

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Woolshed Pub to bounce back



The Woolshed Pub staff and management have been working frenetically to reopen their venue since a devastating fire on November 11.

The blaze caused significant damage but the structure and Central Pier itself remains sound and the rebuilding effort began almost the same day as the fire.

Long-standing manager Duncan Laidlaw told *Docklands News* he hoped the venue would re-open early in March.

“No time is the right time for this to happen,” he said. “But this is the time we ‘make the hay’ for the rest of the year.”

Mr Laidlaw said the Woolshed had lost about 100 functions that had been booked. But, he said, most of the events had been relocated to other venues, mostly in Docklands.

“We’ve managed to place most of our staff at the same time,” he said. “The Docklands community has been overwhelming in their efforts to help us since the fire.”

The fire started in the kitchen at about 2.50pm. The flames in the kitchen were effectively doused, but Mr Laidlaw then noticed that the fire had already spread into the exhaust system and had taken hold in the heritage-listed building’s eaves.

The fire quickly spread and the focus switched to evacuating the 30 remaining lunch customers and 20 staff. Management won the praise from the fire brigade for the faultless execution of the emergency plan.

Mr Laidlaw and others then pitched into the fire fighting effort before (and after!) the brigade arrived.

“When your baby is in flames, you want to try to put it out,” he said modestly.



Mr Laidlaw surveys the damage.

Some 50 firefighters, about 15 appliances and a fire-fighting boat quickly contained the fire to the Woolshed Pub end of Shed 9.

An asbestos scare hindered the effort after firemen smashed a hole in the historic facade to get better access to the burning roof. Mr Laidlaw said the MFB handled this incident impeccably and the all clear was given at 5.30pm, which allowed other events to proceed that night on the pier.

The clean up started on Saturday morning, with the full extent of the damage revealed. Mr Laidlaw said management was taking the opportunity to improve some of the back-of-house facilities, but patrons would not see any structural differences.

He said the Docklands community would be invited to a special preview before the venue reopened.

More photos on page 18.

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By Shane Scanlan

At the end of November the City of Melbourne was still to reveal details of its Christmas and New Year activities in Docklands.

Local businesses are unimpressed as they have been unable to start any marketing or promotions to leverage the seasonal opportunity.

Earlier this year the council advertised a \$500,000 tender for three Docklands events, including a Christmas event which was due to start on November 25.

Despite the tender closing on September 12, the council took until November 28 to publicly announce the winning candidate. The council had earlier undertaken to reveal the winning bid by the end of October.

The tender documents called for a Christmas event which developed “a strong thematic concept that showcases Docklands as a must-visit Christmas destination”.

It’s a similar story with the New Year’s Eve fireworks. In the middle of the year the council made a decision to discontinue water-borne fireworks in Docklands on New Year’s Eve. It later justified its decision with dubious claims that public safety was at risk.

It now intends to launch fireworks from a

number of Docklands’ rooftops. As early as July, council officers have been attempting to negotiate launch sites with local towers.

So far though, it appears that only Etihad Stadium has agreed to the council’s request.

Council officers have been assuring businesses that buildings on both sides of Victoria Harbour would be used for the midnight fireworks but, again, by the time *Docklands News* went to press, no further details were forthcoming.

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce said council told it eight weeks ago that the events tender announcement was imminent.

“We were also told that this would highlight Docklands as a destination of choice over the Christmas and New Years’ period,” chamber president Johanna Maxwell said.

“Our concern at the time was that this activation did not have sufficient lead time even at that extended period of two months.”

Mrs Maxwell said the chamber had asked the council every week who had won the tender and what was the nature of the activation.

“As recently as Monday, November 28 executives of the DCC met council representatives along with other Docklands stakeholders and were still not given concrete information,” Mrs Maxwell said.

“The small pieces that have been leaked to us privately and at that meeting, without permission to disclose publicly, do not detail the activation.”

“Nor do they provide the information necessary for businesses to adjust to the changes that are being made for NYE – such as the closure of Harbour Esplanade, new lines of sight for the fireworks and public awareness that they will not be on the water.”

“Our major concern is that Docklands businesses can’t utilise this investment in terms of tailored marketing and more importantly some may actually be using incorrect advertising as we simply don’t know what the plans are.”

“The positive out of the meeting held on November 28, is a commitment from Docklands stakeholders and council to work in a greater collaborative manner in the future,” Mrs Maxwell said.

A council spokesperson told *Docklands News* on November 28 that Fruitbowl Productions had won the tender and had started working on a Christmas activation.

“We are pleased with the progress to date and can confirm that we are developing concepts for the Christmas Festival in Docklands including:

- An installation of live illuminated Christmas trees on Harbour Esplanade;
- A Christmas Design Market across three Friday evenings; and
- Roving carollers and festive characters traveling in and around the retail and hospitality precincts across the month in December.”

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No tall towers for Harbour Town

By Shane Scanlan

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) last month confirmed that high-rise development will not be allowed in the small "in-fill" pockets surrounding Harbour Town Shopping Centre.

Local developer Capital Alliance earlier this year challenged in VCAT the Minister for Planning's refusal in March for a 109m tower at 3-43 Waterfront Way.

Capital Alliance in December 2014 purchased a number of the "in-fill" sites from Ashe Morgan but must now assess its future development options.

The November 18 VCAT decision is also a blow to Places Victoria, which supported Capital Alliance against the planning ministry and the City of Melbourne.

Capital Alliance managing director Mohan Du told *Docklands News*: "In short, we're disappointed with the result and, as you could imagine, Docklands has quite a complex framework and is not so straight forward."

"Will have to look towards the future and work with all stakeholders to ensure we can still accommodate the country's first Marriott Hotel in 20 years. Our vision for the precinct remains unchanged."

In March, Planning Minister Richard Wynne refused the application on the grounds that: it was inconsistent with the Waterfront City Outline Development Plan 2003; it exceeded the preferred height of 45m; was out of scale for the surrounding area; would not activate the street or protect it from wind; would overshadow the future NewQuay Central Urban Park; and would have provided poor internal residential amenity.

Capital Alliance had planned to build a 37-storey residential tower comprising 260 apartments and a 200-room Marriott hotel.

It was Queens Counsels at 10 paces during the four days of VCAT hearing before presiding member Rachel Naylor and member Stephen Axford on July 27, 28



Capital Alliance's proposed tower at Waterfront Way.

and 29 and August 31.

Before ING Real Estate sold Waterfront City to Ashe Morgan in March 2014, it had acquired a permit to build a 52m tower on the site comprising 240 apartments.

But the VCAT hearing heard that the City of Melbourne granted extra height on that occasion because it was to be used for low cost accommodation for

lower income households.

VCAT members Naylor and Axford said: "We find this proposal fails primarily because of the combination of the existing character of the immediate area and the broader precinct as established through the existing and emerging built form; and the urban design expectations contained in the relevant approved development plans."

"We agree with the Minister that the urban design framework for taller buildings within the established built form of Harbour Town Shopping Centre is lacking in terms of strategic justification."

"Given the findings we have made about a tall building on this site in the context of the proposed amended development plan, we anticipate that any future development on this site is likely to involve a lower building height. Hence, the merits of a particular design on this site will need to be considered afresh when/if this occurs."

Capital Alliance argued that small sites within existing development plans could be assessed on their merits. It proposed a "Harbourtown Southern Sites, Docklands, Development Plan 2015". During the application and appeal process, it produced three versions of its plan.

Members Naylor and Axford found, however: "In our view, neither versions 2 or 3 of this proposed amended development plan provides an acceptable urban design rationale for such a change in scale for the three remaining vacant sites that are effectively located within the extent of the low-rise Harbour Town Shopping Centre."

The members also said views from the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel needed to be taken into consideration.

"As we see it, the larger the development contemplated on this site and the other two vacant sites that are effectively within the Harbour Town Shopping Centre buildings, the more potential there is to diminish the landmark status of the Melbourne Star. This is a matter that should be addressed in any amended development plan(s) for these three sites," the members said.

See page 4 for editorial comment.

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APEX
VICTORIA

... that extra layer of onion again

Comment

Shane Scanlan



The VCAT ruling against Capital Alliance's plans for high-rise in Harbour Town again highlights the bureaucratic planning complexities in Docklands.

As the third owner of the site, it is easy to feel sympathy for the relatively new (and locally-based) developer Capital Alliance.

Managing director and founder Mohan Du is a young man in a hurry and can be forgiven for not seeing his prospects in the same way as the mandarins of the planning ministry.

It took nearly three months for presiding member Rachel Naylor and member Stephen Axford to release their findings. One suspects most of this time was spent unraveling the disconnected threads of the Docklands planning story.

In an understated tone, they begin their judgement with: "There is complexity to the planning history of Docklands."

And they appear to have received little help from the various QCs and their expert underlings who lined up to do battle before them in the case.

The pair point out Docklands' special status and referred to the unique role of Places Victoria.

"On day one of the hearing, we were provided with an extract from Places Victoria's website about the 'Docklands Planning Process.'"

"It explains the roles of the City of Melbourne and the Minister for Planning as the relevant responsible authority for the Melbourne Planning Scheme dependent upon the gross floor area of the development. It also explains that Places Victoria sells the right to develop land in Docklands to developers and Places Victoria is: ... responsible for co-ordinating the development of Docklands, administering precinct development agreements and managing development in partnership with the private sector."

These agreements go back to the 1990s when successful state governments enticed developers to get involved in the Docklands brownfields development. They are highly secret and not even known by the City of Melbourne - a curious position considering the city is now the planning authority.

Members Naylor and Axford found the going tough, saying: "The parties referred to the relevant planning policies, planning controls and approved development plans during the

hearing, but the essence and the relevant detail of all of these were not well captured in the submissions or evidence presented."

Among members' observations was: "Figure 8 - Docklands in clause 21.13 of the planning scheme breaks down the overall area of Docklands into precincts. Precinct One is Waterfront City and includes part of NewQuay Central and the land to the northeast of Waterfront Way."

"Interestingly, the precincts shown in this figure do not correspond with the precincts identified in the Docklands Zone or the Design and Development Overlays."

"The Business Park Precinct that these controls (DZ6 and DDO54) relate to is broken down into three different precincts in clause 21.13, being Waterfront City, Docklands Studio and NewQuay."

"Waterfront City and Victoria Harbour waterfront are identified as the primary retail precinct for Docklands. There are no policies in this section of the MSS (municipal strategic statement) about Docklands that mention entertainment uses, theme parks or tourism."

Another inconsistency was: "The Melbourne Star is identified as a key landmark in Figure 2 - Built Environment and in Figure 8 - Docklands in the MSS. The only reference to landmarks in the Built Environment section is in clause 21.06-2, albeit the heading of this section suggests it relates only to heritage. Nevertheless strategy 1.3 seeks to maintain

the visual prominence of heritage buildings and landmarks."

"In clause 21.13-2 relating to Docklands, there is no specific mention of this landmark. Rather, it talks about a landmark site that marks a key local focal point and needing to ensure buildings on it are designed to the highest quality."

"In the Urban Design local policy, it states the location of landmark buildings in Docklands are identified in the Design and Development Overlay schedules. In DDO54, there is no mention of landmarks, only a decision guideline about considering the impact on the significance of existing heritage places."

"Hence, it appears the recognition of Melbourne Star as a key landmark is not carried through all relevant local planning policies or DDO54. Nevertheless, it remains identified in Figure 2 of the MSS as a key landmark, so we have had regard to it."

I've said this before and I'll say it again here: Since 2007 when VicUrban (formerly the Docklands Authority, currently Places Victoria and soon to be Development Victoria - are you getting my drift?) started "power-sharing" with the City of Melbourne, Docklands has been partially paralysed.

Should it have been allowed to proceed under the original mandate, I have no doubt that it would be completed.

That extra layer of onion looks like adding at least another decade to the process.

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Local resident awarded for saving drowning man

Docklander Kebrasca King was last month awarded for his brave act of saving a drowning man near the Webb Bridge.

Mr King said he was walking with his wife Amber in the late afternoon of November 12, 2014 when they stopped on the bridge to watch a man operating a drone from the nearby bank at the ANZ Centre.

But, he said, the drone failed and dropped into the water, prompting the operator to take his shoes off and jump in after it.

What should have been an entertaining scene soon turned into a matter of life and death when it became apparent that the man could not swim.

"He was wearing a puffer jacket and jeans which didn't take long to become water-logged," he said. "He sort of dog-paddled out to the middle of the river before realising that the drone was gone and he should try to get back."

"I'll never forget his screams. He knew this was the end," he said.

Once he realised what was happening and that no one else was going to help, Mr Kebrasca ran from the bridge, shed most of the clothing and dived into the river.

"He had gone under by this stage but I found him and pull him back up to the surface," he said.

Although never formally trained in lifesaving, he turned the man on his back and swam with him back to the bank, where he arranged him on his side to allow the water he had swallowed to escape.

"You pick these techniques up," Mr Kebrasca joked. "I've watched *Bondi Rescue* and *Baywatch!*"

Water police soon attended and Mr Kebrasca was able to return home, shower and change and continue on to an event at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition



Kebrasca King revisits the Webb Bridge from which he witnessed a man drowning in the Yarra.

Centre.

It was the water police officer in attendance who nominated Mr Kebrasca for his Certificate of Merit which was presented by Governor Linda Dessau at Government House on November 14.

"It's obviously not the reason you do these

things, but it is nice to be recognised," he said. "It was just an instinctive reaction, seeing someone in trouble."

The drowning man has never made contact.

Mr Kebrasca has lived in Docklands for eight years and also operates his marketing business here.

Another rescue

River rescues seemed to the flavour of last month, with another performed at North Wharf on Sunday, November 20.

Barman Matt McKiernan was closing up the The Wharf Hotel at about 11.30pm when he heard screams from the river.

Realising a man was drowning, he stripped off, dived in and pulled the man to the bank where others helped him lift the man from the river and resuscitate him.

The man was taken to hospital by ambulance in a stable condition.

Revised plans for Collins Wharf

Lendlease has been forced to amend its plans for apartment towers on Collins Wharf.

In September, Melbourne City councillors slammed the developer's plans for five towers along North Wharf Rd.

At the time, Lendlease said nothing publicly but was understood to remain confident that Planning Minister Wynne would back the plan, despite the concerns of councillors.

But last month, Mr Wynne told *Docklands News*: "We are talking to Lendlease about a modified proposal."

It is understood that Lendlease is still expected to have approved roughly the same number of apartments, but in a different configuration.

Victoria Harbour project director Tim Campbell told *Docklands News*: "We continue to work with our stakeholders and government partners on the next steps for our Collins Wharf proposal."





Seasons Greetings

Best wishes for the festive season and a peaceful new year ahead. Thank you for your support throughout 2016 and we look forward to working with you again in the new year.

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Christmas in Victoria Harbour

Saturday, December 10 is when the Docklands community comes together to celebrate Christmas in Victoria Harbour.

A full program of events is planned for the Library at the Dock, the adjacent community hub and Bullock Park.

The day kicks off at 10am with group laughter and meditation sessions to set the mood, run in conjunction with a kids cannoli workshop at Saluministi Café. At 10.30, the kids can pitch into a Christmas craft workshop and at 11.40 there is a "Jollity Bollywood" demonstration.

Rotary will be cooking up a storm from 11am until 2pm and Men in Suits will perform for an hour from 12.30pm.

At 1.30 residents can get involved with a special Bake Off and later enjoy *La Nuit Blanche* by Sunday Lounge Music from 3pm. And, if that wasn't good enough, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra will be putting on a special 30 minute performance from 4.30pm.

There will be a charity, wishing tree at the Knowledge Market. Donations will be distributed to local charities. Visit Knowledge Market by Friday, December 16 with a festive gift for someone less fortunate.

Melbourne North Police Station representatives will collect the gifts and oversee the distribution to those in need. The gifts don't need to be wrapped.

There's also a family photo-booth, coffee from the Wheely Good Café within the library and Santa is also rumoured to be making a special appearance.

See www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/thedock for further details.

12 Days of Christmas Light Show

Each evening, during the 12 Days of Christmas, watch the 888 Collins Street building come to life in a spectacular festive light display.

Beginning at sunset, and continuing until midnight, the festive show will play for five minutes every hour, on the hour.

The special festive light show has been curated by the artist Bruce Ramus and will play in addition to the usual artistic weather light reflections.

The show will run every night between December 14 and December 25 between sunset and midnight.

Victoria Harbour project director Tim Campbell said: "We're really pleased to be adding to the Christmas spirit in Victoria Harbour with the 12 days of Christmas light show at 888 Collins Street. The building is perfectly located for the community to experience the spectacular lights from Dock Square and the library."



Yarra's Edge Social Club members with some of the gifts they have collected already.

Make someone's Christmas

Docklanders can help brighten up Christmas for Melbourne's marginalised youth thanks to a Yarra's Edge Social Club initiative.

Club member Chris Cato explained that locals were looking for a way to make a difference this festive season.

"We wanted to concentrate on the 10 to 18-years-old age group," Ms Cato said. "It's easy to get gifts for the little ones, but the older kids tend to miss out."

The gifts are being passed on to McKillop Family Services in South Melbourne.

Gifts can be left at Concierge 86 (86 Lorimer St) or brought to the next Yarra's Edge Social Club Tuesday afternoon get together (from 2pm) at The Loading Dock café until December 9.

Taxi driver assaulted

Police are searching for two men who allegedly attacked a taxi driver in Docklands on Saturday, September 3.

The two men caught a fare from Chapel St to Docklands before the driver locked the door and the two men proceeded to punch the taxi driver to evade the fare.

Police have released CCTV images of the two men whom they believe may be able to assist in their inquiries.

The first man is perceived to be Caucasian in appearance and in his early 20s. He had his left ring finger strapped.

The second man is perceived to be Caucasian and was wearing a white puma jumper and white backwards baseball hat.

Report information confidentially online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au or call Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**.

Police want to talk with the two men pictured right in relation to an assault on a taxi driver in Docklands.



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Harbour Esplanade bike party

Good Cycles' new bike hub on Harbour Esplanade was launched with a two-wheel-themed party on November 10.

Invitees were not only treated to a performance by the Velocipede Improbulators, they were also able to try the group's unlikely cycles for themselves. Most

concluded it was better to leave it to the experts.

The community bike hub has been established to offer bicycle servicing to the hundreds of cyclists who commute through Docklands on the Capital City Trail.

Village St traffic tension

By Elliana Saltalamacchia

Village Docklands owners' corporation (OC) is upset about planned changes to traffic flow on Village St because it says the change will inconvenience residents.

Places Victoria will early next year convert the section between Bourke St and Fishplate Lane into a one-way street, with traffic to flow in a northerly direction towards Etihad Stadium, in order to create a pedestrian and cycle-friendly precinct.

Village Docklands is a residential building located at the southern end of Village St in Batman's Hill. Its OC says, although it supports the creation of an enhanced public realm, it objects to the removal of southbound traffic.

The change will mean that residents will enter via Batman's Hill Drive and Fishplate Lane to access their apartments, instead of using the northern section of Village St.

OC chair Graham Standfield said the owners' corporation did not want residents to have to bear this.

He said residents had already endured major inconvenience over the past 11 years caused by various Docklands planning authorities.

"When will the Village Docklands residents be prioritised over the commercial developers and corporates?" he asked.

Mr Standfield also said the change to a one-way street would create large northbound traffic flow in the afternoon and evenings through the restaurant end, when traffic from Collins Square car parks was exiting via Village St.

He said the OC proposed that Places Victoria instead open a connecting street between Village St and Aurora Lane under the Collins St overpass to divert traffic.

But Places Victoria general manager precincts Simon Wilson said a traffic study showed positive results from the changes.

"Our traffic study has shown that this section of Village St is ideally suited for conversion into a shared zone, which will see less vehicles using the street and to give pedestrians and cyclists priority," Mr Wilson said.



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Watergate ordered to pay costs

The Supreme Court costs court has ordered the Watergate Owner's Corporation (OC) to pay short-stay operator Paul Salter \$133,500 in costs after losing a series of cases.

On November 2 the court ordered the OC to pay the costs of Paul Salter, Belinda Balcombe and others for recent legal cases pursued both in the court and also in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

The court ordered three payment instalments: \$50,000 on or before December 8; \$51,500 on or before February 8, 2017 and a further \$31,000 on or before April 8.

The costs cover the June 15 VCAT action when the OC tested its rule that stays could not be less than 30 days. Mr Salter won that case and the OC appealed the decision to the Supreme Court. Mr Salter won that case too and \$133,500 awarded costs also cover that matter.

Mr Salter estimated that the Watergate OC had spent about \$500,000 in all in its attempts to prevent short-stays.

Watergate OC chair Barbara Francis said \$500,000 "was not an unreasonable estimate", but said it was money well spent.

"This equates to approximately \$286 per apartment per year over the five year period," Ms Francis said.

"The benefits to Watergate from the action – which as you know was initiated by the

City of Melbourne – has been the reduction in short stays from 45 in February, 2011 to 13 in November, 2016, and the consequent decrease in wear and tear on the building."

"However, even with just 13 short-stay apartments, the ongoing commercial operations continue to create a significant negative impact on our building," she said.

Mr Salter alleged that the OC had been advised that its action would fail if challenged at VCAT.

"Not only did they ignore that advice and lose in VCAT they appealed the decision to the Supreme Court and lost again," he said.

He questioned whether the Watergate committee could justify the spend.

October was also a good month for Mr Salters' Docklands Executive Apartments business, having been awarded Trivago's highest rated accommodation in Melbourne and third in Victoria.

In the meantime, media reports point to a tightening of bookings and margins by short-stay operators due to more players entering the market.

In October, *The Age* reported a 32 per cent decline in monthly incomes from AirBnB rentals in the City of Melbourne.

Mr Salter, who is also the president of the Victorian Accommodation Industry Association, agreed that margins had dropped.

"Yes, margins have dropped, but it is all about service, vacancy rates and price per night. Short stay accommodation is here to stay for those who deliver what the consumer wants will grow, the others better keep their day jobs," Mr Salter told *Docklands News*.

"Simply because anyone can set up a property and rent it as short-stay does not give them any guarantee that they can make money. The beautiful thing about looking after your own livelihood, is that your success is solely your responsibility and you better learn to be good and have a point of difference," he said.

"Our point of difference is unique and it was thrust on us – How to deal with five years of litigation while delivering above average service and remain number one on Tripadvisor for the same period."

Mr Salter said he was soon to embark on a national speaking tour to advise the short-stay industry what he had learned in his long-running battle with the Watergate OC.

Short-stays referred to committee

The Opposition has delayed the second reading of the short-stay accommodation bill by referring it to a parliamentary committee for further scrutiny.

The second reading of the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-Stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 will now not proceed before March 7 next year when the Environment and Planning Committee is due to report back to the Legislative Council. Moving to refer the matter on November 7, Eastern Victoria Member Edward O'Donohue wants the committee to report on:

- "Undertaking proper consultation with peer sector economy providers, individuals and owners' corporations short-stay letting providers;
- The impact on individuals, families, apartment owners and owners' corporations of short-stay letting in apartment buildings; and
- The adequacy of owners' corporation rules in managing impacts on amenity, noting also the lack of adequate planning on the part of the building and construction sector to accommodate the impact of high-intensity short-term lets."

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Another year at the helm for Joh

Johanna Maxwell has been returned as president of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce for a fourth year following the group's annual general meeting (AGM) on November 10.

Newcomer Kebrasca King was elected vice-president and Paul Keisler remains as secretary and Josephine Tan continues in the role of treasurer.

Other executive committee members are Paul Salter, Glenn Donnelly, Mo Hamdouna, Melissa Forester, Kerry York, Glenda Archibald and Tony Bailo.

Reflecting on the year in her presidents' report, Mrs Maxwell said one of the most disappointing things for Docklands was losing water-borne fireworks on New Year's Eve.

"Unfortunately the decision has been made and the fireworks will not be water based," she said. "As with the 9.30 fireworks, it is highly unlikely that they will return to the water."

She reported that the council intended to launch fireworks off the roof of Etihad Stadium.

"It has been confirmed this morning that an agreement has been reached and that fireworks will be launched from buildings on both sides of Victoria Harbour - affording views from the promenade based restaurants and apartments to varying degrees."

"Sites will be made public shortly. Whilst this is not water-based, it is a positive in that our members will still have a marketing piece for customers to enjoy from their premises."

"As a result of these changes your executive raised the concerns with the City of Melbourne and hosted a number of



Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive members after the AGM (from left): Joh Maxwell, Kebrasca King, Kerry York, Paul Keisler, Melissa Forester, Tony Bailo, Glenn Donnelly and Mo Hamdouna. Absent are: Josephine Tan, Glenda Archibald and Paul Salter.

stakeholder engagement sessions for our members."

She said the chamber would continue to campaign for activation of the waterways.

"We have 7kms of water frontage and this

is unique to us in Docklands," Mrs Maxwell said.

She said the chamber would also continue to press for water governance reform and would be meeting the acting CEO of Parks Victoria on November 29.

Explanation for new park underutilisation

By Nadia Dimattina

The City of Melbourne says it is easing Ron Barassi Senior Park into its role as home to inner-city sporting clubs.

A council spokesperson said it had been overwhelmed by the number of submissions from sports clubs to use the area.

"The City of Melbourne has been inundated with requests from established clubs to use this new sports park for training and competition," the spokesperson said.

Docklanders have been recently wondering why the facility appears not to be used.

In response to *Docklands News* questioning, the council says it is concerned that the year-old facility could be overused if not monitored carefully.

"Being a new piece of infrastructure we are conscious of the need to avoid overuse of the space in its first 12 months. We are, therefore, carefully managing the frequency of use at this time," the spokesperson said.

The council acknowledges that sporting facilities and opportunities are important to Docklanders.

"We are working with the local Docklands community to provide physical activity opportunities and sports clinics and we are working with local residents to set up a local sports club to maximise opportunities for the space going forward," the spokesperson said.

The council says its priority is for the Docklands community to make the most of the new green space.

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Date	Santa	Time
Wed 30 Nov – Fri 9 Dec	Santa Photography	11am – 3pm
Sat 10 Dec	Santa Photography	11am – 4pm
Sun 11 – Wed 21 Dec	Santa Photography	11am – 3pm
Thurs 22 – Sat 24 Dec	Santa Photography	11am – 4pm
Date	Mrs Claus	Time
Sat 3 & Sun 4 Dec	Story Telling	12pm – 3pm
Sat 10 & Sun 11 Dec	Story Telling	12pm – 3pm
Sat 17 & Sun 18 Dec	Story Telling	12pm – 3pm

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Date	Activity	Time
Sat 3 & Sun 4 Dec	Christmas Bag Colouring	11am – 3pm
Sat 10 & Sun 11 Dec	Reindeer Painting	11am – 3pm
Sat 17 & Sun 18 Dec	Christmas Bag Colouring	11am – 3pm
Mon 19 Dec	Christmas Card Making	11am – 3pm
Tues 20 Dec	Christmas Bon Bon Making	11am – 3pm
Wed 21 Dec	Christmas Angel Making	11am – 3pm
Thurs 22 Dec	Christmas Bauble Making	11am – 3pm
Fri 23 Dec	Reindeer Ears Decorating	11am – 3pm
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We welcome him, he welcomes us

Docklands is not only getting a new international hotel, it's getting a new hotel manager who wants to engage with the community.

The new 273-room Four Points by Sheraton in Waterfront City opens on March 28.

Manager Stephen Ferrigno clearly has a lot to do between now and then but has still found the time to introduce himself to the Docklands community.

Mr Ferrigno is a Melbourne-lad but Docklands was an industrial wasteland last time he looked this way.

During his years away, the last nine being spent in Noosa, Docklands has transformed into the beautiful waterfront location we know today.

His new hotel is part of the latest development on the west side of the old Waterfront City piazza and fronts Docklands Drive.

Mr Ferrigno is amazed and delighted with Docklands' progress to date and wants to be part of the next chapter.

His experience in other places has taught him that successful hotels engage with their local areas. He's keen to get involved here

and sees the new Sheraton as a vital piece of community infrastructure.

It's not just the fine dining addition to the local culinary scene. He plans to open up the venue to community activities.

"We need to support each other," he said. "And we know we get a better financial result if we support the locals."

He said the hotel would be keen to allow local groups to use its meeting rooms. Mr Ferrigno will also encourage his staff to get involved locally.

"These things come at no cost to us, but add to a healthy P&L (profit and loss)," he said.

Mr Ferrigno will in January start recruiting the 150-180 staff he will need to operate the luxury hotel. He's on the look out for some bright youngsters wishing to build a career with one of the world's biggest hospitality operators.

"Marriot International has 30 brands and a global network, so we've got a fair bit to offer," he said.



Stephen Ferrigno (right) is welcoming the local community to the new Four Points by Sheraton at Waterfront City.

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Victory for Village Docklands

By Elliana Saltalamacchia

Collins Square developer Walker Corporation will fund a pool enclosure for apartment tower Village Docklands after many years of negotiation.

Village Docklands owners' corporation (OC) chair Graham Standfield said Walker will give the OC \$200,000 to fund an enclosure for their level-five pool.

The residential building has become surrounded by office towers under Walker's development of the Collins Square complex, creating privacy concerns for residents using the pool area.

Mr Standfield said the agreement with Walker to fund the enclosure was a good outcome.

"The OC is comfortable and happy with the result," Mr Standfield said. "We feel we have been quite successful."

"The pool will be usable again," he said. "Residents can use the pool without prying eyes."

Mr Standfield said the OC proposed Walker pay for a pool enclosure as soon as the corporation was issued a permit to build Tower 2 but had not received any commitment from the developer until now.

"It's been a number of years," Mr Standfield said. "This is what we wanted all along. It was a long, hard negotiation."

The Collins Square site was originally intended to house four residential towers under a master plan by Malaysian developer Kuok Group.

But the global financial crisis saw the Kuok Group sell the site to Walker Corporation, which successfully applied to change the development plan for the area.

Village Docklands is now the only residential building in Collins Square, which has become Australia's largest CBD commercial precinct.

Mr Standfield said the pool enclosure was expected to be built by March 2017.

Walker Corporation declined to comment on the matter.



Residents will soon be able to use their pool again.



Drive-in movies for Harbour Town

Drive-in cinema comes to Harbour Town on Boxing Day, as part of a new venture by local entrepreneurs The Backlot Studios.

Principals Tony Ianiro and Mark D'Angelo have already brought "pop-up" style cinema to neighbouring Southbank, but the revival of the "drive-in" concept is a first for the inner-city.

The roof of the Harbour Town car park is the venue for the new venture, with the site divided into two 65-car "fields".

Backlot says it will showcase first-release films, encompassing all genres, via staggered evening sessions across two giant, state-of-the-art raised screens.

Sound will be broadcast to vehicles via restricted FM transmitters. And for those without a car, there will be an intimate "blue-deck" seating area with sound received through headphones provided by the venue.

Tickets will be available to purchase online via Veezi or at the venue.

The Backlot founders said: "We aren't reinventing the wheel as drive-ins have operated in Australia for decades. The objective of The Backlot Rooftop Drive-in was to manufacture a model for cinemagoers whereby such an offering could be introduced to major inner-cities with Melbourne Docklands being the first."

For updates, please visit: www.backlotrooftop.com.au




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Maryla Juchnowski and Steve Noller.



The winning photo.

Docklanders' claim to fame

By Nadia Dimattina

Docklands residents have claimed this year's prize for a photo competition launched by the Blue Knot Foundation.

Yarra's Edge resident Maryla Juchnowski partnered with her newly-acquainted neighbour Steve Noller to come up with their award-winning photograph.

Ms Juchnowski, principal consultant at counselling firm Lifeworks, decided to enter the competition as the foundation's vision held resonance with her.

"We work with a lot of adult survivors of trauma which is why we have a lot to do with the Blue Knot Foundation. I think the competition is a great idea to give them more opportunities to market the great work they do," she said.

The winning photograph featured the hands of Ms Juchnowski's two-week-old grandson holding his mother's hands, which was the

main heartfelt inspiration for her image.

"For me the photo was about childhood trauma, which is a pretty significant thing that people have to manage. So having an adult holding a child's hand symbolised you are going to be safe and okay," she said.

Joint competition winner Steve Noller met Maryla four months ago after joining Yarra's Edge Social Club.

"I think what's really nice about this whole situation is that Steve and I have only recently met because of the Yarra's Edge

Social Club. I would not have submitted the photo without his help," Ms Juchnowski said.

Mr Noller believes the social club is important for all Docklanders. He said the organisers were overwhelmed with the initial turnout.

"They only expected about five people to join but over 60 came. This shows the need for all people living in apartments to have some form of social interaction with each other," he said.

Dear Docklands Residents,

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New artwork for Docklands

Docklands has a new piece of public art, thanks to the Victoria Point owners' corporation and Wonderment Walks Victoria.

Called *Celestial Ground*, the Colleen Boyle sculpture can be found on either side of the tower's entrance at 100 Harbour Esplanade.

The etched stainless steel artwork sits on a plinth of polished concrete. Its folding geometric plates are loosely based on the geometric diagram of a form of carbon (C60, also known as Fullerene) which has been found in outer space.

One third of the panels are etched with images of the constellations that can be viewed from the southern hemisphere. Other panels have been polished to form mirrors – referencing the way telescopes allow us to look into outer space, but also how we look to the stars for self reflection.

Ms Boyle said: “*Celestial Ground* will provide locals and visitors alike with an opportunity to contemplate their place in the universe, an idea that has the capacity to unite people in a world that is currently threatened with division.”

Wonderment Walk is an ongoing project founded by philanthropist Eddie Kutner to use art as a science communications medium to engage with and inspire viewers – whether they are actively visiting works, or are just passing by.

Mr Kutner unveiled the sculpture at the building on November 10.



Colleen Boyle with her new work *Celestial Ground*.

Wonderment Walk partnered with RMIT University Centre for Art, Society and Transformation (CAST) to specify the project and to select Ms Boyle's concept.

Ms Boyle said scientists and artists were both engaged in a search for truth.

“Scientists and artists come at the same thing – just from different angles,” she said. “Scientists find facts. Artists probably ask more questions.”

The Victoria Point installation is Wonderment Walk's third project.

In 2015 it launched *Frog* by John Olsen in the Queen Victoria Gardens and it has also contributed Gillie and Marc's *Run for your Life* piece at LaTrobe University in Bundoora.

Another temporary sculpture has been planned for early 2017 as a pilot for the next permanent installation.

Ferry to sail for the next three years

By Elliana Saltalamacchia

The Docklands to Portarlington ferry has returned and will sail for at least the next three years.

Minister for Water Lisa Neville announced the three-year guarantee of the service. Commuters and day-trippers will be able to use the service throughout the coming summer months and over the Christmas school holidays.

“During the busy summer months when tourism swells across the Bellarine, this will be a great way to commute to the city,” Ms Neville said.

The ferry runs between Victoria Harbour and Portarlington three times a day, seven days a week, with the journey taking 90 minutes.

Work is also underway to raise speed limits on the Yarra which could take 15 minutes off the trip. *Docklands News* understands that a consistent increase of the river speed limit to 10 knots would save this time.

DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY FORUM

You're invited to the next Docklands Community Forum, a public meeting convened by the City of Melbourne and Places Victoria. We welcome input from residents, businesses and workers about local issues, projects and the future of Docklands.

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, 7 December 2016

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Venue: Library at The Dock

This is the last forum for 2016. Come along and find out what is planned in Docklands over the festive period and more.

An agenda is available at melbourne.vic.gov.au/dcf or by calling 9658 9658



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Toilet paper record attempt

By Sunny Liu

Stacking up toilet paper rolls is much harder than it looks.

On World Toilet Day on November 18, Melbourne Water held this quirky competition at its Docklands headquarters to raise awareness of toilet sanitation around the world.

Three teams – Melbourne Water, WaterAid and Who Gives A Crap – attempted to break the world record of a 28-toilet-roll tower. At one point the “Who Gives A Crap” team got to 31 rolls but it crashed to the ground with disappointed yelps from the audience.

WaterAid’s CEO Rosie When said it was a great attempt and the main goal of this competition was to turn toilet sanitation into an everyday topic.

“I’m delighted that people got to talk about toilets on the World Toilet Day. WaterAid will continue to bring about change to unsafe toilets from around the world,” Ms When said.

“Asking Australians to focus on the toilets for a whole day may seem funny. But for millions of people around the world it’s no laughing matter.”

WaterAid is a not-for-profit organisation that works with government, the private sector



An attempt at a world record.

and local communities to build sanitised toilets in disadvantaged regions.

About 2.3 billion people in the world do not have access to clean and safe toilets and 900 children die everyday from diarrhoea caused by unsanitised water.

Ms When said WaterAid hoped every city and town around the world could prioritise building sanitised toilets for their residents.

“Many people have no choice but to face the indignity of going to the loo in the open, where they are exposed to disease and

vulnerable to harassment and attack,” she said.

Toilet paper retailer Who Gives A Crap donates 50 per cent of its profits to WaterAid.

“We think it’s crap that billions of people in the world don’t have a toilet. That’s why we donate 50 per cent of our profits to help fund sanitation and hygiene projects for those in need,” co-founder Simon Griffiths said.

While the teams did not break the world record, they went home with some toilet rolls and water bottles from Melbourne Water.

Forge is ‘topped out’

Mirvac last month “topped out” its latest Yarra’s Edge tower, Forge.

The 30-storey tower sits close to the Bolte Bridge at the western end of the precinct.

The developer says more than 75 per cent of apartments have been sold and it points to broad range of apartments as the reason. Forge introduced new apartment options including one and two-bedroom artist studios, one-bedroom lofts and two-bedroom maisonettes, to add to expansive three-bedroom apartments ranging up to 151sqm.

Construction is expected to be completed early to mid-2017.

The topping out of the 100m building is a construction milestone, as it is the first tower to be delivered in the Wharf’s Entrance precinct, and it also represents the last chapter of Mirvac’s development parcel to be delivered at Yarra’s Edge.

Mirvac’s head of residential, John Carfi, said Forge was designed to broaden the offering of the precinct both architecturally and socially.

“The topping out of Forge is a significant milestone in this new landmark on Melbourne’s skyline,” Mr Carfi said.



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Solar-powered chair to help dental care

By Sunny Liu

Docklands resident Kim Groizard went on a backpacking trip to Cambodia a few years ago, which led her to an idea for a charity to provide portable dental chairs.

After visiting the rural regions of Cambodia and witnessing the poor health conditions that young children and adults lived in, Ms Groizard was determined to make a change.

Returning home, Ms Groizard and her husband sponsored some Cambodian children. But she did not feel it was enough.

"I just felt I had to do something more for the people there," she said.

Having worked as a dental assistant, she is very concerned about Cambodian people's oral health. Many of the villagers do not brush their teeth regularly and this would lead to some potential major health issues such as heart disease and cancers.

Ms Groizard says she faced depression and had suicidal thoughts earlier in her life but was able to overcome her mental health issues by engaging in rewarding activities.

"When I visited Cambodia and saw all the people living happily despite their

disadvantage, all my problems just seemed so insignificant," she said.

"I've never cried so much in my life when I saw what poor conditions they were in and that was a wake up moment for me."

Ms Groizard wanted to bring basic dental care to some of the poorest areas in this developing country.

She founded Solar Smiles 18 months ago to provide dental health support for the people who need it the most.

With the support from the Docklands Rotary Club, she sourced two compact mobile dental chairs from the US to take to Cambodia.

The chairs weigh 15 kg each and can be set up within 60 seconds, making them ideal for the task.

The chairs are solar powered so no cords are needed for the operations and come with basic dental check-up equipment.

The backpack dental chairs play an important role in helping Ms Groizard realise her goal to improve dental health awareness and bring basic daily cleaning routines to Cambodia.

"Last time I went there I brought 100 toothbrushes with me and all the villagers were really excited to get the new toothbrushes," she said. "Now with the compact dental chairs we can do more to help them get better dental support."



Ms Groizard demonstrates the portable chair at Bullock Park in Docklands.



Locals meet each other for a chat and a feed at Platform 28 on November 8.

Social Club is building

The Docklands Social Club had a great night out at Platform 28 on November 8 and December's event is also promising to be a cracker.

The Docklands Social Club is an informal monthly gathering run for locals who are interested in meeting other Docklanders.

Every month, it moves to a different venue. Selecting the venue is the most formal part of the arrangement.

No bookings are required. Just turn up. You pay your own bill with the venue. About 30 minutes of standing around chatting is usually followed by a feed but, even then, there is no obligation to participate.



The next night out will be at TAP831 on Wednesday, December 14, starting at 7pm. TAP831 is in the corner of Bourke and Merchant streets.

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More photos from the November 9 Woolshed Pub fire









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Move for Movember

By Nadia Dimattina

The inaugural NAB Corporate Challenge last month encouraged local employees to move with Movember and raise awareness for men's health.

More than 500 employees registered for the event, with many completing the challenge of 2000 laps of Etihad stadium.

Head of transactional banking at NAB, Martin Ross said NAB had been a partner with the Movember foundation since 2005.

"The reason why NAB employees are participating is because it aligns with many of our values around helping the community," he said.

"As one of the senior leaders of NAB I wanted to show my support by being here and participating as well as using my volunteer day to give back to the community," Mr Ross said.

Co-founder of Movember Foundation, Travis Garone, said the NAB Corporate Challenge event incorporated many goals of the foundation.

"You can get involved for the Movember foundation in three ways: by growing a moustache, hosting an event or taking the move challenge and NAB is doing all three," he said.

He said NAB was a fantastic event partner promoting health and wellbeing for both men and women.

"Without NAB and without its reach around Australia and in rural areas in the country, Movember could not be what it is today," Mr Garone said.

Country director for Movember Foundation, Charlotte Webb, said the event focused on the foundation's new "Move for Movember" principle.

"The NAB corporate challenge is the way in which they want to encourage their staff to get moving, to get away from their desks and get physically active," she said.

Movember Foundation launched the move challenge to encourage men who don't want to grow a moustache along with women who want to get involved.

"Movember Foundation knows that physical



Martin Ross and Travis Garone start the November 14 event outside 700 Bourke St.

activity is a really important part of staying mentally healthy. Mental health and suicide prevention is a really big focus of the foundation because the stats around male suicide are terrifying," she said.

Ms Webb said NAB partnered with their foundation by hosting this event, to raise vital funds for men's health.

"We are here today because it is partly about getting NAB staff motivated and moving and partly because it is a brilliant way to raise money for Movember," she said.

The funds raised through events like the NAB Corporate Challenge go towards researching prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health and suicide prevention.

"The reason we choose those is that out of all of the realms of men's health issues, we believe we can have the most impact in those areas," Ms Webb said.

For more information on Movember visit <https://au.movember.com/>



Get onboard with Alma Doepel

By Bill Reid

Volunteer with the Alma Doepel Supporters Club and learn new skills.

Become an important part of the Docklands story and join our journey of discovery by being involved in the community, restoring our last heritage vessels.

The tall ship Alma Doepel, launched October 10, 1903, is being carefully restored by a team of passionate volunteers. Since January 2009 more than 47,000 hours of voluntary work has been put into the restoration. You see the progress that is recorded at www.almaoepelchronicles.wordpress.com

We encourage enthusiastic people to join the team and learn traditional wooden boat building techniques or put your existing skills to good use as you contribute to the restoration process currently underway.

Once completed, Alma Doepel will resume her role of youth development through youth sail training.

So why not challenge yourself by being a part of our dedicated team of volunteers and shipwrights returning this last remaining Australian tall ship to her former glory.

For further details contact:

Peter Harris 0427 829 134 – peterharris@almaoepel.com.au

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Melbourne, plus 50 words

Welcome to the column about nothing – in which is revealed the true story of how a trip to Melbourne uncovered the relationship between ducks, children and ice-cream.

Below the balcony of my rented apartment at Docklands is a little harbour with low floating piers at which are moored a small flotilla of some 30 boats. The harbour water is breeze-rippled and reminds me of melted milk chocolate – sediment has been running into the stream from the recent rains and created a colour that would be right at home in an espresso glass.

Homer had his “wine dark sea”. I have café au lait (that’s Homer from Greece, not Springfield).

At dawn a family of ducks – two proud and watchful parents and seven fluffy offspring – disport themselves on the rocks at the end of the bay; the ducklings doze in the early heat of the day. I stop walking (judiciously a few steps beyond the entourage) to feast my eyes back on this morning glory.

Beyond the ducks are moored fang-like boats; all dwarfed by one huge jaw-dropper, its grey-ghost and black colours give it a malevolent aspect. I expect that the Beagle Boys (perennial villains in Mickey Mouse comics) own it because, like their car, it appears to be speeding even when standing still.

Below and directly in front of my balcony is a gelato shop, “Limonetto”. It always has a few people queuing to be served and, it seems to me, that there is always at least one child in every group. Adults rub the heads of the children (for good luck even if you don’t know the owner of the noggin involved) and there are cuddles and beaming smiles as families walk off. Sometimes only the child is “a la crème glacée”. Sometimes the whole family shlupps and shlurps away.

It doesn’t matter who got one – there’s no better group memory than “when we went to the wharf and we all (or just Tom, or just Tran or just Teresa) had an ice cream.” Everyone loves ice-cream stories. They’re more common than ice cream itself.

Two fishers angle from the end of one low jetty all day, every day. I think they must have dibs on that spot. I see one of them reel in quite a decent sized fish. The other downs rod to hold the net and they both see to seeing-off the fish.

A few seconds later a third man runs down the jetty, gesticulating (I can’t hear what is being said from here, of course), holding out something in one hand – “A Badge!” I think! But no, it is just a couple of coins and a transaction is taking place.

The “Compleat Angler” pockets the dollars and the buyer is gifted the fish. The buyer toddles off for a metre, both fists securing his prize, but then he stops, turns and bows to the two fishers. They, in turn, bow back to him and then the buyer is off like a hare again. I fancy that he is a renter like me and has gone back to his room to exclaim, “Look what I caught!”

Or maybe that’s just what I’d do.

I saw the ducks again at the end of the day – heading for home they were, as they bobbed under a pier restaurant. People stopped their dusk strolling, stood and watched as a simple daily routine ended and two parents and seven ducklings returned to wait for the next dawn, as would we all.

People love families, children, fishers, ducklings and ice-cream because they tell us something about how we imagine ourselves. What better view of Melbourne could you have asked for than that?

This story first appeared in the *Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser*.

By Robert Walker

Send us your story of Docklands. Email news@docklandsnews.com.au



Adjustment for Little Tree

Little Tree had a visit from the council’s tree medical team last month.

A mechanised version of a chiropractic adjustment followed, with extra ties added to try to improve the little guy’s posture.

He’s not the only little tree looking forlorn along the west side of Harbour Esplanade. One wonders how long the City of Melbourne can persist with a species that

doesn’t appear very much at home here in windy Docklands.

By “Toby” of Docklands

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Vertical dwelling energy hacks

Energy bill shock – it's something that we all dread regardless of our type of dwelling. And while there is much advice for householders endeavouring to reduce their energy costs, specific options for vertical dwellers are not so plentiful.

Looking at some apartment advice sites, their "energy hacks" include switching to LED, sealing gaps around windows and doors, adjusting your thermostat and even air-drying your clothes (just not on your balcony!).

While sound advice, these suggestions really do not take advantage of vertical living's specific circumstances – or opportunities. So rather than trying to emulate ground-bound residents, the question really is, what could we as vertical dwellers do?

Consider this.

High-rise apartments have huge amounts of external, often glass-clad vertical space.

Many of us have a love-hate relationship with these areas, loving the light that penetrates and hating the summer heat amplified by these sun-drenched exteriors. What if these glass panels could be treated so as to not only improve our thermal comfort but also capture this solar energy for our use?

This type of building-integrated technology is the holy grail of sustainability and photovoltaic (PV) glass is promising apartment residents a way of working with the sun to simultaneously generate power while reducing the demand for electricity to heat, cool and light.

Comprising a transparent solar panel, standard mono-crystalline PV cells are integrated into double glazing, which lets natural light in while capturing solar energy at the point of utilisation. The potential uses for this technology are astounding, with hundreds of thousands of sun-baked apartment windows and glass doors being ready candidates.

However (isn't there always?) the current limitation of PV glass is its high cost which, when combined with the additional challenges of retrofitting, mean that this is not yet an accessible solution for most vertical dwellers.

There is, of course, another better-known



Nicholas Hill (sales manger), Cameron Knox (CEO), Miriam Robinson (member of Nicholson Gardens). Allume Energy will be piloting its new solar technology and business model with Nicholson Gardens, in Fitzroy.

application of PV technology, which is solar panels. While these adorn the rooftops of many Australian houses, unfortunately comparatively few high-rise apartment buildings have adopted PV systems and those which have typically direct their benefits towards reducing the costs of heating, cooling and lighting common property. This leaves the individual vertical dweller largely excluded from the many benefits of renewable energy.

Enter Allume, a new Australian social enterprise that is taking a different approach to cracking this solar-nut. Its stated mission is to make solar energy accessible to apartment residents or, as they phrase it, "those who don't own their own roofs so can't get access to solar".

Allume comprises a group of recent graduates of University of Melbourne,

who are currently working under MAP (Melbourne Accelerator Program), and as part of this program, they will soon travel to Silicon Valley to meet potential investors.

According to CEO, Cameron Knox, (who balances his bachelor of science in mechanical systems with his diploma in French), Allume removes the entry barrier to solar through a pay-for-power (not panels) service, commonly referred to as a solar power purchase agreement (SPPA).

This means that vertical dwellers (both renters and owner occupiers) pay a reduced rate for the power they use from the panels (estimated between 20-40m per cent less than retail electricity), with revenue from the SPPA being paid to the financier of the system.

Allume sees their key advantage as providing

a solution that bypasses the regulatory overhead of an embedded network while offering each resident an opt-in/opt-out arrangement. This also means there is no long-term contractual commitments. And to complete its offer, Allume helps with negotiations with owner's corporations, as access to roofs remains a key requirement.

It is these types of "hacks" from our universities that can pragmatically shape our emerging vertical villages, making our high-rise residences both more visually appealing as well as resource and cost efficient.



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Chamber Update

Join the party

Our Christmas function is quickly selling out. Join us on Friday, December 9 for a night of acrobatics and humour with the hit show *Papillion* at the Spiegel tent at the base of the Southern Star.

We've already committed more 75 per cent of our reservation. Members have two free tickets to attend and additional guests are only \$30 each.

The night is also well supplied with refreshments and food making it a delightful four hours beginning at 6pm.

Powerful social media at your fingertips

Did you know that the Docklands Chamber of Commerce has some of the most powerful social media in Melbourne?

We are always trawling through our members' pages and websites for postings, however you can be pro-active in getting your message about your success or latest offering by contacting us directly by email.

If you've got an event, special, new photo, or just something you're very proud of, then let us know and we will tell the world.

Our Facebook and Instagram are there for you as members to promote your business, it is the future, plug in!

Docklands Chamber of Commerce – AGM completed

The chamber's AGM is all over for another year. Members of the executive committee for 2016/17 are:

- **Joh Maxwell** from Tours on Trike was unanimously returned as president;
- **Kebrasca King** from King Creative Media was voted in as vice president;
- **Josephine Tan** from BoQ will remain as treasurer; and
- **Paul Keisler** from O'Brien Group Arena will continue as secretary.

The remaining executive members are:

- **Glenn Archibald** from Archibald Builders;

- **Tony Baillo** from Neodigital;
- **Glenn Donnelly** from City Residential Real Estate;
- **Melissa Forester** from Bendigo Bank;
- **Mo Hamdouna** from Mo Works;
- **Paul Salter** from Docklands Executive Apartments; and
- **Kerry York** from NRY Plumbing.

You can add value to the Docklands business community by becoming a chamber member today!

Have your say in developing the Docklands' community. Connect your business with like minds who are actively encouraging and developing the precinct.

If you have something on your mind or an idea you wish to share, or you simply want to join email: admin@docklandsc.com.au or visit our web site www.docklandsc.com.au

From all the committee members at the Docklands Chamber of Commerce we encourage you all to rest and refocus over Christmas and make 2017 your best year yet.



Paul Salter

Executive Committee member

www.docklandsc.com.au



Owners Corporation Law

A golden opportunity to re-write the laws

Hoorah – the Victorian Government wants to hear from us about our views on the legislation relating to owners' corporations.

As part of its comprehensive review of consumer property laws, which also include reforms around the sale of land and the regulation of estate agents, property managers and conveyancers, Consumer Affairs has released an options paper setting out a range of possible reforms to the Owners Corporation Act 2006.

The options paper will be open for public feedback until December 16 and is available for download from the Consumer Affairs website.

I for one, applaud Consumer Affairs' approach in the way it has set out the issues and questions in the options paper. There is no doubt that the policymakers are giving considered thought to a number of issues that have plagued owners' corporations for years and they are thinking creatively to help resolve these issues.

However, the policy-makers need your help. Without proper community feedback, the government may not get a truly representative and balanced view about the state of our vertical communities. Each owners' corporation committee ought to be dedicating some time in the next two weeks to put together a submission.

Broadly speaking, there are eight areas that have been identified for possible reform. In no particular order, these are the regulation and licensing of owners' corporation managers, the responsibilities of developers, the decision making process within owners' corporations, dispute resolution and legal proceedings, the need to treat different sized owners corporations separately, the setting of budgets and determining insurance, the ability to re-develop and terminate owners' corporations and where retirement villages fit in.

Consumer Affairs has asked 66 separate questions in relation to these areas and has

suggested various models of reform, taking cues from legislation in NSW, the ACT and Queensland and has also attempted to create its own new models.

Some of these models will work very well in Victoria. Others, may not.

As the options paper identifies, the current version of the Owners Corporation Act is considered to be a "light touch" regulatory model. However, the increased regulation of owners' corporations, and therefore greater interference in the property rights of lot owners, is argued to be justified on two grounds.

Firstly, lot owners owe a duty to each other to maintain and insure the common property, which includes paying their fees on time as well as enforcing a positive duty to take steps not to harm other lot owners' amenity and the value of other lots.

Secondly, there is a perceived public interest in regulating owners' corporations to ensure that they are democratically operated and not compromised by factions or cliques.

The outcome of this process will see draft legislation being drawn up and presented to Parliament in 2018. If passed, this legislation will likely last at least another 15 years. So, it is vitally important that owners' corporation committees do not let this deadline expire without putting pen to paper.

Good luck keyboard warriors. Let us see the very best of democracy in action.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

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Docklander

Career woman and nurturing mum

By Sunny Liu

Docklander-for-a-year Erin Watson-Lynn is excelling in her career in higher education where she advocates for opportunities for young people and children.

Ms Watson-Lynn has recently been appointed by the Federal Minister for Education to be the board chair for the National Centre for Student Equity and Higher Education, based at Curtin University in Perth.

She is currently working as an entrepreneurship lecturer at Monash University and the chair of the Digital Innovative Creative Enterprise (DICE), a non-for-profit organisation supported by the Prime Minister's wife Lucy Turnbull that aims to inspire entrepreneurship among young children.

A career woman and mother of a three-year-old, Ms Watson-Lynn says she has maintained a healthy balance between her work and family.

She says Docklands is the perfect location for both her career and her family life. She previously lived in Mount Eliza and had to commute more than two hours daily to go to work and attend events.

But now she is enjoying Docklands' central location, where she has access to everything she needs.

"I like to sell Docklands to other people. I'm an advocate for high-density and high-accessibility areas. I think living here has helped my career too because it saves me more time to attend to my tasks and networking events," she said.

Being the new chair of the equity centre, Ms Watson-Lynn will be succeeding former WA Premier Carmen Lawrence and former senator Fred Chaney.

At 31-years-old, Ms Watson-Lynn might be the youngest chair in the board's history.

"It's quite unusual for a young woman like me to be leading a team of senior academics and professionals. But I'm used to challenges and I hope to earn trust from the board members with my experience," she said.



Erin Watson-Lynn enjoys living here and sells the benefits of Docklands whenever she gets the chance.

Empowering young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, young women and indigenous people has always been something close to Ms Watson-Lynn's heart.

"I want to tackle challenges such as youth employment and gender inequality both locally and globally," she said.

She is also close to finishing her PhD in immigration and entrepreneurship at Monash University. Her academic background is in research and policy, which she wants to apply in her new role. She also

has ambition to enter federal politics some day.

It is not the easiest path for a young woman. But Ms Watson-Lynn welcomes every opportunity and challenge that comes her way.

"It was very hard when I just started to build my public profile. But over the years it has become much easier because I've earned the trust and experiences," she said. "It's a very different game now."

She has since appeared on ABC's Q&A

program and has been featured in *The Australian*. She has successfully gone from going out of her way to build her connections to maintaining a good working relationship with federal ministers and local business owners.

Though she has got a lot on her plate, Ms Watson-Lynn says she manages an appropriate work/life balance.

"I strive to be a role model for my young daughter. I'm still a nurturing mum," she says.

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Sustainable Melbourne on display at library

Snaps taken as part of the City of Melbourne's "Snapped: how green is your Melbourne?" competition are on display at Library at The Dock.

In June this year amateur photographers were invited to capture through their lenses how they saw the City of Melbourne as a sustainable place to live, work and play.

More than 700 entries were received and the winners in each category are:

- Heritage Award: *The Great Hall* by Jason Freeman
- Under 18 category award: *Colour has no name* by Alicia Pham
- Over 18 category award: *The beginning of New Academic Street* by Nguyen Dang
- People's Choice Award: *CBD bees* by Juan

Pablo Villanueva Cabezas

The work of all entrants is now on display at Library at The Dock in interactive virtual and augmented reality thanks to a partnership with Monash University design students.

The exhibition will include:

- Google Cardboard, disguised as coin-operated binoculars, which allows visitors to view the photographs over a 360 degree view of Melbourne;
- An augmented reality wall where visitors can pick up photographs and interact with them;
- Interactive touch tables featuring a digital gallery of entrants, allowing visitors to be their own judges; and
- A projected aerial map of Melbourne where visitors can see changes in the city over time.

The exhibition concludes on Saturday, January 29.



Secret

Not very helpful

A Yarra's Edge reader has pointed out that this sign has been sending cyclists in the wrong direction for at least six months now.

A conspiracy? A prank? An act of vandalism? Incompetence?

You be the judge.

Letters to the Editor

End of "apartment" dogs

The State Parliament is currently reviewing the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Bill 2016.

The bill came about as a result of media exposure of, as the Minister for Agriculture described them, "cruel illegal puppy farms". We support, as we are sure the general community also supports, the cessation of properties breeding puppies operating outside the law and with substandard practices.

The State Government, with animal rights groups, have drafted legislation that is overbearing, intrusive and non-evidence based. It proposes to ban/eradicate legal, registered breeders that conform to the code of practice, and pet shop sales, as the solution.

They claim pet shops are an outlet for illegal cruel puppy farms. Evidence indicates the contrary is true. As drafted the legislation will ban pet shops selling puppies and kittens and restrict dog breeding, effectively a pseudo-ban on crossbred dog breeding.

Reducing supply will drive up puppy prices (to an expected \$5000-\$15,000 in three to five years), waiting times to have that puppy supplied and severely restrict choice of outlet and breeds available.

Walk the Docklands promenades, you will see purebred and crossbred poodles, cavalier king Charles spaniels, whippets, miniature schnauzers, Shih Tzu, etc. We mostly choose

dogs less than 10kg to live with us in our apartments.

Government is effectively legislating you must choose a purebred dog, or rescue/adopt. Rescue/adoption, while suitable for some, should not be forced on everyone with its severe restrictions on breed choices available, as well as possible associated temperament and health issues. Crossbred dogs will effectively disappear.

Government, and animal rights groups, claim a public mandate to "stamp out cruel illegal puppy farms". Their solution includes banning a large sector of the not cruel, and legal dog breeding and supply industry. With little understanding of the industry, and no basis in fact or evidence, the detrimental impacts to the massive pet industry, as well as all Victorians, Docklanders and future pet owners, is expected to be anything from mild to severe.

Docklanders, and all Victorians, should retain their right to source a family pet of their choice, at an affordable price and not have to wait on a wait list for one to three years, to have that puppy supplied. We must fight to protect our rights to pet ownership, and the love and benefits it brings.

Greg Kirby



Send your letters to news@docklandsnews.com.au

Pet's Corner

Yoshi is no reject

Jacqui Bainbridge and her husband foster Customs dogs, but Yoshi is one of the ones that didn't make it.

Ms Bainbridge said, as a foster carer, she takes the dogs from when they are 8 weeks to about 12-15 months old, while they are being trained.

"You socialise them, get them used to different environments and different people, and walking on different surfaces and things like that," she said.

But Ms Bainbridge and her husband will keep Yoshi, a beautiful black Labrador, permanently as she is one of the dogs in Customs training that didn't quite make it.

"She couldn't really form a relationship with a lot of the handlers so she came back to us," Ms Bainbridge said. "She's a bit too close to us."

But this turned out to be a blessing for Ms Bainbridge and her husband.

"My husband has epilepsy and she can tell when he's going to have a seizure," she said. "She somehow senses it."

"We are kind of pleased that she stays with us now because it's good for him," Ms Bainbridge said.



Ms Bainbridge lives in Footscray with her husband, but works at Melbourne Water in Docklands.

She said Melbourne Water has a "Bring your dog to work" program, so Yoshi came in to help employee wellbeing.

She said people took turns to bring in their dogs, and there was usually a dog in the office once a week or so.

Ms Bainbridge said this was about the third time she had brought Yoshi in and she usually walks her along Harbour Esplanade at lunchtime.

"She's pretty placid, loves a good game of tug of war, loves meeting new people and just chilling out," she said.



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FACES OF DOCKLANDS

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



JASON FORTE, 46, ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR, MELTON

I'd say Germany because I've had this weird connection with the fact that I learnt German at school and always had in my mind that that's a place I'd like to go. I've travelled to Europe and went south but didn't go north to Germany.



GRANT MUSCAT, 48, PUBLIC SERVANT, GLADSTONE PARK

I'd go to Italy. My son is studying Italian at school, so it'd be a great opportunity for him to experience that culture and the language and take advantage of it.



COLIN GILES, 70, RETIRED, DOCKLANDS

I'd go to South America to see the Aztec ruins because they're so old, they are difficult to get to, and from all the pictures you see, they're an engineering marvel.



LUNA ZHONG, 22, STUDENT, BRISBANE

It would be Iceland, because I can see the northern lights there. I want to see that.



FARAH HASSIM, 53, BLOGGER, DOCKLAND

I'd like to do a coast-to-coast walking trip in Japan.



VERNA LIDDLE, 67, RETIRED, DOCKLANDS

I would like to go to the Swiss Alps because of the scenery and would maybe take a walking or trekking tour.

LIVE ON THE YARRA'S EDGE



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Big win for residents in parliamentary vote

The Owners Corporation Amendment (Short Stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 has been referred back to the Environment and Planning Committee for inquiry.

The parliamentary vote has stopped the Victorian Government from introducing a Bill that would only benefit commercial short-stay operators.

This is a huge win for the We Live Here movement which has been working tirelessly with politicians from all sides of Parliament to achieve this outcome.

A special thank-you to David Davis, Shadow Minister for Planning, Russell Northe, Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs, along with Nina Springle from the Greens and Fiona Patten from the Sex Party who all supported the We Live Here movement on this issue.

The Legislative Council vote

On November 8, the Legislative Council voted overwhelmingly to block the Bill and open up the opportunity for community and stakeholder consultation – consultation that the government should have offered from the outset.

Mr O'Donohue, the Liberal Member for Eastern Victoria, proposed a motion to send the Bill to the Committee for Environment and Planning for inquiry and report, on the grounds of inadequate community and stakeholder consultation.

The Labor Government shocked Victorian apartment owners on May 24, 2016 when, with no prior notice given, it introduced the Bill in the Lower House through the former Consumer Affairs Minister Jane Garrett.

The decision by the Legislative Council now prevents this Bill from passing into law, and represents a victory in the on-going push by community groups to ensure that short-term commercial accommodation becomes a regulated industry.

The inquiry by the Committee for Environment and Planning must complete its report by March 7 next year and table it with the Legislative Committee for further debate.



We Live Here movement members meet shadow planning minister David Davis (centre).

In Parliament, Mr Davis said: "It [short-stay accommodation] is a very important part of our tourism industry, but it is an area where there needs to be better regulations. Untrammelled access can lead to very poor lifestyle and living outcomes ..."

Speaking on behalf of the Sex Party and in support of the blocking of the passage of the Bill, Ms Fiona Patten MP said the vote was a wake-up call for the government to realise the benefit of "clear and effective regulation" of commercial short-stays.

Greens MP Nina Springle expressed the concerns of residents who "foot the bill" for the increased costs caused by the commercial short-stay industry. Apartment buildings "were not designed as hotels" she told Parliament.

Members of the We Live Here movement were present in Parliament to witness the debate having canvassed the support of political parties on either side of the divide including the crossbenchers.

Barbara Francis, a director of We Live Here said: "We are very pleased with this decision,

and are very proud to represent the nearly one million residents in apartment buildings in Victoria in continuing to advocate for serious regulation of the commercial short-stay industry."

"We have tried to schedule meetings with the Consumer Affairs Minister(s) and advisers on many occasions, but they were not interested in engaging with residents and owners."

"Finally, by the blocking of this Bill and sending it back to the drawing board, we will have an opportunity to have our voice heard. The onus is now on the Labor Government to engage with the community, and this time to get the balance right with any proposed legislation."

Council elections

Prior to the election all 59 candidates were sent a survey by We Live Here to canvas their opinions on the issue of commercial short stays.

An excellent response of almost 86 per cent was received and all but one of the teams supported the regulation of short stays in residential buildings. The one exception was the team headed by former councillor Stephen Mayne who subsequently failed in his re-election bid.

It appears that ex-councillor Mayne, the self-proclaimed most pro-development former councillor, paid the price for not listening to concerns raised by us and other resident groups.

He has since declared that he has learned his lesson, that to ignore residents groups is a good way to get dumped off council!

The final make-up of the council is not yet known but we look forward to working with them all on issues involving residents in the City of Melbourne.

Good Cycles container in Harbour Esplanade

We Live Here has received many complaints

about the Good Cycles container which suddenly appeared in Harbour Esplanade.

Dismay, bewilderment, mind-boggling and ridiculous are just some of the comments and views expressed about Places Victoria's decision to place the container in its current location.

Others have expressed doubt that Places Victoria even inspected the site beforehand.

The container in its current location badly blocks the street level water views. This is recognised as being vital to Melbourne and Docklands as stated in Places Victoria "Harbour Esplanade Master Plan".

The issue may be easily resolved by shifting the container further south so as not to impede the beautiful water views.

Cow Up a Tree

We Live Here has also received many comments about the siting of the cafe in front of the *Cow Up a Tree*, now almost out of sight to visitors on the "talking trams" and to passers-by.

Surely anyone involved could see the issue when erecting the cafe. Why has nothing been done to either relocate the café or the "cow" so that the iconic sculpture can be viewed by all.

It can't be that difficult, can it? And who makes these absurd decisions?

You can support the We Live Here movement by registering on our website at welfarehere.net.

Contributions are also welcome and can be made online.

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Good Cycles container in Harbour Esplanade

We Live Here has received many complaints



www.welfarehere.net
emails to campaign@welfarehere.net
welfarehere.net

What Women Want

And so it was ... just like you thought it would be ... Or maybe it wasn't?

As the end of 2016 screams towards us at breakneck speed, as I look incredulously at the countdowns to Christmas displayed in the shops and as I grab the festive Dan Murphy's catalogue on my way through the already trolley-infested aisles of my favourite retail therapy store – well, I just can't believe it's nearly over.

2016 was going to be "my year". I hadn't made any ridiculous predictions of finding love, nor had I resolved to have the body of a goddess by summer (because the year I did make that resolution, well, let's just say I've learnt from my experience). I'm about success these days and like to set "realistic" goals. I didn't plan to have my mortgage paid off, or travel the world.

I did, however, plan on having a beautiful, relaxing, positive, peaceful, considered and well spent "me" year. I envisaged the doors of opportunity opening – as in quiet sliding doors that automatically open as you approach and invite you into air-conditioned bliss – and I envisaged a lot of yoga and meditation. I envisaged a sense of self-fulfilment and peace from good endeavours. You can stop giggling right now. It was a good plan.

As I reflect on the year that was and take stock of how the said plans were executed – well, I can only shake my head. 2016 was quite possibly the busiest year to date. Crazy busy. Chase your tail. Tear your hair out. Only get to the "urgent" things on your list. Send your son to school with yesterday's socks because you forgot to turn the washing machine on kind of busy (he threatened to call welfare – entirely appropriate reaction I thought). It was the type of year I specifically said I didn't want to have.

And so now, as the end approaches, I think "fantastic – it's nearly over"...

But then ... A funny thing is happening ... As I sit and actually truly reflect on this year, as I pause long enough to let the "visual slideshow" of my memories of 2016 play, I'm smiling.

In fact I'm grinning and there's a really lovely chuckle rising from the depths of my soul. I am seeing the smiling face of my son and his rowing mates as they come up from a fog-heavy river after early morning training eager for the hot breakfast I've cooked for them at the clubhouse.

I'm seeing the pride burst from their man-child bodies as they stand up there, the four of them, to collect their first medal at the Sydney International Rowing Centre and I'm recalling the tears that stung my eyes as the year of five days a week training and 4.30am starts suddenly makes perfect sense.

I'm seeing the people I volunteer with at our health committee, the Aboriginal elder telling me of his life as a stolen generation child and his passion to join our team to help his community. I'm remembering the feeling of my own pride at being able to stand on a stage and accept the health excellence award

for our volunteer services.

I'm smiling as I think of the cat that's not mine which has chosen our crazy, hectic, disorganised home as his own and how the warmth of his little body curled against mine and his purring have comforted me to sleep on many a stressed night.

I am filled with love for my dog Daisy who has licked the tears of frustration and exhaustion from my face and lumped her massive body on mine to will me to happiness.

And I'm thinking of the fact that I am so busy, so desperately tired, because I've actually had incredible business opportunities this year. Sure, the door of opportunity didn't automatically and smoothly slide open – it screeched and protested as I used all my strength to out-power it's rusty hinges – but it opened. And I walked through it.

So I have actually chosen my year, the year that was 2016. It was quite different. It was quite unexpected. And it was quite challenging. But on reflection, it was quite perfect.

If I could have one wish for you, it would be that you can see the joy, the opportunity and the smiles in even the most exhausting of times, the roughest of years. And that you can see all that you are and all that you have done. Never underestimate yourself.

"You put soul into this year, darling. You put heart into your choices. You inspired others and surprised yourself. You brightened up dark spaces. You found beauty in the most unlikely places. You dug deep into your gut so your spirit could dance again. 2016 is proud of you, lovely one. And 2017 will be too."

And to all, have a Merry Christmas. And thank you for giving me the privilege of writing to you for another year. I look forward to 2017.

With much love

Abby xx

Thank you for all your emails, I love receiving them! You can reach me at life@docklandsnews.com.au



Abby Crawford

life@docklandsnews.com.au

Health and Wellbeing

Make the right gains over Christmas

The simple equation for improving our general health and wellbeing is to move more and consume more thoughtfully.

Unfortunately the silly season (our well-earned holidays over the Christmas period) always encourages us to do quite the opposite. In fact consuming without thought and moving a whole lot less is the theme for most of new year period for many.

Now I didn't say that was a bad thing, in fact slowing down and easing back on your training and workouts might be just what your doctor ordered you to do. Maybe you have been working and training hard all year, and your body needs a break from a strict routine of exercise and nutrition – if so, take that break, you have earned it.

However, if you are on a mission to improve your health and wellbeing, lose weight, run a marathon or compete in a sport then maybe this break over Christmas is your time to step things up.

To succeed and achieve your goals, like anything, you need a solid plan. Take the lead and inspire others to take a healthy high road while you are on holidays. Make this year different. Avoid the binge eating and drinking and aim for at least two activity sessions per day. Use your mornings for the active sessions, working out before breakfast then finish the day with some stretching, yoga, relaxation or meditation. The sessions don't need to be too long.

Complete the above for two weeks and see how well you come back to work after the holidays – your colleagues will notice, and you just might have an edge for that new job you are searching for.

Keep exercise and nutrition simple

You wouldn't believe the nonsense I heard outside the gym today – a professional, academic young man in a suit was sharing his frustrations that he had lost size overall, especially in the arms even though he was training hard on a new routine.

He wasn't getting the gains he expected while he was on a high fat diet recommend to him by an expert. The conversation and debate over theories, concepts and ideas about how to achieve rapid gains lasted for more than 20 minutes.

In that same amount of time, the young man could have completed an effective and comprehensive workout and consumed some quality whole foods and protein and be well on his way for progress. Instead the debate continued.

Lets revisit the "move more and consume more thoughtfully" concept in regard to this gent in question. Here is where he went wrong:

Too much talk, not enough action. If it's muscular gains you are looking for, you need to do the hard yards in the gym.

Forget the fad diets and shortcuts – look for quality whole foods, carbs, fats and proteins and be selective with your fruit and veg

so that you are getting the vitamins and minerals you need from natural sources.

Your diet should be balanced, with a slight slant on protein serves and frequency, in line with weight training and exercise demands and goals.

Lift big, lift well. Whether you are doing a BodyPump class or powerlifting. Don't be shy. Quality form, posture and exercise execution are key to your results.

Follow the leaders. Fitness Australia and nearly every global body governing fitness recommends about 30 minutes per day of exercise every day. No need to reinvent that wheel or make excuses.

Foam rolling

Foam rolling has become a mainstream activity in the gym these days. We have foam roller classes and foam rollers on the gym floor in the stretch area and they are always utilised for great benefits to the user.

Here are some great reasons why you should incorporate some rolling into your weekly exercise routines:

- Helps reduce muscular tension and reduce injuries;
- Helps to removes lactic acid from muscles after exercise;
- Good for rehabilitation and aids in recovery;
- Improves flexibility, mobility and range of motion;
- They are versatile and can be used for all muscle groups;
- They are simple to use – once you have the concept and some ideas;
- They are cost effective and great value for money – you can buy one for home; and
- Foam rollers might make a great Christmas present – at under \$70 for a decent one they represent great value and do wonders for your body!

Thanks to Shane (and Bethany) from *Docklands News* for their support this year publishing this column. I have found it a great way to connect with the community that I am so passionate about, and always find it encouraging and enjoyable when someone has read my material and found it meaningful and informative. I will take this opportunity to wish all the workers and residents in Docklands a safe Christmas and prosperous 2017.



Andrew Ward

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

The Conder Restaurant of NewQuay

By Sunny Liu

The Conder Restaurant all-you-can-eat Asian buffet has been a hidden treasure for those looking to fill their bellies with more than 100 dishes made to order.

The Conder is situated at the prime location of the Victoria Harbour, with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the serenity of the water.

Owner and head chef Yongbin Huang, also known by his English name Wilson, says the Conder has a touch of modernity in its buffet style.

“At the Conder everything is made to order. We don’t have any food on display because that would make the food not fresh,” Mr Huang said.

The Conder used to be a steakhouse but was turned into a pan-Asian buffet a year ago to provide a wider variety of cuisine to its patrons.

Mr Huang has a background in traditional Chinese cuisines. He started off as a military

chef in China in 2003 and went on to private restaurants.

He came to Australia in 2009 and has worked for some big names including Dainty Sichuan, Dumpling Plus and Dragon Boat in Melbourne’s Chinatown. He was also a chef de partie at Crown Casino.

He took over the Conder in 2015 and transformed it into a local indulgence.

Apart from ensuring the dishes’ quality, Mr Huang says another reason for this modern buffet mode is to reduce food waste.

“Many traditional buffets put out their dishes and customers can pick and choose. But that creates a lot of food waste and is not hygienic,” he said.

“In here customers sit down at their table and order any food they would like and we prepare everything according to their order.”

This operation style requires more staff members but Mr Huang says quality is his top one priority.

There is no limit on customers’ orders. In two hours, they can order whatever they like, however they want it.

With about 100 dishes on offer, three separate menus are needed to list all of them.



Wilson Huang has worked for some of the biggest names in hospitality.

Their specialty is in pan-fried Chinese and Japanese dishes, but there are also Malaysian, Taiwanese and Indian cuisines available.

The Conder is open six days a week during lunch and dinner hours, but it will extend its trading hours to seven days a week in December.

The fit-out of the restaurant is carefully designed to express the modernity of this

innovative place.

Mr Huang’s philosophy is to spread the Asian food culture to Docklands and beyond.

With more than a decade of experience in the hospitality industry, the prospect for his business is certainly looking good.

The Conder is at 8-10 NewQuay Promenade. Contact the restaurant on **9670 8388**. www.theconder.com.au

Getting people up and moving

By Sunny Liu

Anytime Fitness has just opened its brand new Docklands branch at Collins Square but it is already populated with patrons.

The world’s largest fitness chain takes pride in its friendly atmosphere and high-quality equipment.

“Anytime Fitness is not an intense body-building venue. It’s more family-oriented so everyone can come in and work out,” the Docklands branch’s manager Josh Jackson said.

The new venue is welcomed by corporate workers and residents in Docklands, who say the gym is a much-needed addition to their busy lifestyle.

“Our training classes and the 24-hour access is designed to help people fit a workout into their work schedule and we offer 30-minute small group training classes during the lunch hour,” Mr Jackson said.

The online instant booking system also adds to the convenience of keeping a healthy lifestyle.

As the name suggests, customers can access the gym anytime based on their daily schedule.

Anytime Fitness believes sitting is the new smoking. Office workers who sit in a chair for the whole day are prone to health problems.

All training classes, though short, are designed by qualified physiologists and are highly result-based.

The classes include kickboxing, Pilates, core conditioning and full-body circuit and are limited to 15 people in each class to ensure the training quality.

All equipment in the gym is imported from the US and includes a variety of cardio-training, body sculpting and weight lifting facilities.

Members have access to all 450 Anytime Fitness branches in the country without any extra charges.

Though there are several existing gyms in Docklands, Mr Jackson says the prime location of the new branch appeals to corporate workers.

Mr Jackson says a gym is long awaited at Collins Square, where 20,000 people work.

“Many of our clients come in during their lunch break and after work. It’s good to get people up and moving,” he said.

Mr Jackson said the philosophy of Anytime Fitness was to provide a convenient and friendly fitness atmosphere for people of all age groups.

With an area of 450 sqm, the equipment and classes are fitted in the multi-purpose space and the floor-to-ceiling windows give patrons a great view of a green Docklands.

It is the first Anytime Fitness branch in



Josh Jackson ... he says people can get fit at anytime.

Docklands and Mr Jackson says “people can’t get away from Anytime Fitness”.

With the ever-growing population in Docklands, the market is very promising for a fitness centre that offers a wide range of activities and facilities.

People can try Anytime Fitness with a seven-day free trial. The new gym is at Shop 9B Collins Square, 747 Collins St.

Mr Jackson can be contacted on **0427 979 997** or docklands@anytimefitness.com.au

Business



Alcohol is delivered to your door cold thanks to the customised insulated carry containers fixed on each Tipple delivery bike.

A bottle shop that comes to you

An idea that seems long overdue, alcohol delivery, is unsurprisingly taking off in the inner-city with the new service Tipple.

In just 12 months, co-CEOs Matt Walsh and Ryan Barrington have expanded the service to more than 120 suburbs and has carried out more than 20,000 deliveries.

Tipple not only guarantees delivery in under an hour but drinks are delivered to the customer's door cold and ready to drink.

As a former Docklands resident himself, Matt Walsh said the service had already proven to be a massive hit for people living in apartments.

"This is just a super solution for people who live in apartments chasing convenience," he said.

"We believe the Tipple alcohol delivery business has significant appeal to people who live in apartments where it's a bit more difficult to get in and out with heavy purchases. We remove the hassle."

While alcohol delivery exists in a handful of cases overseas, Tipple is the first business of its kind in Australia.

With a long background in the fast food and liquor industries, Tipple is Mr Barrington's brainchild.

"I came up with the concept probably two and a half years ago," he said. "My brother and I opened up a chain of kebab stores, to complement our bottle stores and we offered a delivery service."

"We thought we can deliver food in under an hour so why not alcohol?"

Having started with one shop and a fleet of three delivery vehicles, the business has rapidly grown to four locations and more than 40 drivers.

Through its easy to use app, available through the App Store and Google Play, alcohol is delivered to your door cold thanks

to the customised insulated carry containers fixed on each Tipple delivery bike.

And while the service has proven useful for people hosting a gathering at home, Matt said that most of its customers had incorporated Tipple as part of their regular shopping habits.

"Almost half of all of our deliveries are wine and we're able to offer some pretty exciting and very well priced high quality wines," he said.

"Many of our customers who order regularly have just built us into the way they go about their alcohol purchases. It's been received very well and the repeat business validates what we're doing."

Most importantly, Tipple takes responsible serving of alcohol (RSA) very seriously and has developed its app in such a way that enforces that message. All drivers are RSA trained and valid ID is required upon every delivery.

With a vision of bringing the service to more cities around Australia, Mr Barrington said it was exciting to be at the forefront of a new marketplace.

"Everyone is so busy these days so instead of ordering 12 bottles that they don't have storage space for, they're ordering what they need for one or two nights at a time," he said.

"Mobile phones have become the remote control for life. Customers want to be able to use their phone to co-ordinate various aspects of their lives. Apps need to be easy and simple to use and improve the quality of life for customers. At Tipple we want to improve the drinking experience for our customers."

For more information visit www.tipple.com.au



Julian Dieckhaus has a new business catering to Airbnb owners.

A local solution for Airbnb owners

For the hundreds of inner-city apartment investors attracted to the Airbnb model, there is a new Docklands business geared up to take away the associated grief.

After nearly 10 years in the short-stay apartment space, there is not much that Julian Dieckhaus hasn't experienced.

His battle-scars are a type of insurance for owners wanting to leverage the sharing economy but are unsure or not confident about doing all the work themselves.

Mr Dieckhaus points out that his new business doesn't manage any bookings. The owners are expected to do that themselves. But, for everything else, there is TurnKey Accommodation.

Mr Dieckhaus said he offered packages that could be taken individually or collectively and included: cleaning; maintenance; key drop and pick-up; security bonds; guest greeting/vetting; owners' corporation issues; after hours assistance with site security and dealing with general guest issues.

"Some owners want the flexibility to use the apartment themselves when it suits them. Some might have their children or other guests staying from time to time," he said. "Often, they just want a turnkey solution!"

Mr Dieckhaus said Airbnb was a minefield for inexperienced owners who often did not know the potential traps and pitfalls.

"If their guests go crazy and hold a party, dealing with the owners' corporations' breach notice is the last thing they want," he said.

"It's much better to avoid a potential problem in the first place. The hefty damage bond payments we insist on will

weed out the problem guests."

"Essentially, we are offering a level of comfort that someone is looking out for them," he said. "Our services are cost-effective and time-effective."

Mr Dieckhaus's team will even decorate and furnish an empty apartment if required.

"There are many interstate and overseas Airbnb apartment owners who would get great value from people like ourselves who can represent them on the ground," Mr Dieckhaus said.

He pointed out that TurnKey Accommodation in no way competed with local real estate agents. For the investors wanting a long-term weekly income Mr Dieckhaus suggest using a local agent.

"We've got a very good working relationship with the local agents, and we want to keep it that way," he said. "We really just see ourselves as being positioned in the middle between the Airbnb apartment owner and their guests."

Mr Dieckhaus has a long history with Docklands, having managed NewQuay Marina from 2001. In 2004 he moved to Docklands to live and loves the place.

He got involved with short-stay apartments in 2007 when he started managing a local short-stay business.

In 2014 he took over Accommodation Corporate Docklands (ACD Apartments) and earlier this year acquired Docklands Prestige Apartments, which he continues to run under its existing brand.

Mr Dieckhaus can be contacted on 9642 0105.

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 SUNDAY
THE JAMES HOTEL

LIVE MUSIC
 Live music at The James Hotel every Sunday night - free entry.
 Every Sunday: Stand and Deliver 80s tribute band, from 7.30pm

EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
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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**



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2ND AND 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH
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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 - FROM 7PM
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WEDNESDAYS 5.45PM-7PM
THE HUB, 80 HARBOUR ESPLANADE

OPEN DOOR SINGERS DOCKLANDS
 Find your voice, experience the joy of singing in a choir and meet new friends.
www.opendoorsingers.org.au

MONDAYS 11AM
THE HUB, 80 HARBOUR ESPLANADE

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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 the club via **mssp.docklands@gmail.com**

LAST MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 - 6.30PM TO 7.30PM

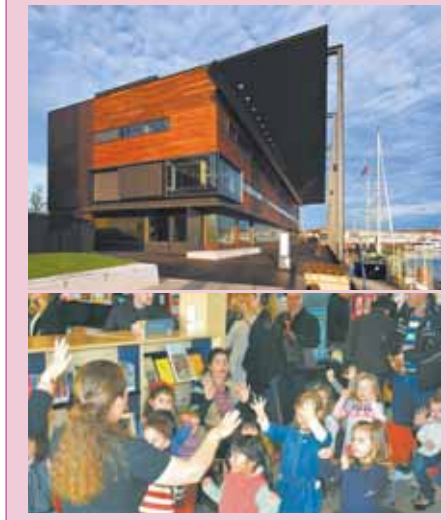
THE LIBRARY AT THE DOCK

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

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

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

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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE



Up-and-comers Harmony plan to do better in 2017.

Well done girls

Harmony is the team to watch. This team of 12 girls aged between 10-15 were wonderful on Saturday, November 26 at the National Synchronised Skating championships.

Luckily for Melburnians, the championship was held at Docklands' own O'Brien Group Arena.

The girls were up against very steep competition since many of the other teams are actually at a much higher grade and there were 11 teams to contend with. Although Harmony didn't place in the top three, they placed first in Docklands' hearts.

The coaches Amber and Michelle choreographed an entertaining Halloween-themed performance.

The stunning green and purple glittered

costumes flowed around the ice magically and the team gracefully keep their lines and elements strong.

Their four-minute performance had the crowds cheering and clapping for more.

The girls will be moving up a grade in 2017 and look forward to the challenge this brings.

Early mornings and hours of off ice practise will put them in good stead for next years' national competition.

You can follow the team on Instagram - **Harmony.synchro** - to keep in touch with Victoria's own synchronised skating team.

Crews back from Hawaii

After an intensive winter training program, Melbourne Outrigger Canoe Club sent two women's and two men's crews to contest the Queen Lili'uokalani Canoe Race in Hawaii.

The main event took place on Saturday, September 3 and involved a 28km race, from north to south, down the west coast of the big Island from Kailua-Kona to Honaunau Bay.

The out-bound trip was completed by the women's crews and the return trip by the men. The close passes of two hurricanes in the week preceding the races made for

challenging conditions on the water.

Heat was also a factor for the crews, having trained primarily in the icy Victorian winter.

Other races included the 12-person double hulls, OC4 sprints and the Ali'i challenge.

The club trains three times a week on the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay and is based out of the community boating hub in Docklands.

The club is currently preparing for the summer paddling season with several local, interstate and international regattas on the bill.

For more information about the sport of outrigger canoeing and the Melbourne Outrigger Canoe Club contact the club secretary at mocc.secretary@gmail.com and follow us on Instagram @ [melbournoutriggers](https://www.instagram.com/melbournoutriggers).



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