

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Okay, okay! It was a DUCK!

Thanks to everyone who got in touch to let us know that our front page "cygnet" was, in fact, a duckling.

No, really. We do appreciate the feedback. It just goes to show how many people read the *Docklands News*!

Thanks for the phone calls. Thanks for the emails. And thanks for the Facebook picture of the staff noticeboard where the voting about the true identity of our "swan" was front and centre.

But, while, the picture was wrong, we stand by the story. So thanks to Christine Gravier who sent in the photos from Yarra's Edge of mum, dad and the three kids.

Yes, we fully deserve the satirical comments. You really do have to have a thick skin in this business!

And also while we are in mood to eat humble pie, we need to square things away with the Goldsworthy family. Last month was not a good month for us!

The February paper speculated that Alan Kinkade AM was the first Docklander to be awarded an Order of Australia.

In fact, Nolan resident Don Goldsworthy was awarded an AOM in last year's Australia Day honours.

Docklands News apologises to Mr Goldsworthy for this mistake.

We promise to try harder this month. But, please, if you spot any other mistakes, please let us know!

Council struggling to deliver events

By Shane Scanlan

The \$500,000 worth of events designed to compensate Docklands for last year's loss of marketing organisation Destination Docklands are proving difficult to deliver.

The City of Melbourne last August tendered for the delivery of three events and in October appointed Fruitbowl Productions to run a Christmas event, a winter festival and one other event to be concluded by June 30.

However, documents released under Freedom of Information (FoI) legislation reveal that Fruitbowl's winning vision was only partially delivered at Christmas. It also now seems almost certain that its proposed 2017 events are likely to be abandoned in favour of other options and won't be completed by the deadline.

And while Docklands may well get good marketing and promotional value from the alternatives, the departure from Fruitbowl's proposal raises probity issues around the tendering process.

The council says it always intended to "work in collaboration with the successful tenderer on their proposed event concepts to determine the most suitable activations for the precinct."

But, unsuccessful tenderers have pointed out the definitive nature of what was actually asked for and are concerned that the council may, effectively, steal their ideas and deliver them via a rival contractor.

The tender document said: "The contractor is required to provide a strategic solution for the operational and creative delivery of three key events in the Docklands precinct."

It asked for: "Full end-to-end management of the proposed event program including all activities in relation to planning, producing, delivery and acquittal."

The tender documents clearly state that the council's role was confined to permitting, marketing and connecting the successful tenderer to stakeholders.

As reported in the December/January *Docklands News*, the council took until November 28 to announce the Docklands Christmas activation – leaving almost no time for local businesses to take advantage of the opportunity.

And the event that was staged was a mere shadow of what Fruitbowl had submitted to the council by the tender closing date of September 12.

The sad, sunburned and windblown dead pine trees that were eventually removed before the allocated time from Harbour Esplanade were supposed to be the centre of a popular tree decorating competition.

Fruitbowl's winning bid said: "We will invite schools and members of the public to come and decorate the Docklands Christmas Trees as part of a tree decorating competition."

"High profile Melbourne fashion designers, chefs, footy teams and other community members with links to Docklands will also be involved in the decoration of the trees

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DOCKLANDS NEWS Council struggling to deliver events

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The deadline for the April edition is March 23.

Publisher: Shane Scanlan

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– building media and public interest and providing engagement opportunities within this space.”

“Imagine the joy of kids taking their parents to see the tree they decorated, or restaurants and shops having their own decorated tree outside their premises.

Charity partners will be involved with people being encouraged to leave gifts under the trees for disadvantaged kids.”

“High profile judges will choose the best Christmas tree designs and decoration, in addition to people’s choice category with voting both on site and online.”

The trees were supposed to be lit up with: “thousands of fairy lights, creating a backdrop to the stunning Christmas projections that will illuminate Docklands buildings and the waterfront.”

There was even talk of relocating the City Square Christmas Tree to Docklands. Other tantalising deliverables were: Daily picnics in the “forest”; Nightly “Carols and Cocktails” events; Roving carolers on Friday and Saturday nights; Outdoor stages with concerts; and Santa’s Summer Sleigh, which would see the jolly man arrive by water-skis behind a police boat.

Explaining the failure to deliver, the council said: “Due to a short production and delivery timeframe for the first event, it was decided that keynote activations such as the



The Docklands Christmas Forest of Trees.

Christmas tree forest and light projections were a priority.”

Fruitbowl’s next scheduled event was supposed to be next month (April) and would have comprises outdoor cinema near Ron Barassi Snr Park.

“Bring back all the nostalgia and good times of the old time drive-in,” Fruitbowl said in its winning tender bid. “Imagine an outdoor cinema in the middle of Melbourne that you could enjoy in a deck chair, car or bean bag.”

Last month, there was four instances of outdoor cinema in Docklands. Perhaps not surprisingly, this event appears to have been cancelled.

The council said: “We will continue to work with Fruitbowl Productions to ensure the remaining project budget is used to produce two further events in the precinct, one of which will be held in June. The timing of the third event is still being determined.”

Local businesses are hoping that they will be given plenty of time to market around the winter event but, as yet, no specifics have emerged.

Fruitbowl won the tender on the basis of staging a “winter solstice” activation at NewQuay between June 22 and 25.

It’s bid envisaged: “A gathering place on the water, transformed by colour, light and fire. Egalitarianism and fun live at the heart of this festival – amazing fireworks, casual communal tables in the public domain, atmospheric outdoor heating, a broad range of affordable food sold outside by Docklands’ chefs, accessible and unexpected roving and popup entertainment and local participation – all combining to ensure that everyone can enjoy this event.”

Interestingly, it included daily fireworks – “choreographed fireworks displays each night, set to music befitting our winter theme with fire drums (gas) throughout the site to warm our audience and keep them there!”

Docklands News applied for access to the Fruitbowl submission on January 6, with the council refusing to supply it. An FoI request was then made.

On February 20 the council granted “supervised” access to the non-financial details with Docklands News paying for an officer to be present to ensure no copying took place other than note taking. The council said copies could not be provided because Fruitbowl Productions had claimed copyright over the content.

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River committee appointed

By Shane Scanlan

The long-awaited, but likely ineffectual, Lower Yarra River Advisory Committee has been appointed.

The committee is to be chaired by Parks Victoria board member Christine Trotman, with other members being City of Melbourne director Linda Weatherson and private sector appointee Jonathan Metcalfe.

The formation of the committee is a watered-down outcome flowing from the November 2015 recommendations of the Lower Yarra River Use Future Directions Group (LYRUFDDG).

That group recommended that a management committee be appointed to oversee a transition of governance from Parks Victoria and the City of Melbourne to a new single entity.

The group was unanimous in recommending that the committee be headed by an “independent and influential” chair.

Similarly, there was no dissent from its recommendation that: “a new local port be established and the port manager effectively becomes the single entity and it be directed to appoint a management committee.”

Fragmented and bureaucratic waterways governance has been identified by the Docklands Community Forum as one three major obstacles to be overcome if Docklands is to reach its full potential.

However, former Environment Minister Lisa Neville did not accept the LYRUFDDG’s recommendations and instead allowed Parks Victoria to establish the Lower Yarra River Advisory Committee. Minister Neville later told a deputation from the Docklands Chamber of Commerce that the new committee would, in fact, transition governance to an independent single entity but this objective appears to have been

lost since Ms Neville has been replaced as minister.

In announcing the Lower Yarra River Advisory Committee on February 9, the current Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D’Ambrosio said the committee would “provide advice on potential improvements to governing arrangements and management of the Lower Yarra River, aligning the work of Parks Victoria and the City of Melbourne.”

The press release announcing the committee said: “They will help develop a strategy and advise on the allocation of commercial berths and identify future funding needs for the waterway.”

“Christine Trotman has spent most of her career in the not-for-profit sector and currently chairs the Australian Institute of Company Directors Regional Council for Gippsland and is an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committees for East Gippsland Water and Uniting Care Gippsland.”

“Linda Weatherson is the Director of City Operations at the City of Melbourne, where she has worked for 27 years overseeing the Arts Melbourne, Community Services, Health and Wellbeing, Libraries and Recreation and Social Investment branches.”

“Jonathan Metcalfe is the principal for JNM Advisory Pty Ltd, a specialist management advisory service providing guidance to governments and private companies.”

“The new committee will help support our vision for the future of the Lower Yarra to remain a key feature that makes Melbourne one of the world’s most liveable cities.”

Ms D’Ambrosio said: “This is a great group of experienced and qualified professionals and I have every faith that they will help deliver a positive future for the Lower Yarra so business, tourism and locals can make the most of this great waterway for years to come.”

Ms Trotman was unavailable for interview.

A Parks Victoria spokesperson said: “Christine Trotman has considerable board and committee experience and currently serves on the Boards of Parks Victoria and People and Parks Foundation. She is very informed.”

When appointing Ms Trotman to the Parks Victoria Board in 2015, the government said: “Ms Christine Trotman – chief executive officer of Cooina Hill, a disability support service based in the Latrobe Valley. She has held management and executive roles in health and education, and has tertiary qualifications in nursing, health education, business and accounting.”

In November 2015, the LYRUFDDG was unanimous in recommending:

- “1. That a single entity be charged with implementing the vision for the Lower Yarra;”
- “2. That a new local port be established and the port manager effectively becomes the single entity and it be directed to appoint a management committee.”
- “3. The management committee be headed by an independent and influential chair charged with implementing the vision and working with all relevant agencies to generally oversee and coordinate management of all issues pertaining to the development and management of the two rivers.”

The report went on to say: “There was much debate about the degree of autonomy granted to the management committee with the private sector wanting to maximise the autonomy but accepting continued involvement of Parks Victoria as an interim solution.”

Docklands News understands that, despite universal acceptance of the need for a single management entity, the formation of the new Lower Yarra River Advisory Committee is the 15th such body to be formed in the last 20 years.

Some big names coming to Docklands

By Sunny Liu

Docklands Studios will welcome some big names in the global film scene this year, when shootings for international and local productions like “Stem” and “Winchester” will take place.

Melbourne-born director Leigh Whannell, who shot to fame for co-creating the hit horror film *Saw* with fellow Australian filmmaker James Wan in 2004, will return to his hometown to direct the new sci-fi thriller *Stem*.

According to Film Victoria, the state government was able to secure *Stem* through its production incentive fund.

This Goalpost Pictures and Blumhouse Productions film is said to create more than 200 jobs locally and contribute millions of dollars to the state’s economy.

Shootings for *Stem* will primarily take place at Docklands Studios and some surrounding locations.

Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley says it is great to see local talents recognised internationally.

“In securing this project Victoria has reaffirmed its reputation as a great place to produce feature films, generating employment opportunities and boosting economic activity for our screen industry,” Mr Foley said.

Australian brothers Peter and Michael Spierig will also bring their supernatural thriller *Winchester* to Docklands Studio this year.

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Get to know your neighbours through your mutual love of man’s best friend. The Docklands Dog Pawty is a free local Neighbour Day event for residents and workers held at The Dock Community Hub.

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Docklands' very own cinema

Many Docklanders may not realise that we already have a cinema. It happens once a month on a Sunday afternoon at Library at the Dock and is far from mainstream.

It's probably fair to say Docklands would not have been EuRaw Stories' first choice to host its monthly screenings from Central, Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

The not-for-profit film society is starting its second year at the venue having accepted an offer from the City of Melbourne.

But members are still shocked by the eerie quietness of Docklands on a Sunday.

EuRaw president Sabi Paisa appreciates the state-of-the-art venue but admits to be a little unnerved by the weekend ghost-town feel.

A serious film professional, Sabi loves bringing little-known, eclectic titles to Australia and would love more locals to experience the richness and beauty contained within them.

"The story telling is different," she explained.

She said viewers should not expect "action" or characters embarking on personal crusades.



Film professional Sabi Paisa is bringing cinema to Library at the Dock every month.

"It's generally about normal people on normal journeys," she said. "They're family films happening around the kitchen table."

"They are interesting stories that explore human needs."

Ms Paisa the films she chose were about

ideas, or portraits, or philosophies and generally concentrated on the here and now.

However, many genres and nations were included, with some films featuring a vast array of nations in their acting, financing and production personnel.

For Sabi, the role brings the personal satisfaction of connecting with her native Hungary.

"It's a bridge to reconnect with my ethnicity," she said.

Having first come to Australia to study cinema in 1999, she has since established a teaching and script supervision role within the local film and television industry.

The next film to feature is a 2015 Serbian film called *Open Cage*. It screens at 2.30pm on Sunday, March 19.

Ms Paisa said the film society often interviewed people connected with the production before the screening, so locals should not think the material was inaccessible.

In fact, she is offering three-month membership passes to the first two locals to get in touch via Facebook (search www.facebook.com/EuRaw-Stories). The Facebook page and the website (www.euraw.com.au) also carry the screening program.

For those with outdated preconceptions of Eastern Europe, she reminds us that the Berlin Wall was dismantled 28 years ago! Get down there on March 19 and show Sabi that people actually live here on weekends.

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Where is the real power at Town Hall?

Stephen Mayne

In his first column with *Docklands News*, former councillor Stephen Mayne exposes a common misconception



There is a great misconception out there that councillors hold the power at City of Melbourne. Alas, truth be told, it is the officers who are really in control.

Part-time councillors come and go but the highly paid full-time officers endure and, in the end, they usually win.

Under the Local Government Act, the only employee who councillors can hire is the CEO. But once hired, the CEO is very much in charge of the organisation, controlling the meeting agendas, flow of information, deployment of staff and allocation of resources.

The capital works budget is arguably the best example of officer control. There is a Capital Works Committee chaired by Professor Rob Adams but it only comprises officers. As councillor chair of the finance and governance committee from 2012 until 2016, I was never invited to this committee and never saw any agendas or minutes leading up to the budget.

In 2016, the draft budget was only released to councillors a day before the media lock-up and the granularity on individual capital works projects remained sparse because officers had successfully resisted my push for disclosure of individual capital works projects over a 10-year period.

The enterprise agreement is another prime example of officer power. Negotiations on a new agreement are continuing but this four-year contract is literally the largest commitment of rate-payer money that City of Melbourne enters into, amounting to more than \$500 million over a four-year council term.

Councillors may get to vote on dozens

of tiddler contracts worth a few hundred thousand dollars (which, like the hundreds of grants dished out, are rarely changed from the officer recommendation), but we have no involvement in the enterprise agreement. It has been a succession of CEOs, not the councillors, who have made City of Melbourne employees the best paid local government workers in Australia. The 2015-16 annual report reveals City of Melbourne had a staggering 169 staff earning more than \$139,000.

All this largesse on the staff has squeezed council's capacity to deliver more capital works projects, such as fixing up Harbour Esplanade.

Achieving change is never easy as an individual councillor and often encounters resistance from the officers. Take reform of council's audit committee and internal audit

function – a closed book if ever there was one.

Having arm-wrestled through a commitment at the start of the last four-year term for City of Melbourne to aspire to become Australia's most open and transparent council, it wasn't until year four that we finally turned our attention to the audit committee process.

However, when asked if there was a single change they would recommend for increased public visibility of the audit function, the officers couldn't think of any, even though Tony Abbott's local council at Warringah was publicly releasing internal audit reports.

In the end, as often happened, the only way to ensure something got done was by way of councillor motion.

Councillors duly requested the audit committee to suggest changes and it came back with a raft of amendments which elevated the status of the audit committee, increased the ability of independent members to communicate directly with councillors and provided some public visibility on their excellent work.

The officers lost some control, but the sky hasn't fallen in.



Temporary closure for hotel

The Harbour Town Hotel has closed for seven months to allow building works associated with adjacent new cinemas.

Australian Hospitality Management (AHM) managing director Dean Grant told Docklands News about four metres of the northern edge of the premises was being given up to provide walking access between the Southern Star Observation Wheel and O'Brien Group Arena.

Mr Grant said it would be impossible to trade during the construction period, so the company was taking the opportunity to renovate the hotel, including adding more outdoor space near the observation wheel forecourt.

He said the expected 600,000 to 700,000 people expected to flock to the cinemas when constructed would make the hotel an even better business.

"We're really excited about the future and we're here for the long run," Mr Grant said.

Mr Grant said AHM was negotiating a longer lease with Harbour Town management.



The next Dockland Social Club event will be on Tuesday, March 14 at Groove Train on the river side of the ANZ Centre in Victoria Harbour.

The "club" is not really a club. It's an informal gathering of local people who enjoy meeting each other.

No bookings are required and people pay their own way with the chosen venue – which is moved around to a different location in Docklands each month.

The February event at Hooks at Yarra's Edge was successful with some 23 attendees.

The gatherings start at 7pm for drinks and mingling, followed by a sit-down meal.

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Home-away-from-home dinner hits the spot

By Monisha Iswaran

Local international students gathered in Docklands for a home-away-from-home dinner last month as part of the Chinese New Year Melbourne Festival.

The event, which included light installations, performances, traditional food and drink, as well as a few official speeches, was held on February 10 at Harbour Esplanade.

It was organised by Study Melbourne, City of Melbourne and Places Victoria and targeted Melbourne's international students, bringing about 120 of them together for the night.

Public relations executive and former

Melbourne city councillor, Beverley Pinder, addressed the dinner.

She said: "The Year of the Rooster is an apt one in which to acknowledge international students: the rooster is punctual; it is hardworking; it likes a dash of fun."

She noted that the event was organised in response to student complaints about feeling lonely being away from their families during the period of festivities.

Chinese New Year celebrations in Docklands this year comprised of food trucks, a light show at 888 Collins St, a Melbourne Star LED light show and dragon boating sessions.

The co-ordination of events demonstrates the effort being made to engage with the culture and interests of international students, a thriving segment of the community.

International students had a great time at the dinner.



Plans for old shed on track

Parkour, bouldering, skating, BMX polo, food trucks and multi-purpose courts are leading contenders for the temporary urban recreation space planned for part of the Bolte Precinct West site in Docklands.

Following last year's community consultation about the site, Places Victoria is developing a master plan that will be released in the next two months to outline potential future uses on the former maritime shed.

The aim of the temporary space is to offer a range of "urban fringe" activities that make sport more creative and art more athletic, providing an alternative approach to traditional sport and recreation.

Located between the Yarra's Edge precinct and the Bolte Bridge on Lorimer St, the shed was built in the 1950s and will undergo repair and maintenance works before it is available to be used as a temporary urban



sport and recreation space for about two years.

Places Victoria general manager Simon Wilson said the vision for the site was to incorporate a range of "urban fringe" sports that would respond to the industrial nature of the Bolte Precinct West.

"Community and user group feedback overwhelmingly supported the use of the area for a range of alternate outdoor activities that are becoming increasingly

popular, as well as the installation of multi-purpose courts," Mr Wilson said.

"The creation of a temporary recreation space is a great use for the shed while the long-term future of the site is finalised."

Repair and maintenance works will be carried out on the shed, allowing it to be transformed into a temporary sport and recreation facility from late-2017.

Places Victoria will unveil the master plan for Bolte Precinct West in coming months.

Lees cut ties with WTC

The Lee family has sold its interest in the World Trade Centre, but remains involved in Northbank with its development of Shed 5.

Riverlee Group was one of three owners of the World Trade Centre complex which last month sold for \$267.5 million – almost \$100 million more than it was worth two years ago.

Riverlee originally developed the three-tower complex and in 2014 sold 70 per cent to Abacus Property Group and global private equity firm KKR for \$120 million.

The family's proposal for a waterfront hotel and apartment complex on the site of the heritage-listed Shed 5 are being assessed by the Ministry for Planning.

Under the plans, the shed will be restored into a mixed-use retail, function space and hotel lobby that spills out into Seafarers Park, which is also slated for a facelift. A 180-room hotel and 250 apartments are the major focus.



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Susan Riley favoured to return

By Shane Scanlan

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) has overturned a magistrate's decision, potentially paving the way for a return to Melbourne City Council of former Team Doyle councillor Susan Riley.

On February 27, VCAT President, Justice Greg Garde, overturned a magistrate's ruling which would have resulted in a "countback" of votes cast at the October 22 council election.

Instead, Justice Garde has ordered an alternative method of calculating votes – a "recount" – predicted to favour Ms Riley at the expense of sitting councillor Michael Caiafa.

Cr Caiafa has previously said he would appeal to the Supreme Court if unseated, so it may still be months before the final make up to the council is known.

Election candidate Nicholas Frances Gilley is expected to be offered an 11th councillor position regardless of whether a count-back or recount method is used.

In any event, we don't have long to wait. Justice Garde has ordered the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to run the recount on its computer by 4pm on Wednesday, March 1, so he can then let interested parties know the outcome before making final orders.

He is giving candidates until Friday, March 3 to register their interest in having their say at

a hearing on Tuesday, March 7.

The City of Melbourne has been without its 11th councillor since declared-successful candidate Brooke Wandin was found to be incorrectly enrolled and resigned her position before being sworn in.

Magistrate Michael Smith in the Municipal Electoral Tribunal (MET) on December 5 disqualified Ms Wandin and ruled that the "countback" method be used to determine the outcome.

But Victorian Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately quickly objected to this methodology and on December 8 appealed the decision to VCAT.

Justice Garde agrees with Mr Gately's view that a "recount" should be conducted as if Ms Wandin had been a "retired" candidate.

And, although he has not formally made such a declaration, in his February 27 ruling, he listed eight reasons why it was the correct method to use.

Interestingly, Justice Garde came to this conclusion without hearing submissions from Cr Caiafa and former councillor Stephen Mayne who were also parties to a VCAT hearing on February 21.

On that occasion, Justice Garde adjourned proceedings after hearing the VEC's case and arriving at a decision that the effect of recalculating the votes without Ms Wandin's presence should be known.

Mr Mayne had argued that recalculations for three "scenarios" be known before the tribunal reconvened – the "recount", the "countback" and another showing the effect of the disqualification of both Ms Wandin and her running mate, Nicholas Frances Gilley.

But Justice Garde has opted to ask the VEC for only the effects of the "recount" be known, saying the tribunal's duty was to "determine how the recount is conducted and to make the necessary orders to see that it occurs".

It was previously understood that Mr Frances Gilley was not interested in the 11th councillor position and it was widely predicted that it would flow to Southbank's Joe Sarraf.

However, the February 21 VCAT hearing was told he had changed his mind and would now take the role if offered.

The VEC contended that votes cast for Ms

Wandin were "tainted" and needed to be removed before a recount was conducted.

Representing the VEC, barrister Liam Brown said VCAT's role was to "give effect to the intentions of the electors" and order a recount.

"Any other method would frustrate the purpose of the Act," he said.

In his December 5 decision, Magistrate Smith specifically rejected this method: "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."

Ms Wandin and former councillor Richard Foster are facing changes for allegedly making false declarations about Ms Wandin's address.

Their cases are next listed for further mention in the Melbourne Magistrates Court on March 15.

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Local businesses lend a helping hand

Not-for-profit organisation Olive Kids will hold its annual fundraising dinner on March 19 at Peninsula on Central Pier for the ninth year in a row.

Olive Kids is an Australian foundation for Palestinian children, aiming to improve the lives of young Palestinians affected by occupation. The organisation is made up entirely of volunteers.

Four of those volunteers are founder and board members Amin Abbas, Yasmeen Judeh, Mohammad Othman and Mo Hamdouna. All work right here in Docklands, across the technology, design and insurance sectors.

When choosing their fundraising dinner venue, Mr Othman said the organisation saw Peninsula as the obvious choice every year.

“It’s quite a nice venue in a central location and they’ve been really supportive of our cause and helped us out a lot. It’s a good relationship,” Mr Othman said.

Mr Hamdouna is the creative director of MoWorks, a creative agency based in Docklands. MoWorks is also a member of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, and Mr Hamdouna is proud to support Olive Kids through his business.



Olive Kids board members Mohammad Othman, Yasmeen Judeh, Mo Hamdouna and Amin Abbas.

“One of the first points of contact was knowing that Olive Kids brings their fundraiser to Docklands every year,” said Mr Hamdouna, “I believe it’s a great cause.”

This year’s dinner campaign is “The Story of Israa”, a personal and real story. Israa is a young Palestinian girl in need of education, health care and a home.

Sadly, Israa’s story is not a unique one. To help Israa and others just like her, this year’s fundraising dinner aims to raise money to fund education, specifically within the health sector.

Olive Kids is hoping to raise \$60,000 to fund five full-year nursing scholarships in Gaza, as well as an additional \$25,000 for support for Syrian and Palestinian Children at the Zatari refugee camp.

Money raised at the dinner will help continue Olive Kids’ work with Gaza orphanage, Al-Amal. \$95,000 will see an Olive Kids wing built at Al-Amal to house 60 orphans under the age of five.

Currently, Olive Kids sponsors around 214 Palestinian children at the orphanage. Money raised at the fundraising dinner will also go towards the sponsorship of 25 new children.

The ninth annual fundraising dinner includes a three-course meal prepared by former footballer Jason Johnson and internationally renowned chef John Casey.

Tickets can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com.au

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Vale Denis Setches

By Shane Scanlan

It was a who's who of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) on February 10 when more than 300 mourners gathered at Ringwood to celebrate the life of popular Docklander Denis Setches, who died on February 4.

Current and former MPs, ministers, premiers and opposition leaders gathered to pay their respects and honour a life well lived. The service was preceded by a private family cremation.

Mr Setches was one of Dock 5's original residents although he and his wife Kay moved permanently to their Phillip Island beach house in recent years.

As Dock 5 owners' corporation (OC) chair he was absorbed and interested in all aspects of community life – a hallmark of his 75 years.

But it was as a trade unionist and ALP life member that he will be most remembered.

His son Earl, the secretary of the Plumbers Union, humourously regaled tales of his dad "bullshitting his way into" a job as Croydon Council animal ranger in the mid-1960s where his first formal union role soon followed.

Elections – federal, state, local and trade union – were the constants in the Setches household, resulting in Kay being elected to state parliament and serving three terms as the member for Ringwood from 1982.

Former Premier John Cain said he has originally declined Kay's request to speak at the service as he had not known Denis well enough. However, Kay pointed out to him that his 1982 election success was due, in now small part, to Denis.

"She told me that Denis was her 'enabler'



The late Denis Setches (left) with Dock 5 building manager Bill Castles.

and the seat of Ringwood would not have been won without him," Mr Cain said.

Denis's role as a solid and reliable supporter was a constant theme throughout the more than two-hour service.

This was most evident in the brave, heart-wrenching personal eulogies delivered by his four grandchildren who all attested to his quiet ability to support and encourage them, even when they had done the wrong thing.

Daughter Vicki attested that Denis could not say "no" to anything the family asked for, with the family home becoming a refuge for people escaping family violence or just in dire need.

Denis Setches was a quiet, considered man

who did not get things done by being the loudest person in a room. Former union colleague and friend Peter Parkinson said Denis would pull people aside and gently suggest a better way.

His abiding love for Kay and family was another repeated theme. Kay said she first met Denis when he was 17 and she was just 14 and he rode circles around her on his bicycle.

The romance started when she was 16 and Denis had a VW Beetle. She said he took her to the drive-in ... to watch *Psycho*!

"It was so scary, Denis ended up under the dashboard and so did I," she recalled.

She described herself and Denis as a "nerdy" couple with unconventional interests in politics, human rights and social justice. Where other people had a footy team, the Setches had the ALP.

Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten evoked the words of US President Teddy Roosevelt to pay tribute to Denis as a "man in the arena".

"He was a man in the arena for the party, unions and the community," Mr Shorten said.

Docklands News had many interactions with Denis during his time as Dock 5 OC chair.

What started as an "editorial" relationship soon developed into firm friendship. His sound judgement, generous spirit and cheeky irreverence were an irresistible combination.

In his address, Earl revealed that Denis had undergone five heart bypass operations since suffering his first heart attack in 1993.

His death closely followed four days of family celebrations at the Phillip Island beach house for his 75th birthday after which the focus had moved to a family reunion in Daylesford.

"Dad died suddenly and peacefully," he said. "That's the way that he did things – no fuss," Earl said.

Frame Melbourne

Lendlease has teamed up with RMIT's school of architecture and design to create a construction site hoarding with a difference.

From May, the 17m hoarding around the Melbourne Quarter project on the corner of Flinders and Spencer streets will become an urban art gallery displaying publicly submitted photos.

Known as the Frame Melbourne project, as well as the "Urban Surfaces Gallery" it will also have a presence on Instagram, Facebook and at www.framemelbourne.org

Melbourne Quarter project director Brian Herlihy said Frame Melbourne would help interior design and landscape architecture students engage with the community in a real-life, major Melbourne urban development.

"This is an exciting opportunity for students to explore and implement interactive technologies as part of a new urban interface and real-world, pilot research project," he said.

"As both a community engagement process and a public art and design project, students will identify ways in which public artwork interacts with the wider community to encourage a sense of common sharing and collaboration."

How to submit

- Take a photo looking through a window of your favourite space in the city.
- The photo should be taken through a window frame, but should not have any people in it.
- Caption the photo with the hashtag #FRAMEMELB in your Instagram or Facebook post, and caption or hashtag the photo with the postcode of the suburb in which you took it (e.g. #FRAMEMELB #3000)

Peter Weller answers your legal questions.

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Trees continue to die

Norfolk Island Pines, it appears, are dying faster than the City of Melbourne can replace them.

The council says there is nothing wrong with the soil and, when it last year replaced a batch of dead trees, it speculated that it may have been over-watering.

A spokesperson said: "The City of Melbourne has a tree health monitoring program to assess the health, vigour and well-being of all our trees in open space."

Docklands News counted a further four dead trees since the council last replaced casualties.

"Soil testing confirmed the deceased trees were not adversely affected by salinity, so we have reduced our watering of the new trees and we will continue to conduct ongoing testing of their health."

Pressure is on for a secondary school too

By next month, Docklanders should know the location of their new state primary school, but lobby group City Schools 4 City Kids is keeping up its pressure for a local secondary school too.

Last month the group accused Education Minister James Merlino of misleading Parliament in answer to a question from local MLA Ellen Sandell.

"It appears that you have either misled parliament, or your department has misled you," City Schools 4 City Kids said in an open email.

The dispute of over enrolment numbers at University High where Docklands students are now zoned to attend. City Schools 4 City Kids contends that the school simply won't cope with the numbers of local students wishing to attend, even if it discontinued its select entry science programs.

Mr Merlino told Parliament on January 30: "Including Docklands and the CBD in the enrolment zone will not increase existing student numbers. It simply means places must be offered to local students first before being filled up by students from outside the enrolment zone."

But City Schools 4 City Kids says the

department own research shows that the school will very shortly be at capacity.

The group says the school will be 39 per cent over capacity by 2020 and local demand alone will reach 2616 students by 2026.

"In the context of your department's own data and analysis, your answer to Ms Sandell's second question relating to the rationale for not making the proposed new school in Docklands primary and secondary was perplexing: 'The government will be identifying a site for a secondary school at Fishermans Bend to support Docklands families into the future.'"

"Fishermans bend will house 150,000 residents (the population of Ballarat), so of course you'll need to build a secondary school to meet demand for the new residents!" the group said.

"But what about the kids in the CBD, West Melbourne, North Melbourne and Carlton (all places with new and planned additional high density apartments)?"

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How to get rid of the racers?

By Shane Scanlan

Ever wonder why some commuting cyclists peel off the Capital City Trail and roar up and down the thundering boards of NewQuay Promenade?

They are obviously starting from or returning to the bike track at Moonee Ponds Creek and adding distance to their journey. And it appears that the deviation saves time by avoiding three sets of traffic lights.

This peak hour rush diminishes the amenity of NewQuay as the speeding cyclists strike fear into pedestrians in close proximity.

And yet, cycling is a legitimate mixed use in the area.

It seems we have two types of bike riders: the ambler, content to enjoy the scenic ambiance of the harbourside; and the testosterone-filled commuter: on a mission to catch and pass the next bloke.

In my view, the ambler is always welcome to enjoy our beautiful suburb. So what can be done to get rid of the racers?

Regulation won't work. Signs and rules would be inappropriate for the ambler and would likely be ignored anyway by the racers.

No, incentives or disincentives will be required to move the menace. The key to success is making the longer journey actually take longer.

On the incentives front, perhaps the traffic light sequence along Footscray Rd could be prioritised for cyclists (much like the trams often get the best run at intersections). This would be consistent with government policy to encourage cycling and take pressure off both the roads network and public transport.

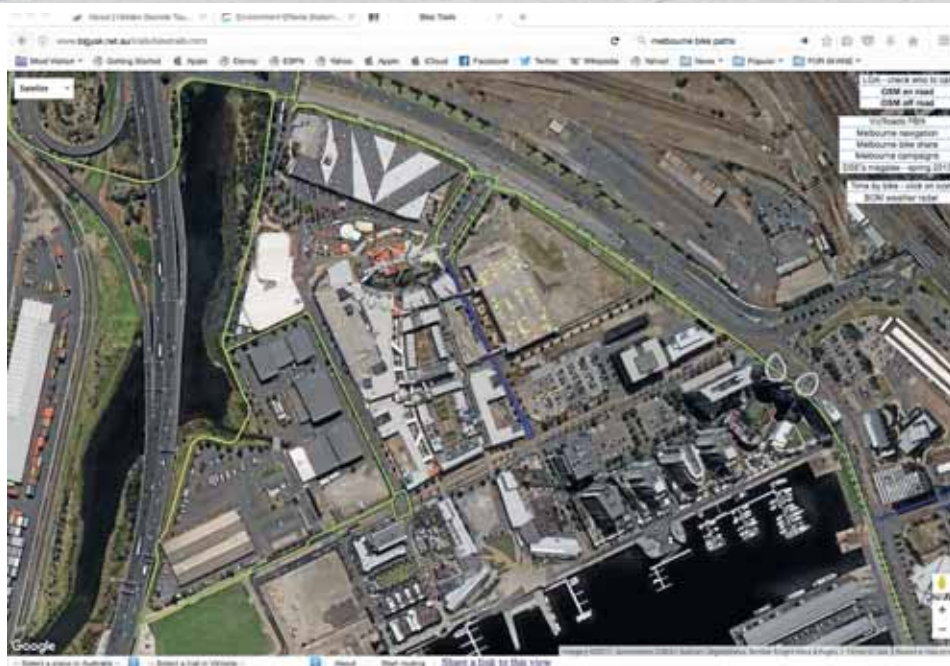
The other option would be harder as it would involve physical barriers or diversions to add inconvenience and time to the journey. Obviously access for the disabled, as well as prams and the like would complicate this approach.



Cyclists and pedestrians harmoniously co-exist on NewQuay Promenade when the riders are not in a hurry.

If there was a way of making the cyclists take the long way, all the way to the Bolte Bridge without rat-running through the street and Pearl River Rd, this would do the job (and the bike path is a dirt track at its most remote location).

What else would work? What do you think? Keep it nice and send your thoughts and ideas to news@docklandsnews.com.au



Right: Bike map showing the NewQuay and Waterfront City cycle routes.

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Views sought on distributor

Social scientific researcher Dr Crystal Legacy wants to hear from Docklanders with views about the proposed Western Distributor project.

Speaking at the February 22 Docklands Community Forum, Dr Legacy explained that she had been researching “contested” transport projects around the world and that the Western Distributor was her final case study.

She would like to interview Docklands’ community-based groups as well as individuals for her Australian Research Council-funded research project.

Dr Legacy is a senior research fellow at the Centre for Urban Research at RMIT University. She is examining the relationship between transport planning and citizen participation, and how this has changed since the global financial crisis.

She told *Docklands News*: “This research will produce new insights into the relationship between transport planning and urban politics – that is, how do citizen campaigns, electoral politics and advocacy groups shape transport agendas and the prioritisation of projects?”

“Interviews with community-based and other stakeholder groups (e.g. non-government organisations, the private sector) are used to help develop these new insights. This is social scientific research and so my main data sources are interviews, media analysis, policy documents and observations.”

Dr Legacy pointed out that her project was pure research and people should not expect that what they tell her would have any effect on the political outcome of the project.

“This is pure research, and while it will inform teaching and academic scholarship, there are no direct policy outcomes attached



Dr Crystal Legacy enjoying the late afternoon sun.

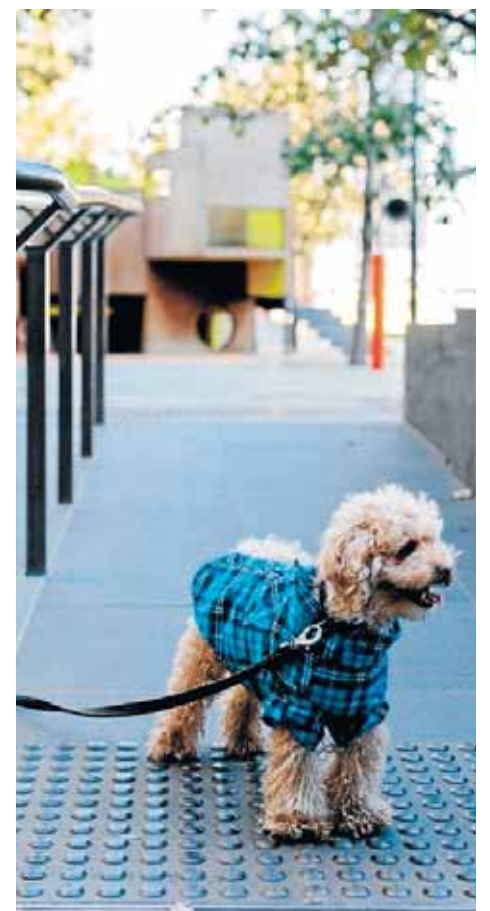
to this research,” she said.

She remarked that she had enjoyed her visit to Docklands.

“I got a sense of the passion and love for the area and a keen interest to preserve the public interest as Docklands continues

through its next phase of development,” she said. “I look forward to meeting more of its residents in the weeks and months ahead!”

Dr Legacy can be contacted at **crystal.legacy@rmit.edu.au**



Doggies big day out

Docklands’ dog-owner community will converge at Library at the Dock with their four-pawed best friends to celebrate Neighbour Day on March 26.

Dog owners and lovers are welcome to join the big “pawty” – a day filled with fun activities, plenty of treats and “puppycinos” and sessions with dog behavioural experts.

The City of Melbourne’s animal management team will also be present to offer information about owning pets in the city.

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Council rating windfall

The City of Melbourne is to collect an extra \$2.3 million in rates from the Port of Melbourne following a revaluation of the port.

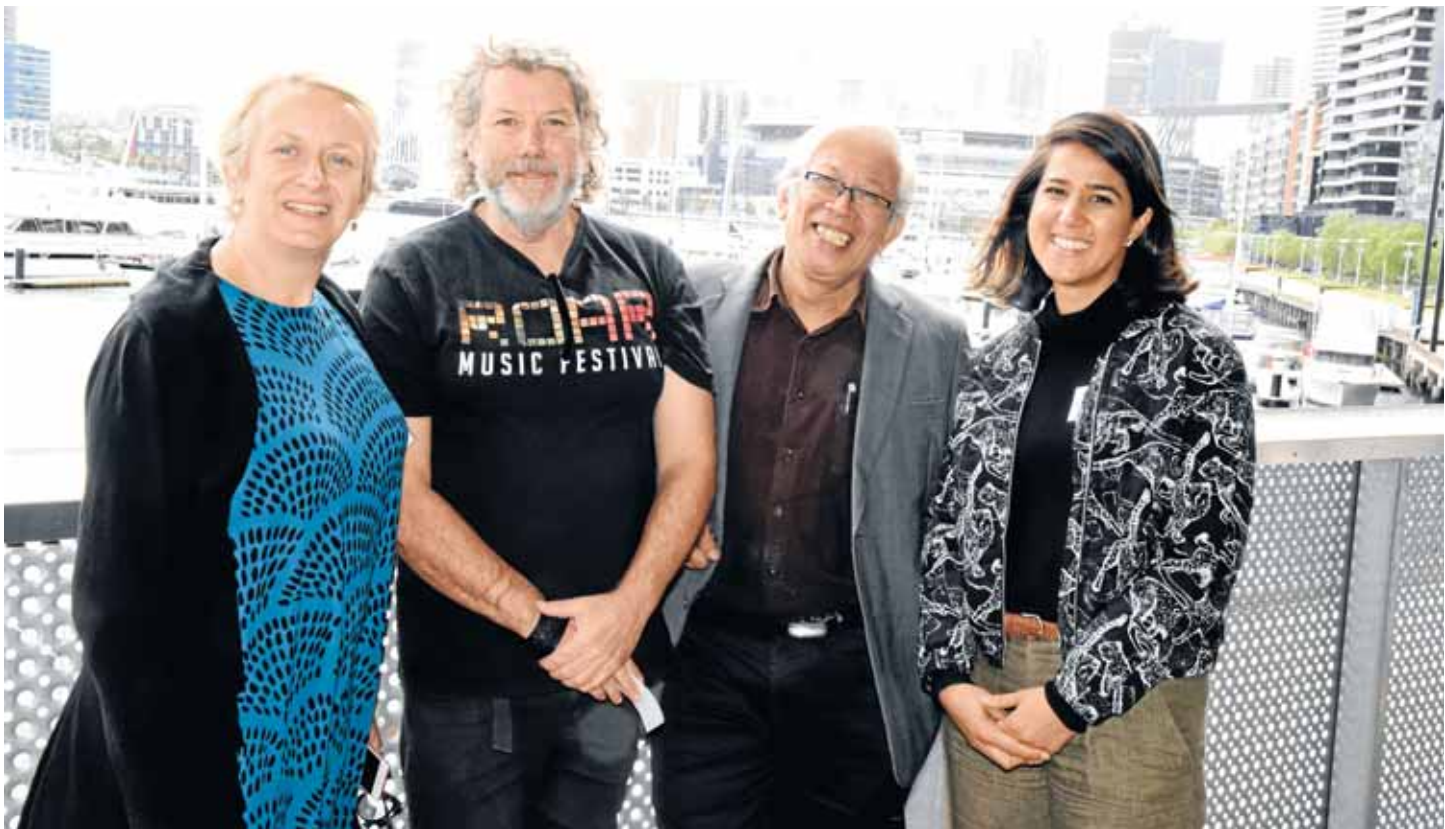
Last year’s revaluation nearly doubled the port’s net annual value (NAV) from \$69.1 million to \$128.2 million.

Last year the port won a Supreme Court case which reportedly cost the Victoria Government up to \$9 million per year in land tax.

But, while the State Revenue Office is dealing with an 80 per cent drop in revenue, the council has managed a substantial windfall.

A spokesperson said: “Earlier this year, the City of Melbourne completed its 2016 biennial revaluation of the Port of Melbourne.”

“The rental and capital valuations of the port have increased, and this has led to a rise in the rates charged.”



Caption: From left, Melbourne Arts House artistic director Angharad Wynne-Jones, artist Greg Pritchard, ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific director Nordin Hasan and artist Asha Bee Abraham during a break at the “Water Futures” event.

Seeking solutions to water shortages

Was it an arts event? A conference? A hackathon or maybe a think tank?

The “Water Futures” event held at the Docklands Community Hub on February 24

was all of these things – and more. Held as part of the Asia-Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts (Asia: TOPA), the workshop brought a wide diversity of minds to bear on the very important issue of sustaining the global supply of fresh water.

Melbourne Arts House artistic director Angharad Wynne-Jones said it was

difficult to recall who actually had the initial idea for the day. This is apt, as the ideas that came out of the event were a collaboration.

Scientists, policy makers, politicians, chief executive officers, futurists, educators and indigenous people worked together to tackle the issue of water scarcity – an issue that now affects 40 per cent of the world’s population.

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Local “superhero” has a bright future

By Sunny Liu

Docklands has its very own Thor to save the day.

Actor, wrestler and personal trainer Andrew Lutomski has been dubbed the “Docklands Thor”.

“A couple of years ago I was stopped by a lady at the post office and she told me I looked a lot like Thor. So I have been cosplaying Thor ever since,” he said.

Mr Lutomski made his first Thor appearance at the 2015 comic convention and wowed the crowd with his uncanny resemblance to the Marvel character.

Just like a regular Docklander, Mr Lutomski uses the tram to get around. But a real-life superhero hopping on a tram surely will grab people’s attention.

“I’m always stopped by people for photos when I’m in my Thor costume. I’m happy to be the local superhero,” he said.

Mr Lutomski made the big move from Canberra to Melbourne three years ago and happily settled down in Docklands.

“Canberra was like a country town and acting options there were very slim. The move has really helped me get into the environment of professional acting,” he said. “Docklands is the ideal location for my career because it’s so easy to get to places. Saving time is really important for me.”

Though he is best known for being the local Thor, Mr Lutomski has proven he is much more than a superhero’s doppelganger.

He has landed his first leading role in a television drama series last year, playing private investigator Matt in the Melbourne independent production *Counter Play*.

The drama, produced and directed by local creative talent Chrys Phillips, has attracted more than one million views online. Some of the scenes were taken in Docklands.

“Being on the set is a very cool experience and has helped me start off my acting path in television,” Mr Lutomski said. “I just love the experience of picking up more skills along the way.”

Mr Lutomski did not attend an acting school and self-taught himself acting skills.



Andrew playing others in Docklands locations. Photos by Eleanor Landford.

Having been a professional wrestler, he has found some amazing overlap between wrestling and acting, which eventually drew him to become a professional actor.

“A wrestling match is like putting on an improvising performance. It’s sports entertainment,” he said. “Being an actor requires a lot more preparation and

rehearsing in advance and we usually follow a script. But there are still a lot of similarities between these two experiences.”

No one from Mr Lutomski’s family in Canberra is in the acting business. But they are his number-one fans.

“My family is really supportive and I’m very grateful,” he said.

Mr Lutomski says he has formed a close bond with the Docklands community after the past three years of living here, though he is also open to international opportunities.

“I hope I can go into full-time acting and get into some international productions in the near future,” he said.



Andrew as himself in New Quay.

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Look who's here

Captain Jack Sparrow (aka Joe Ansalvish) last month dropped into Docklands' tall ship Enterprize to publicise some upcoming gigs.

A rock 'n' roller in his day job, Mr Ansalvish

impersonation of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* character was in relation to a "pirate-themed" fund-raiser his band is performing for Oxfam. His band, LA Doorz, is also scheduled to perform on Melbourne Showboat here in Docklands on March 10.

Crawl and Bite at Vic Harbour

The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival will bring its popular Crawl 'n' Bite series to Victoria Harbour at the end of March.

Crawl 'n' Bite includes 13 "crawls" and visitors can explore Melbourne's vibrant culinary scene and discover the finest food and wine.

The Waterside Wander "crawl" will be hosted by wine expert Max Allen and will take people to three Victoria Harbour locations, where they can watch a cooking

demonstration and enjoy dishes and matched drinks as part of the guided culinary and cultural tour.

Mr Allen, who is renowned for his wine knowledge, will also chat about the indigenous history of Victoria Harbour and Yarra River over a glass of wine at library at the Dock on April 6.

The Docklands "crawl" tour will start from Saluministi with a porchetta cooking demonstration and a dish and a drink. Participants will then move on to the library for wine tasting and have lunch at A25 Pizzeria.

Tickets are available at www.mfwf.com.au



Float Alma in 2017

By Alan Edenborough chairman and Peter Harris restoration director, Sail & Adventure

The Alma Doepel Restoration Project has reached the final stage in the restoration of Alma's hull prior to returning her to the water.

There is now considerable urgency as the development of Docklands moves along North Wharf, ever closer to the restoration site at Shed 2 that has been our home thanks to the support of Lendlease and Places Victoria.

When will the development reach Shed 2? The restoration team has been advised this could be by the end of 2017.

That means there is a deadline to have the ship back in the water, where she belongs, by the end of 2017. That also means Sail & Adventure needs to raise the funds to make this possible.

The Board of Sail & Adventure, together with the Alma Doepel Supporters Club, is launching a once-only call for funds for this purpose.

Sail & Adventure will use the funds to buy the remaining hull frames and planks required to complete the hull, and to set the experienced shipwright team to work to float Alma in 2017.

The total to be raised is \$795,000 and those funds need to be phased over the coming months to buy timber and keep the shipwrights at work.

Donations are tax deductible. Full details of the campaign and how to donate are on the Alma Doepel website www.almadoepel.com.au

To date, 49,000 volunteer hours have been donated to the restoration of the Alma Doepel – and a great deal of unseen work. Down at Shed 2, and stored away from the public eye, many fittings and items from the ship's accommodation areas have been removed and lovingly restored by our dedicated team of volunteers. All will be returned to the ship during her final fit-out once the hull is back in the water.

To date the cost of the restoration project has been met by funds raised. We are more than half way towards our target to fully restore the Alma Doepel. Time is of the essence. Help float Alma in 2017.



Saluministi owners Peter Mastro and Frank Bressi with their raw porchetta.

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Kiosk almost ready

It's been completed and idle for months, but the City of Melbourne says the new kiosk on the corner of Bourke St and Harbour Esplanade is almost ready for business.

Locals will recall a newspaper kiosk failed to survive at the location outside the NAB building and was removed.

Work on the new structure started last June and involved connections with sewerage, water and electricity.

The council says it is currently finalising a tender agreement with an operator for the kiosk.

"It is expected that the kiosk will have food and beverage offerings," a council spokesperson said.

The Centre is a charity and registered Learn Local organisation

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More offices occupied in Docklands

By Sunny Liu

Docklands' office vacancy rate is among the lowest in Melbourne, a sign of strong employment and economic growth.

Data published by the Property Council of Australia show that the office vacancy rate in Docklands has dropped slightly from 3.4 per cent in July 2016 to 3.3 per cent in January 2017.

The overall commercial vacancy rate in metro Melbourne is 6.4 per cent as of January, down from 7 per cent last year. Melbourne has continued to host the second lowest vacancy rate among all of the big cities in Australia.

Docklands is performing strongly on state and the national levels and its low rate indicates a healthy local economy.

Some international corporations have recently set up their offices in Docklands, including LinkedIn and Facebook.

According to Sally Capp, Victorian executive director of the Property Council, rising demand for office space has contributed to the improvement in vacancy rates in Melbourne.

"Melbourne's office market vacancy rate decreased over the last six months due to the second highest net demand figure on record (more than three times the historical average). Positive demand was concentrated in the A Grade segment," she said.

Another report from Savills Research reveals that Melbourne's CBD contains 3,625,325sqm of lettable office space – the highest amount in five years.

Among the business precincts in Melbourne, Docklands has the highest net absorption of more than 90,000sqm in the six months leading up to January 2017. The total net absorption in Melbourne for the same time period was 109,612sqm.

A higher absorption rate means there are more properties occupied and the Property Council data indicates that a lot more commercial properties have been snatched up in Docklands than any other precincts in Melbourne's CBD.

However, not all areas around the Melbourne CBD are showing strong tenant demand.

The office vacancy rate in the north eastern precinct, namely Fitzroy and Collingwood, has dramatically surged from 8.3 per cent to 14 per cent in the past six months.

"Negative demand was concentrated in the Civic and North Eastern precincts where vacancy rates both rose," Ms Capp said.

Ms Capp warns that, with the strong demand for commercial properties in Melbourne, future supply could be a concern.

"Only 40,246sqm of new stock is due to enter the market this year and 51,400sqm forecast in 2018," she said.

"We are commissioning research into the drivers of the approaching shortfall and the policy changes necessary to provide a steady supply of high quality commercial office space into the future."

Bunjil is on the move

Bunjil will soon be on the move, but he's not going far.

Lendlease has applied for planning permission to move the 25m, 20 tonne statue about 12m to the west.

The statue is being moved within the Wurundjeri Way road reservation to avoid decking that is being constructed as part of the Melbourne Quarter project.

The new location will be 8.22m from the northbound carriageway and 13.75m from southbound lanes, a location which VicRoads has deemed safe for traffic.

Places Victoria and artist Bruce Armstrong have also given their blessing for the move.

The planning application lodged on February 2 with the City of Melbourne estimates the cost of the move at \$130,000.

The concrete base under the statue weighs 95 tonne and was first erected on the site in 2002.

Melbourne Quarter project director, Brian Herlihy, said the statue would continue to have an "eagle eye's" view of the Batman's Hill precinct and Wurundjeri Way.

Places Victoria general manager Simon Wilson said: "It was our preference that the sculpture remain within the median strip of Wurundjeri Way in Docklands as it is an iconic piece of public art and it's good to see this will be the case. We are also pleased that the artist, Bruce Armstrong, has been involved in the process."

DOCKLANDS
FACES OF

Question: If you could fix one world problem, what would it be?



JESSIE LI, 24, ENGINEER, SOUTH MELBOURNE

“Pollution. There is so much pollution in the air and the ocean. Forests and lakes have been disappearing. We should fix pollution for the sake of the environment.”



JOHN MASON, 56, SALES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

“I would want to fix child exploitation for obvious reasons – they are innocent and need to be protected.”



CHANH NGUYEN, 20, STUDENT, VIETNAM

“I’m most concerned about environmental problems. Because the environment does not just concern human lives, other species also depend on the environment.”



MARTIN MITKOV, 47, SOFTWARE CONSULTANT, DOCKLANDS

“I would want to change hunger and the distribution of food. I think there is enough food in the world but there is over supply in some countries and under supply in others.”



NHI DINH, 19, STUDENT, VIETNAM

“I want to fix illiteracy. There are so many poor people in the world who want to contribute to society but are hindered by their illiteracy. Being literate can make their life much better.”



JOSEPH ALONSO, 26, SALES, NEW ZEALAND

“Electricity. The world needs electricity to function. In some poor countries, people don’t have access to electricity and can’t study or work at night. So their countries can’t become developed.”

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Here to stay

By Sunny Liu

Co-founding the City Schools 4 City Kids campaign is just the beginning of Denise Fung-Henderson's long journey to make Docklands a better place for families.

Raising two young children in Docklands has not been easy for Ms Fung-Henderson and her husband because there is no local school for their children.

"Children from my apartment building go to seven or eight different schools and it is impossible to get to know other parents because our children do not go to the same school," she said.

One of Ms Fung-Henderson's major tasks in the morning is walking her children to their South Melbourne primary school, a trip that takes 30 minutes. And they sometimes have to opt for Uber when in a hurry.

"It's ridiculous that children have to travel out of the city to go to school. Children from Docklands are just taken to whatever school they could fit in," she said.

Apart from the long daily commute, Ms Fung-Henderson also finds her children and herself in an awkward position, trapped between living in Docklands and having to form a social circle in South Melbourne.

"There is not an opportunity to build a community bond in Docklands because the children go to different schools and don't get to socialise with each other," she said.

"My kids are like outsiders at their school because they are not from the same area with the other kids. We will never be able to call that school 'our school' because we are not from that area."

With the support from other local parents, the City Schools 4 City Kids campaign has successfully caught the State Government's attention.

In October, Victorian Education Minister James Merlino announced a primary school would be built in Docklands and the government was looking for potential sites.

But Ms Fung-Henderson says she would not stop campaigning "until the kids walk into the school and take classes".



Denise Fung-Henderson enjoying her river-side location.

Though she has come a long way to make Docklands more family-friendly, Ms Fung-Henderson says she has always enjoyed the city life.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, she has long been used to living in compact apartments. She and her Aussie husband moved to Docklands in 2007 shortly after they got married. Before then they lived in Southbank.

After the birth of their first child, Ms Fung-Henderson and husband moved out to the suburbs. Originally they wanted a family

retreat but soon got tired of the house maintenance and the commute.

They eventually decided to return to Docklands after their suburban house was broken into.

"Living in an apartment building feels more secure. We kept coming back to the city because that's where the action is," she said.

"There are times when you wish you had more space but we've tried that. And I found we didn't use the study or the formal dining room. Big houses are not as efficient as

apartments."

Ms Fung-Henderson says she was happy to see an increased focus on Docklands being a family residential area, with the library, parks and festivities. It seems the only thing Docklands is lacking is a school.

"We really appreciate how close we are to everything. But it would be nice to slowly build up all the facilities families would need," she said.

"Living in Docklands is not a phase. We are here to stay."

Apertivo: Happy Hour

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3D printing vertical villages

At Melbourne’s Sustainability Festival in February, four RMIT students showcased their “green innovations”.

Arthur Georgalas presented his project on Turning the Tide which re-imagines recreational boating, courtesy of a lightweight venturi hull, constructed using naturally derived resins and hemp fibre composites.

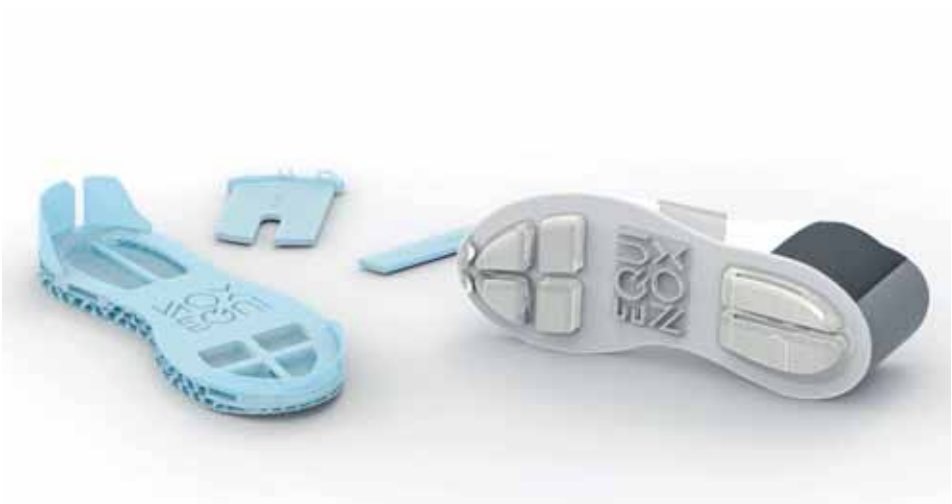
In a related vein, Finbar McCarthy spoke about his contribution to the future of recreational fishing where his Scales Project pairs a safe and practical landing net with a new smartphone app that simplifies the catch and release process.

The winner of the day, Ruby Chan, showcased Moducware™, a fully-compostable tableware alternative to take-away packaging. Being made entirely from plant-based material, including agricultural discards like cornhusks, discarded Moducware™ containers can “return to the earth as a bio-nutrient”.

And then there was Peter Hermez with Equinox” – a new, sustainable footwear solution. This project addresses the challenge of the ever-growing footwear industry where current production methods mean that 80 per cent of material is wasted just in the pattern cutting stage.

Peter developed Equinox to eliminate this production wastage, which he achieves through his new manufacturing approach that needs no gluing or stitching. There are two further advantages of Equinox shoes – they are customisable, meaning consumers can have individualised footwear – and the shoes have a longer relative lifespan.

Perhaps you are wondering the link between Equinox and vertical living? There is, of course, the obvious benefit that a reduced number of shoes means a reduced demand for storage space (literally a smaller



"Equinox" - a sustainable shoe solution by Peter Hermez.

footprint!).

However, it is the technology used in Equinox that piqued interest – namely 3D printing and 3D knitting technologies. 3D printing, or additive manufacturing, is a process of putting down successive layers of material to make three-dimensional objects.

Instead of using printing ink, 3D printers use materials like flexible polyurethane and follow a set of digital instructions that guide the production of a growing range of tangible items. Already 3D printing has had an enormous impact in design-related businesses where prototype development can now go from idea to physical object within hours rather than weeks.

And more intriguing applications continue to emerge, such as the joint restoration project between the University of Warwick and the British Sugarcraft Guild, which are using 3D printing to restore the vandalised

1947 replica of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip's wedding cake.

As 3D printers shrink in size and price, they are making their way into more homes, where items both for fun and more practical purpose can be printed. One fast growing area is the ability to print obscure component parts that may no longer be available but are needed to repair broken appliances.

However, 3D-nirvana is not quite here. The ability to print these types of intricate components require two additional elements – the authorised instructions and the right material. A bit of know-how also wouldn't go astray as the Pandora Box of insurance is awaiting those who wantonly reproduce and use protected items.

This is one reason why new 3D user groups are emerging. In Victoria, for instance, artists needing to 3D print have access to

specialised services, materials and advice.

Returning to our vertical villages, 3D printing has several ready applications, most especially in terms of building management. The capacity to produce, in-house and on-demand, specialised parts (like that missing elevator component) eliminates wait times for deliveries coming from the other-side-of-the-world.

Similarly, authorised replacement parts can be printed and supplied direct to residents. As original fixtures age (like dishwashers) and parts become hard to find, supplying these components could significantly extend the life of standardised fittings.

In another vein, owners' corporation committees can greatly improve their communications with residents. For example, realistic models of proposed building modifications can be easily produced and displayed for comment.

There is also the possibility of offering services to residents on a pay-per-use basis so, in time to come, residents could order a pair of Equinox, picking them up in their building's foyer later that day – but this just might be a step too far for our building managers.

If you would like links to the RMIT Green Innovations mentioned, please visit and like @SkyPadLiving on Facebook.



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



Pet’s Corner

Michelle’s perfect pups

By Monisha Iswaran

Seasoned dog owner Michelle enjoys walking her two dogs, Renny and Sandy, in the scenic Docklands area, where they enjoy attention from any people or other dogs they come across.

“They are excellent with people and, for a Pomeranian, Renny is just so well behaved and just has the most beautiful gentle nature,” Michelle said, explaining that such a temperament was unusual for the breed.

She has owned Sandy since she was a puppy, and Renny for only three years. Michelle took over ownership of the little Pomeranian

after his previous owner, her mother-in-law, moved into aged care.

“It was her dog and she obviously couldn't take him into aged care so he's living with us now”, she said, “But I bought Sandy as a puppy.”

At the ripe old age of 14, Sandy, an Australian cattle dog, has matured and is a little more sedate. This provides a contrast to Renny, who is evidently younger, with a happy-go-lucky attitude!

“She’s just the most beautiful girl and really intelligent”, Michelle said referring to Sandy. “And as she’s become older she’s become a lot more independent in her views and what she wants to do. She’s an older dog and wants to do things her own way.”

She does however note that neither of the two dogs is able to act as a guard dog for their home unit, saying: “They might just bark until you scratch their tummy and then they're happy.”

The dogs expect visitors in the house to show them attention before anyone else, but are extremely well trained and generally behave themselves.

“It’s always a work in progress. I pretty much trained them myself,” she said.

Michelle notes that, rather than relying heavily on treats to train her dogs, she just used firm hand signals.

“I’ve always had dogs, while growing up and everything,” she said, explaining her natural affinity with the creatures.



We Live Here

Parliamentary inquiry into short-stays

The long anticipated Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-Stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 will start in March.

The inquiry is being conducted by the Environment and Planning Committee and its purpose is to:

- Undertake consultation with short-stay accommodation providers, individuals and owners' corporations about the contents of the Bill;
- Examine the impact of short-stay accommodation on residents and owners' corporations of apartment buildings; and
- Examine the adequacy of owners' corporation rules in managing the impact of short-stay accommodation.

The full terms of reference and the guide to making a submission can be found on the committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc/inquiry/446, where you can also follow the progress of the inquiry.

This is an opportunity not to be missed and we encourage all residents – owners and tenants – and others who have a story to tell, to make a submission. This is an open inquiry and all submissions will be accepted until February 28.

The committee is due to report back to Parliament on May 11, 2017.

We need politicians from all sides of politics to sit up and take notice:

- That residents are not just concerned with unruly parties and bad behaviour as the Government seemed to think when introducing the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-Stay Accommodation) Bill 2016. Owners' corporations already have the powers to deal with them!
- However concerns about unregulated short-stays taking over residential apartment buildings that are not properly designed and equipped for them, are being ignored; e.g. safety and security is being compromised;
- No compensation to owners' corporations for increased wear and tear, particularly for the shortened life of a lift, estimated to be about five years; and
- Very many owners purchased apartments in the belief that it was to be their home, but establishing communities has become almost impossible because one's neighbours come and go all the time.

This is not the "sharing economy" we were led to believe but it is the "taking economy".

There needs to be a level playing field and now we have the opportunity to do something about it. Our homes and the future of our communities are at stake so we encourage as many of you as possible to become involved and HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Council

Find out what your elected City of Melbourne councillors are up to!

Do you have a burning issue which you would like to put to a councillor in person, or would you like to contribute a submission on a topic being debated in council, or even just go and listen to the councillors discussing some of the major issues of the day?

If so have you thought about attending a council or committee meeting?

Each month one council meeting and two Future Melbourne Committee meetings, involving all councillors, are held.

Members of the public are invited to attend both council and committee meetings and submissions on various topics can be made to both by following the relevant guidelines.

Questions without notice can also be put

to councillors at committee meetings (but not at council meetings) with 15 minutes allowed at the beginning and end of each meeting.

You can find out more at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/committees-meetings/Pages/getting-involved-meetings.aspx

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

Like most not-for-profit organisations we operate on a shoe-string budget and donations from individuals and buildings are greatly appreciated.

Please send all correspondence to campaign@welvehere.net.au.

To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to make a donation please visit our website at www.welvehere.net



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Letters to the Editor

Thank you City of Melbourne

I am writing to thank the City of Melbourne and everyone else who was responsible for the stunning fireworks on NYE and Australia Day 2017.

I was initially very disappointed to read that they would no longer be staged from the middle of Victoria Harbour but very understanding of the OHS reasons for them

to be moved to Harbour Esplanade.

The result was they were more spectacular as they were closer and louder and on Australia Day – breathtaking!

Many others I shared both nights with agree.

Linda Dugan

Don't feed the swans

It was very concerning to read in the *Dockland News* "And baby makes three" that people were feeding the black swans biscuits.

Your readers should be made aware that they DO NOT FEED swans biscuits or other such food.

Swans happily feed themselves on their natural diet of vegetation (cf Birdlife Australia information).

The health of the swans should not be compromised by people mistakenly feeding them biscuits, bread, etc. This applies to all native animals and birds.

The black swans that frequent the Docklands

area also travel up the Moonee Ponds Creek.

Some swans will have a white or black collar with a number on it and relate to an early study set up by Professor Raoul Mulder at the University of Melbourne.

The very informative website myswan.org.au provides general information on black swans and data on where the particular swans have been sighted.

Kaye Oddie

Secretary

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

Bring back the fireworks

The spin that was rolled out to stop the fireworks at Docklands on NYE was total fantasy. They said families were exposed to violence and unruly behaviour as they made their way home. This is rubbish! It was never verified with documented evidence. NYE at Docklands was fabulous!

Families lined the docks, travellers booked out restaurants and cruises took guests out. It was exciting, exhilarating and damn good fun. Victoria Harbour looked like a mini-Sydney Harbour.

We participated for many years and never once witnessed any unruly or out-of-control behaviour.

We ran our business every New Years Eve out of NewQuay, catering for families, couples and groups of friends. We had an early family cruise to watch the 9.30pm fireworks.

We then had an adults cruise to watch the midnight fireworks. They were always spectacular. Our guests would also patronise other businesses before and after our

cruises.

Every year now, we have people contacting us to join a NYE cruise. I have to tell them there are no longer fireworks over Docklands because Melbourne City Council believes the area has become too dangerous. The fireworks are on the tops of buildings.

I believe the large capacity fireworks are also restricted due to safety reasons.

The winter fireworks were a complete waste of money – cancellations due to poor weather and consistently poor turn outs.

Bring back the Docklands NYE fireworks and help this fantastic area revitalise.

At the moment it is becoming a deserted area with closed businesses everywhere.

Jenni Hart

Adventure Sails



Send your letters to news@docklandsnews.com.au

Matters to consider before buying “off the plan”

There is no denying that Melburnians are fascinated by high-rise strata living, as evidenced by the large number of multi-storey high rise developments that continue to be marketed, built and sold “off the plan” in and around the city.

As compared with buying an existing property, there are many potential benefits to buying off the plan.

First and foremost is the opportunity to purchase at a good price (assuming that property values continue to rise).

Other benefits include: a potential capital gain during the period between signing the contract and settlement after constructing the building; an increased flexibility and choice regarding fit out and floor plan size; and a longer period of time for the purchaser to arrange their financial affairs before moving.

However, it is reported that a high proportion of these newer developments are being financed and project-managed by cashed-up Chinese and Malaysian property syndicates (with Australian developers acting as the fronts) with less and less reliance on the major Australian banks to fund the projects.

As a result, the developers are benefitting from the less-restrictive requirements imposed by the lending conditions of the traditional financiers and this can, in and

of itself, lead to more risks for the eventual owners of these apartments.

Some of the most important things for prospective purchasers to consider are:

- (1) The profile and track record of the builder and developer. For instance, do they have a history of doing good work in Australia and around the world? Do they stand behind their developments? Do they return to their developments to fix any defects? Are they financially secure? These matters can be checked via online enquiries. If the developer runs into trouble during the intervening period between the sales contract being entered into and settlement, then there is the risk of the deposit being lost, or the project being cancelled or at least substantially delayed.
- (2) Has the developer provided sufficient information to understand what is being purchased? For instance, are the architectural plans of the building and common areas no more than generic images? Have the internal furnishings been specified?

(3) Have the running costs of the building been properly specified? Some owners’ corporations (OC) have had nasty surprises after settlement when it has been discovered that the budget and levies had been overwhelmingly under-estimated.

(4) Will the building be completed in stages and at which stage will the unit be completed? There can be instances of disruption and loss of amenity for owners that settle early – for instance, as they move in while the upper levels of the towers are still being built, with workmen and construction noise continuing for several months after settlement.

(5) Will the building be independently managed by a reputable owners’ corporation management company and caretaker or does the sales contract provide the developer with the discretion to appoint whomever they like and lock the OC into a lengthy long-term contract?

(6) Do the proposed rules suit your needs in terms of your personal attitude towards subject matters such as pets, smoking and the ability to carry out your own

renovations?

(7) Will an area of the building be occupied by a serviced apartment operator or hotel?

(8) Do you know whether the apartment will have an obstructed or unobstructed view when completed?

There are always risks implicit with any investment, but with a large choice of apartments currently on the market, potential purchasers can afford to shop around and be picky about whom they choose to invest their money with. Reputable developers with a good track record will do well out of the Melbourne market, while those developers who do not have a good reputation or are new to the market may struggle to get their developments sold quickly, unless they market the building overseas and sell to overseas owners.



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

Chamber Update

Join us for Bollywood action

Bollywood in Docklands – tomorrow Thursday, March 2

Yes, tomorrow night, Thursday, March 2. Cancel your other plans.

Come and join us at 6.30pm for a night of Indian-themed entertainment. The DJ and dancers will keep the mood light and engaging.

Come and relax, mix with the other business owners and enjoy a three-course selection accompanied by beer, wine, bubbly and sparkling mineral water.

Only \$25 per head, contact admin@docklandsc.com.au to let us know you can attend.

Where: Mint O Mustard, 42 NewQuay Promenade at 6.30pm and we can chat about the benefits of being a chamber member.

You will be glad you became a member

Can you believe it is March? If you are a business owner operating in Docklands, being a member of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce will keep you informed so you will not miss out on the significant benefits provided to members of our strong and dynamic precinct program.

Docklands is an evolving area, with diverse business and community programs. We can promote events that showcase and benefit our members. We provide useful programs that will enhance your business knowledge and help you build valuable contacts.

The chamber has a transparent approach and is very responsive to issues that will impact our local community. So join the chamber and become an advocate for your business and the local community.

Social media – Is it part of your business

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 accounts are there for you as members to promote your business. It is the future. Plug in!

Don’t forget that if you want locals to support your business, you must have a presence in the local paper, the *Docklands News*. That is a no-brainer.

Association fosters success! – join the chamber!

Join online and become a chamber member

today. Get access to our social media and improve your business exposure. Make your mark in developing the Docklands community. Connect your business with like-minded people who are succeeding and actively encouraging the growth and success of the precinct.

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



Paul Salter
Executive Committee member
www.docklandsc.com.au





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Health and Wellbeing

Regular yoga practise makes sense

Regular yoga practise has many positive health outcomes that should have us asking why yoga doesn't appear at least once on our busy schedules each week.

Here is a list of eight great benefits associated with regular yoga practise that might help convince you to make yoga part of your 2017 weekly routine:

- **Improved flexibility** – It won't take long, but with regular practise you will notice your muscles become more supple, flexible and will lengthen with every class;
- **Strength** – Your muscles will not only start to look better, they will start to do their job helping you move, balance and protect your bones and joints from impact, injury or fall;
- **Healthy joints** – Moving your joints through their full range of motion will help increase their strength and reduce the onset of arthritis and degenerative disease;
- **Healthy bones** – The weight bearing exercises and posture in yoga will help retain bone density and avoid osteoporosis;
- **Weight loss** – Losing weight is often the result of moving more and eating less. You can take a yoga class at your own pace, but it can also be a very vigorous way to exercise where you can expend a lot of energy;
- **Stress less** – Scientific tests show that yoga helps with reducing stress levels, lowering blood pressure and help reduce the production of the stress hormone cortisol, which has detrimental health impacts when levels are high for long periods of time;
- **Improved circulation** – Yoga will get your heart working more efficiently and ensure blood and oxygen flow to all the cells, tissues and organs within your body, especially to the extremities; and
- **Improved mental health** – Regular yoga practise helps reduce depression and increase the production of serotonin, the happy hormone. Meditation is also highly recommended for addressing mental health conditions and improving general health and wellbeing.



Keeping young people active

Spiralling levels in obesity and inactivity in young people are cause for alarm.

The life expectancy of Australians had been increasing consistently over the past decades thanks to increases in affluence, health care and improved lifestyles and living conditions and we should all be grateful for that.

Unfortunately though, for the coming generations, this indicator of life expectancy has now began to shockingly slip backwards into decline. In plain terms, our children and their children will (if nothing changes) live shorter lives and suffer a greater prevalence of health-related diseases like diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

As parents, or just through general observation, we have seen a fast and dramatic turn away from traditional play and outdoor activities to an obsession with technologies that paralyse the movement of kids. I think we have all seen the hypnotic effect a device has on kids (and some adults!).

My point here is that technology and devices

are not bad, they are the future so let's not fight that. Instead, it's time to bring back some active fun alternatives for this and future generations.

Whenever I get my kids outdoors and active, I ask them "Is this better than playing on the iPad?" and the answer every time is "absolutely!" So, my advice for other parents or influencers of children is to provide more options and opportunities to be active and to be more innovative.

If you are lazy and not motivated to be active, your kids will in most cases follow and replicate your behaviour. Saying "go outside and play" won't solve the problems – it will require your energy, leadership and effort to develop new active interests and a new love of outdoor activities for your children.

I will take this opportunity to recognise YMCA Victoria in its development of the "Playnasium" concept. YMCA is now building playgrounds suitable for 0-7 year old children that introduce concepts of exercise into play. One of the many great benefits of the Playnasium is that parents can do some exercise with their children at

the same time. Well done YMCA!

Physical and mental health benefits of exercise

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

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

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

Have you heard about the brain chemical serotonin? Exercise helps stimulate the synthesis of serotonin and maintain healthy levels within the brain and body. Low levels of serotonin are associated with depression, whereas higher levels are associated with "feeling great!"

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

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



Andrew Ward

Andrew Ward from Push! Fitness.
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DOCKLANDS FASHION



Fashion on the streets of Docklands

Mayerly Patino 24

LOCATION: Victoria Harbour

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: I'm wearing something casual. I wear this jacket because it's too cold today. I got the jacket, shoes and the jeans from Columbia. I love them.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE

OF CLOTHING: I think the coat is my favourite. I didn't expect to wear this in summer though.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO

DOCKLANDS: I'm going to study in the library. I study English at school.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE

YOUR STYLE: My style is simple. I don't like to wear like uncomfortable clothes like heels.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

If you feel comfortable that's enough I think.

Ross Millar 34

LOCATION: Harbour Esplanade

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: Comfortable clothes for the city. I've got Nike Roshe Runs, some denim shorts, black long sleeve shirt and a Nike backpack. I like using the backpack for practical reasons. I'm a tourist from Scotland, so I've got my camera and jacket in it.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE

OF CLOTHING: My trainers. I have never seen this in Australia. They are very hard to get in Scotland. I actually got it from a website in Germany so I think it's quite different.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO

DOCKLANDS: I'm a tourist on holiday. I haven't been to Docklands before. I came here by the Southern Cross Station. I was in Melbourne three years ago and I want to see the difference. It's completely different!

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE

YOUR STYLE: Sporty and relaxed. That's probably the best way to describe it.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Comfort and something different. Like the Roshe Runs I have on, not many people wear them. Also, no one wears this kind of top back in Scotland. It's about something different and unusual.

Giammy Colombo 25

LOCATION: Bourke Street

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: Blurred jeans, leather jacket, a hat, a pair of sunglasses and a scarf.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE

OF CLOTHING: The leather jacket, because it's cool. I like the colour and I like wearing it..

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO

DOCKLANDS: I just finished a financial accounting exam at uni and stopped by in a rush to see an old friend and have a coffee.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE

YOUR STYLE: Well kind of like underground but fresh.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Well the fact that you can walk in the crowd and make yourself noticeable.

Rewind to 1980

It's time to raid your mum's wardrobe or your local op shop, because 80s fashion has been named one of the biggest trends of 2017.

Thanks to designers like Jeremy Scott and Balmain, 80s motifs such as padded shoulders and bold colouring have made their return to the runways of New York and Paris fashion weeks.

The Jeremy Scott show, inspired by New York in the 80s was full of patent leather, checkered patterns, sequins and cat-eye sunglasses.

Before you reach for the teasing comb, hair spray and blue eye shadow, know this: the 80s trend will be seen in statement pieces, not entire outfits.

Padded and oversized shoulders, as well as big and bulky blazers will be the biggest nod to the 80s seen this year. Balmain is selling a double-breasted, shoulder padded blazer for \$2540, but you can pick up a very similar style at prettyslittletthing.com for \$50.

The miniskirt of the 80s will be making its comeback too. Miniskirts may not be the most weather-appropriate choice as we come into the cooler months, so take advantage of the sun while you can. Style your statement mini with more casual pieces like slogan tees and trench coats to take you from day to night.

Also making a huge return will be the oh-so-eighties power suit. Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel brought the women's power suit back with a 2017 twist for their Haute Couture Spring Summer show earlier this year.

The strong, tailored fit of the suit exudes dominance. Pair with a pastel colour to keep it feminine. Complete the look with an over-the-jacket belt to cinch the waist and define your form.

Smaller trends to invest in pay homage to the grunge of the decade. Embroidered denim that looks almost customised will be seen throughout the next few months.

Don't have \$1504 for the Marc Jacobs embellished denim bomber? Invest in a plain denim jacket and sew or iron some patches on yourself! You can find thousands of music, animal, vintage, floral, beverage, religion and basically anything-and-everything-you-can-think-of inspired patches on Etsy, and all for less than \$10!

Although you can find an endless supply of 80s-inspired fashion online, we at *CBD News* recommend visiting your local thrift store. Chances are you're going to find 10 pre-loved items for the price of a single brand new one online.

In fact, our Lifestyle and Fashion editor found an oversized, embroidered denim jacket for an easy \$7 at her closest Salvation Army store!



Khiara Elliott
khiara@cbdnews.com.au

What Women Want

Dig deep - it'll be worth it

This was nearly the first column I've missed writing in eight years.

There have been months that it's been tough to find the time, and there's definitely been a few months through the years that I've realised with absolute clarity the meaning of "writers block" as I sit for hours observing a tiny mark on the wall trying to think of something half-interesting or at least semi-amusing to say. But this is the first month I nearly just didn't make it.

I've been working really hard. Like really, really hard. I love it and I have a crystal clear purpose in what I do, my "why" resonates with me and I have not hesitated to commit one single minute of the hours, weeks and months that I have put into the work I have been doing. But it is consuming all of my time, and sometimes it's a bit tricky ticking everything on my to-do-list!

It's been a balancing act that hasn't always balanced, trying to deliver on so many levels - to ensure my son knows he is the number one in my life whilst I'm simultaneously telling him I'll be late home from yet "another" meeting (dramatic eye roll from son). As I try to scrounge together a healthy meal from god knows what is left in the fridge because I haven't had time to get to the supermarket (again). To have the intention of tomorrow being the day exercise returns to my life only to set the alarm for 5am to sit at the computer instead ...

But it's worth it. It's going to be worth it. I do my self-audits as I'm drifting off to sleep very late at night and I visualise where I'm going.

You see, this time (as opposed to times in the past where I've just been overwhelmed with business growth and demands and wondered why I'm doing all the things I do), I have a map.

It's a mind map that I can follow, where I can see how all the "parts" of my life will click together and be better than ever, where all the things I value and love will be balanced again, where everything will benefit from the next phase succeeding ... and so I fall asleep smiling, exhausted, but excited for the next day to start to get crazy busy again.

I know where I'm going and that single purpose vision gives me the strength and determination to climb mountains (well, you know what I mean - online mountains!). I have shared my vision, my reasoning and my why with my son and he is the most incredible support and I'd like to think it sets an example for him - that if you determine your goal, you pursue it unrelentingly until you succeed. That the bright light of determination is a torch you carry proudly, that the heat of intensely pursuing your goals is to be embraced.

What a woman wants is for everyone to be able to see and positively embrace extraordinary opportunities in life and to support those pursuing them, but what a woman needs to know is that sometimes there are people that for whatever reason, just can't handle the heat.

Don't let the fallings of others slow you on your journey to achieve your goals. May you achieve all your heart sets out to achieve this month and don't let those who don't understand your goals throw you from your path.

Be determined, make the sacrifices, let life get "unbalanced" to throw everything at that which you really want to achieve. Dig deep - it'll be worth it.

Until next month,

Abby x

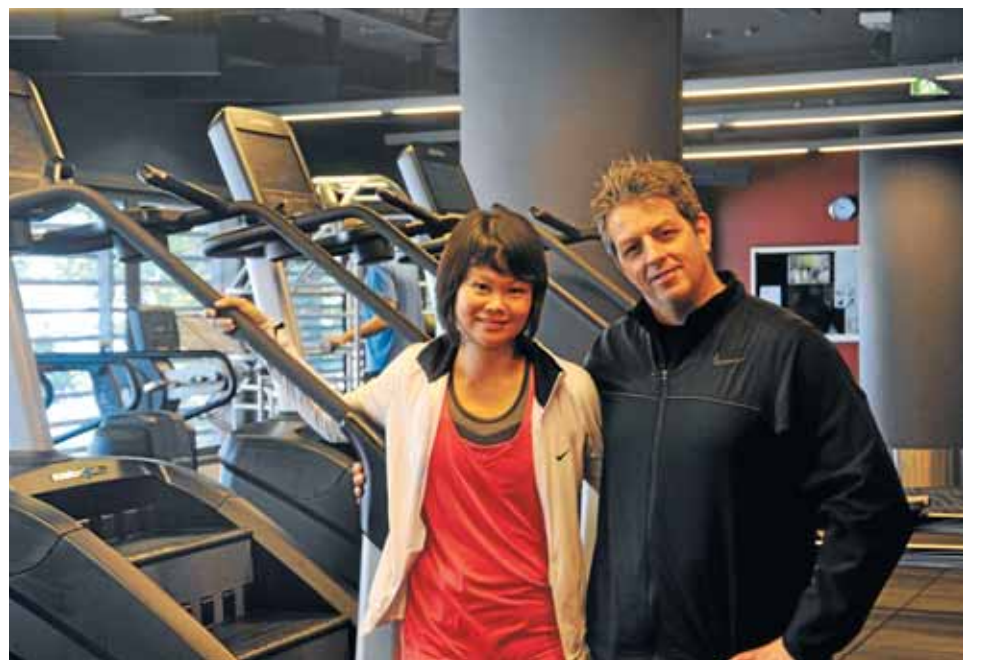
PS don't forget you can reach me at life@docklandsnews.com.au



Abby Crawford

life@docklandsnews.com.au

Business



Andrew Ward with wife Jean at the refurbished Push! Fitness centre in Victoria Harbour.

So much more than a gym

By Sunny Liu

Push! Fitness can very well be the most innovative gym in Docklands.

With a recent remodelling and the newest treadmills from Life Fitness that come with interactive screens, Push! Fitness has successfully become a premium fitness centre.

Openable windows have been installed to allow fresh air into the centre so members can enjoy the breeze and the outlook to the water while toning their bodies.

To perfect the technological edge, Push! Fitness is now completely paper- and cash-free. Members only need to download the Push! app and create their own account to update their membership, view class schedules and make bookings for classes.

Each treadmill comes with a smart device connected to the internet. Users can log on to their personal accounts, stream Netflix or take their virtual character for a run with the RunSocial app.

RunSocial takes the users to real-life routes, such as streets in Tibet and Death Valley in California, where the runner can also be joined by other users' characters on the screen.

"Our new equipment can achieve both fitness and entertainment purposes," manager Andrew Ward said. "We are like the Mercedes Benz of gyms because all the facilities are the best."

Located inside the ANZ building at 833 Collins St, Push! Fitness also enjoys a location of envy. It comes as no surprise that a lot of the members at Push! Fitness are corporate workers who want to fit exercise into their busy schedules.

"Exercising is part of people's lifestyle and we believe Push! Fitness can provide our customers with the best equipment, programming and services," Mr Ward said.

Mr Ward says, other than technology, the focus of Push! Fitness was on its personalised services and connection with patrons.

"I know almost every customer by their name and the staff here have formed a really close relationship with customers to give them the best fitness experience," he said.

Members can work with the staff one-on-one to achieve their fitness goals and can also track their progress with the mobile app.

The programming at Push! Fitness also demonstrates its innovative edge. A new rowing class has been introduced, where members can practise the body-toning cardio exercise either inside the studio or outside by the water on a good sunny day.

Good news for yoga lovers, there are three different yoga classes at Push! Fitness for them to choose from - hatha yoga, hot yoga and yoga flow.

Other programs at Push! include Zumba, BodyPump, Warrior, boxing, cycling, run groups, Grit Strength and Pilates.

Formerly a YMCA fitness centre, Push! Fitness has been through a major makeover to become an innovative, community-focused gym.

Mr Ward says the feedback from the members has been "incredibly positive".

"For the members, it was like going from an old car to a new car. Everything has been upgraded and people have responded really well to the transition," he said.

"Push! Fitness has a strong community focus and we are leading the industry to make Docklanders fitter and healthier. It's a place where people can exercise, entertain and socialise. It's so much more than a gym."

Docklands-based businesses wishing to be profiled in this section should email: advertising@docklandsnews.com.au



WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

DOCKLANDS HISTORY GROUP

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

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5pm Chinese service 中文

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

SONGBIRDS
Wednesdays at 10.30am
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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE

Rising dragon-boating star

By Sunny Liu

Ballarat Year 12 student Craig Hagan first started dragon boating at the age of 12 and has been addicted to the sport ever since.

Craig, who has just turned 17, is the second youngest paddler on the Docklands-based Yarra River Dragons Dragonboat Club (YRD).

He takes the V/Line from Ballarat to Southern Cross Station at least three times a week and says he never gets tired of it.

“Dragon boating is a very addictive sport. It can be very competitive but it’s also good fun,” he said.

Despite the common belief that dragon boating is more a hobby than a profession, it is a sport practised competitively.

There are monthly state-level regattas and annual national and international competitions.

Mr Hagan will join his YRD national team to compete at the Australian National Championships in Albury, Victoria in April and will represent Australia as a member of the Under 18 Auroras at the World Dragonboat Championships in China in October.

YRD Dragonboat Club is one of the largest clubs in Victoria, with more than 70 active members.



Craig Hagan – a 17-year-old with a big paddling future.

It is very diverse and the athletes’ professions vary from student to doctors. There are boaters as young as Craig and some others in their 60s, who are all brought together by their passion for the sport.

“It’s a very inclusive sport,” YRD team captain Julian Duarte said. “But, at the same

time, it’s also an amateur sport, so people come from different professions and age groups.”

Mr Hagan, who was born in the UK and moved to Australia with his family in 2010, says he has joined a big family through dragon boating.

“My teammates are always there for me, both inside and outside the boat,” he said. “It’s a very social sport because everyone needs to work together to make the boat move. No one person can make the team.”

Being in Year 12 and busy preparing for his VCE, Mr Hagan says it was challenging to balance intensive training and school.

“It is a big commitment for me and my family. But it has also helped me with many aspects of my life. It’s pushing me to the boundaries and is building up my perseverance and dedication,” he said.

Originated in ancient China as a cultural ritual, dragon boating has evolved into a highly competitive sport in Australia and Australian teams are shining on the international stage.

Mr Duarte said: “In Australia, dragon boating is not like the AFL. But it’s starting to get out there and it’s getting more and more popular each year. We hope it can be recognised as a professional sport just like rowing and sailing.”

Mr Hagan says he strives to be the best he can be as a dragon-boater and wants to paddle his way to the world stage.

“Dragon-boating is a lifestyle and is also something I want to pursue further in life,” he said.

Craig is seeking sponsorship to fund his travel and accommodation in China through a crowd-funding campaign at [gofundme.com/help-me-get-to-the-world-champs](https://www.gofundme.com/help-me-get-to-the-world-champs).



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