The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS A NEWS

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Docklands family of swans take an outing together in Victoria Harbour. Inset: The empty nest last November.

And baby makes three

Locals concerned with the disappearance of Docklands' nesting swans late last year will be pleased to learn that they are back – with baby!

Fears were held for the safety of the swans when they abandoned their nesting site near Harbour Esplanade in November.

The City of Melbourne put some protective tape around the swans' nest, but no one had seen them until they made a surprise return to the harbour in the new year.

The swan family was sighted again at the north side of the Victoria Harbour, where they were greeted by many "paparazzi" eager to photograph them.

The baby swan has already grown out of its



newborn grey fluff and is showing similar patterned feathers to its parents.

While the parent swans were enjoying some biscuits from their fans, the baby swan jumped on shore to explore Docklands.

Black swans mainly breed in the southeast and southwest regions of Australia and are the symbol of Western Australia. But now it seems they can also be a Docklands mascot.

The swans also bring a Valentine's Day vibe with their symbolism of purity, loyalty and love. The black swan has one partner for life and both adults raise their baby.

Fireworks are losing their mojo

By Shane Scanlan

According to pedestrian counters, Docklands' fireworks are losing their mojo.

Crowds were down slightly on New Years Eve but crashed about 50 per cent on Australia Day from last year's numbers.

The City of Melbourne has pedestrian counters on NewQuay Promenade at NewQuay, Waterfront City and on the corner of Bourke St and Harbour Esplanade.

Docklands News is not suggesting that these

counters have picked up all visitors but they do provide an accurate comparison between the years.

Comparisons at 11pm (when numbers are greatest) with previous New Year's Eves show crowds were slightly down on 2015 (7112 compared with 7555).

Numbers in NewQuay have largely held up, but the Waterfront City crowds have been in decline for many years. This New Year's Eve the counters picked up 4515 people in NewQuay, 2176 at Waterfront City and 421 outside Victoria Point.

In 2015, the comparative figures were: NewQuay – 4612; Waterfront City – 2460; and Victoria Point – 483. Crowds peaked in Docklands for New Years Eve back in 2012 when 10,188 were counted. That year, the numbers were: NewQuay – 5389; Waterfront City – 4489; Victoria Point – 310. The Waterfront City numbers have dropped by nearly half.

Australia Day fireworks crowds are also down. Measured at 10pm (when the numbers were greatest), it appears that only half as many people visited Docklands this year.

In 2016 total numbers were 10,189 but this year only 4362 were recorded. It appears that the council's Waterfront City pedestrian monitor has been out of action since January 9, so the real difference in crowds is not as

However, given that NewQuay numbers almost halved in 12 months (6333 in 2016 compared with 3360 in 2017), it would be fair to expect at least that drop at Waterfront City. Victoria Point numbers were up from 856 in 2016 to 1002 this year.

Given the new focus on Harbour Esplanade, it would have been reasonable to expect greater crowd growth recorded at Victoria Point.

Reports from people gathered at the front of Etihad Stadium complained that they were too close to comfortably observe the fireworks.

Continued page 2



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Christmas spirit

Boyd, Palladio and Sant' Elia residents got into the Christmas spirit with donations to Anglicare via the Merchant St Woolworths.

In this photo OC secretary Iris Stewart hands a tub of toys to assistant store manager Jacqueline Truong. Residents brought the gifts to the buildings' Christmas barbecue on December 18.

Fireworks are losing their mojo

From page 1

This year the fireworks were controversially moved off the water to being fired from inside Etihad Stadium.

Responses to the new approach have been mixed, with some saying they were adequate but most agreeing that they lacked the vitality and acoustics of Victoria Harbour.

No one who Docklands News has spoken to said the fireworks were better this year. The consensus seems to be that newcomers would have been impressed but regulars remained underwhelmed.

The City of Melbourne has not adequately explained its decision to move the fireworks from the water.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle told Docklands Chamber of Commerce representatives last November: "We had an unfortunate couple of incidents during the winter fireworks, which is 5000 people, about panic and crush when trying to get out. On New Years Eve we have to manage 35,000 - 40,000 people down in Docklands."

Docklands News believes the council decided to move the fireworks for other reasons and manufactured or exaggerated the story of crowd crush and panic to justify its decision.

Our best guess is that the council wanted to standardise its rooftop firing across the whole city. If true, this shows once again that the City of Melbourne has no appreciation of Docklands' special water-based character.

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Order of Australia is a first for our new suburb

Long-term Docklander Alan Kinkade was on Australia Day appointed as a member of the Order of Australia for significant service to medical administration.

Docklands News believes Mr Kinkake AM is the first Docklander to be appointed or awarded an Order of Australia of any kind.

He is proud of his career and is equally honoured to be nominated by his peers and to have his nomination accepted by the Governor-General

The Dock 5 resident recently retired from a successful career running hospitals and establishing research institutes.

He brought his family to Docklands from interstate in 2006 when he was appointed group chief executive challenged with turning around the fortunes of the then ailing Epworth Hospital, which was losing \$18 million per year.

Today, Epworth is Victoria's largest not-forprofit private healthcare group, employing 6000 staff and recognised as an innovator in the industry.

"We've done some good things,' Mr Kinkade said modestly. He said, among other things, the organisation had put money aside specifically for teaching, research and for scholarships to allow staff to achieve "extraordinary things".

"These things are not just good for the people involved, they make the entire staff feel good," he said.

He also proudly-pointed out that Epworth had been ranked number one in the country for patient satisfaction. Mr Kinkade said the keys to successful administration were: understanding the needs and drivers of stakeholders; maintaining good relationships; integrity; honesty; good corporate culture; and good governance.

He is a Sydneysider but has worked in three states and has now established research institutes in NSW, Queensland and Victoria.

Like many others from north of the border, he recognised very quickly the value that Docklands offers as a residential area.

"Something like this in Sydney would be double the price," he said. "And that will happen here too. You just have to take a long-term perspective."

He said proximity to the CBD, great public transport, water views, freeway access and being five minutes from the supermarket, medical centres, pharmacies, etc were just some of Docklands' attributes.

He says he doesn't understand how others can disparage Docklands but suspects it's because they don't know what it's like here.

Having led such a busy working life, retirement could be a challenge for Mr Kinkade

The first six months are mapped out though and there's no slowing down in sight. It includes a program of evaluation in Hanoi, a north-coast of NSW holiday, an Epworth fundraising trip to Sri Lanka, more time in Sydney and a two-month trip to the US to be with his daughter, son-in-law and new granddaughter.

After that, who knows? But it's clear that he loves being in Docklands.

Right: Alan Kinkade AM



Cafe with a wheely good purpose

Users at Library at the Dock will be heartened to know that their support of the library's cafe is helping disadvantaged young people.

Social enterprise Whitelion took over the running of the cafe in November, and the charity plans to add a further five "static" cafes around Melbourne in 2017.

Enterprise manager Rob Brown explained that, in the past, Wheelly Good Coffee had confined itself to providing coffee at events or other "mobile" opportunities.

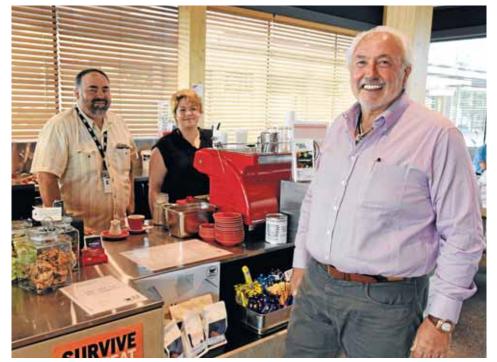
The Docklands library is the group's first chance to expose its trainees to the "real life" experience that comes via a bricks and mortar establishment.

He said exceptional customer service was one of the planks of the Wheelly Good Coffee brand, but this had been impossible to achieve without a permanent outlet. The staff are encouraged to run the business.

Some six disadvantaged young people are sharing the shifts at Library at the Dock, including weekends – which promises to brighten the lives of Victoria Harbour residents more used to "cafe closed" signs.

Mr Brown has thrown himself into building the social enterprise since recently retiring from corporate life.

"I always said I would give back when I could," Mr Brown told *Docklands News*. He explained that he had experienced a tough upbringing in working class Glasgow but had



From left to right: Ross Bellos, Rhiannon Cheong and Rob Brown.

been educated on a private school bursary and had gone on to achieve success at the highest corporate levels.

And, as an abstaining-alcoholic with an ice-addicted son, he knows first-hand about addictive behaviour – which is often at the

root of social disadvantage.

"You have to fill the gap with something else if you are going to beat the addiction," Mr Brown said, which may explain the frenetic way he throws himself into everything he does.

For trainee Rhiannon Cheong, 22, her issue was not addiction but, rather, depression. She explained that she had been with Wheelly Good Coffee for a number of years now and that the experience had built her skills and confidence.

She expects to start a cadetship in transport logistics early this year.

Ross Bellos has been training baristas for Wheelly Good Coffee for many years and finds success stories like Rhiannon's very personally rewarding.

"Sometimes things don't go to plan, but it's great to see people like Rhiannon getting ahead," he said.

Mr Brown explained that Whitelion has a number of charities, including Wheelly Good Coffee. It's focus has traditionally been rehabilitation of young offenders but had expanded to include social disadvantage of any type.

It's aim with Wheelly Good Coffee, he said, was to produce: "Fully trained baristas capable of working in any cafe at the same level and capacity as those who don't come from disadvantage."

His ambition is to grow the business to the point where franchises can be offered to successful participants.



Councillor position saga to continue

By Shane Scanlan

Melbourne could be without an 11th and final city councillor for months, thanks to an attempt by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to overturn a decision made by a magistrate last year.

On December 5 magistrate Michael Smith ruled that the councillor vacancy be resolved by countback, which would likely have resulted in Southbank's Joe Sarraf being offered the position.

But on December 8 the VEC appealed his decision to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) and the matter is due to be heard on February 21.

VEC Commissioner Warwick Gately and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle appear to share the same view on how the matter should be resolved – a recount which would likely also see Mr Sarraf added but Cr Michael Caiafa lose his position in favour of former deputy lord mayor Susan Riley. Team Doyle would acquire a majority under this scenario.

Mr Gately says Cr Doyle phoned him twice – the first time, on November 9, to gain an understanding of the implications of the vacancy and the second time on December 6, commenting on the outcome of Magistrate Smith's decision.

A spokesperson for Mr Gately said: "The Electoral Commissioner listened to the Lord Mayor and explained that he was considering his options, had not reached a position and would comment no further."

Cr Doyle acknowledges the conversations but says their content is confidential.

When ruling on the matter on December 5, Magistrate Smith said what the VEC was asking for was "simply not tenable".

The final councillor position remains unfilled following the discovery that elected candidate Brooke Wandin was ineligible to stand because she was not correctly enrolled.

Ms Wandin and former councillor Richard Foster were due to front court in late January



Cr Michael Caifa

charged with the unlawful nomination and false declaration by Ms Wandin during the October elections.

On August 24, Ms Wandin enrolled herself at Mr Foster's Kensington address. The VEC was alerted to the matter on October 22 via a complaint from Mr Foster.

Documents released via Freedom of Information reveal that Mr Foster told the VEC: "Ms Wandin has never resided at the address in question, nor is it likely that she would ever reside at the address in question. I believe this to be the case as this is my residential address which I have occupied for approximately three and a half years."

Ms Wandin was supposed to enroll in the Lord Mayoral section of the election as part of Mr Foster's team but ended up running against Mr Foster by mistake.

On December 5 Magistrate Smith formally declared Ms Wandin "not duly elected". Another part of his Municipal Electoral Tribunal (MET) ruling was that the vacancy should be filled using procedures associated with an extraordinary vacancy.

Under this method, voters who chose Ms Wandin would have their next preference counted, with running mate Nic Frances Gilley expected to be offered the position.

Docklands News understands that Mr Frances Gilley has removed himself from the roll and is no longer eligible or interested.



Former councillor Susan Riley

The most likely next in line is Mr Sarraf (who polled 805 votes between himself and his team mate Miroslav Zverina).

Commissioner Gately wants VCAT to endorse a counting method which has been predicted to disenfranchise Cr Caiafa and reinstate Ms Riley as a councillor.

Mr Gately has asked: "that a 'special count' of the votes cast in the election be undertaken as if Ms Wandin was a retired or deceased candidate within the meaning of clause 8 and 9 or Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1989."

In his December 5 decision, Magistrate Smith specifically rejected this method: "At no time did Ms Wandin retire. Once the poll has been declared the relevant provisions concerning the powers of a returning office upon the retirement of a candidate no longer apply. That candidate, eligible or otherwise has been declared elected. ... There is, moreover, a legislative basis in the Act for proceeding in accordance with sections 46(1)(a) and 46(3). Of the alternatives discussed I am clearly of the view that this is the better of them."

Neither Magistrate Smith, nor anyone else from the MET, will be attending VCAT to defend his decision.

Cr Caiafa will be represented and has flagged that, should the VEC win and he loses his councillor position, he will be appealing to the Supreme Court. If this happens, it will be

months before the 11th councillor position is determined.

Former councillor Stephen Mayne is also involved. Mr Mayne has a chance to be offered the position should VCAT take the view that the whole Indigenous Voice team be disqualified.

Commissioner Gately says a recount without Ms Wandin's votes included is the best way to determine the outcome.

A spokesperson told *Docklands News*: "That (method) suggested by Magistrate Smith removes Ms Wandin's first preferences only. The other preferences of those who voted for her would follow Ms Wandin's how-to-vote card would still be in play and could thus be considered tainted."

"Mr Gately's suggestion removes all of the votes for Ms Wandin entirely as if she had never stood (given she was not entitled to stand), thereby removing any potential tainted votes."

In his public comments, Mr Gately said: "Although the tribunal addressed Ms Wandin's declaration, its decision neither addressed, nor resolved, broader matters associated with the election."

On the same day he spoke with Mr Gately (December 6), Cr Doyle told *Dockl;ands News*: "I don't think this matter is at a close. I think the Electoral Commissioner indicated that the process was tainted."

"I am not sure that the Electoral Tribunal has resolved that issue by simply saying 'please proceed' and I will await to see whether the Electoral Commissioner himself, or indeed any of the 44 candidates who missed out on election, chooses to appeal that decision to VCAT, which in fact is possible within seven days of the tribunal's decision and I will await those developments."

"I think the comment by the tribunal that this may affect councillors who have already been elected is irrelevant, to be honest. That is my personal view. The result should be beyond reproach."

"I have no doubt that the result, at the moment, is not beyond reproach and I would wish to see that all councillors were elected with the full confidence of the community, that due process has been followed and that the electoral process has not been deliberately perverted."



Hall of secrets



The level of secrecy adopted by the City of Melbourne has been brought into sharp focus by recent inquiries about its approach to filling the 11th councillor vacancy.

Its culture of non-disclosure has long been disturbing, but has not really been measurable because there has been nothing to compare it with.

But in this instance, *Docklands News* had cause to ask the same questions of another government agency – the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) – and the responses could not have been more different.

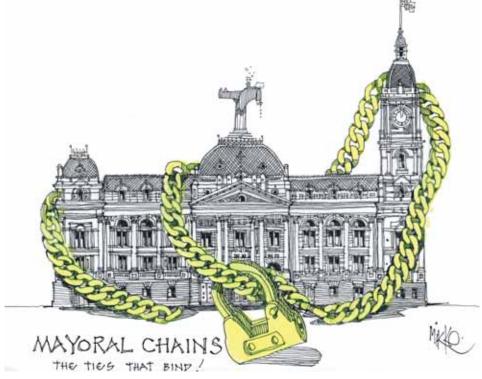
The question was, essentially, "what have the two agencies said to each other about how to resolve this matter?"

The public interest in this matter is extreme. If the VEC wins its appeal against a magistrate's ruling then Lord Mayor Robert Doyle looks like winning a majority number of councillors. It is most reasonable to ask how and why the VEC and Cr Doyle have come to the same conclusion about the best way to resolve it.

Freedom of Information (FoI) requests were lodged with both agencies on December 6 seeking relevant documents (people might well ask why FoI was necessary!).

The VEC responded with copies of 20 documents in the mail before Christmas. There was no hesitation, no obstruction, no fuss. It did, however, delete the mobile phone numbers of officers. Fair enough.

In contrast, the council took the view that the public servants involved have the right to decide whether or not they want their names included. They interpret this as "personal affairs information" and, therefore, potentially exempt. Should the council decide to release any documents including



their names, the relevant council officers will be given 60 days to appeal this decision. On January 23, the council sent an invoice for the time it took to search the documents.

A further question was asked of both agencies on January 16 – what conversations had taken place between Cr Doyle and VEC Commissioner Warwick Gately.

The VEC responded promptly with dates and details of two conversations. The council, on the other hand, said Cr Doyle was on leave and would not be back until after Australia Day. It later confirmed the two conversations but said Cr Doyle considered them confidential.

This example is not extraordinary in itself, but it well illustrates the town hall's culture. The rot starts at the top and permeates every level of the organisation.

Far from celebrating transparency as one of the basics of local democracy, it resents public interest as an intrusion of its apparent right to run the council as an exclusive club.

Rank and file councillors are briefed on a needs-to-know basis and, should they lose the trust of officers, are punished via an information freeze.

Sadly, extreme secrecy has become normal.

It's old reporters who can remember different norms who are out of step.

The council employs a small army of former journalists who are collectively paid about \$1 million per year to carefully craft meaningless responses to media inquiries.

Recent examples that have yielded refusals have included: the specifics of the Lord Mayor's declared conflict of interest from November 22's Future Melbourne Committee; whether or not CEO Ben Rimmer is still being paid by the council after being on sick leave since the middle of last year; and the specific events nominated by the company which won a council tender.

It is customary to seek a response from all parties when writing a news story but, when it comes to the City of Melbourne, it is almost pointless.

The council has long lost its way and feels little obligation or accountability to the people it is supposed to represent and who pay them.

Of course, this decay in democratic standards is not confined to the City of Melbourne. It's a global phenomenon against which citizens feel affronted but largely powerless to influence.

Works start on Village St

Work has started to convert Village St into a pedestrian and cycle-friendly precinct, with the potential for street festivals and other events.

For the next five months, a section of Village St between Fishplate Lane and Bourke St will be closed to vehicles, however pedestrian access to the east and west of the works will be maintained.

One of the key features of the upgrade is changing the section between Bourke St and Fishplate Lane from a two-way street into a one-way street, with traffic to flow in a northerly direction towards Etihad Stadium.

The upgrade will see Village St become a more people-focused space, taking advantage of its location close to Docklands' restaurants and Etihad Stadium.

There is a great opportunity – subject to permits and approvals – for food festivals, live performances and other activities that soak up the atmosphere of events at Etihad Stadium.

The work is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Places Victoria has reminded people to be mindful of demolition works during the construction phase and has advised it will work with contractors to ensure disruption to local businesses is kept at a minimum.

Overall, the project will include:

- Creation of a shared zone using bluestone pitchers to create a flush road and footpath surface;
- Installation of green spaces in the form of planter beds and more street trees; and
- Additional seating, bike hoops and lighting.



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Roger's ready to pass the baton

By Sunny Liu

After seven long years as the president of the Docklands Community Association (DCA), Roger Gardner is ready to hand over to the next suitable candidate.

Mr Gardner says it has been a rewarding experience and wishes to thank the Docklands community, the DCA and his family for their support.

"It's been quite rewarding in the sense of being able to speak up about what the Docklands residents think," he said. "We were able to highlight the problems, opportunities and issues that the community might face."

However, Mr Gardner says he will not be completely detached from the DCA, as the next president has not been determined.

"I can't step away too quickly because it needs to be a smooth transition," he said.

Mr Gardner thinks his continuous opposition against high-rise apartments and short-stay accommodation in Docklands is one of his greatest achievements as the DCA



DCA president Roger Gardner.

president, though he admits he has brought "too little change".

"I think many of the high-rise developments have poor design, poor material and poor supervision. Serviced apartments lack control and often create confrontation between residents and guests," he said.

In 2015, he was selected by the Victorian

government to be on an expert panel to investigate whether short-stay guests were causing nuisance to long-term residents.

At the time he wished the inquiry would result in a ban on serviced apartments in residential buildings but not much has changed since then.

"We are up against too many people. It's very difficult to win because developers rule," he said.

"I see my achievements in the work I've done, not the results. People know somebody is standing up for them," Mr Gardner said.

Mr Gardner said another difficulty he experienced as the DCA president was working for a transient population in a fast-developing suburb.

"Community members in the outer suburbs don't change very much because they've got an invested interest in the area they live in, whereas people here tend to come and go," Mr Gardner said. "So it's much harder (to represent the community) in a developing area with high-rises."

Having lived in Docklands for 13 years, Mr Gardner says he has witnessed both exciting and unpleasant changes to this fast-evolving suburb.

"There used to be many more recreational spaces in the area but now it's all taken

by high-rises. We used to have a lot more sunlight," he said.

Mr Gardner said he wanted to see improvements made on high-rise buildings, though he lives on the 17th floor of an apartment tower.

Despite all the obstacles he has faced during his time at the DCA, Mr Gardner says he is particularly proud that he has helped create the DCA's website and Facebook page and has conducted some large-scale community surveys to collect residents' opinion on local issues.

"We wanted to know what residents think through the surveys. In one of the online surveys we did last year, we had more than 100 objections against cage-fighting at Etihad Stadium ... so now they are holding it somewhere else," he said.

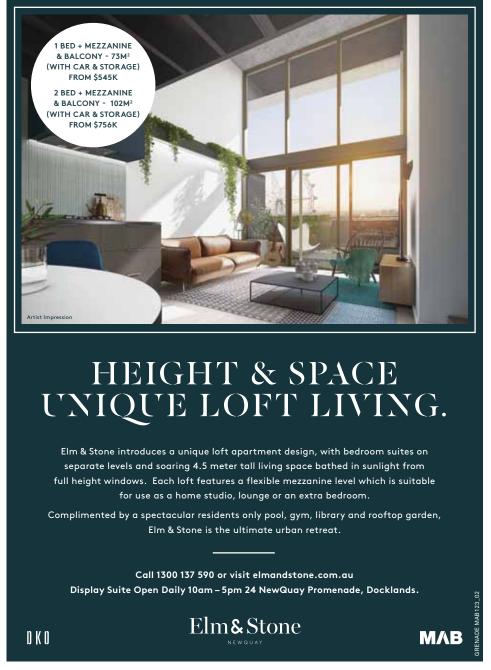
Mr Gardner says he has been an "attacking person" and "a critic of certain things".

"One of my responsibilities is to inform the residents of what's going on and I tend to be the focal point of receiving news," he said.

Mr Gardner says he hopes the new DCA president can "continue with keeping up the good fight".

John Kakos is currently the DCA's acting president and the new president will be announced soon.





Apartment standards have been relaxed

By Shane Scanlan

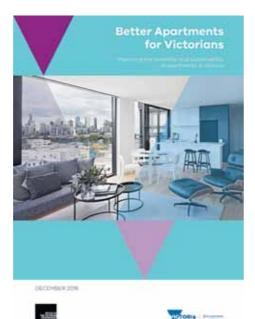
Victoria's new apartments standards to become law next month are significantly more relaxed than the draft that was circulated in the middle of last year.

The Property Council of Australia has taken the credit for securing "big wins" following the release by Planning Minister Richard Wynne of the new rules before Christmas.

Property Council of Australia CEO, Ken Morrison, in an email to members, said: "In Victoria we carved out the most harmful impacts of foreign investment taxes (for a second time), influenced the revamp of CBD planning controls and secured big wins in new apartment standards."

A comparison between the draft and final document illustrates Mr Morrison's point.

Gone are minimum defined building setbacks which featured in the draft document. Now a "reasonable distance" needs to be determined to ensure similarly-non-defined outcomes such as "adequate" daylight and "reasonable" views (called in the final document "visual connection to the external environment").



There are still no minimum apartment sizes. But, new to the discussion, is the introduction of minimum room sizes. Bedrooms must be at least 3x3 metres (with master bedrooms needing an extra 400cm to accommodate a wardrobe) and living areas (excluding dining and kitchen areas) must be at least 10sqm for studios and one-bedders and 12sqm if the apartment has more than two bedrooms.

Minimum dimensions for lightwells have also disappeared and standards around

windows have been softened.

In the draft document, windows needed to be visible from any point in a habitable room, but this requirement has been dropped.

Standards protecting from external noise have also been relaxed and now only apply to new apartments built within certain distances of industrial zones, roads and railways. Whereas the draft standards applied a blanket ban on external noise in all new bedrooms above 35dB at night, the final document only mandates these limits near so-called (and very limited) "noise influence areas".

Standards have been relaxed regarding how much communal open space should receive sunlight too. The draft standards stipulated that 50 per cent needed to receive at least two hours between 9am and 3pm on June 1. The final document relaxes the 50 per cent stipulation for areas greater than 250sqm – introducing a 125sqm alternative.

The government has also chosen a different approach to ensuring adequate natural ventilation. The draft document stipulated opening windows in all habitable rooms less than 80m above the ground. It suggested that 60 per cent of apartments less than 35m from the ground be naturally cross ventilated. These formulas have been replaced with a rule that 40 per cent of apartments in a development "achieve"

effective cross ventilation".

Minimum balcony sizes (private open space) have been tinkered with too, with a slight increase in minimum area for two-bedroom apartments (from 8 to 10sqm), also a slight increase in minimum dimension for three-bedroom apartments (from 2m to 2.4m) but a decrease of dimension for studio and one-bedroom balconies (from 2m to 1.8m).

Disabled access rules will now apply to only 50 per cent of dwellings. The draft standards were to apply to all apartments, with the exception of 25 per cent of two-bedroom units

On the other side of the coin, the standards have also been strengthened in a few areas.

The rules are firmer about protecting privacy stating that designs must: "Avoid direct views into habitable room windows and private open space of new and existing dwellings."

The final standards have also increased the minimum storage space in new units. A studio apartment will require at least five cubic metres inside and a further three cubic metres elsewhere. For three-bedroom units or larger, the required minimum storage space rises to 12 cubic metres inside and a further six cubic metres elsewhere.

The final document mandates more communal open space for large apartment complexes. While the draft set a minimum of 100sqm, the new standard is a minimum of 250sqm.



Celebrating the Year of the Rooster

By Melissa Chung

Celebrations have started in multicultural Docklands to celebrate Chinese New Year the Year of the Rooster.

The Year of the Rooster celebration takes place between January 27 and February 12.

The Chinese New Year celebration is reaching out to Victoria's 176,000 international students, many of whom have volunteered to help with the 17-day festival.

An abnormal phenomenon occurs among the Chinese community this year - people are sending out their blessings before New Year because of an ancient Chinese idiom -"Weasel wishes the rooster a happy new year huang 黄鼠狼给鸡拜年".

The idiom refers to people who may have bad intentions. It stems from the fact that weasels eat chickens and, therefore, it is impossible for them to send sincere blessings to a rooster. Therefore, to avoid being treated as weasels, people are sending their blessings on New Year's Eve this year.

Regardless of the weasels, the Year of the Rooster is still a good start that brings positivity - trustworthiness, the sense of timekeeping as well as responsibility.

Chinese New Year celebrations in Docklands are listed below:

The Food Truck Park

Food trucks are selling Asian cuisine and drinks. Traditional Chinese handicrafts and entertainment are demonstrated along Harbour Esplanade.

Date: January 27 - February 12 Time: 12pm - 10pm Address: Cow up a Tree, Harbour Esplanade



888 Collins Light Show

"8", a Chinese lucky number that means prosper. Docklands is celebrating Chinese New Year in this lucky place through a light show honouring the fire rooster.

Date: January 27 - February 12 *Time*: Every hour from 8pm to midnight Address: 888 Collins St

Melbourne Star LED light show

Mention "Rooster 2017" at the Melbourne Star ticket booth to access the buy-oneget-one-free deal for adult and child.

A Chinese New Year inspired LED light show is featured every day.

Date: January 27 - February 12 Time: 11am - 10pm Address: 101 Waterfront Way

Dragon Boat come and try sessions

Dragon Boat Victoria will offer free come and try sessions at the Community and Boating Hub at Docklands.

Date: February 4 - 5 Time: 10am-4pm Address: 912 Collins St

Other events in surrounding Southbank and Docklands (and even Melbourne Zoo) can be found at the Chinese New Year United website - www. cnymelbourne.com.au.

Regional centres of Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo are also starting to feature in a statewide co-ordinated effort.



Social Club at Yarra's Edge

The Docklands Social Club heads off to Hooks at the Yarra for its February gathering.

The informal club meets once a month with the sole aim of providing a place for local people to meet and get to know each other.

Last month about 30 Docklanders caught up with each other on January 10 at Platform 28 in Bourke St. For some, it was the first time they had attended. For others, there were plenty of familiar faces.

Attendees pay their own way with the venue and there is no further obligation expected.

Hooks is at Yarra's Edge – it's the first venue you come to once you set off the Webb Bridge. The event is from 7pm on Wednesday, February 7.

Everyone is welcome.

Eilish Cooke answers your legal questions.

Q I have separated from my husband and have primary custody of our children. I would like to keep the family home, if at all possible. What do you advise?

A Keeping the family home is often a priority for one party. This can provide stability for the children, allowing them to continue to attend their school and have the support of their neighbourhood friends and activities. Due to the rapidly rising cost of residential real estate in Melbourne, we advise you act quickly to effect a early property settlement with your former partner. This move will maximise your chances of keeping the family home, before price rises render it unaffordable for you to retain. We can assist you to negotiate a property settlement, designed to allow you to remain in your family home.

Call for advice on wills, probate, estates and trusts; conveyancing and property law; family law; commercial law; litigation and dispute resolution.

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Bringing some rawness to Docklands

By Sunny Liu

Melbourne-based street artist Adrian Doyle is planning to bring some unique character to Docklands by relocating his Blender Studio to Harbour Town.

Despite being unimpressed by Docklands' windiness, Mr Doyle says he sees it as a blank canvas for more "raw" art.

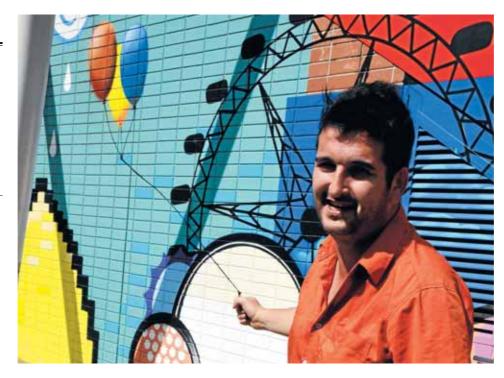
"There is something about Docklands that makes me want to spend more time here," he said. "There are so many areas I want to work on."

The studio has been on Franklin St since 2001 and is one of the largest in Melbourne. But its current warehouse-turned studio space will be affected by the major redevelopment of the Queen Victoria Market.

"Whatever the CBD is missing out, Docklands and Harbour Town are smart enough to jump on board," Mr Doyle said.

The Blender Studio is home to 20 artists from around Melbourne.

Apart from individual mural projects, the studio also organises workshops, street art tours and a weekly artist market.



Mr Doyle says they also work with the City of Melbourne to redesign some of the laneways in the CBD.

"We want to put more art up around Docklands. We want to bring some more culture and funniness to lighten up Docklands."

"It takes a while for an area to build its own street art culture and we want to create a unique street art profile for Docklands," Mr Doyle said. Mr Doyle says he was very grateful for the opportunity to tap into Docklands' art scene and hopes more local businesses can offer a platform for street artists to bring more "rawness" to this fast-evolving suburb.

"Not every wall needs to be crystal clean and the murals show the history of a place. The culture will naturally grow once we move the artists to Docklands," he said.

"There has been increasingly more interest in Docklands, including the 3D art exhibition

and the wheel. I think Docklands can become an important hub of Melbourne's street art."

Mr Doyle has been renowned for his bold and sometimes controversial artworks around Melbourne.

He was commissioned to do some murals at the basement of Docklands apartment The Ouavs.

But the two murals, one depicting a Christ figure crucified on a telegraph pole and the other a crying little girl, offended some of the residents in the building, who accused him of being sacrilegious.

"My work tends to be controversial and people's opinions are often divided. But as an artist, it's important not to compromise too much and we need to show the true side of art," he said.

His famous pieces also include a 49-metre long wall mural outside Crown, which was unveiled by the Lord Mayor Robert Doyle in 2012

"What we are doing is not the old American graffiti. Melbourne has its unique street art that has become great tourist attractions," he said. "I think street art is the most important movement in Melbourne's art history."

Mr Doyle is calling for Docklands' local businesses and community to suggest locations for new projects.



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'Ground Hog Day' for boaties

By Shane Scanlan

Charter boat operators feel they are back at "square one" despite government promises to activate local waterways.

Melbourne Passenger Boating Association president Jeff Gordon says it's been more than a year since the Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Group (LYRUFDG) recommended the establishment of an independent interim committee charged with bringing an independent authority into existence within two years.

The State Government did not accept this recommendation but, rather, promised to establish a three-person committee to advise Parks Victoria on specific operational

And, while this fell a long-way short of what was wanted and needed, even this has not

Mr Gordon said it was incredible that in January 2017 no announcement about the advisory committee had been made.

"We understand that Parks intends to appoint one of its own and someone from the City of Melbourne," he said.

Mr Gordon said a private enterprise appointment had been expected but, without any real influence or purpose, it was difficult to attract a suitable candidate.

"Our hopes for some action to get this local waterway moving towards a single independent authority appear doomed," he

"Everyone is paying lip service to the widelyaccepted need to reform governance of the

"It is clear what is needed, but bureaucrats seem to have simply buried the concept with the hope that no one will notice or care."

Water-based businesses have been in steady decline in Docklands over the past decade and point to excessive governance as the primary reason.

Without a single (and sympathetic) decisionmaking authority, operators say they are facing a death by a thousand cuts. Taxes and charges continue to rise, but suitable tenure and needed facilities are still not present.

It is understood that national and international operators capable of undertaking a commuter water transport service will continue to avoid Melbourne while the current labyrinth of regulatory redtape remains unreformed.

Melbourne remains a first-world city (some say the most liveable) with a third-world charter fleet and bereft of a regular river commuter system.

Lacrosse cladding appeal fails

The Building Appeals Board (BAB) last month rejected an alternative proposal and ruled that combustible aluminium-backed cladding be replaced on the Lacrosse Building in LaTrobe St.

The non-compliant cladding was found to be responsible for a quick-spreading balcony fire at the building in November 2014 and the City of Melbourne's building surveyor later ordered its removal.

But the buildings owner's corporations appealed the decision supporting instead a proposal by builder LU Simon for the less expensive installation of balcony sprinklers.

But, in its decision of January 16, the appeals board found the alternative proposal "untenable".

"The risk posed by the current cladding is so serious that it is necessary to have a building order which requires the owners to remedy the situation," the board ruled.

The Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS) contended that the proposed sprinklers may not be effective in high winds and would not address potential cavity fires.

Further, the sprinklers were not designed for the purpose proposed by LU Simon and possibly had not been used for this purpose anywhere else in the world.

It was proposed that the balcony sprinklers be fed by the existing building sprinkler system, casting doubt on its performance.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) had similar doubts and concerns. The chief fire officer also pointed out that a fire similar to the November 2014 blaze may have already escaped before sprinklers were activated.

The BAB report says: "The fire at the subject address spread from level 6 to level 23 in approximately 11 minutes, whereas initial sprinkler activation for both the facade fire test and the balcony fire test configuration favouring early sprinkler activation, was

approximately at the four minute mark."

It was also noted that conditions in the occupancy permit for a building of such a size were "highly unusual".

In particular:

- There is no fire separation within or between floors;
- There was an alternative option which provided for a combustible rubbish
- Sprinkler coverage was removed from specified parts of the building; and
- The water supply for the sprinklers was downgraded from a Grade 1 to a Grade 2 system.

The original building order directed the cladding to be removed last year. The parties are yet to agree on a new timeline for its removal.



Christmas cheer for the less fortunate

Docklanders gave up their Christmas morning to provide some joy to more than 200 less fortunate people again this year at NewQuay's Cargo restaurant.

What a wonderful day it was! Cargo was buzzing with happiness, energy, laughter and the spirit of giving.

Guests (more than 200) and volunteers were greeted with beautiful sunshine and the Salvation Army Brass band.

A few of the Blue boys and girls from the Carlton footy club helped out, keeping guests entertained and ensuring everyone had something to drink and a full plate.

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And in fake news ...



Melbourne President Donald Doyle reveals his new 2017 look.

Tatts bonanza for local worker

Returning to work on January 19 was just the best day for a lucky Docklands worker.

It was then that the woman, who has chosen to remain anonymous, learned she had won \$2.5 million from the December 27 Oz Lotto draw.

The Tatts organisation was concerned that she had not claimed her prize after several weeks. As a registered participant, they knew who she was, but her contact details appeared to have changed.

But, being overseas on holiday, she had no idea she had shared the division one prize pool with one other – each becoming \$2.5 million richer in the process.

The elated winner explained she had "a serious inclination" during the past year that she would win Oz Lotto and joked that her husband and mother would faint at the unbelievable news.

She purchased her registered winning fivegame marked entry from Victoria Harbour Pharmacy and News.

The woman was shocked when Tatts

confirmed on January 19 that she had unknowingly become a multi-millionaire while holidaying.

"What?! Oh my god! Oh my god! I am ... What can I say? I am shocked!" she exclaimed.
"This is the best news I've had in all of my life! I have to ring my husband, he is going to die! Not in a bad way, he'll just be so shocked!"

The happy woman elaborated on her strange inkling that she would win.

"I can't believe it, but I did have this serious inclination about it! I told my mum about this feeling, so when I tell her she is going to faint! My mum always said keep playing your numbers because you never know when your lucky day might come up!"

She said she was happy to discover the news after a three-week delay of being in the dark about her good fortune.

"I've been away overseas on holiday but this is great news to come home to!" she exclaimed. "I have no idea what I'll do, I just need to let this sink in! I feel like this is a dream!"

Victoria Harbour Pharmacy and News Tatts manager Kim Nguyen was excited to have sold the winning entry to a local customer.





Mass exodus by community staff

The City of Melbourne's placemaking and engagement branch, which focuses on strengthening our local community, has recently been the subject of major staff losses.

The upheaval resulted from a council review of the branch in early 2016. Placemaking and engagement staff were informed of the findings in September.

Docklands News understands that out of the branch's 15 staff, 11 were offered redundancies or redeployment. Of these, 10 accepted redundancy, while one took on another role within the branch. However, a council spokesperson said the number of affected staff was eight and not 11.

Docklands News also understands that other staff members have since left the City of Melbourne or relocated to other branches.

The Placemaking and Engagement branch was changed from Community Strengthening in July 2015. This was the result of an amalgamation of three teams within the branch.

Council's spokesperson said the review was undertaken in consultation with staff to determine a new purpose and focus for the

"We took a closer look at the way they (staff) operated to determine a new purpose and focus that would increase council's capacity for city-wide and neighbourhood engagement on a broader range of matters," the spokesperson said.

"This process benchmarked the branch against placemaking and community engagement in other government jurisdictions."

According to the spokesperson, the new branch will comprise 15 positions, with the majority of staff already appointed and due to start work in February.

The spokesperson said the council would also employ five community engagement partners, with one of the five to be appointed to the CBD and Docklands area next month.

"We will employ five community engagement partners, whose roles include understanding community needs and expectations, and empowering the community to influence council decisions," the spokesperson said.



Architectural render of the new landscaping around the sports courts.

Chillax in Docklands

Places Victoria is delivering a new look for the open space on the corner of Harbour Esplanade and Collins Street.

Joining MPavilion 2015 will be new outdoor exercise stations, landscaping, footpaths and viewing areas next to the sports courts.

Places Victoria's general manager precincts, Simon Wilson, said the works would complement the existing recreational opportunities and provide more welcoming spaces.

"The addition of MPavilion 2015 has created a new venue for events," Mr Wilson said. "The second stage of works will create a consistent feel throughout the

"Stage two works are planned to include new footpaths to connect Waterview Walk and Harbour Esplanade, inviting areas next to the sports courts for sitting or spectating, and an outdoor exercise station."

The works are scheduled to take place from early 2017 to mid-2017.

For further information, please call Places Victoria on 131 852 or email to communications@place.vic.gov.au





Pirates boarding at Harbour Town

It's all about pirates for the kids this month at Harbour Town.

The centre has secured the Neverland Adventure Experience, the first time it has been seen outside of Queensland.

The kids will love exploring the Neverland Tall Ship and the much-anticipated Summer Pirate Playground.

Centre visitors will be able to participate in craft workshops, meet the characters from *Peter Pan*, take a walk through Treasure Island and explore the tall ship.

Activity schedule

Neverland Adventure Experience is taking place between 11am and 2pm every Saturday and Sunday in February.

Pirate craft is being held inside the tall ship at the same time. The themes are:

- Make a pirate hook February 4 and 5;
- Make a telescope February 11 and 12;
- Make parrot February 18 and 19; and
- Design your own nautical picture frame February 25 and 26.

The big changes continue at Harbour Town

Locals will notice more big changes at Harbour Town this year as the shopping centre moves into the next stages of its redevelopment.

The upgrades and improvements are complete, but there is plenty more happening including: the imminent start of construction on the Hoyts cinemas, more "full price" brands, more destination entertainment providers and more cultural aspects to the centre.

Over coming years the centre itself is to be rebranded and a fresh food precinct, including a full-line supermarket, is planned for the lower floors of the multi-storey carpark.

Centre owners Ashe Morgan last year completed a masterplan and are poised to invest "significant capital" to continue the revival of the centre.

Principal Alton Abrahams said Ashe Morgan envisaged the centre as a new urban village for Melbourne.

"We have surrounded ourselves by experts in their field from architecture and master-planning, to project management and retail, place-making, events and research and have been very well supported by our precinct partners, Places Victoria and City of Melbourne to assist us in achieving the new vision for Waterfront City," Mr Abrahams said.

"We are thrilled to achieve permits for Docklands Drive entrances, Giraffe Early Learning Centre, the cinema and entertainment complex as well as the fresh food complex which have been the result of team and stakeholder efforts."

The new management sees the centre as a series of precincts:

- Entertainment precinct with state-of-theart Hoyts cinema and first to Australia immersive trick art gallery, Artvo;
- Lifestyle precinct with a full-line gym and other health and wellbeing retailers;
- Fresh food precinct incorporating a full line supermarket and a variety of other fresh food providores;
- Fashion precincts including, national and



Stage 1 of the centre's makeover has now been completed.

international fashion brands, youth and lifestyle fashion, children's fashion;

- Restaurant precinct integrating an innovative and diverse range of cuisines, indoor-outdoor activation and signature food and beverage offerings;
- $\hfill\blacksquare$ Medical and services precinct; and
- Arts and social enterprise precinct.

Mr Abraham said: "We are excited to introduce new brands to the centre and have been motivated by significant ongoing interest in our plans. We look forward to making these brand announcements as we progress towards the opening of the new centre later this year."

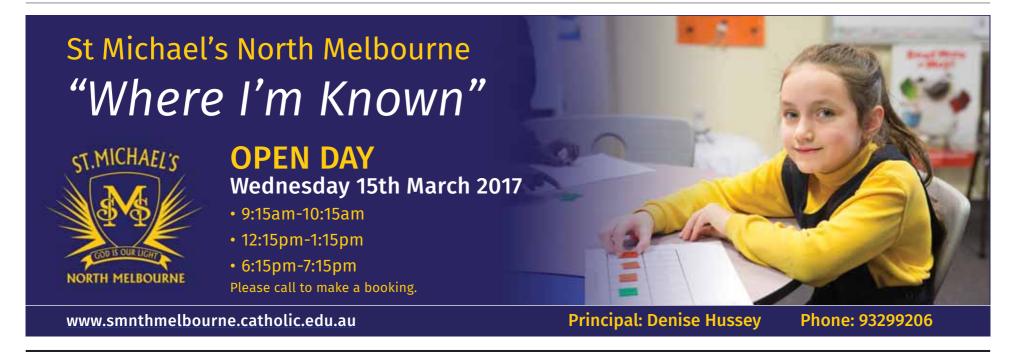
"Identifying community requirements has been at the core of our work in developing a tenancy mix that will support not only local needs and desires as well as drawing an audience to the precinct for a unique, full-day experience on the fringe of the CBD."

While the centre is transforming itself to fullprice brands and changing its reputation, it is working with Renew Australia to bring creative enterprises to Harbour Town.

Renew is no stranger to Docklands. It previously worked with Places Victoria and the City of Melbourne on the "Docklands Spaces" project.

Renew Australia business services manager, Ainsley Milton, said Renew would assist centre management to place creative enterprises and projects into the vacant spaces on Level 1.

These enterprises will join Blender Studios, which relocated from the CBD earlier this year. See our story on Page 11.





What's with outdoor cinema?

Outdoor cinema is flavour of the month in Docklands with four different options on offer.

Docklands has never had so much choice with outdoor screenings during February at Northwharf, Yarra's Edge, Victoria Harbour and Harbour Town.

Kicking things off is WTC Wharf which is rewarding diners with a free movie every Friday and Saturday night. Tickets are available as a meal and movie reservation. Dine from \$25 per person at 6.00pm before a movie at about 8.30pm.

The line up is: February 3, The Blues Brothers; February 4, Spectre; February 10, The Danish Girl; February 11, Girl with the Dragon Tattoo; February 14, Hitch; February 17, Jason Bourne; February 18, The Trip; February 24, Les Miserables; February 25, Kenny; March 3, Kick Ass; March 4, Bone Collector; March 10, Hot Fuzz; March 11, The Secret Life of Pets.

The theme continues at Yarra's Edge where the concept is now in its fourth year at Point Park. Movies Under the Stars will be hosted over three nights from Thursday, February 16 to Saturday, February 18. The movies are La La Land, Sully and Finding Dory.

This year Lend Lease joins the party and is offering free screenings of classic family films under the stars at Buluk Park, just in front of the library on Fridays from February 3 – 17.

The schedule is: Friday, February 17 – TheWedding Singer (PG); Friday, February - Back to The Future (PG); and Friday, February 24 - The Dish (PG).

The gates will open at 7pm and screening will start at dusk - approximately 8.30pm.

The Backlot Rooftop Drive-in Theatre on top of the Harbour Town multi-storey carpark is showing a double bill every night from 8pm. There is an intimate "blue-deck" seated area for walk-up patrons. Check www. backlotrooftop.com.au for details.

The Docklands connection

By Monisha Iswaran

Last month's south-eastern suburban billboard racism controversy had a Docklands connection.

A billboard at Cranbourne (below) advertising Australia Day activities featured two young Muslim girls wearing hijabs and waving Australian flags.

Negative and threatening comments about the imagery forced outdoor media company QMS to remove the advertisement well before Australia Day.

Docklands' connection with the issue was that the photo of girls was taken here at

last year's Australia Day celebrations.

Reaction to the removal of the billboard resulted in a crowd sourcing campaign in an attempt to privately fund its reinstatement.

Australians in support of reinstating the billboard donated \$100,000 within 12 hours to a GoFundMe website account with the aim of financing similar billboards in capital cities in time for Australia Day.

The original image of the two girls was still available for public download from the Victorian Government's Australia Day website on the morning of January 19. However, by the end of the day, the image had been removed.

The State Government will not say why the photograph is no longer available.



Commercial burglary arrest

Police last month arrested a man they say committed numerous commercial burglaries in the CBD and Docklands.

The 29-year-old Lalor man was arrested in Southbank on January 17. He is now facing 113 counts of burglary and theft.

Last year police sought help to find a thief who was robbing businesses in the early

hours of the morning. They say he used a crowbar to break in and then targeted safes or items of value and money.

The man is due to face court again on February 17.



New life for heritage wall

An important slice of Docklands' history will be given a second life as restorative works are set to commence on the Flinders St retaining wall.

Constructed in 1890 by Victorian Railways, Lendlease is restoring the 174 m heritage retaining wall as construction works begin on the 2.5 ha Melbourne Quarter neighbourhood.

Last year, Lendlease secured approval from Heritage Victoria to carry out restoration works to the wall to secure and preserve its long-term future.

Before the Second World War, the wall was a place where workers would congregate in the hope of receiving a day's work at the docks.

Lendlease's managing director for urban regeneration, Mark Menhinnitt, said the company was proud to be preserving an important part of Melbourne's past.

"As one of the sites most closely linked with the foundation of Melbourne, this heritage wall marks the original location of Batman's Hill where city founder John Batman built his home in 1835. The site is also linked to the city's former railyards and structures," he

Mr Menhinnitt said Melbourne Quarter residents would connect with Flinders St through the wall.

"This hotel-style entrance will give apartments their own distinct identity and offer residents concierge services. It will also form part of a new public pedestrian connection from Melbourne Quarter to the CBD's Spencer St," he said.

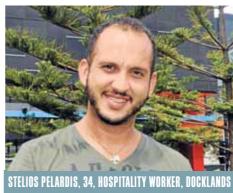
"High quality construction and restorative works will celebrate the site's colorful heritage and breathe new life into the precinct to create new and vibrant spaces for the public to enjoy."



Question: If you could switch lives with someone for a day, who would it be and why?



I'd be this one lady, a fitness coach from America. I follow her on Instagram. She's called Elizabeth Akinwale. I find her really inspiring - what she's doing - because I'm working my way up as a personal trainer as well.



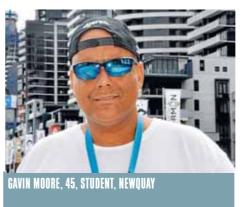
I don't want to be someone specific but I want to be someone who has a balanced life, not working so much. Someone in athletics but no one in particular.



I'm quite content to be myself I think. I wouldn't want to be a star or celebrity and I don't want to be overly rich. I'm content being myself.



My brother. Just because of his character, he isn't overwhelmed by what is happening in the world and he's just happy.



What about James Packer! Cause he's rich. That's a good enough reason.



Jesus. That'd be amazing! If you had to be someone else for a day, who better? If it was only for a day.

Docklands Secret

Docklands is not sinking

The City of Melbourne has assured Docklanders that our suburb is not sinking.

Locals would have noticed the propensity for footpaths around here to fall away from the level of the buildings.

A council spokesperson said: "The Docklands public road and footpath network is built on ground known as Coode Island silts; a type of sub-soil with settlement

characteristics that can cause localised subsidence."

"Buildings in Docklands are supported on piles down to bedrock (about 30m deep), so are unaffected by the sub-soil conditions."

"The council conducts regular monitoring of the Docklands area and undertakes remedial maintenance works as required to ensure public safety is maintained and roads and footpaths are trafficable."

"Works to remediate the footpath on the corner of Bourke Street and Seafarers Lane are scheduled to commence shortly."





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Chamber Update

Year of the Rooster

Join us in Docklands for the Chinese New Year. It's the year of the Rooster.

Celebrate with us at the weekend and evening events along Harbour Esplanade from January 27 to February 12.

Enjoy Asian cuisine and drinks as the sun sets. Come and see a spectacular light show at 888 Collins St from sunset to midnight, playing every hour on the hour.

Don't miss the Chinese New Year-themed LED light show at the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel every night.

Cinema in the Park

Enjoy free screenings of classic family films under the stars at Buluk Park, Docklands just in front of the Library on Fridays from February 3 - 17.

Screening at Park Cinema this February...

- Friday, February 17 The Wedding Singer
- Friday, February Back to The Future
- Friday, February 24 The Dish (PG)

The gates will open at 7pm and screening will start at dusk - approximately 8.30pm. As



there is no reserved seating we suggest that you arrive early to secure a good spot on the grass and enjoy a pre-movie picnic.

Docklands' favourite food stop, Saluministi will be serving-up delicious Italian-inspired picnic fare available for purchase from its Bourke St premises.

To secure your free tickets visit: victoriaharbour.com.au/cinema

Dragon boat trials

Come down to the harbour near the NAB Building on February 4 and 5 and see the dragon boat trials. Visit the chamber's website for more information.

Social media – Is it part of your business?

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!

Increase your profit! - become a **Chamber member today!**

Join the chamber today, get access to the social media and improve your results. Have an impact at developing the Docklands community. Connect your business with like minds who are succeeding and 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@docklandscc.com.au or visit our web site www.docklandscc.

From all the committee members at the chamber we encourage you to make 2017 your best year yet.



com.au

Paul Salter

Executive Committee www.docklandscc.com.au







Owners Corporation Law

Proposal for differential OC charging

As part of its review into consumer property law legislation including the Owners Corporation Act, Consumer Affairs Victoria is currently considering a number of different options for reform.

One of the many options on the table that hasn't had a great deal of publicity is a proposal to allow owner's corporations to recover costs from a lot owner or group of lot owners arising from their particular use of a lot.

Such an approach would be a departure from the current law, which requires that lot owners contribute to the owner's corporation in shares proportional to their lot liability.

This is known in legal circles as "the Mashane principle" where those lot owners which stand to gain more from a particular expenditure, ought to contribute more.

If adopted, an owner's corporation would be permitted to make an assessment of how much of its general repair and maintenance costs arise from a particular use of a lot and, if it were possible to assess these costs accurately, it would be permitted to issue a differential levy for the associated costs of repairs, maintenance of replacement directly to the owners of those lots.

For instance, if a particular building had commercial lots on the ground floors, and if those commercial lots used common property facilities such as toilets, stairs, services, waste bins and rubbish rooms, then it would be possible for an owner's corporation to apportion those items that are exclusively for the benefit of the commercial lot owners and issue a differential levy accordingly (with VCAT to enforce in the event of non-payment).

This would get around the unfair situation where a developer might set the lot liability for ground floor commercial suites at very low rates (while retaining high lot entitlement rates) so that commercial lot owners are subsidised by the residential lot owners.

The proposal from Consumer Affairs has not come out of the blue. In 2013, the Victorian Supreme Court ruled that a lot owner that did not have a balcony was not required to contribute to a special levy to replace and repair common property balconies belonging to other owners.

If adopted, the option put forward by Consumer Affairs would effectively be a codification of the Supreme Court's decision.

Pressure groups such as Strata Community Australia and the We Live Here movement have endorsed the option in their response to the options paper from Consumer Affairs.

It remains to be seen whether Consumer Affairs will adopt and permit the expansion of this principle to allow for differential levies to be issued where the use of a particular lot affects costs such as insurance premiums, or wear and tear on common property items such as elevators or the cost of security contractors and/or CCTV.

If the Mashane principle is to be adopted by the legislature, then care should be taken to ensure the limits of the operation of the principle are clearly spelled out, and the formula for apportioning costs is carefully phrased. Any ambiguity would lead owner's corporations and lot owners back to court.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

Pet's Corner



Tracy's toy poodles

Dog-lover Tracy enjoys walking her nearly identical-looking toy poodles, Phoebe and Pepper, along the waterfront where people are eager to stop and pat the easily excitable animals.

"Phoebe is very friendly because she's still a puppy. Pepper's a bit skittish because she wasn't treated well by her past owner," she said when asked about how the dogs respond to attention from strangers.

While both the dogs live in a loving home, it wasn't always that way for Pepper, the three-year-old light grey poodle, who is visibly less comfortable around people she is not familiar with.

"We bought Pepper from a lady who didn't have time for her anymore and sort of neglected her quite a bit" Tracy said. "We bought Phoebe from a breeder."

But after quite some time with her new owners, Pepper is doing well, and gets along well with her fellow poodle. Aside from their colour, the pair could almost be twins!

"I've had Pepper for a year and Phoebe

for around four months now, I think" she said. "Pepper is three and Phoebe is seven months old".

Whilst Phoebe was bought as a newly-born puppy, Pepper lived her first couple of years with her previous owner.

In addition to the two dogs, Tracy has some pet fish and says the poodles are peaceful creatures and don't disturb them.

She lives at The Quays and walks her dogs frequently.

She is thankful that the dogs are easy-going and relatively easy to look after. "They are not high maintenance. They need a clipping every six weeks which is expensive but that's about it," she said.

The poodles, though not actually related, are now like sisters and Tracy notes that they are trained and very well behaved.

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SKYPAD Living

Modular means flexible vertical living

There is no time like the summer holidays to test our design ingenuity as we organise and reorganise our compact apartments to accommodate hordes of visiting friends and relations (e.g. Christmas dinner for 15 at my place?).

As summer also sees our local unis enjoying a break, I looked to see what students on the other side of the world could contribute to our "vertical" entertaining challenges.

One who is shedding new light (literally) is James Vanderpant who hails from the University of Brighton. Perhaps taking inspiration from the long dark days of the northern hemisphere, James's final year (studying product design) saw him develop a modular lighting system.

James's story is that, while displaying his final year project in a student exhibition, it was noticed by a businessman who subsequently partnered with James. A Kickstarter campaign ensued which saw 1008 backers pledge £128,931 (about A\$211,000) to bring this project to life.

Called Helios Touch, it comprises a series of small, moveable hexagon panels that are activated, as the name suggests, through touch. Each panel can be turned on and off independently, meaning that the level of lighting can be adjusted to suit the task at hand. So if you need more light for your craft activities, touch all the panels, but if your



EverBlocks.

guests would like more ambient lighting, then swipe to turn a few panels off. Magnets located on each panel's edge allow them to be pieced together into any honeycomb pattern that appeals.

Helios Touch is not alone in bringing the benefits of modularity to apartment living, as can be seen in the recent viral video featuring the EverBlocks System.

Comprising essentially of a range of oversized plastic blocks, they can be used - just like their smaller cousins - to construct all types of objects without the need for tools, glue or heavy equipment. According to EverBlocks, its uses include modular room dividers, interlocking partitions, temporary and permanent enclosures, windscreens, visual blockers and architectural accent walls.

The appearance of these blocks seems particularly well suited to newer apartment buildings and those liking a funky vibe.

Also, the temporary and mobile nature of EverBlocks may be particularly appealing to those renting, as the blocks "do no harm" to apartment walls and can subsequently be disassembled and relocated, along with everything else,

when the lease is finished.

But the real kicker is their reconfigurable nature. Because they are literally building blocks, their versatility means you can take them apart anytime to construct something different - move your wall's location, change its size and/or appearance and/or take out a few blocks and create occasional furniture (like guest stools!).

Returning to our entertaining challenge, these blocks could be used day-to-day as a dividing wall to screen off your utilities room - but then when friends and relations visit en masse and additional space is needed, the wall can simply be moved further back or, more radically, dismantled and the same blocks used to make a serving bar for the day, a play pen for little guests or some much needed additional seating (just add a bit of cushioning!).

The key appeal of both Helios Touch and EverBlocks is that they are modular and moveable, meaning that these products can be tailored by the user and, in fact, they could be quite interesting as companion products.

As regards vertical living, this ability to separate and recombine individual components in new ways (without taking additional space) seems well suited to our high-rise lifestyle.

Next month this column will return to our own shores to see what our well-rested university sector can offer for the betterment of our vertical lifestyles. In the meantime, if you would like links to the organisations mentioned, please visit and like SkyPad Living on Facebook.



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







DOCKLANDS FASHION



Laura Gruber, 27, Richmond

LOCATION: Victoria Harbour

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING: My skirt. I love how it floats in the wind.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS: I work here.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE: It's normally pretty sporty but it's conservative when I work. I also wear colours occasionally.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

It should suit your body type and should be appropriate for the occasion.

Kevin Yang, 24, Docklands

LOCATION: Harbour Esplanade

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING: My black shirt. I

love pure colour clothes. Simplicity is good.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO

DOCKLANDS: I live in Docklands.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE: It's very sporty. I'm playing basketball with my friends at Docklands Park.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Just follow your heart and don't care about what others think about your outfits.

Heather Moody, 28, North Melbourne

LOCATION: Cow up a Tree

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING: My shoes. I got them from a small shop on Flinders Lane. They are really comfy.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO
DOCKLANDS: I work here.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE: It's variable. It depends on what I'm doing for the day. I can wear a t-shirt when I'm studying and some colours when it's

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Whatever makes you feel good.

gloomy.

Lingerie on the outside

The corset of the 18th and 19th century that was worn under dresses has evolved from a tradition, to a special occasion piece of lingerie and now, to an accessory.

Thanks to Prada, who utilised the corset to frame its fur coats like a belt for its Fall Winter 2016-2017 collection, the corset is now being worn on the outside.

"Hollywood it" girls Kylie Jenner, Gigi Hadid and Hailey Baldwin have all been spotted wearing their corsets on the outside of oversized shirts, so we expect this trend to be big in 2017.

The key to this trend is all in the layering. Choose the right type of corset (whether it be a full upper body cover in leather or a suede waist type) and keep it casual over a tall tee, or keep it streamlined and dominant by wearing your corset over a thick strap singlet with wide leg pants.

Thankfully, the corset shirt trend has trickled down from the runways of Prada to the more affordable sites we know and love. Here's three places you can pick up a corset combo for less than \$40.

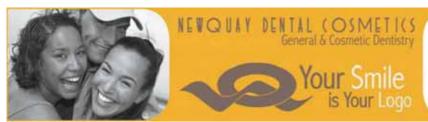
Inspired by Kim Kardashian's beige tie up corset, white shirt and denim jacket combo, PrettyLittleThing is selling a ribbed crop top style corset for just \$30. Available in nude or black, search "Kimmey Nude Lace Up Corset Crop Top" at www.prettylittlething.com.au

Although you'll have to pay the \$16 international shipping fee, LA-based brand Fashion Nova has a variety of corset belts on offer starting from just \$13. More detailed designs can reach up to \$33, but search the "Accessories" section at www.fashionnova.com to access leather, suede, denim and camo corsets.

If you're looking for the complete corsetover-tee package, then Boohoo.com has you covered. For \$36 you can buy an oversized tee and black leather look tie up corset belt. Search "Faye 2 in 1 Corset Belt T-Shirt Dress" at www.boohoo.com



Khiara Elliott khiara@cbdnews.com.au



Dr. Joseph Moussa is a member of the Australian Dental Association, the Internatinal Team for Implantology and the Ossio integration Society. Having over twenty years of experience in general dentistry, with a special interest in cosmetic dentistry.

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Health and Wellbeing

Row, row, row your body

Indoor rowing is one of a few excellent low impact (almost no impact) activities you will find in a gym today. Taken as a warm up, short cardio blast or a longer endurance activity, rowing has many great benefits for the participant.

Commercial-grade indoor rowers come in two distinct variations in the modern fitness facility - a fan based rower that uses air as the resistance (eg the Concept C2) or a water rower that has a turbine that uses water as the resistance. Both are excellent machines, selection purely comes down to personal preference.

Group rowing is tipped to be one of the hottest workouts in 2017 - here you get the benefits of rowing with the motivation and music found in a group class, all under the leadership of an instructor or coach. This is one class worth putting on your 2017 fitness to-do list!

Here are some great benefits of rowing for your fitness knowledge bank:

- Rowing is a very low impact exercise that creates minimal stresses to the joints and
- Rowing helps promote weight loss you can burn 300-400 Calories in a 30-minute
- Rowing dramatically improves cardio vascular fitness;
- Like other forms of exercise, rowing helps reduce stress with the release of endorphins; and
- Rowing helps Improve strength and muscle tone - a full body activity with variable resistance that involves the legs, core and upper body.

Proper rowing technique and execution promotes improved posture and spinal condition and function. Make sure you spend some more time on a rower in 2017!

Healthy hearts

Even though I am ageing, one of my own personal goals for the 2017 calendar year is to finish the year in an improved physical, emotional and mental state.

How will I know that I have achieved this

lofty goal when December 31 ticks over? As they say in business, "If you can't measure it, you can't manage it" and I think that applies to health and wellbeing, so some objective assessments will be necessary.

One of those measurements or tests will be my blood pressure as this simple and painless test can give a good indication of the circulatory system's health and condition - and we all know how important heart

When was the last time you had your blood pressure taken? Do you know what blood pressure measures and what is the healthy range?

A healthy target for blood pressure is 120/80. Blood pressure can be tested by health professionals of all types, including your personal trainer or staff at your local fitness centre. Many pharmacists across the country also offer free blood pressure checks (visit www.strokefoundation.com.au for locations).

While exercise is well-known as an activity that helps reduce blood pressure and improve circulatory system health, a reading outside of a normal range normally results with a recommendation to visit your GP for further investigation as to cause and solution. Other solutions often involve modifications to eating patterns and nutritional intake.

The Stroke Foundation of Australia has a number of public events throughout the year to increase awareness of Stroke, high blood pressure and the associated risk factors. The Nation's Biggest Blood Pressure Check and later in the year, Know Your Numbers is another campaign driven by the Stroke Foundation.

Pilates works!

Whether you take Pilates for improvements in fitness, wellbeing or for rehabilitation purposes, Pilates works and, with consistency, you will be rewarded with the



results you strive for. Here are some of the great benefits of the exercising using the Pilates method:

- 1) Improved posture and alignment Pilates helps correct imbalances in posture and alignment by training muscle groups equally and evenly. When the body is out of alignment, excessive stress is placed on the joints, ligaments and spine. Once improvements are made, the body functions more efficiently and injuries are avoided.
- 2) Improved flexibility Many workouts, especially those with heavy resistance and weights focus on muscular contractions and muscle shortening. Stretches performed (if any) are typically static. With Pilates, movements and stretches are mostly dynamic and there is a focus on both shortening and lengthening the muscles.
- 3) Relaxation and stress relief Pilates methods incorporate a strict focus on deep and regular breathing which brings on a sense of calm and wellbeing.

- 4) Muscle tone and strength Pilates is not easy. Hard work and excellent execution of moves and sequences will bring with it improvements in strength without creating bulky muscles. Better muscle tone, especially around the thighs, hips and waist is readily achieved with time.
- 5) Improved physical and mental endurance Pilates is a true mind and body workout. Body weight exercises and sequences challenge the physical capacity and ability. Completion of repetitions, combinations and sets with targets for achievement will engage and will challenge the mind. Pilates is a wonderful way to exercise for men and women of all ages.



Andrew Ward Andrew Ward from

www.push-fitness.com.au





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A big year for We Live Here

We Live Here recently celebrated its first birthday and what a year it has been!

As readers of this column will know, the We Live Here movement arose from the long-running but ultimately unsuccessful case against short-stays involving Watergate Apartments in Docklands.

Since its genesis at a very well attended launch in December 2015, We Live Here has tapped into widespread community frustration about issues of high-density living that are not being adequately addressed by politicians and law makers, and has become a recognised voice for owners and residents in strata communities throughout the greater Melbourne area affected by these issues.

In our first We Live Here column in February 2016 we identified some of the issues as being related to town planning, health and safety, fire safety, disability access, parking, equitable levies, insurance, serious building defects, shortage of schools etc.

However the need for regulation of shortstay apartments in residential buildings, the reason for We Live Here coming into being in the first place, was the issue identified from our rapidly-growing supporter base of 180 buildings and 400 individuals as causing the most wide-spread concern, and where we directed most of our energy and resources.

So what has We Live Here achieved in the first 12 months?

- The defeat of the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short -stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 in the Legislative Council in November, that would have only benefited the short-stay operators at the expense of residents. The parliamentary debate focused on the submission presented by We Live Here and is now recorded in Hansard;
- The Bill has now been referred to the Environment and Planning Committee for an open and wide-ranging enquiry, which is what we had been lobbying for;
- Through this process close relationships have been developed with Liberal shadow ministers, the Greens and other crossbenchers;
- Tentative first meetings with government ministers, previously impossible before We Live Here was formed;
- Getting to know our councillors through individual meetings and inviting their participation in a number of forums;
- 86 per cent of candidates standing for council at the October election responded to a We Live Here survey on short-stays, with all but one team in support of regulation (i.e. a minimum of 30-day stays). The high profile candidate who did not support regulation and was not elected to council later commented that he had learned his lesson ... "don't annoy residents groups";
- We contribute a monthly column to the CBD News, Southbank Local News and Docklands News – this one is the 12th – which has enabled us to regularly report

- on issues affecting residents, and readers of the column are a valuable source of new supporters; and
- Provided active support for the City Schools for City Kids Campaign and the Docklands residents who have been campaigning long and hard about the lack of consultation in the development of Harbour Esplanade Master Plan.

What lies ahead in the second year of We Live Here?

The major focus for the first few months of 2017 will be to:

- Carry out an extensive review of We Live Here, its aims and objectives, and to set goals for the year ahead; and
- To participate in the wide-ranging enquiry into short-stays to be chaired by the Shadow Minister for Planning, David Davis. We will be inviting supporters of We Live Here to make submissions to the enquiry to tell their story.

Short stays are here to stay. However, there needs to be good legislation that can guide us along the right path so as not to be detrimental to owners and residents who choose to make apartments their home.

Legislation should also provide owners' corporations with the powers to take appropriate action on those who abuse the facilities.

Amendments to the planning laws to protect owners and residents rights are required.

It's not a case of saying "not in my back yard", apartment owners are more concerned with "not at my front door, in my lift lobby, swimming pool or car park, unless I get to choose when and how often". After all we do live in a democracy and should not be overruled by a minority.

The Bill proposed was clearly written by people who have never had to pursue a strata by-law breach, even when you know who has done what and which law they were breaking.

Currently the short operators are not responsible or accountable for their guests. Trying to chase down party animals and their elusive guests who don't confirm to OC rules leaving us all to pick up the costs of repairs and damage, etc is a joke as the short-term offender is long gone.

Please write to **campaign@welivehere.net. au** if you would like to make a submission and more information will be sent to you as it comes to hand.

Funding

Finally a not-for-profit advocacy group such as We Live Here needs financial support to survive.



www.welivehere.net emails to campaign@ welivehere.net What Women Want

Time for a restart

And so it has begun. A new year. A new you. A fresh start. A chance to determine a path to those shiny goals, a chance to map and track your daily progress, a chance to be the person you were always meant to be. Are you excited? Are you feeling it? Are you ready? Well ... neither am I.

I think I might actually be in a little bit of shock that January has already passed by. I mean seriously, how did that happen? And I am definitely still feeling slightly angry that my time away was less like a holiday and more like a game where I pretended I was on holiday by taking an hour on the beach here and there, whilst my clients pretended they hadn't read my auto-response "I'm taking a week off on holidays" and continued to call and email at alarming regularity.

Of course, it also didn't help that I actually had weddings scheduled into my "break time" and therefore HAD to take calls and organise things, but the point is I was still trying to make it feel like I was part of the Christmas/New Year festivities.

No one in my family really liked my idea of postponing it until June when I had fewer weddings, and I have to admit a bikini in June doesn't really have the same appeal as in summer and I am pretty adamant that hanging around in a bikini with a glass of champers by the ocean is the ultimate in relaxing.

So I tried to combine it all, a working relaxing hectic holiday over the busiest holiday period and hectic work period. I guess, on reflection of my plan, it went as well as could be expected.

And so now, I find myself in February, with work propelling along at breakneck speed and the demands of every-day growing into a thunderous voice. Systems already seem overloaded (on account of the "when I'm on holidays I'll review and implement NEW systems" failure), and steering this ship only seems to have a point if you know where you're going.

And I'm not sure where I'm trying to go. Because I didn't get a chance to goal set, I didn't get a chance to consider my life, my options, my choices and chances – I just got through the holidays and the year went off with a bang before I was ready.

So I'm taking time back. That's right, I'm having a restart. I might have missed the

new year's goals, but I think I'll start with Happy New Month goals.

You see, the one thing I do know, is that if I don't change things, each year will just be a repeat. If I don't take control of my time, I won't be able to see the path to take and life will just carry me along on the back of what I let happen.

And I don't want to do that. I don't want to start one more year feeling resentful of time lost, stressed by time running away, or fearful of time left. I want to start each year – and in fact each day – joyous with the choices I have made in how I have LIVED, time and time again.

What a woman wants is to have her time over when she's feeling out of control, but what a woman needs to realise is that making time for herself is actually the smartest plan she could have.

So, this year, I encourage you – and I challenge myself – to be accountable for how we spend our time. Because the one thing I do know, is that spending time with family and friends, with those you love, is a lot better than time running out for your chance to do so.

I'm setting some new goals this month– for my work life to afford me the time I need to make my personal goals happen. Now that I know that's what I want, I'll give myself another month to figure out how. After all, I have each month to set the next step of my goals!!

May we all have an adventurous, successful and soulful year. I look forward to sharing it with you.

With much love,

Abby



Abby Crawford

life@docklandsnews. com.au



Docklander

30 years later, Jaison returns to Docklands

By Shane Scanlan

There's not many Docklanders who can describe living here in the mid-1980s. Jaison Hoernel was a schoolboy when he lived here on his parents' boat and has very mixed memories of the experience.

On the one hand, it was pure adventure: Rowing upstream to see Moomba; climbing into the frames of the Yarra's bridges; walking up past Gordon House, the Painters and Dockers headquarters up to Flinders St to catch a tram to school.

"Sometimes I'd go (to school), sometimes I wouldn't," Mr Hoernel laughed.

On the other hand, there was the raw experience of his parents' separation which ended with his mother travelling north for further sailing adventures and his father sailing across two oceans back to New York.

Jaison stayed behind (he thinks because of a relationship with a girl, but can't exactly remember) and is now the CEO of Docklands-based social enterprise Good

His father brought his young family to Melbourne in 1978. Armed with a John Hopkins University doctorate, he taught Latin American history at LaTrobe University.

But the classroom was not a good fit for a dreamer like Bob Hoernel. His selfpublished book Intuition: An Aquarian Adventure reveals an independent soul - perhaps reflective of the peacenik generation.

On the collection of boats at South Wharf. Mr Hoernel senior wrote: "Their premature launching often resulted from having been served with an eviction notice. South Wharf became a sort of sanctuary, a last resort, for those builders who remained determined. We paid only a pepper-corn rent for mooring, but had very insecure tenure. Looking back, there were too many broken dreams, broken marriages, broken hearts and broken people."

The semi-official title for the collective was the Cruising Boat Owners' Association. Less formal is Jaison's recollection of a bunch of fiercely independent squatters intent on getting their boats ship-shape so they could sail the world's oceans for the rest of their days. "Very few boats ever made it out into the open water," he said.

Jaison spent his Balwyn High School years 9, 10 and 11 living on the boat among the

He credits an experience outside the pinball parlour on the corner of Flinders and Spencer streets with starting his vocational interest in charity work.

"A homeless guy asked me for a dollar. I said I only had a five dollar note. He said he'd give me change when I got back from school. I didn't see him again!" Mr Hoernel said.

And living on a boat wasn't exactly the romantic paradise that you might imagine.

"Everything smelt like diesel. The water tasted like fibreglass. There was damp and mould and, in the morning, condensation



Jaison Hoernel ... returning to a very different Docklands.

would drip on your face," he said.

He described his "quarter berth" sleeping place akin to sliding into a coffin and, when he wasn't in it, it was used to store his cello.

There was, however, plenty of community He recalls the gatherings around the steel council barbecue when the kindred spirits would connect with conversation and booze.

He recalled: "A man with a boat was the constant. The variable in the equation were the wives. The dogs were more of a constant than the women," he said.

The experience has taught him to see through the supposed romance of sailing around the beautiful parts of the world.

"You know that there is certainly another side to that life," he said.

On Docklands, he reflects on the

gentrification and other changes and, while acknowledging that it's lost some of its flavour, he's not necessarily nostalgic for its rough and ready past.

"In some ways, it hasn't changed too much," he said. "It's still experimental and separate from the rest of the city."

"I think there are still people moving into Docklands because they are trying to find something different and new."

"Docklands makes no promises ... it's got a lot going for it," he said.

Intuition: An Aquarian Adventure

Pacific. My charge was to get the boat ready, and with that in mind I started working a temporary job that allowed more time for the boat. It was a fine shepherding students from disadvantaged backgrounds through their first year at university, but funding for the program ended after the first

As work progressed and another Victorian winter served to dampen the general landscape, we received word that Gino intended marriage and would be unable to accompany us. Not completely unexpected, that letter reduced our plan to the status of a possibility. Slowly, I began to realize that if I really wanted to go sailing that next year I would have to think about single-handing. Caz went off with the yacht club crowd and took up racing, while I settled in with my wharf-mates and



Jaison and his Mate (Hot Dog)

embryonic form in paddocks and backyards all over southeastern Australia. Their premature launching often resulted from having been served with an eviction notice. South Wharf became a sort of sanctuary, a last resort, for those builders who remained determined. We paid only a pepper-corn rent for mooring, but had very insecure tenure. Looking back, there were too many broken dreams, broken marriages, broken hearts, and broken people. Only about six boats of every ten would ever be completed, and only thirty percent of those actually sailed off and lived the dream. If directed toward career or real estate, a similar investment in time, effort, and money would have produced enormous profit but then, that wasn't the motive force. But I must get on with the story of how I arrived in this 'empty place.



Some of the 'Up-Stream' Boats

Above: Pages from Jaison's father's book.



Right: This slipway stood on the land now occupied by Marina YE at Yarra's Edge.

WHAT'S ON **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

I FEB I MAR A P R A U G MAY JUN JUL SEP 0 C T

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 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



Live music at The James Hotel every

Every Sunday: Stand and Deliver 80s tribute

TUESDAYS 6PM - 7PM

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Sunday night - free entry.

Contact president Loryn Clark on 0418 390 334

2ND AND 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH 700 BOURKE ST - ROOM 3.101 **DOCKLANDS TOASTMASTERS**

Boost your public speaking and

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - FROM 7PM HOOKS AT YARRA'S EDGE DOCKLANDS SOCIAL CLUB

Join other locals, workers and residents for a monthly social gathering in a relaxed, informal setting. Come along for a drink or sit down for a meal. Everyone is welcome.

FEBRUARY 10, 6.30PM SOUTH MELBOURNE LIFESAVING CLUB SHAMANIC FIRE CEREMONY

For more information see www.facebook.com/Olga2424

WEDNESDAYS AT 5.30PM AND SATURDAYS AT 8.30AM SHED 2, NORTH WHARF RD

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

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Come along to connect with your neighbours, and/or join one of our mini-clubs.

www.facebook/YarrasEdgeSocialClub

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



MONDAYS 11AM THE HUB, 80 HARBOUR ESPLANADE CHILD-FRIENDLY YOGA CLASS

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

LIBRARY AT THE DOCK MELBOURNE SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

Probus Clubs for men and women over 50. Meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities. Contact the club via **mspc.** docklands@gmail.com

LIBRARY AT THE DOCK - WEEKLY PROGRAMS



PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Fridays at 10.30am

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

STOMPERS

Mondays at 10.30am

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Dockland's juniors speeding to success

By Melissa Kah

The Docklands' ice rink is producing Australia's future Winter Olympic stars.

With the support of the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia (OWI) and Olympian Lachlan Hay as coach, three junior Docklands speed skaters have qualified to skate in the 2017 Junior World Championships in Austria and at last month's senior World Cup in Germany.

Katie and her brother's Skyler and Joshua train four mornings a week on the ice, with the Australian Ice Racing junior development squad. The squad has quickly become part of the Docklands' community as they are often seen training outside the rink and at the Ron Barassi Snr Park.

Their sleep-deprived parents are also a fixture of Waterfront City cafes early in the mornings!

Short track speed skating has been an Olympic sport since 1992 and Australia won its first Winter Olympic medal and first Winter Olympic gold medal in the discipline.

You may remember Steven Bradbury's "last man standing" gold medal. It was spectacular! Today it is the Koreans, Americans, Chinese and Hungarians that dominate the sport at the international level, but Australia always manages top 10 placings.

The Olympic Southern Flyers is Docklands' speed skating club. Beginners of all ages and abilities can try the sport on Monday evenings at 6.00pm by simply paying at the



front door. All equipment and coaching is provided free.

The Olympic Southern Flyers club promotes fitness and socialising for adults.

If you're not into skating, be sure to wave and cheer on our young Docklands athletes as they run past you on a sunny afternoon!

Lachlan Hay with skating siblings Katie, Skyler and Joshua.

