.rotarydocklands.com/rotary-docklands-competition](http://www.rotarydocklands.com/rotary-docklands-competition) and all correct entries will be entered into the draw to win a prize.

This month, the winning entrant will

receive a breakfast or lunch at Le Cirque (located at 27 Star Crescent, Harbour Town).

All correct entries over the three months (October, November and December issues of *Docklands News*) will also be entered into the draw to win a major prize.

The major prize will be announced at Rotary Docklands' festival at NewQuay on December 6. Further details in future editions.

**Puzzle 1: Solve the anagram**

**Save gift of living**

**Answer:** .....

**Puzzle 2: Name the Docklands icon**



**Answer:** .....

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**Dr. Anne Dynon**





# CHAMBER UPDATE

BY PAUL SALTER  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

## Totally professional – For the Shandong mayors

*Thursday, September 24 was an extraordinary day for the chamber, and members should feel proud your chamber hosted all the mayors of the Shandong region in China in an extremely professional manner.*

This was very evident following President Joh Maxwell’s presentation as all the mayors were interested, participating and engaged, asking many educated questions.

They all love Docklands!

Following refreshments at the Docklands library and a group photo with their newly received “I Love Docklands” hats, all the

mayors took a tour on the MV Grower (pictured), visited Harbour Town, and enjoyed lunch at the Igg Restaurant on the edge of Victoria Harbour.

However, we should all be indebted to executive committee member Dr Yvonne Zhou-Grundy the founder and director of Australian Management International who gave up her valuable time to be the chamber’s interpreter on the day.

For the last 20 years, Yvonne has specialised in Australian and Chinese cross cultural management in trade and investment.

I know that if the chamber had to pay Yvonne for her time, we could not have justified the expense. I know that all members and friends of the chamber will join me with a special thank you for our wonderful ambassadors, Joh, Yvonne and Josephine.

Docklands has a great future!



### Docklands Seniors Festival (October 10-11) Victorian Seniors Festival

On October 10 and 11 the Victorian Seniors Festival comes to Docklands.

Your Docklands Chamber of Commerce is a proud sponsor of the 2015 Victorian

### Seniors Festival.

Just like last year, the Victorian Seniors Festival will be celebrated in Docklands, an Age-Friendly Precinct within the City of Melbourne.

Come and join us! You will see why we love Docklands!



## OWNERS CORPORATION LAW

With Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.  
[Tom@stratatilelawyers.com.au](mailto:Tom@stratatilelawyers.com.au)

## Encouraging vertical communities to innovate

*The best owners’ corporations (OCs) are always looking to innovate, to experiment with new modes of living and to provide a diversity of services and activities to encourage their local community to come closer together.*

Communal areas such as rooftops and gardens are one such piece of common property that can be transformed into areas where volunteer residents can come together to socialise and be productive for their community.

A growing number of buildings in Melbourne are inviting local beekeepers to establish a colony of bees on their rooftops. Residents have been quick to assume beekeeping duties and don the protective gear to perform maintenance duties.

Bees play a crucial role in keeping an ecosystem balanced and the well-reported decline of bee populations worldwide due to disease and other factors means that there

is a demand for greater numbers of bee colonies to be established and maintained.

Aside from the community collaboration and goodwill, there is also the added benefit of a healthy supply of fresh honey to be harvested and distributed among residents.

Rooftop herb gardens and veggie patches are also becoming more and more common, and provide residents with the opportunity to use their “green fingers” and have a “potter” in the garden while also providing residents with a source of fresh herbs and vegetables.

For buildings considering these types of innovations, there are some practical and legal issues to consider, such as:

1. Does the OC provide more than just the common property for the activity, i.e. – contribute funds from its administrative fund to establish and maintain the activity?
  2. How is rooftop access to be provided safely to residents?
  3. Are residents “pottering” in the garden or tending to the bee colony considered to be “voluntary workers” under the OC’s policy of insurance? and
  4. How does the building determine who receives the precious honey or the tasty herbs and fresh vegetables?
- I’m still waiting for the legal case to come

across my desk about enforcing rules of the OC against the resident that took too much honey, or was caught on CCTV harvesting the entire mint and basil plants for their cocktail evening.

Whatever the benefits and drawbacks of these types of ideas, it should be the case that OCs remain committed to blue-sky thinking about ways and opportunities to use the common property and their resources to bring as many residents of the building together.

After all, a close-knit building is a true community, and a source of support for each other.

Roof-top yoga at sunrise anyone?



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# Businesses in Docklands

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

## NEW DENTAL CLINIC

*If your pearly whites are in need of some attention then head on over to Docklands' newest dental clinic.*

Located at the base of the Channel 9 building at 717 Bourke St (enter via Aurora Lane), Southern Cross Smiles is close by for local workers and residents and is easily accessible via Southern Cross Station for those travelling on public transport.

For patients wanting to drive to the clinic, there is convenient and secure undercover parking on Mayfield Field (access via Aurora Lane).

Southern Cross Smiles' principal dentist, Dr Sharma, said the Docklands' community needed a local dentist.

"This location is very happening. There are lots of people living and working here," she said.

"Docklands is growing and so the dental needs will grow too. We can provide a health service to the community and be an integral part of it."

The clinic opened in August and practice manager Gaurav Bhardwaj said the local community had been very welcoming.

Mr Bhardwaj holds a master's degree in business administration and says he has extensive experience running a dental clinic

in suburban Melbourne.

Principal dentist Dr Sharma said she had been a dentist for many years in the Melbourne CBD and the greater Melbourne region.

The Docklands clinic is the second practice the pair has established together and, they say, it employs the latest technologies and innovations in the dental industry to deliver superior dental care at an affordable price.

They said Southern Cross Smiles was a state-of-the-art dental clinic both in terms of the equipment used and the interior layout.

According to Mr Bhardwaj, at Southern Cross Smiles "the most important principle is still empathetic patient care at a fair price."

"Our aim is to provide exemplary dental healthcare using cutting edge technologies," Mr Bhardwaj said.

Southern Cross Smiles offers a range of dental services including preventative dentistry and restorative dentistry. The clinic also offers in-house mouth x-rays.

According to Dr Sharma, Southern Cross Smiles specialises in cosmetic dentistry and full mouth rehabilitation including braces, teeth whitening, veneers, crowns and dental implants.

The practice is also offering an opening special to patients and can provide a full check-up and clean for \$199, which includes a full-mouth OPG X-ray and fluoride treatment.



Dental nurse Mona Patel, principal dentist Ruchika Sharma and practice manager Gaurav Bhardwaj.

"For each and every patient who takes up this offer we do a full mouth check-up, we take pictures of their teeth, we guide them through what needs to be done and how they can maintain it," Dr Sharma said.

This clinic is also offering free dental checkups to all new patients and no gap

checkups to patients with private health insurance.

You can find Southern Cross Smiles at 717 Bourke St (enter via Aurora Lane). For more information see [www.scsmiles.com.au](http://www.scsmiles.com.au) or call 9670 0321.

# Docklands Directory

Bookings for the 2016 Docklands Directory are now open!



The annual printed directory is the pre-eminent guide to Docklands and features listings of every business as well as useful information and maps about Docklands.

With a shelf-life of 12 months, there is no better way to position your business in front of Docklands residents, workers and visitors.

Premium positions are available, as well as half and full-page advertisements within the categories: Services, Beauty Health & Fitness, Where to Eat / Drink, What to do.

SPEAK WITH SHANE SCANLAN ON 0419 542 625 TO DISCUSS HOW THE DIRECTORY CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS, OR EMAIL [SHANE@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:SHANE@DOCKLANDSNEWS.COM.AU)

What to do

Where to stay

Where to Eat/Drink

Beauty, Health & Fitness

Where to Shop





# Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to [news@docklandsnews.com.au](mailto:news@docklandsnews.com.au)

## Hope lives

On Monday, September 14, Docklands Relay For Life was held at Etihad Stadium, uniting relayers from the community, to take steps against cancer and show that hope lives in Docklands for anyone with a cancer experience.

My sincere thanks to each member of the Docklands community who relayed, donated, volunteered or supported this moving community experience.

Thanks to this support, this year Docklands Relay For Life has raised over \$62,000 so far, which will help ensure Cancer Council Victoria's support, prevention and research programs continue.

Each year, more than 140,000 Australians support Cancer Council's Relay For Life. Around the world, people in 24 countries come together at this time. I am constantly inspired by Relay For Life participants and volunteers, and their dedication to the cause.

The money raised at Docklands Relay For Life will help Cancer Council Victoria provide programs including:

- Funding some of Victoria's brightest researchers and their cutting-edge projects each year to help detect, treat and beat cancer;
- Important prevention programs like PapScreen Victoria, Quit and SunSmart to make sure people have all the information they need to cut their risk of cancer;
- Support services including a pro-bono legal assistance service to help those affected by cancer who may be struggling with issues such as wills, early access to superannuation, debt matters, or returning to work; and
- Our information and support line, Cancer Council 13 11 20, where qualified cancer nurses give people information and support.

Thank you again to everyone who relayed and helped continue the fight against cancer. Hope lives in every step we take. Hope lives in Relay For Life.

*Todd Harper*

CEO, Cancer Council Victoria

## Change your vote

This is my perspective on the recent Watergate special general meeting. It relates to a Watergate Owners' Corporation rule that states an owner cannot rent their apartment for less than 30 days. VCAT Member Rowland declared this rule invalid earlier this year.

The committee is determined to have this VCAT decision tested in the Victorian Supreme Court at the expense of all lot owners.

For well over a month members have been systematically telephoning and doorknocking every lot owner on the Watergate members register. Security swipes and private phone numbers were provided to selected owners (not committee members) who were recruited by the committee so that they could knock on doors and telephone owners to ask for proxies.

These actions can be verified by owners who commented to me personally that they felt harassed from strangers who were given access keys to knock on their door at night or called on personal phone numbers late at night.

This was a concentrated campaign based on the committee obtaining independent legal advice that stated they would achieve

a favourable outcome if the Watergate OC went to the Supreme Court.

During the meeting and before any debate, voting forms were handed around even before the lawyer engaged by the OC had spoken and well before the owners present had a chance to ask questions on the issue.

The outcome of the above sequence of events resulted in the committee obtaining over 50 per cent of the votes providing them with an open cheque book to go to the Supreme Court.

In order for the lot owners who are paying for this legal action to make an informed decision, the Committee has a responsibility to answer the following questions:

How much will the Supreme Court legal action cost?

The committee's lawyer said "Not very much", or words to that effect - no dollar figure has been provided. Supreme Court litigation can cost in excess of \$10,000 per day. If the committee loses again, then all lot owners will be liable for any costs incurred by me in opposing this action.

What are the grounds for the appeal?

The chairperson said she could not reveal this because I was in the room.

It is necessary to note again, that the committee can only win if Member Rowland has made an error at law.

What is the additional cost to owners if the case in the Supreme Court is lost?

After losing the VCAT case, the lot owners will be ordered to pay my legal fees. These costs will only be compounded if the committee loses again in the Supreme Court. The committee has provided no figures for what this additional cost will be to lot owners.

What are the chances that the owners' corporation will win?

The committee's lawyer said there was a good chance of winning, or words to that effect.

Without declaring the basis for this "good chance" how can any lot owner make a considered decision?

Is spending more money on legal fees the best use of lot owners money, when it is raised for the maintenance and upkeep of the building?

Each lot owner must choose. To not vote is actually supporting the spending. The committee prepares a budget each year for maintenance and upkeep - how much of this will be redirected to court costs and what impact will this have on the maintenance and upkeep of the building.

When I was finally given a chance to speak, I stated the accommodation industry was ready to have the case tested in the Supreme Court because it would have greater validity around Australia.

The committee members seeking this court action continue to attract unnecessary attention to the building and deter any prospective new investors or owners.

I urge all Watergate owners' to understand that the Supreme Court case can only be heard based on the VCAT decision. The only way this committee can win is for the Supreme Court to find an error at law made by VCAT Member Rowland.

You can download her decision and read it at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/vic/VCAT/> then select Owners' Corporation List, look for: Owners' Corporation PS501391P v Balcombe (Owners Corporations) [2015] VCAT 956 (29 June 2015)

Read it yourself, give it to your lawyer, and ask them if they can find any error at law.

As an owner, I feel that giving this

committee authority to have an open cheque book to launch a Supreme Court action because of a fear that a rogue operator may enter the building is negligent.

As a short-term accommodation provider in the building, I have offered on a number of occasions to work with the committee to set standards on how short-term accommodation can work without disrupting the amenity of the building. My offers to work with the committee have been declined.

Ultimately we should ensure that our body corporate fees are used for the best outcomes for the building and not used to try and overturn a carefully considered and well written decision by Member Rowland, simply because it was not what the committee expected.

I urge owners to change their vote to no, to stop the Supreme Court action. It is essential to the good governance of the Watergate building that this squandering of money on legal fees is stopped.

I do have one further question for the committee - why, if the committee's lawyers are so confident and have urged the lot owners of Watergate to challenge Member Rowland's decision, why aren't they contributing by offering "no win - no fee"?

*Paul Salter*

## Venting

I'd like to vent my frustration as an owner of an apartment in the Watergate tower on the continued senseless waste of our corporate body fees on pointless litigation.

I have owned an apartment in the building since 2010. Back then, we had two short-stay operators in the building. I understand that one operator, who no longer exists, caused quite a bit of trouble and had no respect for the building or the other tenants.

However, I lived across the hall from one of Mr Salter's short-stay apartments for three years and never had an issue with noise, parties or anything else. In fact, I had more issues with some permanent residents.

Mr Salter also contacted me regularly to ensure I was happy and had no complaints and that all guests were behaving as per their requirements. I have always found Mr Salter to be an easy person to get along with and have had no issues with the way he runs his business in the building.

My family was recently visiting from South Australia and rented one of Mr Salter's apartments. During their stay, while dining at a restaurant near Watergate, they were accosted by a person who verbally abused my parents about staying in the apartment and how they shouldn't have rented it and how Mr Salter is using the apartment building like a hotel.

Both my parents were very taken aback and upset about the whole ordeal. This is not the first time I have heard of this sort of behaviour.

I cannot believe that, after wasting over \$250,000 of our hard-earned money on legal fees and losing every application to VCAT, Supreme Courts, etc. the OC is willing to senselessly waste money again.

This money could have been better applied to upgrading the building or reducing our OC fees, which I believe are some of the highest in the area.

The owners' corporation has to stop being reckless with our money. As a concerned owner, I believe the OC needs to move on and put their energy into things that will minimise our fees, not increase them.

*Shaun Megson*

## Nothing but praise

My husband and I have lived at Watergate Apartments for six years. In that time we have witnessed remarkable improvements in the standard of living there.

When we moved in, there were apartments used as rooming houses - serviced apartments three times the amount there is now. Consistent fire brigade call outs and questionable business dealings.

I am disappointed the matter of short-stays needs to go to the Supreme Court but what is the alternative?

I struggle with Mr Salter's claim that short-stay tenants must abide by a code of conduct.

These are people who have booked by way of the internet or phone. No one has met them apart from a meet-and-greet in the foyer. Unless they are return clients who have treated property with respect they do not have to abide by any code of conduct. Some may, some will not, it is beyond even Mr Salter's control.

Our apartment was opposite a serviced apartment for a few years. It was horrific. The apartment in question was trashed several times with tenants sleeping in the common areas as they could not access their apartment.

I, for one, have nothing but praise for the current building management and the long-term committee members who work tirelessly to make Watergate a better place to live.

After all, I have never heard a prospective buyer say "let's buy an apartment in a building because they have more serviced apartments than owner-occupied."

One final thing ... I object to someone making money and running a business on my investment.

*Karin M Long*

## It's become personal

I am an owner of a unit at Watergate and have been a party in all of the legal events that have been going on for some years.

In terms of fairness to both sides, I think that it should be brought out that the Owners' Corporation has been less than fully communicative up until now.

I have been trying to get simple information on costs and actions taken by the OC since 2013 to no avail. Even official complaints are ignored.

Both sides are aware that there can be issues with short stays, but that the group that was causing the problem moved out years ago.

I am sorry to say that this has become a personal matter and has taken a toll on those of us on the other side.

*Andrew Smith*

## Wind solution

We all know Docklands has a fearsome problem with winds so why is there a continuation of solid obstacles that funnel more wind down to ground level rather than porous engineered windbreaks?

I am not suggesting rows of trees but an engineering solution with varied-height barriers to slow down and deflect gusts to make for a pleasant waterside environment.

Use computer modelling and wind tunnel testing to do it!

Billions of dollars of real estate, but none seems to care about improving the quality of the waterside experience.

*Robert Irvine*



# WHAT'S ON

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH  
6PM - 7PM  
LIBRARY AT THE DOCK**

**DOCKLANDS HISTORY GROUP**

Share a cuppa and stories with other local history enthusiasts and learn about people, places and industries from times gone by.

**EVERY FRIDAY AND SUNDAY  
THE JAMES HOTEL**

**LIVE MUSIC**

Live music at The James Hotel every Friday and Sunday night - free entry.  
Every Friday (starting June 19): Shameless  
Every Sunday: Stand and Deliver 80s tribute band, from 7.30pm

**OCTOBER 10 AND 11**

**DOCKLANDS SENIORS FESTIVAL**

Take part in a range of activities across Docklands as part of the Seniors Festival, including free ferry rides, live entertainment and much more. Visit [www.docklandsc.com.au/seniorsfestival](http://www.docklandsc.com.au/seniorsfestival) for a full list of events and activities.

**EVERY SUNDAY  
SUNDAY WORSHIP**

City Light Methodist Church at St Peter the Mariner's Chapel.  
Mission to Seafarers, 717 Flinders St.  
11am English service  
5pm Chinese service 中文

**EVERY SUNDAY FROM 10AM UNTIL 5PM  
NEWQUAY PROMENADE**

**DOCKLANDS  
SUNDAY MARKET**

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



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

**LIBRARY AT THE DOCK**

**TABLE TENNIS**

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



**TUESDAYS 6PM - 7PM  
MEETING ROOM  
LIBRARY AT THE DOCK**

**DOCKLANDS ROTARY**

All welcome.  
Contact president Richard Clark on **0418 855 112**

**2ND AND 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH  
AT 6.30 PM**

**700 BOURKE ST - ROOM 3.101**

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**OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER**

**FITNESS FOR THE MIND**

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**WEDNESDAYS 5.45PM-7PM  
THE HUB, 80 HARBOUR ESPLANADE**

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**MONDAYS 11AM  
THE HUB, 80 HARBOUR ESPLANADE**

**CHILD-FRIENDLY YOGA CLASS**

Come transform your mind and body while your children play. \$7 per class (45 mins). Limited spots, bookings necessary. Contact Prachi Nirvana Yoga on 0422 577 268.

**LIBRARY AT THE DOCK  
MELBOURNE SUNRISE  
PROBUS CLUB**

Probus Clubs for men and women over 50. Meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities. Contact membership officer Sue at [weddsuzanne@gmail.com](mailto:weddsuzanne@gmail.com)

**WEDNESDAYS 6.30PM TO 7.30PM**

**THE LIBRARY AT THE DOCK**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Docklands Daily Reflections group meets in meeting rooms two and three on level two.

**VISIT [AATimes.org.au](http://AATimes.org.au) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

**LIBRARY AT THE DOCK  
- WEEKLY PROGRAMS**



**PRESCHOOL STORYTIME**

Fridays at 10.30am  
Come and share the wonder of books with us. Enjoy 40-50 minutes of fun stories, songs, rhymes and activities with your three to five year olds.

**STOMPERS**

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

**SONGBIRDS**

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

**CREATIVE KIDS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

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

**BABY BYTES**

Last Thursday of the month 10.30am to 11.15am. Ground floor activity room.  
Come and join our monthly iPad program for 18 month to three year olds. Learn fun, educational ways to use technology with children. We will be exploring different games and apps every session in a small group. If possible please bring your own iPad.

**WEDNESDAYS AT 5.30PM AND  
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# DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE



Reka (back) competes at the world championships with fellow paddler Penny Young (front).

## Hometown advantage

**Docklands dragon boater Reka Abraham returned to her Hungarian hometown last month to compete in the International Canoe Federation (ICF) Canoe Marathon World Championship.**

Born in Hungary, Ms Abraham has paddled with local dragon boat club the Melbourne Flames since 2012.

Last month she returned to her hometown of Győr, to represent Australia at the ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships.

Competing in a massive 26.1 km double kayak marathon, Ms Abraham and her fellow paddler Penny Young came 12th in the race.

Ms Abraham said she had always dreamed of racing in a World Championships in her hometown and said it was a very special experience.

“For me, competing in my home town, representing my new life and country, being a team manager and having my grandparents watch me race at a world championships was very emotional,” Ms Abraham said.

“Every time we passed the grandstand people were cheering us as well, the speaker was making sure they knew I was Hungarian and helped to cheer us along as well.”

“It was emotionally overwhelming but at the same time gave us the strength to keep going and finish the 26.1 km.”

## Skating champions take to the ice

**Australia's leading speed-skating champions took to the ice in Docklands last month, to battle it out at the national championships.**

The Australian Open Speed Skating Championships were held at the O'Brien Group Arena on September 25 and 26.

Former Olympian Lachlan Hay made his return to ice at the championships after earlier retiring from the sport.

“It was exciting being back on the ice,” Hay said. “I was a bit nervous after taking

two and a half years off - I had quite a bit of catching up to do.”

“But I've come back up to speed really quickly and it's good to be back with the guys and back with the team.”

The 29-year-old 2006 and 2010 Olympic Winter Games athlete picked up first place in the 1000m and second place in both the 1500m and 3000m races.

Pierre Boda, a 2014 Olympian also performed well at the championships, placing first in the 1500m and second in the 1000m and 500m.

The pair join Keanu Blunden, Alex Bryant, Andy Jung and Liam O'Brien on the 2015/16 Australian World Cup team.



Lachlan Hay competes at the speed skating championships in Docklands. Photo by Olympic Southern Flyers.



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