

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Laughter is the best medicine

They say laughter is the best medicine and you can get your dose each month right here in Docklands.

Docklands' own laughter club meets on the first Saturday of every month at Buluk Park and offers locals the chance to let loose and have a giggle.

Mahes Karuppiah-Quillen (pictured left) runs the Docklands club and is also the president of Laughter Clubs Victoria.

She says laughter can have a powerful impact on the mind and body.

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Hope for waterways authority

Hope is not yet lost in the campaign to establish an independent waterways authority for Docklands and the lower Yarra.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell, along with a deputation of Docklands representatives, met with Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Lisa Neville last month and said she was "very receptive" to their ideas.

The chamber requested the meeting after it was revealed in February that the Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Groups' (LYRUFDDG) recommendation for the establishment of an independent authority to manage the waterways was likely to be rejected.

The LYRUFDDG had been tasked with making recommendations on the future governance

and management of the lower Yarra.

However, a purported draft of Ms Neville's response to the group's recommendations revealed the government did not intend to support a single authority and the existing governance structure would remain relatively unchanged.

Mrs Maxwell said Minister Neville had assured the chamber's deputation that no decision had been made with regard to a single authority for the waterways.

"It was great to meet with the Minister and she was very receptive to what we're trying to achieve and assured us that our aims are

not so different from her own," Mrs Maxwell said.

The deputation included Mrs Maxwell, chamber of commerce executive officer Shane Wylie, chamber executive committee member Paul Salter, Docklands Community Forum representative Kelly Jensen and Docklands resident Kay Setches.

The group presented Minister Neville with a document outlining its vision for the waterways and views on the current situation, including a series of case studies outlining how the current model is failing the waterways and the community. This document is at - www.docklandsc.com.au/

[wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Lisa-Neville-Deputation.pdf](#).

As a result of the deputation, Mrs Maxwell said senior representatives from Parks Victoria had agreed to visit Docklands and speak with stakeholders about the future management of the waterways.

The public meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28 at Berth restaurant, 45 NewQuay Promenade, at 5.45pm for a 6pm start.

Limited seats are available at the public meeting and you must register to attend by emailing the chamber executive at admin@docklandsc.com.au





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The deadline for the May edition
 is April 21.

Publisher: Shane Scanlan
 Editor: Bethany Williams

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Open Doors Singers Docklands is looking for new members.

Find your voice

If you're looking for an opportunity to meet new people, get out of the house and stretch your vocal chords then Open Door Singers Docklands might be just what you're looking for.

The local choir celebrates its first birthday this month and is looking for new members to join in the fun.

According to Open Door Singers director and conductor Shaun Islip, the benefits of singing in a choir have been well researched.

He said a recent study of people who sang alone, sung in choirs or played team sports found that choristers experienced the greatest benefits by far.

"Earlier studies have found that choral singing can benefit people suffering from depression, lung disease, high blood pressure and Parkinson's. One study even found that choral singers unconsciously synchronise their heart beats with other choir members," Mr Islip said.

Mr Islip said the choir was a great way to build and encourage community in Docklands.

"At Open Door Singers there's no auditions and there's no need to feel like you don't have a good enough voice," he said.

"What have you got to lose? Come and give it ago and experience the joy of it."

And while it's one of the smallest Open Door Singers choirs, with about 30 members, (there are other choirs in Canterbury and Eltham), Mr Islip said it was the most in demand.

He said the Docklands choir had been invited to sing at a range of events and venues since it formed last year and welcomed further opportunities.

If you're interested in joining the choir it meets every Wednesday from 5.30pm at The Hub on Harbour Esplanade.

Mr Islip encouraged residents and local workers to come along to the next choir rehearsal to find out for themselves just how enjoyable being part of a choir is.

"We'd love some local workers to join us," Mr Islip said. "Our 5.30pm rehearsal time means people can easily come straight from work and then still have rest of the evening to themselves."

Open Door Singers charges a \$7 door fee each week and a \$75 annual membership to cover its overheads.

Visit www.opendoorsingers.org.au for more information.

Local crime decreases

Docklands remains one of the safest suburbs in Melbourne and has even seen a slight reduction in crime, according to crime statistics released last month.

The statistics show 1382 crimes were reported in Docklands in 2015, down 5.8 per cent on 2014.

In 2015 Docklands crimes comprised just 4 per cent of the total recorded crimes in Melbourne municipality.

The statistics show an overall increase in total crime in the Melbourne area, up from 32,747 crimes in 2014 to 33,334 offences in 2015.

Of these, the majority were recorded in Melbourne's CBD, with 22,080 offences in 2015.

According to Melbourne West Local Area Commander, Inspector Simon Stevens, the overall increase in crime in Melbourne was driven by the property crime category, which includes property damage, theft and burglary.

"Although these offences are sometimes viewed as 'victimless' crimes, they do have considerable impacts when it comes to feelings and perceptions of safety," Inspector Stevens said.

On the other hand, the category "crimes against the person" has remained stable over the past 12 months.

"While it's pleasing not to see an increase in this area, there's more work to be done to reduce assaults, robberies and other forms of threatening behaviour," Inspector Stevens said.

"The shared vision of a 24-hour city without violence is achievable if we can change community acceptance. We'll continue to work with our partners and stakeholders every day to adapt to new trends and risks. But the community plays a role in this too and if we look after each other we can create a safe and enjoyable city."

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Photographer Michael Silver captured this stunning shot earlier this year of the sun setting over Docklands while the Lunar Night Market lit up the harbour's edge.

Owners to launch legal action

A group of local residents plan to take legal action against their owners' corporation (OC) over alleged unlawful rejection of their OC committee nominations.

Residents from the Boyd, Palladio and Sant'Elia buildings in NewQuay recently tried to nominate themselves for the OC committee, to be considered at the upcoming annual general meeting (AGM).

However, some residents say a "nominations sub-committee", comprising members of the existing OC, has rejected their nominations

ahead of the AGM.

Resident John Kakos says he received a letter from Boutique Property Management director Asime George, on behalf of the OC, advising the sub-committee had found "there were other candidates who met the criteria more fully".

Mr Kakos said he was aware of about 10 other residents who had nominated themselves for the OC committee and had received the same letter.

According to Mr Kakos, the OC does not have the legal authority to reject OC committee nominations.

He said all OC members were entitled to nominate themselves for election as a member of the OC committee and if the number of nominations exceeded the

number of positions then OC members must vote on this at the AGM.

"They have no authority to reject nominations and there was no opportunity to review or appeal the decisions," Mr Kakos said.

"At best it's inappropriate and at worst illegal," he said.

Mr Kakos said he and a group of around 10 residents planned to take legal action against the nominations sub-committee and would seek a Supreme Court injunction. The group will seek an order from the court declaring the nominations subcommittee invalid to ensure that all nominations received are considered at the AGM.

Ms George told *Docklands News* that the OC committee was following legal advice on the

process and understood it was consistent with the legislation.

However, Consumer Affairs Victoria advised *Docklands News* that OCs and committees don't have the power to reject nominations.

"The Act does not authorise owners' corporations or committees to make their own rules about how to conduct the election process, including to veto nominations," a Consumer Affairs Victoria spokesperson said.

Ms George did not respond when asked via email how vetoing nominations was consistent with the legislation.

According to the Consumer Affairs spokesperson, if the matter is not resolved, lot owners can apply to VCAT for "orders clarifying the issue".


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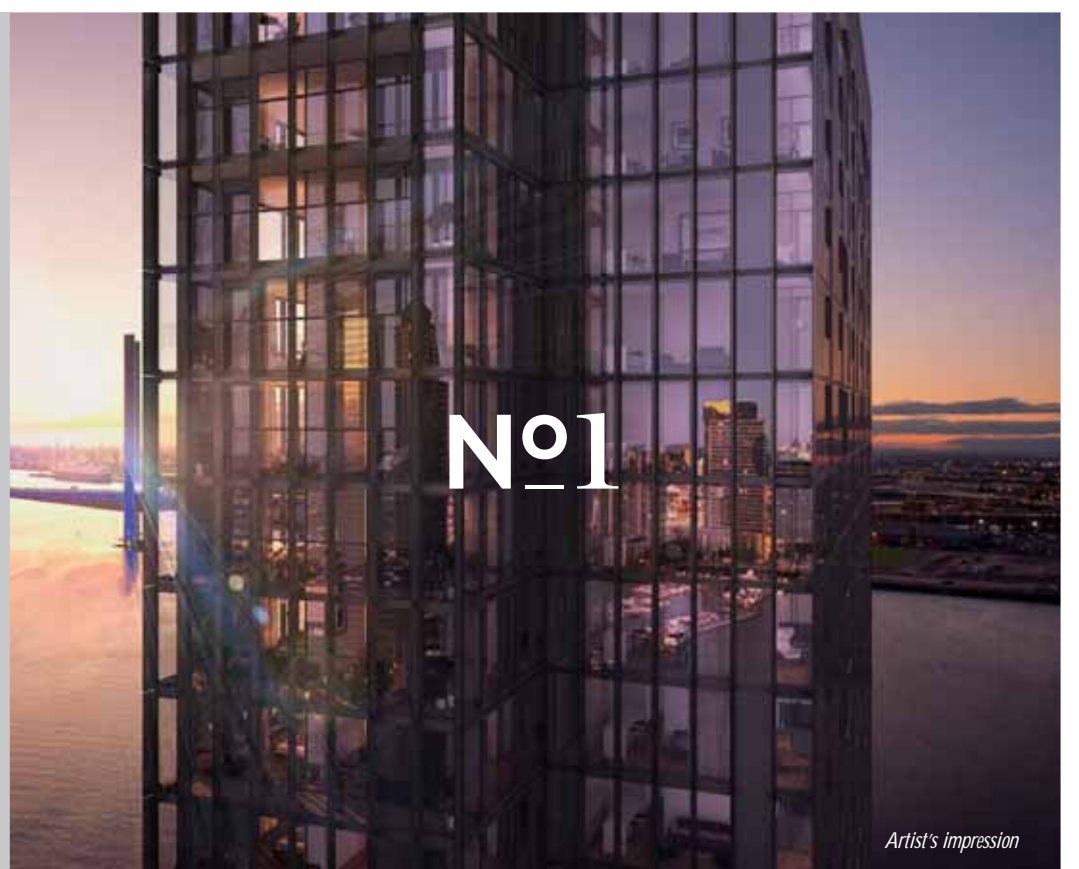
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Artist's impression

Melbourne Quarter officially launched

Lend Lease's Melbourne Quarter project was kick-started last month with the approval of a "skypark" and a 19-storey office tower.

The 2000sqm elevated park will be built above part of Wurundjeri Way and Collins St and will be known as "Melbourne Skypark".

In launching the project last month, Planning Minister Richard Wynne described the new park, as "the real jewel in the crown" and described it as Melbourne's own High Line.

The skypark is expected to be complete by 2018, while engineering company Arup has signed on as the first tenant for the commercial tower approved for Aurora Lane and Collins St.

Early works on the site of the new tower will begin this month while construction is due to commence by mid-year.

According to Lend Lease's managing director of urban regeneration Jonathan Emery, more than half of the 2.5 hectare Melbourne Quarter site will be dedicated to open space.

"We are absolutely thrilled to deliver this project in collaboration with state and local government and in doing so, create a unique, memorable experience for the people of Melbourne," Mr Emery said.

Alongside the approved skypark, the company has also proposed plans for "Melbourne Square" which it describes as the most significant public space created in the central city since Federation Square and similar in size to City Square and a neighbourhood park off Flinders St.

"Melbourne Quarter is designed to connect people with nature in building and in the urban environment to improve amenity, productivity and liveability," Mr Emery said.

Lend Lease is also awaiting approval on a further two commercial buildings and three residential towers comprising approximately 1700 apartments.

It has proposed retail, food and beverage, a health and wellness centre, a childcare centre and a community facility as part of the plan. The entire project will be delivered



An artist's impression of the future Melbourne Skypark at Melbourne Quarter.

over the next 10 years.

"With its apartment neighbourhood located next to a thriving commercial district, Melbourne Quarter offers the opportunity to live next to work, which is increasingly appealing for young professional owner occupiers and investors with a keen eye on the leasing market," Mr Emery said.

Mr Wynne said Lend Lease had been pivotal in developing the long-term commercial and residential vision for Docklands.

"This project adds greatly to the public realm, I enthusiastically support projects which contribute to the surrounding streetscape and create places where people want to live and work."

The \$1.9 billion Melbourne Quarter project is expected to generate around 15,000 construction jobs and on completion will be home to 10,000 workers and 3000 residents.



An artist's impression of the approved office tower.

Have your say

The Docklands community is invited to have their say on plans for the Western Distributor road plan.

There will be seven community sessions held in Melbourne throughout April and May, offering residents and other members of the community access to the latest information about the project.

The Docklands community consultation session will be held at the Limelight Room at Etihad Stadium from 5pm to 8pm on Tuesday, May 3.

The current proposal for the Western Distributor includes an elevated road above Footscray Rd and three CBD exits, including one that cuts through the 20-hectare E-Gate site that neighbours Docklands to the north.

The proposal also includes two additional lanes in each direction on the Westgate Freeway, between the M80 Ring Road and Williamstown Rd, and a tunnel under Yarraville.

The community will be asked their views on updates to the design for the road, including options for the length and location of the two tunnel entrances and how the Western Distributor connects with Hyde St, CityLink and the western edge of the CBD.

Attendees will also be able to speak with the project team and provide feedback on air quality, noise, urban design and construction impacts.

A Western Distributor community liaison group (CLG) is also currently being formed and will include representatives from the community, councils, industry and Victorian Government departments and agencies.

The CLG will be independently chaired and will provide a forum for sharing views and information about the Western Distributor, which members can share with their networks.

For information about community consultation sessions in other areas, including North Melbourne and Footscray, visit www.westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au

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Is it any wonder the world's backpackers have found a favourite home along North Wharf Rd in Victoria Harbour?

Of course no one is sleeping in their cars. The laid out bedding and sleeping bags just makes the "parking" experience more pleasant!

For young German backpacker Jan, it's hard to think of a better place to "park".

Jan explained that there had been some recent pressure to move the dozens of vans and station wagons out of the area. He said the toilet had recently been closed and that there had been a note left by a builder that the area was about to be developed. He also reported that a pair of "rangers" had visited and taken photos and registration numbers, threatening to call police if they were still there next time they visited.

He said some people had moved on but, so far, nothing had happened.

He and his mate (also named Jan) had actually bought their car at the camp site. They plan to be there for about another month while their casual job lasts.

And even if they moved on, the word is out there about the joys of Docklands.

The popular smart phone app WikiCamps Australia lists the benefits of North Wharf Rd using iconography that most of us would associate with residential real estate websites.

And it's not just North Wharf Rd that is attracting backpackers to Docklands. The state-of-the-art amenities at Ron Barassi Snr Park are an obvious attraction.

Quietly tucked away at the end of Docklands Drive, the area offers prime residential amenity – you can even pitch your tent on the oval.

And, while Docklands has a bunch of "happy campers", local volunteers and crew of the tall ship Enterprize have been booked by council parking inspectors.

Since fencing was installed across North Wharf Rd recently, volunteers are required



Backpackers are enjoying all Docklands has to offer. From left are Marcel, Levin, Ben, Jan N and Jan O.

to visit the Enterprize office to obtain a swipe card to allow them to open the gate and drive through.

According to Enterprize general manager Michael Womack the all-day parking available is generally occupied by campervans and cars, forcing volunteers to park in "no stopping" zones while they collect a pass, leading to some receiving \$152 parking fines from the council.

"Volunteers giving up their time to conduct sailing excursions for primary and secondary excursions do not deserve and cannot afford to be fined \$152 for five minutes while they get an access pass while all the 'legal' parking is occupied by campervans," Mr Womack said.

"In addition some of the vehicles along North Wharf Rd appear to have been abandoned and just left, which further reduces available parking spaces."

At least one volunteer appealed the parking infringement fine received, but the council did not withdraw the fine.

"The 'no stopping' area is strictly patrolled and enforcement will continue where 'no

stopping' applies," a City of Melbourne spokesperson said.

Places Victoria and City of Melbourne say they are taking steps to move the campers on.

Places Victoria general manager Simon Wilson said: "Places Victoria is working with the City of Melbourne and other stakeholders to tackle the issue of illegal campers in Docklands by increasing security patrols and other security measures."

"We don't want the anti-social behaviour by some of these campers to be a deterrent to families using Ron Barassi Snr Park or to create safety issues in these isolated areas."

A City of Melbourne spokesperson confirmed that council officers had been speaking to occupants of vehicles suspected of camping and educating them on the rules and regulations that apply in the area.

"This has been effective in reducing the number of people allegedly camping, however we are aware some people are moving between a number of sites as well as new people who arrive," the City of Melbourne spokesperson said.

Recognition for small businesses

Eligible local small businesses are invited to apply for this year's Lord Mayor's Commendations.

The annual awards, which started in 2005, recognise the commitment of long-term independent small and multi-generational businesses.

Business owners are eligible to apply for a bronze commendation after 10 or more years of operation in the municipality, a silver commendation after 25 or more years of operation, a gold commendation after 40 or more years and a platinum commendation after 50 or more years.

Families that have operated the same business in Melbourne for more than three generations are eligible for the Generational Family Business Commendation.

According to Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, small operators make up 80 per cent of all businesses in the City of Melbourne.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our healthy economy, they add character, colour and vibrancy to our streets, are a significant source of employment and enhance our reputation as the world's most liveable city," Cr Doyle said.

"Applications for this year's commendations are now open and I encourage operators and their customers to nominate and be part of this uniquely Melbourne tradition."

Since 2005 the commendations have recognised more than 500 small business owners, 18 family businesses and 20 recipients who had been in business in Melbourne for more than 50 years.

Applications are open until Friday, May 20 and the ceremony will be held on September 7.

For information visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-melbourne/celebrating-melbourne/lord-mayors-commendations or call 9658 9658.

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Take your seat at the Docklands community forum

Do you have an interest in local issues? Want to know more about what's happening in Docklands? Is there something you'd like to share with others in the community?

If you answered yes to any of those questions then there's a seat with your name on it at the Docklands Community Forum (DCF).

The forum meets every two months and offers local residents, workers, business owners and community members the opportunity to hear about and raise current issues.

The next forum is on Wednesday, April 27 at the Library at the Dock from 6pm.

Originally formed in 2012, the forum is supported by City of Melbourne and Places Victoria and guided by a core group of representatives who each represent different stakeholder groups in Docklands.

The representative group facilitates the meetings, helps to set the meeting agenda and represents the community to Docklands

Steering Group meetings with Places Victoria and City of Melbourne.

Among the group there is a voice for local residents, a voice for local workers, a voice for the waterways, a voice for local parents and a voice for business owners.

But more voices are needed. The DCF representatives want more people to attend and participate in the forum each month.

"We're looking for broader engagement from the wider community," DCF representative Andrew Ward said.

"You'll get to hear from and ask questions of senior people working with the City of Melbourne and Places Victoria and there are real issues that need to be discussed by the community," Mr Ward said.

"Docklands is unlike the CBD or a more traditional suburb and Docklanders have a real opportunity to influence how Docklands develops into the future."

"If you want to learn more, if you have something to say or if you want to influence the way Docklands continues to grow, this is the mechanism available," Mr Ward said.

"It's also a great networking opportunity and you can find out some really interesting things about what's happening in the area."

Fellow forum representative Phil Spender urged community members not to become complacent.

"We're only going to get the community we deserve through the effort we put in."

According to Mr Spender, the forum provides an opportunity to work closely with the authorities that oversee development in Docklands.

"I would say it is easier when you're working within the process than being an anarchist outside the process," Mr Spender said.

He said more community support was needed to ensure the established priorities of the community forum, which include a school for Docklands, water activation and promoting a positive image for Docklands, continued to gain momentum.

The next Docklands community forum is on Wednesday April 27 at Library at the Dock from 6pm.

For the full 2016 meeting schedule and for further information about the Docklands Community Forum visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/Pages/docklands-community-forum.aspx

UFC boosts Victoria's economy

Last year's UFC event at Etihad Stadium boosted Victoria's economy by \$102 million, the UFC said last month.

According to an independent study commissioned by the UFC, the November 15 event not only provided a major economic boost to the state but also created 894 jobs and paid about \$40.8 million in wages.

The event, which saw favourite Ronda Rousey defeated by Holly Holm in the headline fight, attracted an audience of 56,214, which was a new UFC live attendance record.

Unsurprisingly, the majority of the ticket sales were from Victoria (60.84 per cent), followed by New South Wales (17 per cent), Queensland (8.1 per cent) and Western Australia (5.63 per cent). Less than 3 per cent of sales were from overseas.



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Inspired by Alma

Docklands' own Alma Doepel served as a source of inspiration for a group of artists who gathered in Docklands last month.

According to organiser and Alma Doepel "artist-in-residence" Maggie Cowling, some 20 painters, almost all members of the Victorian Artists Society in East Melbourne, set to work with oils, watercolour, pen and wash, pencil or ink to capture Alma on her barge and the shed life.

"Their painting showed an appreciation of the contrast between Alma and the city skyline and how she complements her Docklands environment," Ms Cowling said.

The artists have all been invited to contribute works from the paint -out to the Alma Doepel Art Show, which will open on Friday, April 29 at 6pm.

The exhibition will also be open to the public on April 30, May 1, May 7 and May 8 from 10am to 5pm.

The May 1 opening also coincides with the Alma Doepel Open Day, which is part of the National Trust Heritage Festival.

Attendees will have the chance to join a behind-the-scenes tour of the Alma Doepel Restoration site and see the work being done to restore the ship.

The Alma Doepel restoration has involved 40,000 hours of volunteer effort in addition

to work by professional shipwrights and engineering work.

"By seeing the progress made for yourself you will come to realise just how important this project is for the local communities and for the preservation of heritage vessels - it is literally a dying art," open day organiser Tim Horton said.

Visitors can enjoy a sausage sizzle and will have the opportunity to peruse merchandise and possibly take home a rare piece of memorabilia.

The Alma Doepel Open Day is on Sunday, May 1 from 10am to 4pm at Shed 2 North Wharf Rd.

If you're interested in supporting the work of the restoration crew, the Alma Doepel Supporters Club is currently looking for an enthusiastic local Docklander with a passion for film-making to help create a short film following the restoration progress of the Alma Doepel.

If you don't have any film-making experience but are keen to give it a go, Docklands-based not-for-profit Open Channel is running a short-course in documentary film making this May.



A group of artists gathered in Docklands for a paint and drawing session at the site of the Alma Doepel restoration.



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Residents are a low priority for council election

By Shane Scanlan

If you're a Docklands resident, there's a good chance you won't be voting in the council election to be held later this year, but your landlord probably will.

Fewer than a half Docklands' residents appear to be enrolled to vote and, even then, there is little confidence in the accuracy of the roll.

According to the Victorian Electoral Commission, at the most recent count only 3725 locals were on the roll. No one knows how many people live in Docklands, but estimates range between 6000 and 8000.

Under the current rules, a resident must apply to be enrolled to vote. Property owners, on the other hand, are enrolled automatically via the City of Melbourne's rates data.

Critics of the current system say there are many ways it unfairly favours business and non-resident landlord interests at the expense of local residents.

Businesses voters are actively pursued and council officers are currently surveying the municipality to ensure all eligible business occupiers are enrolled.

In a move that will somewhat address this imbalance, the council will later in the year write to residential addresses where it knows no one is enrolled.

But history shows that residents play only a small part in City of Melbourne elections.

In 2012, the municipality had a residential population of about 110,000 but only 43,789 were enrolled to vote at the council election that year. Residential representation made up only 40.3 per cent of the voter roll in 2012.

Also in 2012, less than 60 per cent of enrolled voters bothered to cast a ballot at all.

It has been estimated that only 16 per cent of the total enrolled voters in the City of Melbourne can these days be "door-knocked". These voters are generally residents living in the more-established residential areas such as Carlton, North Melbourne, Kensington, East Melbourne and South Yarra.

In Docklands (and other urban renewal

areas such as Southbank and the CBD), residential voters generally live in "gated" communities and also no longer use land-lines so they can't be contacted via the phone book.

Adding further to the disproportionate representation are entrenched transience and extremely high levels of overseas-born, language-challenged residents in urban renewal areas like Docklands.

Reaching these people and encouraging them to, firstly, enroll and then vote is increasingly difficult for residentially-focused candidates.

Expensive Australia Post delivered addressed mail is only really an option for the well-funded campaigns (did I hear anyone mention developer contributions?).

It also appears that hyper-local newspapers like this one are not on the radar of the advertising purchasing authorities.

For local residents, it is most likely that the October 22 City of Melbourne election will pass you by. You are too hard to reach for those who want your vote - which is exactly the way those who don't want you to vote would like it to stay.



April Docklands Social Club

Docklanders are invited to come along to the next Docklands Social Club gathering on April 13 from 7pm.

The Docklands Social Club is an informal gathering of Docklands locals who get together on the second Wednesday of every month to meet and socialise with their neighbours.

The next gathering will be held from 7pm at Momami at Peppers Docklands (679 LaTrobe St - opposite Melbourne Water building or Gate 7 Etihad Stadium).

Momami is pleased to host the Docklands Social Club this month and wants everyone to know that the usual 10 per cent discount it offers Docklands residents will also be applied for the gathering.

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Lacrosse building surveyor to face disciplinary action

The building surveyor responsible for issuing a building permit for the Lacrosse building is set to face disciplinary action.

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) last month confirmed it had referred building surveyor Anastasios Galanos to the Building Practitioners Board (BPB) for disciplinary action.

The VBA alleges that Mr Galanos breached the Building Act and Regulations and “failed to carry out his work in a competent manner and to a professional standard”. It alleges he could not have been satisfied that the building work complied with the Building Act and Regulations when he issued the building permit.

The BPB does not have the power to order payments of compensation to owners but can suspend or cancel a practitioner’s registration.

The VBA’s investigation into building practitioners associated with the construction of the Lacrosse building was prompted by an MFB report on the November 2014 fire at the building.

The fire was started by a stray cigarette on a balcony and quickly spread up the side of the building.

The MFB found that the external aluminium cladding on the building contributed to the spread of the blaze and did not comply with the Building Code of Australia (BCA).

According to the VBA, it’s investigation has also confirmed that the design of the external walls of the Lacrosse building do not comply with BCA requirements.



Damage to the building’s exterior caused by the fire.

The VCA has referred the conduct of the architect to the Architects Registration Board of Victoria (ARBV).

The VBA’s investigation into other building practitioners involved in the Lacrosse project, including builder LU Simon is continuing.

The apartments directly affected by the 2014 fire are still undergoing repairs and the building remains non-compliant with Australian building standards as the existing cladding is still in place.

In October last year, the City of Melbourne issued all 400 Lacrosse owners with building orders to replace the external cladding on the building within 350 days.

It’s understood LU Simon has agreed to fund an alternative “sprinkler solution” if agreed to by council and Lacrosse owners.

However, the builder has not agreed to fund replacement of the cladding and if owners proceed with this option it would be at their own cost with compensation to be sought through the courts or via negotiation.



Snr-Sgt Boris Buick and Victoria Police employee David Pawley will tackle a 360 kilometre ride to raise awareness for police legacy next month.

Cycling for legacy

Local police officers will participate in a gruelling bike ride next month to raise awareness for Police Legacy.

The 360 km ride will see a group of around 70 cyclists, ride from the Victorian border to the National Police Memorial in Canberra during the Police Legacy Ride to the Wall.

President of the Victoria Police Cycling Club and Docklands-based detective Sen-Sgt Boris Buick said the ride was a visible sign of support for the families of serving police members killed on or off duty.

Victoria Police Legacy was established in 1980 and works to provide on-going support for the families of deceased police members.

Sen-Sgt Buick explained the ride would start at Corryong in northern Victoria and continue on to Tumut and then onto Gundagai and Yass.

“We’ll then be meeting up with our counterparts from NSW police to complete the final leg of the ride from Yass to the National Police Memorial in

Canberra.”

“We’re riding to make a difference in the lives of those who have lost a father, mother or loved one while serving and protecting the community,” Sen-Sgt Buick said.

The riding group is predominately made up of Victoria police members and staff and around 25 per cent of the group is based at the Victoria Police Centre on Flinders St in Docklands. Police members from across the state, including Benalla, Mildura, Mansfield, Castlemaine, Wangaratta and Traralgon will also participate.

While the ride aims to raise awareness it will also raise funds for Police Legacy.

“The money we raise can have long-lasting effects, assisting with the education and development of legatee children and helping families to thrive despite their loss,” Sen-Sgt Buick said.

The 2016 Police Legacy Ride to the wall begins on May 12 and ends at the National Police Memorial in Canberra on May 16.

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Tracing the history of the docks

Have you ever thought about where the timber used to build the docks came from?

That's the question artist Annee Miron has spent months researching as part of a wider multi-artist project exploring Docklands' heritage.

She has produced a woven, sculptural piece which explores the origins of the piles used to build Docklands' wharves.

According to Ms Miron, when plans for Victoria Harbour were being drawn up in the late 1880s, engineer John Coode had pushed for it to be made out of concrete.

"But it was horrendously expensive," she said. "Even back then it was something like a million pounds."

Coode and Melbourne Harbour Trust resident engineer Joseph Brady disagreed over plans for the harbour, with Brady arguing that timber would be a better material.

According to Ms Miron, the Irish engineer had been doing work with native timbers and found they had longevity when submerged in water.

"In the 1880s they did a trial with some of the timbers over at Williamstown and put them in the water to see how they lasted."

"By the time they were building they decided initially to use karri from Western Australia and turpentine from New South Wales," Ms Miron said.

"As the project evolved for the next round of timber they needed in 1891 they called for tenders of timber from East Gippsland."

According to Ms Miron, the five East Gippsland species ultimately used for the piles were yellow stringy bark, yellow box, grey box, Gippsland blue gum and iron bark.

"You can see the remnants of the piles capped in white along Harbour Esplanade," Ms Miron said. "You can still see the bark peeling."

She said all of the timber, from Gippsland, Western Australia and New South Wales, would have to journeyed to Docklands by sea.

However, much of the timber is now deteriorating, evidenced by wharf collapse and wharf rectification work in recent years.

According to Ms Miron, some of the species will last about 80 years in the water and while many are still in place they aren't necessarily structurally sound. She said you could see this at the blocked off section at the end of Central Pier.

Ms Miron's project, for last month's Confluence: Art on site in Docklands art walk focuses on the East Gippsland trees used in Docklands.



Artist Annee Miron works on her woven sculpture in Docklands last month.

She spent hours weaving painted strips of cardboard to recreate the foliage of the trees used to build the wharves.

During the art walk she lined people up with the pier posts and asked them to lift the piece, as a symbolic re-lifting of the tree canopy.

Ms Miron said the work aimed to reconnect

the pier posts to the forest they came from, a reminder that what we're standing on didn't come from nowhere and has a history of its own.

"Part of my work is also to serve as a reminder that we did destroy a whole area of country in East Gippsland to create this (Docklands)," Ms Miron said.

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Capital Alliance founder and director Mohan Du, the Hon. John Eren, the Hon. Hong Lim and Mantra Group chief operating officer Tomas Johnsson at the opening of the new hotel.

New hotel opens

Docklands' first five-star hotel was officially opened last month.

Minister for Tourism John Eren visited Docklands on March 2 to launch the new hotel, after it started operating earlier this year.

The new hotel is located in the M Docklands building on LaTrobe St, and, according to general manager Jeremy Nordkamp, will cater for the increase in tourists to the area.

Capital Alliance developed M Docklands and founder CEO Mohan Du led negotiations to

bring the five-star hotel to the area.

"This luxury hotel has already significantly boosted tourism, with a successful opening over the summer sporting season that has seen almost all suites fully booked," Mr Du said.

"We anticipate further foot traffic to the area which will transform Docklands into a 24-hour destination," he said.

Laughter is the best medicine

Continued from page 1.

"The mind works in association and so the minute you start smiling the brain begins to think something happy or funny is about to happen. This sort of association has been formed over our lives. So when your brain starts thinking something fun, joyful or happy it starts making the biochemical changes."

In the case of laughter clubs, the aim is to simulate laughter rather using humour or comedy to prompt laughter. This is a form of aerobic exercise known as yoga laughter or exercise laughter.

According to Mahes, when you start simulating laughter, the physical action creates emotion, which travels through the central nervous system to trigger the pituitary glands to release endorphins.

"We encourage people to read funny things, learn jokes and share them with other people. The only thing is that we can become desensitised to jokes," Mahes said. "With exercise laughter you can do it every day as many times as you want, especially when you need it most like when you've had a hard day."

Mahes said first-time visitors to the Docklands Laughter Club could expect to go home with sore smile muscles, a sense of curiosity and pleasant feelings.

"Then they'll start feeling good and thinking 'that was nice' and they'll want to come back," Mahes said.

"Laughter clubs are perfect for the inner-city environment where we need to be encouraging more community activities"

"It's good to get out and meet other people," Mahes said. "You never know when you might meet some new friends."


The monthly Docklands Laughter Club sessions run for half an hour between 10am and 10.30am on the first Saturday of the month at Buluk Park and are followed by meditation. It's free to attend, with all laughter clubs throughout Victoria run by volunteers as a community service.

Next month, laughter clubs from around the world will be gathering in celebration of World Laughter Day on May 1.

"People from all over the world will be getting people together to laugh, to spread wellness, happiness and joy," Mahes said.

The Victorian celebration will be held at St Paul's Court at Federation Square on Sunday, May 1 from 11am - 12pm.



Laughter Clubs Victoria invites everyone to come along and join in the laughter for good health, happiness and world peace.



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Super yachts add to prosperity

By Nicholas Li

City of Melbourne has its sights set on attracting boats of all sizes, including super yachts, to Melbourne City Marina in Docklands.

According to Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, the council's new \$3 million dollar marina lounge and waterways office is growing in popularity with both multi-million-dollar super yachts and smaller boats.

Super yacht Glaze was berthed at Melbourne City Marina throughout March.

"When we built the Melbourne City Marina, we were hoping to get yachts, specifically super yachts, into Docklands. In the last year it's just exceeded our expectations by so far it doesn't matter," the Lord Mayor said.

"These are the sorts of vessels that cruise the world. We want them in Melbourne. We want them activating Docklands."

"It is the stuff of dreams. This is a floating embodiment of enjoying your success," he said.

Cr Doyle said the construction of the now completely finished marina was needed.

"We probably haven't utilised the water as much as we should have. But over the last year we've redressed that with the Melbourne City Marina," he said.

According to Cr Doyle, the marina received 570 bookings during the summer period, with the average stay increasing to around



Super yacht Glaze berthed at Melbourne City Marina last month.

three nights, translating to more activity and more spending in Docklands.

The marina can accommodate casual and short-term berths for boats up to 70 metres and the dedicated super yacht marina can accommodate up to four yachts of up to 65 metres.

"Docklands boasts Victoria's only harbour for super yachts. We received steady

bookings from these luxury vessels over the summer period. There is huge potential to grow this market and attract more top-end travelers to Melbourne," the Lord Mayor said.

The council's plan to attract maritime visitors coincides with the council's continued focus on developing nightlife.

As well as promoting local facilities in Docklands, the council hopes to draw

visitors into the CBD by extending alcohol licenses to select venues until 3am.

In the wake of recent national controversy surrounding alcohol related violence, Cr Doyle was careful to separate the city's plans from the issue.

"These are not the establishments which give us any trouble. The clientele appreciate quiet enjoyment of the city at night," he said.

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Artist Demian Carey-Gibbins manages the Waterfront Gallery at Yarra's Edge.

Letting the art breathe

By Nicholas Li

Demian Carey-Gibbins' world is one of sustainability, efficiency, and mood.

The Waterfront Gallery sits on Lorimer St, facing out towards the river. Light floods the gallery space with large windows providing panoramic views of an overcast skyline. Everything feels open, with a grand sense of space.

Mr Carey-Gibbins has been living with his young family above the gallery for 12 months. Having lived in the city for 10 years, the move has facilitated easier access to the gallery, which also acts as his studio.

For Mr Carey-Gibbins, the area and its facilities came as a surprise.

"We didn't know this part of the Docklands even existed. We love it. That's not even spin," he said.

"I was looking for an empty concrete shell, something that was half built - a development that had these cavernous places. Galleries that are large have a lot of impact, you go to the NGV, the Tate Modern, there's that impact of being able to observe art within a very large space."

"It isolates the art and allows you to encounter it in a way that if you were in a small, enclosed space you just can't. It allows the art room to breathe," he said.

Mr Carey-Gibbins' Global Village series features portraits of cities is characterised by striking colours and angles. His attention is focused on capturing the personality of the city. The first series featured portraits of Melbourne, Sydney, Paris, New York and Hong Kong.

The gallery space in its proximity to the city was thus a perfect fit for Carey-Gibbins' creative aesthetic.

"There's a resonance between the work and

the fact that it's celebrating cities and what people are capable of creating," he said.

The value of efficiency underpins his choices, both in his daily living and as an artist. Sustainability is a core part of his being.

"I grew up a hippie in Nimbin. This is a long cry from that," he laughs.

He argues that the stigma attached to cities is unfair.

"A city per capita, per person, has less environmental impact than the suburbs, because of the smaller footprint ... you start to look at the science and you realise things aren't as straight forward as you think they are."

"Docklands is a planned part of the city and focuses on sustainability," he said.

From his apartment above the gallery, to his children's childcare down the road, every facet of his life operates in absolute efficient harmony.

"This period of my life is where I want to be productive and be close to the city, and close to a lot of people that are doing a lot of different things. It's perfect. It's efficient," he said.

At 38 years old, his style continues to evolve, inspired by the lessons of time and the cityscape around him.

"You want to push yourself. You look back and see yourself as naïve regularly. You look back and think, 'I knew nothing' I've evolved away from realism. I'm much more expressive and I'm much more obsessed with the texture of the paint. But people would still say I'm a realist."



The Barber Club owner Alex Tabakman (centre) pictured with wife Anna (to his right), The Barber Club Docklands manager Andrea (to his left) and award sponsors.

Local business wins national award

Local business The Barber Club took out one of the top accolades at the annual Australian Hair Industry Awards (AHIA) last month.

Business owner Alex Tabakman travelled to Brisbane to attend the awards' gala dinner, where he accepted the Best Barber Business award.

"I want to thank all of my staff and loyal clients for making this possible," Mr Tabakman said.

"We have been nominated for this award for the past three years and we've finally won the big one," he said.

The AHIA's are the only business awards in the hair industry and winners were announced in 19 categories at the gala dinner last month.

Docklands Community Forum

You're invited to the next Docklands Community Forum on Wednesday 27 April. The Docklands Community Forum is a public meeting held every two months convened by the City of Melbourne and Places Victoria. The forum welcomes input from Docklands residents, businesses and workers about local issues and projects.

Meeting information

Date: Wednesday, 27 April 2016

Time: 6pm to 8pm

Venue: Library at the Dock,
107 Victoria Harbour Promenade,
Docklands

The Docklands Community Forum supports ongoing and diverse community input into the future of Docklands. For more information about the Docklands Community Forum, please visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/docklands





An artist's impression of the proposed police headquarters on Spencer St.

Proposal for new police headquarters

Docklands is set to become the city's police precinct, with the State Government seriously considering a plan for a new Victoria Police Centre on Spencer St.

The proposed building, at 311 Spencer St, would neighbour the existing City West Police Complex at 313 Spencer St.

The proposal, from Australia Post and CBUS Property was put forward under the Government's Market-led Proposal Guidelines.

If the government agrees to the proposal for the new building, it would replace Victoria Police's current headquarters at the World Trade Centre on Flinders St, the lease for which expires in 2020.

The Government has confirmed the proposal has proceeded to stage four (of five stages) of market-led proposal process and exclusive negotiation will not commence to determine whether an acceptable agreement can be reached between the parties.

The Valuer-General of Victoria will also consider the proposal throughout stage four to ensure it offers value for money for Victorians.

Treasure Tim Pallas said Victoria was "open for business" and open to ideas from the private sector that would benefit all Victorians.

"Our Market-Led Proposals Guideline had made the process more transparent while protecting the community's interest," Mr Pallas said.

"Importantly, it also provides certainty to parties who approach the Government with job-creating ideas - like this proposal for a secure police precinct at the west end of the CBD."

Update on Docklands Park upgrade

If you've walked past Docklands Park in the last few months you would have seen a flurry of activity and construction.

Recent work by the City of Melbourne, in collaboration with Places Victoria and Lend Lease, has seen enhancement works to the northern section of the park between Bourke and Collins streets.

"A new entrance to the park at Bourke St and Navigation Drive provides a new social space at street level, new stairs and a ramp now provide access to the upper terrace barbecue area as well as new seating to this area of the park," a council spokesperson said.

"Footpaths have been upgraded along Navigation Drive and new seating has also been installed to frame the central water feature."

According to the spokesperson "hardscape" works to the north and central sections of the park are now complete and Collins St works are expected to finish this month.

According to the spokesperson, the constructed wetland on Collins St was

failing due to a lack of suitable water and access to this end of the park was limited.

"This area has been adapted to create a new open and usable park space. New timber decking terraces open up connections to the footpath and step down to the sunken area to provide generous access and seating. New trees, lawn, garden beds and lighting will allow for flexible use of this space for the local community," the spokesperson said.

According to the spokesperson, planting works will begin at the park in late autumn with new garden beds and more than 200 new trees to be planted.

Following completion of the northern section of the park, the council will begin planning improvements to the southern section by undertaking a review.

"These works will look to complement the Jim Stynes Bridge and the surrounding landscape works the City of Melbourne constructed to connect Docklands Park with the Yarra River," the spokesperson said.



Upgrade work continues at the Collins St end of Docklands Park.

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Sailing program launched

A new program launched in Docklands last month aims to give disabled and disadvantaged children the chance to experience sailing.

Sailors with Disabilities (SWD) launched its *Winds of Joy* program in Docklands on March 22, with a group of children from Vermont South Special School taking a trip onboard the specially modified yacht Ninety Seven.

The Farr 47 yacht, which took line honours in the 1993 Sydney to Hobart Yacht race, has been modified to accommodate people in wheelchairs.

According to SWD founder David Pescud, the boat is moored at NewQuay but will leave on its journeys from the wharf near the Boating Hub at the Dock.

SWD was founded in Sydney and has recently expanded to Melbourne. Its Melbourne patron, Bryan Dorman, said expanding the work of SWD in Sydney was

vital to the Melbourne program.

“The opportunity for children with disabilities, in wheelchairs, to sail on a yacht in Melbourne hasn’t happened before. We really want the children, young people, schools and families in Melbourne to enjoy it,” Mr Dorman said.

“We delight in the absolute pleasure that children get from the experience, the excitement looking forward and the memories they make during the experience.”

“We aim to develop the programs so that the boat gets more use. We have 32 days of the year programmed but we would like to expand that so whether economically, culturally, physically or socially disadvantaged, children have a chance to experience inclusion through sailing.”

Mr Dorman said the organisation was seeking financial support to ensure the long-term viability of the program, along with volunteers to assist.

For more information visit www.sailorswithdisabilities.com/melbourne-sailors-disabilities



A group of children from Vermont South Special School participated in the Winds of Joy program in Docklands last month.

Networking lunch enjoyed by all

Some 50 Docklands stakeholders gathered at the first Docklands Networking Lunch for the year last month.

The quarterly lunch is hosted by Docklands News and the Docklands Chamber of Commerce and offers Docklands business people the chance to network at a local restaurant.

The March lunch was held at TAP831 on Bourke St and saw guests enjoy an afternoon of delicious food and good company.

The next networking lunch will be held on Friday, June 17 at the Wonderland Spiegeltent under the Melbourne Star.

As always the networking lunch is \$60 per person. Bookings can be made by contacting Docklands News via lunch@docklandsnews.com.au or on 8689 7979.



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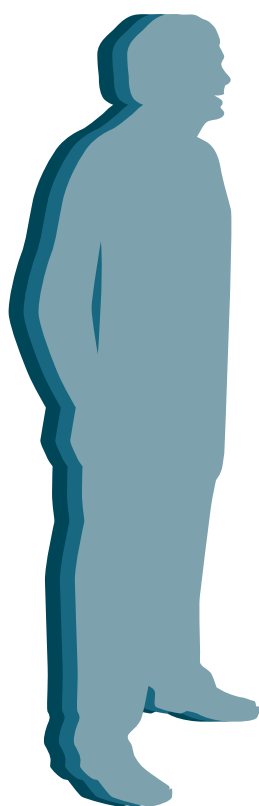


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Melbourne's best-kept secret

According to Elaine Mills, Docklands is Melbourne's best-kept secret.



DOCKLANDER

Profile by
Bethany Williams

A resident of NewQuay for almost nine years, Elaine said Docklands had just about everything you could need.

However, Elaine believes there's just one major ingredient missing - a local, public school.

"A school is the glue that holds the community together," she said.

As the principal of Albert Park Primary School, Elaine is in a unique position to understand the increasing demand for schools in the inner city.

"In the 1980s we had 89 students between two campuses. Now we have one school campus and we've got 550 students," Elaine said.

She said she was saddened by the thought of families being forced to move out of Docklands due to the lack of local public school options, particularly because she knows first-hand just how much kids enjoy the area.

Her own grandchildren, who live in Werribee

and Ascot Vale, love visiting Docklands as often as possible.

"It's been a real joy to have our own grandchildren in Docklands," Elaine said. "They think Docklands is lots of fun."

According to Elaine, favourite activities include visiting the fish and chip shop on NewQuay Promenade, playing at the "minecraft park" (also known as Monument Park), trips to the Library at the Dock and splashing about in the water play area at Buluk Park.

Elaine believes a Docklands school could capitalise on the inner-city location to provide unique learning experiences.

"The amazing thing about being so close to the city is that there's lots of extra-curricular activities that are just a tram ride away," she said.

She's hopeful that a continued push from the community and groups like City Schools 4 City Kids will see a public school delivered in Docklands sooner rather than later.

"When the community speaks, people have to listen," Elaine said. "We're not asking for anything outrageous, a school is a basic requirement for a community."

But in the meantime, Elaine will continue to enjoy everything Docklands has to offer.

"My favourite part of living in Docklands is taking my morning walk and watching the sun rise and seeing the different colours reflect on the water," she said.

She also loves bumping into the local dog-owner community, who are also always out early in the mornings with their pets

You might also spot her zooming around on her motor scooter, wandering through the weekly market, dining at local restaurants or jumping on a free tram.

"I think I like Docklands so much because it's an authentic hub for living, learning playing and spending your money!" Elaine laughed.



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DOCKLANDS
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Question: If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?



JANLUKAS, 19

I would go to Africa, because I've been there before and I think it's pretty cool, the people are nice and the culture is interesting.



KIREN, 21

Europe, I've been there once and loved it. The food, the architecture and all of it is wonderful.



ANDY, 19

The States. I think it has a lot of tourist attractions and it's a very interesting place.



XENA, 18

Europe. It's got a lot of beautiful architecture and a lot of interesting history.



JAMES, 45

I go to Bali every year so I'd probably go back to Bali. It's got everything, sun, surf and fun.



SHUTO, 21

Melbourne. I love it here. I am studying here from Japan. It is just a really cool city.

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There's no place like it

Does a footy club's home ground mean anything anymore?

I've been a St Kilda supporter since I was five. This year will be my 23rd consecutive year as a paid-up member. I grew up watching the Saints play at Moorabbin and then at VFL/Waverley Park.

Those were the days of ratty duffle coats, of getting splinters from the weathered wooden benches in the grandstands. Of rocking up at the gate, getting your membership card clipped instead of scanned, and sitting or standing pretty much wherever you wanted. Of colourful language in the outer, beer in cans, and post-match kick-to-kick in the centre square.

Moving to the boondocks and raising two young sprogs has meant that logistically it's now difficult for me to make a regular commitment to see my team play live. After years of going to the footy each week travelling from the likes of Victoria Park and the Western Oval back to Moorabbin and Waverley Park, these days I watch the footy from my couch.

Last year, I took my four-year-old son (we'll call him Sprog 1) to his first match at St Kilda's current home ground, Etihad Stadium. It was Sprog 1's first footy match ever and it was my first in a long time.

And geez, going to the footy had certainly changed.

From the so-called "entertainment" before the match, which largely consisted of blaring music and some kind of dance-off between the mascots, to the incessant advertising (it's everywhere), my reaction was "WTF?". During the match itself, a guy on the public announcement system kept instructing us to "MAKE SOME NOISE, SAINTS FANS!" (whatever happened to spontaneity?). Then, when they pulled out the giant beach balls at half time, I'd almost had enough.

I knew we were no longer in the days of

Moorabbin's infamous "Animal Enclosure", but the atmosphere at our home ground now felt fake and contrived. It made me sad.

Sprog 1, on the other hand, had a blast. He loved hanging out at Southern Cross Station to watch the V/Lines rumble past. He gleefully waved the inflatable, oversized "drumsticks" that we were handed as we entered the stadium (presumably to help us "make some noise"). And when he realised that every time I yelled "baaaaaw!" he could yell at the top of his lungs alongside me without being reprimanded for being too noisy, he had reached toddler nirvana. The dancing mascots and the beach balls were the icing on his cake.

As much as I wished Sprog 1 could experience footy as I had when I was a kid, I realised that he'll develop his own set of memories. That's just how life works. The fact is, footy's changing. Not just in the way it's played, but in how it's experienced.

I do have my own fond memories of footy at Etihad, like the best home-and-away match I've ever seen live (Saints vs Cats, Round 14, 2009), Robert Harvey breaking St Kilda's all-time games record, and the emotional send-off for favourite son Lenny Hayes.

And, for all my complaining, watching footy at Etihad does have its perks. After years of braving Waverley Arctic Park's microclimate of monsoons and hurricanes, there's something to be said about watching footy under a roof. The toilets are modern and pretty clean. The view of the playing field is terrific from every angle, even from the very top of the nosebleed section. And the hot chips are smothered in chicken salt.

After 12 years of working in the CBD, I recently started a new job in Docklands.

My first day was overwhelming; I felt like a little kid in a new school in a new city. On my



lunch break, I wandered around Docklands to get a feel for the place.

The seemingly endless construction sites, lack of retail stores and almost-empty streets were alien to me. But, as I turned a corner, a familiar sight changed everything. Framed

by the waterfront, a tram rattling past and that cow in the tree, Etihad Stadium made a pretty picture indeed.

And you know what? It made me feel at home.



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A reflection on Docklands' history as autumnal leaves begin to fall, the days grow shorter and Victoria Harbour, like a gigantic mirror, reflects the mood of the changing seasons with aplomb. As always, a beautiful time to be in Docklands.

Docklands is symbolic of a by-gone era. Author and historian Dr Gary Presland describes in a recent paper he wrote in *The Victorian Naturalist* 131: 96-105 (2014) – “A boggy question: differing views of wetlands in 19th century Melbourne” – the reasons Melbourne was chosen as a place to build a village.

He wrote “The specific location chosen was largely determined by the presence of reliable source of potable water. An area on the northern bank of the river adjacent to a rocky bar that was the limit of tidal reach, represented the most suitable site available for settlement, lightly timbered and sufficiently raised above the flood level.”

Governor Richard Bourke described it as “a beautiful and convenient site”. As Melbourne developed, Docklands emerged as the logical place for a port with its existing

wetlands providing perfect conditions to accommodate the growing number of ships arriving in Melbourne.

Docklands has been stripped of many symbols of the past – what we have left “doth butter no parsnips”, as the saying goes. The on-going development of Docklands should strive to preserve our relics and breathe life into the modern precinct that it is becoming.

Places Victoria is recognising the importance of preserving our history as custodians of some rich historical records. Currently under development is an interactive walking tour for visitors to discover the history of Docklands.

This is a great initiative and is part of the jigsaw to further inject a sense of place into Docklands. Further elements include establishing public exhibits reflecting the past to enable visitors to take a step back in

time and immerse themselves in a distinctly unique Docklands experience.

We know from global experience that cities that preserve and celebrate their heritage and history are high on visitor destinations.

Docklands is not an ancient city, however there is a tremendous story of discovery to be told and a rich history of the people who lived in the area for 50,000 years before European contact.

We are fortunate to have a number of heritage vessels such as the *Enterprize*, the *Alma Doepel*, *Polly Woodside* and the *Steam Tug Wattle* that call Docklands home. Putting these classic vessels prominently on display would be a great tourist draw card.

It is not difficult to imagine the spectacle of tall ships resplendent on the harbour front as you travel down LaTrobe St, or stand in awe

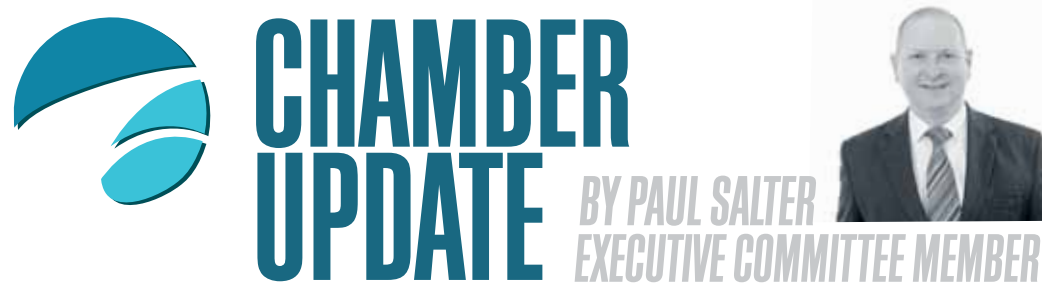
as they are illuminated on a winter's night.

Docklands, with this backdrop, would become the destination of choice and another great reason to claim Melbourne as the most liveable city in world.

The question “what is there in Docklands?” would be answered once and for all. The scenario is within our grasp, the community should ask for it!

You can start by discovering more about the Docklands' heritage fleet, located at the far end of Collins St down North Wharf Rd, and start imagining what Docklands would look like with these majestic vessels on permanent public display.

This would be the gateway to Docklands and be a place to tell the many stories of how Melbourne and Docklands came to be.



Activation of the water – Victoria Harbour

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce led a delegation to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water the Honorable Lisa Neville, on Wednesday, March 23.

Our interest is solely confined to the future governance of our waterways and the benefits available to the broader community by appropriate activation.

The result from the delegation is a public meeting to be hosted by the chamber with senior people from Parks Victoria and waterways presenting their position moving forward.

Limited seats are available for any interested person in the Docklands community to attend this special public meeting.

When: Thursday, April 28

Where: Berth restaurant, 45 NewQuay Promenade, Docklands

Registration: 5.45pm for 6pm start

If you would like to attend this public meeting, you must register by emailing the chamber executive via admin@docklandsc.com.au.

Only allocated seating is available, absolutely no door tickets available. No ticket, no entry.

To download a copy of the paper submitted to the Minister, simply go to the chamber website for a copy.

Caricatures displayed by chamber members

Gavin Bell, one of Melbourne's top caricaturists (bloodyfunny.com.au), was drawing caricatures for each of the attendees at our last networking function. These caricatures are proudly being displayed at their premises. When you see a caricature you will know they are chamber members.

Enhanced website being launched on April 28

We are currently improving the chamber website to incorporate the advantages of social media. Significant changes will give

greater support to local businesses which are members of the chamber.

Join the chamber today and like us on Facebook!

The new website is another reason to join the Docklands Chamber of Commerce and connect your business to people with like minds who are actively encouraging the development of the Docklands community.

If you have anything you wish to share, or you want to join us simply email: admin@docklandsc.com.au or visit our web site www.docklandsc.com.au

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Dr. Anne Dynon

We Live Here

Watch out for our petition

In a few weeks the We Live Here movement will be launching a campaign in the form of a petition via change.org to gather support for the regulation of short-term letting in residential buildings. We are hoping for a massive response and encourage you all to get involved.

Short-term letting in residential buildings is not being adequately addressed by any level of government.

High-rise Class 2 residential apartment buildings are springing up without much thought given to the residents who will live there.

It is all about the planners and developers, along with others with vested interests such as short-stay operators, AirBnB, etc who are being heard and considered before the residents have a chance to have a say.

We are fast becoming a taking economy for opportunists and not a sharing economy for communities.

This is now going to change with the launch, in a few weeks, of a petition for the regulation of short-term letting in residential buildings to 30 days or more, in line with residential tenancy agreements.

This would exclude hotel-style operations in

residential buildings that are not designed for them.

Cities around the world, including New York, London, San Francisco, Vancouver and Barcelona have been grappling with this problem. Now it is Melbourne's turn.

Why short-term letting MUST be banned for minimum stays of less than 30 days in residential buildings:

- They are a haven for short-stay operators who run hotel-style Class 3 operations without paying commercial rates and taxes, including GST;
- They do not contribute to the cost of wear and tear of the building brought about by their operations. This is borne by the owners through increased levies;
- Residential Class 2 buildings are not designed for Class 3 hotel-style operations as they are non-compliant with Fire Safety Regulations and OH&S requirements for disability access;
- They are an increased insurance and security risk;
- No owner or long term resident is safe from having a hotel room "pop up" near them; and

■ Community-building is impossible if one has to share with people who stay for a short time and are gone.

We need YOU to help ensure governments sit up and take notice.

It is time we, the residents, had a voice.

Details of how to sign the petition will be provided in the next We Live Here column, and via our website. All current subscribers will also be mailed directly. If you haven't already registered please do so now at www.welivehere.net

Owners Corporations Act 2006

Consumer Affairs Victoria has released an issues paper on the Owners Corporation Act 2006 and is seeking submissions from all interested parties by April 29.

For more information visit www.consumer.vic.gov.au/resources-and-education/legislation/public-consultations-and-reviews/consumer-property-law-review/issues-paper-2-owners-corporations

This will be discussed in more detail in next month's column. Please use the time to consider the issues you are most passionate about and let us know so we can include them in the discussion.

Tram Bridge across the Yarra stopped by passionate residents

This column is delighted to report that at a recent public forum on the urban renewal of Fisherman's Bend, the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne announced that the proposed tram bridge across the river from Yarra's Edge, previously approved by the former Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, would not go ahead.

This is a major victory for the residents of Yarra's Edge, led by Phil Spender, and demonstrates how community groups, if passionate enough, can make their voices heard.

Please contact us at campaign@welivehere.net if you have issues you would like to have addressed or we can publicise in this column. We also welcome and encourage input and contributions from YOU on the issues that affect YOU.



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IT'S ALL GOOD AT GOODLIFE DOCKLANDS

At Goodlife Docklands it's all about creating a great atmosphere to work out in.

Opening in Docklands last month, the new 24-hour health club offers local residents and workers a "five-star facility", according to general manager Danny Hickin.

"We've created a great vibe and a really nice gym for people to come and work out in," Mr Hickin said.

Located at the base of the Medibank building at 720 Bourke St (entrance on the Etihad Stadium concourse), the health club is perfectly situated for local corporate workers.

"We've found such a great location here in Docklands," Mr Hickin said. "It's really all about accessibility."

"Given where we are located, you can head into work and make working out part of your day, whether it's before work, on your lunch break, or after work," Mr Hickin said.

And with hairdryers, straighteners and



Goodlife Docklands general manager Danny Hickin.

ironing stations in the change rooms it's easy to head off to work after your work out at Goodlife Docklands.

"It's close by for a lot of Docklands workers, you can't get much better than downstairs or across the road," Mr Hickin said.

The club offers a range of equipment and

classes and is open 24/7 making it easy to schedule time to work out.

With 12 personal trainers on board and a crew of trained staff, Mr Hickin said he was confident Goodlife Docklands could cater to any client's need or goals.

"We want to provide people with a service

that we felt was lacking in the area," Mr Hickin said.

The club is staffed during weekdays but is not staffed at night or on weekends.

Mr Hickin said a strong safety procedure, including 24/7 surveillance, meant members using the health club during un-staffed hours were always looked out for.

"We've got duress alarms around the club which allow you to speak to someone live at any hour and we've got pendants you can wear so if you're injured you can press those and someone's alerted right away," Mr Hickin explained. "The security process is very strong."

According to Mr Hickin, since opening on March 7, Goodlife Docklands has received plenty of interest from the local community and was looking forward to welcoming more new faces to the club.

You can find Goodlife Docklands at Medibank Place, 720 Bourke St (entrance located opposite Gate 2 Etihad Stadium).

Contact Goodlife Docklands on 9099 6600 or visit www.goodlifehealthclubs.com.au/clubs/docklands/ for more information.



OWNERS CORPORATION LAW

With Tom Bacon

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

How to restrict the potential for intimidation at meetings and on the common property.

My colleagues in the United States that practice law in the field of Homeowners Associations (HOAs) are currently grappling with a big legal issue. And I'm very glad that here in Australia, we won't have to deal with it.

A number of HOAs and condominium complexes are attempting to pass rules that would prohibit guns from being brought to meetings on common property.

Ordinarily, it would be a constitutional and inalienable right in the USA for persons to carry guns with them on common property, however recently the courts have held that HOAs can pass rules designed to "promote the health, happiness and peace of mind of the unit owners".

The pro-gun community argue that carrying guns to meetings will ensure the happiness and peace of mind of owners, as they should

feel secure and safe, while the anti-gun lobby argue that carrying guns to a meeting would provide no peace of mind to unit owners at all, and could lead to intimidation and the threat of violence in a setting where issues such as raising special levies, repairing building defects, terminating service providers and enforcing community rules need to be discussed and resolved.

A determination on this legal issue is pending in the US courts. For safety's sake, I hope that a precedent can be established to restrict and prohibit guns at meetings. However, from a legal perspective, I foresee that the court would be duty bound to uphold the constitution and to declare that owners may carry their guns to protect their homes.

I'm certainly thankful that we live in a society where citizens carrying guns for protection is outlawed. As a lawyer, I've been to my fair

share of hostile meetings, but fortunately I've never had to consider wearing a bulletproof vest to a meeting. Besides, it would look too bulky underneath my suit.

Jokes aside, there is a worrying pattern developing in Australia. I've now attended several meetings where security contractors have been present. I've broken up a fist fight that started between two owners over whether to repair building defects or sue the developer.

In Sydney in 2014, a strata manager was shot in the neck at a special general meeting. The shooter, a male elderly pensioner that was later found by the courts to be "mentally incompetent" had set out to kill the strata manager and to take his position. Apart from the gun, he was also carrying a long kitchen knife and several clips of ammunition.

A survey of strata managers found that more

than 70 per cent reported feeling unsafe and intimidated at meetings within the last 12 months.

Certainly, it is not that I believe that one isolated incident of gun violence in Sydney could spark a trend of similar incidents. Indeed this could be the only incident involving a gun at an OC meeting in Australia's history, and clearly not a cause for concern.

However, my concern is that the potential for faulty decisions to be made due to threats of violence or intimidation (with no guns present) at a strata meeting could have serious legal implications.

I have seen it happen time and again, and I should think that bringing in the secret ballot process as part of Consumer Affairs Victoria's legislative reforms in this area would go a long way to addressing issues of intimidation on the common property.



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DOCKLANDS FASHION

A walk in the fashion lane

By Kara Bertoncini

As we transition into the cooler temperatures it can feel like a bit of a jab to the soul and start to be a real mood killer.

While Melbourne is known for its four seasons in one day, it does seem that we are getting a little more sunshine than we bargained for at this time of year.

So to celebrate this brighter change into the beauty of autumn, why not hit the pavement and take a walk in the fashion lane – quite literally.

Walking Tours of Melbourne is a great way to immerse yourself into the cultural footprint of Melbourne's rich and illustrious history, not only in reference to our fine city's architecture, but also to the fashion.

Even though it may still be up for debate, I think we can all agree that Melbourne really has become the fashion capital of Australia, thanks to independent designers, fashion festivals and bloggers.

Melbourne laneways house some of the most incredible boutiques and vintage stores filled with local and international designers and have become the first point of shopping for Melburnians and tourists alike.

What we know today as Flinders Lane, was for 100 years called The Lane, and also known as the centre of Australia's textile manufacturing and tailoring industries.

The Lanes Tour is a perfect way to unravel the story behind some of Melbourne's most iconic laneways and arcades, including Campbell Arcade, Cathedral Arcade, Royal Arcade, Centreway Arcade and Howie Place. Not only is the tour a great lesson in history, but also a great way to do a spot of retail therapy.

No matter what walk of life you come from, a walk in the fashion lane will never go astray. Do something outside of your comfort zone, be hungry to learn something new and feel good about the fact that you are supporting local designers in the process.

To sign up to a fashion walk around Melbourne's laneways, head to www.melbournwalks.com.au/boutique-fashion-shops-in-the-lanes.



Fashion on the streets of Docklands

Neil Bereren, 25

Student

LOCATION: Harbour Esplanade

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: It's just casual today, as I've come straight from uni.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE

OF CLOTHING: Probably the shirt I'm wearing now.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE

DOCKLANDS: I had uni, sightseeing and doing a bit of shopping.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE

YOUR STYLE: I follow Asian and Korean styles.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

I think smart – casual smart – and dressing to impress someone.

Honor, 27

Docklands local

LOCATION: Docklands Drive

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: This is my casual daily get up.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE

OF CLOTHING: I love crazy shoes, jeans and a denim jacket.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE

DOCKLANDS: I live here.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE

YOUR STYLE: Casual, I generally wear jeans and an interesting top.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Clothes that fit well to body shape and are comfy.

Marie, 26

Docklands local

LOCATION: Harbour Esplanade

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: Today I am wearing nothing special. This is just my usual day-to-day outfit.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE

OF CLOTHING: Long dresses.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE

DOCKLANDS: I live here. I just went to the market.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE

YOUR STYLE: Casual. I do not follow trends or brands.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

No idea to be honest. Something always different.



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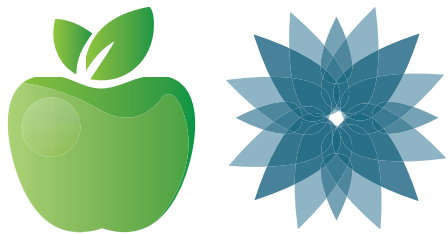
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HEALTH & WELLBEING



By *Andrew Ward*
YMCA Docklands manager

Healthy Body, Healthy mind

The first step when screening and programming new fitness clients is to establish their specific goals and exercise history. It's then our responsibility as trainers to educate and recommend the best path to success.

What is often overlooked in the goal-setting process is the positive impacts of exercise to the mind, as the obsession is mostly focused around losing weight, losing body fat, toning up or gaining muscle.

The good news is that a very positive side effect of your physical activity will be an improvement in your general wellbeing. Different types of exercise and activity can have different positive wellbeing outcomes that you might not be aware of, for example:

- Yoga and stretching - reduction in anxiety, increases calmness and emotional stability;
- Weight training and power lifting - improves memory, resilience, improves self-esteem and helps tackle depression;
- High intensity training - Helps control appetite and reduce cravings; and
- Running - Improves memory, enhances clarity in thoughts.

Importance of warming up and cooling down

A combination of our so called "busy" lives along with the popularity of high-intensity training classes has led to a down grading in the importance of warming up and cooling down. These days it's all about the 30 minute drill session where you strive for the maximum results from the least time.

Training with a high intensity certainly has its upsides, but what we are seeing too much of lately is completely avoidable, minor injuries that are directly related to not warming up or cooling down properly.

Last week we had a case where a lady injured her calf muscle after missing her regular warm up, and went straight into a high intensity session. This didn't result in any major injury, extensive treatment or rehabilitation, but did present a minor setback. For the next two weeks, her workouts needed to be modified, and she felt it was going back to square one after progress had been made in the past month.

The whole purpose of the warm up and cool down is to prepare the body to function under the stress of exercise, and return the body gently to normal function after the workout. The risk of set back and injury is unfortunately more apparent for new and enthusiastic exercisers, or when you are returning from a short break - so be smart.

Don't overlook the importance of the warm and cool down, especially when exercising with high intensity.

Escape, and take your workout to the country

The old saying that "the definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting different results" definitely applies to the exercise and results equation.

If you are looking at making gains, driving change and achieving your health and wellness goals, you must mix things up. There must be a plan and structure in your workout routine. On the flip side, if you have achieved your goal and are no longer looking for change, you can certainly maintain fitness levels by doing the same thing - so it's all about your personal context.

What I will challenge you on is that while you might be mixing up your workouts, you may not be mixing up your environments. So while your muscles and energy systems maybe challenged, your mind is still experiencing a sense of repetition as you are always working out at the gym, at lunchtime or before work.

Recently I was up in the high country and I experienced the benefits of exercise in a new environment. There was fresh air, no noise, no colleagues, no stress, no public transport, no traffic and the experience was refreshing and mentally cleansing.

So I challenge you to take what you know about exercise, drive to a peaceful or new environment whether it be the beach or country and see how it feels. If you enjoy the experience like I did, make it a monthly activity and invite your friends too.



"In the garden of my heart, the flowers of peace bloom beautifully". I have listened to these hypnotic lyrics and words of the Buddhist Monk prayer "The Great Bell Chant (The End of Suffering)" constantly in the last few weeks.

Actually, I think it's months. It is a soothing and incredibly penetrating mix of chants and bells and the voice of Thich Nhat Hanh is reassuring. I listen to them frequently, on repeat play. I'm trying to find the garden of my heart, so that I can see if peace is blooming there. Because it's not blooming anywhere else.

Let me explain. I'm sure you're in a similar situation, in the sense that it's like March already. In fact it's nearly April. It was like someone let off a race-starter gun on the 31st of December and I've pretty much been running ever since.

It seems to me that I'm not alone in this. I keep saying they are all good problems to have - business is rapidly growing (swallowing me), I am working very long days (and nights), and I have completely forgone weekends (truly).

I know, I know everyone warns you not to burn out, but seriously - what do you do? I've found myself energised by the excitement of so many quotes and jobs on, yet simultaneously terrified I'm going to overlook a client or drop the ball (which I have) ... I need SYSTEMS, but I don't have

time to put them in place. I need a pause button. I need a garden of blooming peace flowers.

But in all honesty, for me, I think this is just the top layer stuff. You know, the things that are easier to blame for how you're feeling than the deeper stuff. The stuff that you really don't want to acknowledge or tackle. The stuff that you know is really at the heart of it all.

Being busy in business is great and the stresses and the problems that come hand in hand with that are easy to name as the reason you're feeling, well, overwhelmed. But I'm not overwhelmed by my business growth problems.

Far from it. I'm proud of my business growth and the subsequent resolutions required. What I'm overwhelmed by, is the isolation. The claustrophobia of realising that the harder you're working, the more isolated you are becoming - from friends, from family, from the chance to live a life you've dreamt of. The chance to have a partner. The chance to play. The chance to dance. The chance to create the memories that really count.

Finding a balance in life is hard, but you know what's harder? Living without joy. Living without peace in your heart. So I'm going to try to stop racing frantically trying to please everyone and instead of writing my business action list I'm going to write the key things I want for my life.

I'm going to list the places I want to see before I die, I'm going to write down the types of memories I want to be holding when this life comes to it's end. And it will all too quickly come to an end.

I'm programming myself to say: "Am I living the very best way I can, for me, for my child, for all my heart and soul aches for, and deserves?"

I wonder, if you asked yourself this question, would there be some things you think of that fill your eyes with wonder and your heart with hope to remember all you wanted to do and be?

Would you, when you're old, look back and wish you'd just had this moment, this moment to write your list of "must haves" for your life? Wouldn't you like to be old, with an enormous smile on your face and enough

amazing memories to carry you through eternity?

There are many, many things that I do have, and am grateful for. And I know we all need to be responsible and work hard to pay our bills. But it's when you're letting busy-ness cover what you're truly aching for, that you will find you are not at peace. There are some very special people in my life, and I think it's time I got them to come back into it. Memories are waiting to be made, love is waiting to bloom, and happiness is bursting from the pages of my new list. Maybe when balance is back, the flowers of peace will appear.

May you all find the garden of your heart, and may it be full of blooms too.

With much love in this journey.

Abby xx

Don't forget you can reach me at life@docklandsnews.com.au Or join me on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @ [abbyjanecrawford](#)



PET'S CORNER

Scruffy and his fear of the dark

By Nicholas Li

Out for a casual post-rain stroll, Scruffy is the unassuming type. Just like any dog he seems to be enjoying what is likely the highlight of his day.

But this every day canine has a very unusual fear.

"Scruffy was chased by two black dogs when he was little, and ever since then he runs away from anything black," said Scruffy's owner Zamal.

Ironically, as Scruffy has aged he has gradually turned white after being a black puppy. The three-year-old seemingly has

morphed away from his fears.

"He's not racist!" jokingly laughs Zamal.

When not phased by a dark object, Scruffy maintains a friendly and timid personality. Scruffy also does not shed hair - an added bonus.

This chameleon canine enjoys an easy life in Docklands. Zamal, a local worker at Crown, would like to see more off leash areas.

"There are more dogs than children in this area so we need a park of our own," she said.

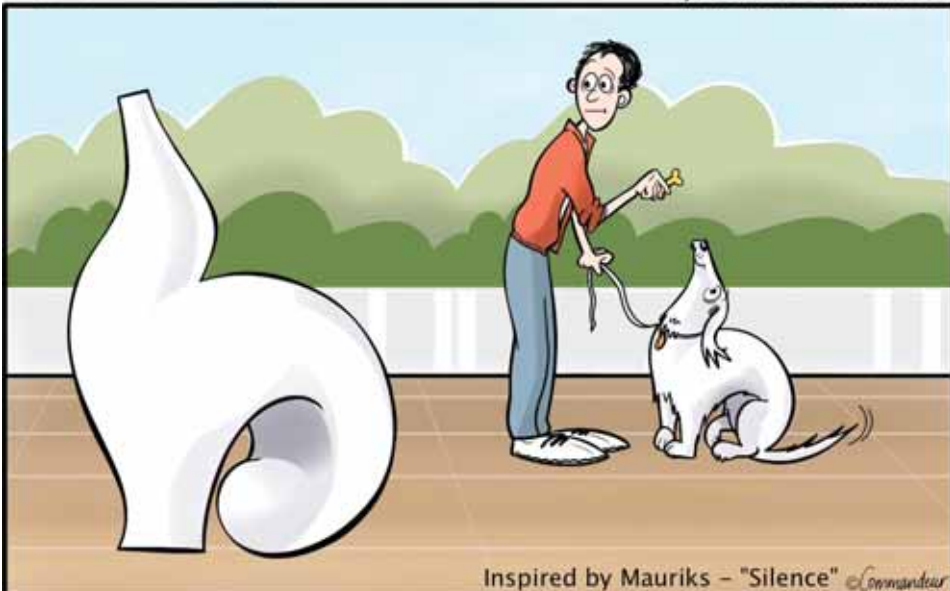
Despite a desire for more dog-related facilities, she contends that Docklands is a very dog-friendly area.



Zamal and Scruffy (right) hanging out with mates on the Webb Bridge.

DOCKLANDS DAZE

by Michelle Commandeur



Inspired by Mauriks - "Silence" ©Commandeur



Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to news@docklandsnews.com.au

The population doctrine

My friend Kerry Taperall (now 73) came from a large Catholic family. It wasn't large at first of course. There were just two in their two-bedroom home in Sutherland. Very comfortable.

Then came the babies. One comfortable, two comfortable, three comfortable, four getting a bit uncomfortable. So they built the verandah — which became a dormitory. More children. Problems began with toilets and bathrooms - uncomfortable.

But in those days Catholics were encouraged to accept those kids as they came. Name changed but true story, the Taperalls had a dozen children - six boys and six girls. It was just post-war so they could only get the materials to "Jerry build" a roughhouse room attached to the verandah for the extra children, too hot in the summer, freezing cold in the winter.

The Taperalls had overreached themselves population wise. I remember that the eldest left home at 17, the second eldest at 15, desperate to get a bit of space and privacy.

Melbourne, it seems to me, is like the Taperalls, We populated to a very good level and made a lovely city. But we didn't stop or even slow down. Our belief in growth was akin to the Catholic belief in the prohibition

of birth control. The doctrine of ceaseless growth at an unsustainable rate had become a doctrine of faith. No one could shake it out of what were otherwise sensible heads.

Congestion and discomfort are everywhere. And, now we have the destruction of Docklands Stadium (Etihad to you), no doubt to be subdivided, like the filling in with houses of the quite workable Glen Waverley football ground.

The space will be laden with apartment blocks. They will be like the recently-built ones, that squeeze and encrust Etihad stadium, which should have stood alone from the beginning, surrounded by some beautiful breathe-easy space.

And what is the reason? So we can build yet another stadium in sports city, blowing apart the No.70 tram, and extending the car queue along City Rd to the Swan St Bridge by another kilometre.

Ah, progress.

Dally Messenger



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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

EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
LE CIRQUE FINE FOODS
SAM KRISTY ON PIANO
 With a repertoire of over 6000 songs, Sam Kristy plays jazz, pop, swing, musical theatre, rock, classical, dance, disco and world music.

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**



THURSDAY, APRIL 14 - 1.30PM
LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
INVENTI ENSEMBLE: LUNCHTIME CLASSICS
 Flute, oboe and cello. Inveni Ensemble is holding a series of free monthly lunchtime concerts at the library.



TUESDAYS 6PM - 7PM
GROOVE TRAIN
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 Contact president Loryn Clark on **0418 390 334**



2ND AND 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6.30 PM
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DOCKLANDS TOASTMASTERS
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 - FROM 7PM
MOMAMI, PEPPERS DOCKLANDS, 679 LATROBE ST
DOCKLANDS SOCIAL CLUB
 Join other locals workers and residents for a monthly social gathering in a relaxed, informal setting. Come along for a drink or sit down for a meal. Everyone is welcome.

WEDNESDAYS 5.45PM-7PM
THE HUB, 80 HARBOUR ESPLANADE
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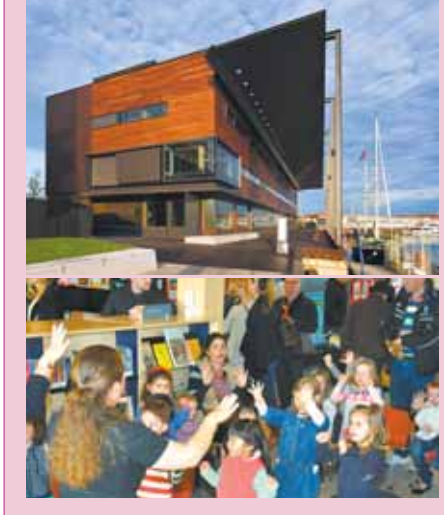
MONDAYS 11AM
THE HUB, 80 HARBOUR ESPLANADE
CHILD-FRIENDLY YOGA CLASS
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LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
MELBOURNE SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB
 Probus Clubs for men and women over 50. Meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities. Contact membership officer Sue at weddsuzanne@gmail.com

WEDNESDAYS 6.30PM TO 7.30PM
THE LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
 Docklands Daily Reflections group meets in meeting rooms two and three on level two.
VISIT AATIMES.ORG.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION.

LIBRARY AT THE DOCK - WEEKLY PROGRAMS

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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.

CREATIVE KIDS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
 Wednesdays 4.30pm to 5.30 pm.
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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE

Gridiron club eyes off Docklands

By Ella Gibson

Robert Smith and Hayley Fleming, members of the Melbourne University Gridiron Club, have their sights set on Dockland's Ron Barrassi Snr Park for their home ground.

It's easy to see why they are so invested. The view, looking out over the harbour and the city spread out behind it, is breathtaking.

Mr Smith is the president of the club and the head coach for the under 19s, while Fleming is the secretary of the club, plays for the women's team and helps manage the men's club during the season.

The men's senior team play in Parkville, however the women and the under 19s have nowhere to call home. Smith said that while traveling around for games isn't new to them, it's difficult to support a team with no home ground.

"When you have nowhere to call a home, you can't get your family to come and support you if they have to drive to Bendigo or Melton. It's a bit tough for them," he said.

Mr Smith and Ms Fleming hope that the Ron Barrassi Snr Park may change all that. The club is hoping to host clinics at the park to engage the community and trial the space. If all goes well, they aim to make the park the home ground of the women, men and the under 19 teams.

"I'm really excited to potentially be involved in Docklands. We're trying to boost the community, and help with local businesses to try and get something happening," Mr

Smith said. "There's so much potential in this spot"

To Ms Fleming, the Docklands community is reminiscent of her hometown.

"We're small town people so we loved how much it's like where we grew up. Here we can be a part of local businesses, we can get sponsors and offer locals discounts and really be a part of the community and be involved," she said.

Ms Fleming added that the club had changed their lives completely.

"We're incredibly diverse as well. I'm hanging out with people from all walks of life. It's absolutely brilliant, you meet amazing people and they do become your family," she said.

Mr Smith said that it would ultimately be the community's attitude that decided whether they go or stay.

"We don't want to come in and just take over the place. We want to be part of the community. If we come in and we run a few clinics and we get good feedback, well then we're moving further towards having this as a home ground. But if we run clinics and the community doesn't want us, then we'll move on," he said.



Hayley Fleming and Robert Smith want to bring gridiron to Docklands.



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