

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Zombie bridges are back

By Shane Scanlan

Docklands' recurring nightmare bridges are back, with the release last month of the government's Draft Fishermans Bend Framework.

The state government has reneged on its 2014 state election pledge to ditch the proposed tram bridge from the end of Collins St to Yarra's Edge.

But, even worse, is the potential re-emergence of the low rail bridge in front of the Bolte Bridge connecting the disparate parts of the Port of Melbourne.

Various other cycle and pedestrian bridges are also proposed which, collectively all threatened to murder Docklands' future viability by blocking boat access.

"We thought these bridges were dead and buried," said Melbourne Passenger Boating Association president Jeff Gordon. "But they're like zombies. They just keep coming back."

The framework rejects out of hand the possibility of water transport between the CBD and Fishermans Bend.

"The assessment of water transport options show that it is currently unviable to operate a ferry service to link Fishermans Bend to the central city," the framework says.

Mr Gordon said: "Other great cities of the world make water transport part of the mix," he said. "But here lack of foresight and vision are holding us back."

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell agrees the proposal would devastate Docklands.



"The potential delivery of a road/rail route across the opening to Victoria Harbour will close off this magnificent waterway," she said. "No height details have been provided, however the implementation would significantly damage the usability of the waterways."

"The Victoria Harbour water space is the jewel in the crown for Docklands, with 7kms

of waterfront, every effort should be made to enhance, activate and ensure the waterways are an active space within Docklands."

"Currently servicing a vibrant charter boat community, Port Phillip Ferry Services, the growing heritage fleet and the many visiting recreational boat operators, reduced heights and access will destroy this facet of our community in Docklands."

"The hosting of the Volvo Ocean Race may also be impacted," she said.

While all bridges are damaging, the worst of the proposals is the spectre of low rail bridge just downstream from the Bolte Bridge.

The eight-metre-off-the-water bridge has been haunting Docklands almost from its inception when the Port of Melbourne lost the rail connection which used to travel up Lorimer St and Footscray Rd (now Harbour Esplanade).

The port has been advocating for the bridge to move freight between an expanding Webb Dock and its major railway connections on the Swanson/Appleton/Dynon side of its operation.

Public outcry from Docklanders successfully killed off the concept in 2012 when Coalition Minister for Ports Denis Napthine officially ruled it out.

The Premier of the day, Ted Baillieu, explained that the expansion at Webb Dock was an interim measure while the Port of Hastings was brought on stream. The Andrews Labor Government has since scuttled the Hastings expansion plan and is proceeding with renewed energy at Webb Dock at the mouth of the Yarra River.

The low rail bridge concept has reappeared in the new Fishermans Bend Framework document, which was released by the State Government on October 21.

The Fishermans Bend Integrated Transport Plan recommends to: "Safeguard a future road and rail corridor to connect Webb Dock to Swanson/Appleton Docks which, depending on port traffic growth, may need to be constructed over the next 40 years. An alignment option is recommended for long-term corridor protection."

Continued page 5.

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The Watergate building's residents are angry that Etihad Stadium blocks local roads, denying them access during events – a situation the stadium blames on a contractor.

Sections of Wurundjeri Way, Bourke St, Batman's Hill Drive and Collins St are closed during events to control traffic numbers.

Watergate's building manager Marshall Delves said residents often faced "roads closed" signs by their building and were prevented from leaving or returning to their homes by car on event weekends.

Mr Delves said the road closure happened frequently during the football season, but it also happened as recently as October 14.

He said he thought he had "sorted it out" with Etihad Stadium when he was told residents should be granted access, but the road closure still proceeded.

Mr Delves said he contacted the AFL, owner of Etihad Stadium, in October but got brushed off.

"Etihad Stadium showed no consideration for nearby residents. It brought a huge inconvenience to us," Mr Delves said.

"There are about 1000 people living in



Watergate residents were prevented from reaching their homes on October 14.

Watergate and blocking the roads has been very inconvenient for them."

Michael Green, Etihad Stadium's chief executive officer, said residents being denied access was an error by a contracted traffic management attendant and promised it would not happen again.

"This was not an instruction and the stadium apologises for any inconvenience to local residents," Mr Green said.

"The issue has been addressed with the traffic management company, as well as the specific personnel involved and we expect that there shouldn't be a recurrence of this matter," he said.

Mr Green also said Etihad Stadium engaged with Victoria Police, the City of Melbourne and VicRoads to develop the traffic management plan that "ensured the most efficient and safest traffic in and out of the Docklands precinct".



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Meet the \$1 million tin shaker



Tony Comley is a familiar face to Docklands' rail commuters, but few would know of the story behind the man.

It's fair to say that Tony Comley is on a crusade for veterans' welfare.

When most of us are still asleep, he's been up since 4am driving to the start of a suburban train line so he can set up his collection position on the Bourke St concourse before 6am. In the afternoon he'll take up a similar position to greet homeward bound commuters at the end of the line.

Mr Comley will do this for four or five months a year – around the significant occasions of Anzac Day, Legacy Week, Vietnam Veterans Day, Remembrance Day and the Annual Weary Dunlop Service.

Weary Dunlop has a special place in this story, for it was he who saved the life of Tony's father Alf, a prisoner of war at Hellfire Pass on the notorious Burma Railway in World War II.

Tony relates that Sir Weary rescued an unconscious Alf Comley from a Japanese guard who was beating his father to death because he was unable to continue working after 35 hours straight.

"Nagasaki" Alf survived the war but the trauma never left him and the consequences were passed to Tony's generation in the form of alcohol abuse and family violence.

Tony himself suffers a disability and held a number of part-time jobs such as cleaning and driving before receiving a disability pension.

Tony's full-time job is now raising money for veterans' causes – and he's the best in the business. He predicts that, by next Anzac Day, he will have raised \$1 million over the past 19 years.

The 66-year-old is currently up to \$959,000 and he looking for help from Docklanders to boost this number over the magic million mark while's he away in Thailand on Remembrance Day. Locals can transfer funds to the Greensborough RSL's welfare

fund (BSB: 063185 Account: 11120821) and reference "Tony Poppy".

Tony says he is driven by a pact he made with God after finding his father alone on the floor and locked in his home, many days after having suffered a stroke.

"I thought he was dead," he said. "He was cold and I hugged him for a while and he came good. It was like he came back from the dead and now I'm doing my part of my deal with God."

He explained that he felt enormous guilt because he father lived only six houses away, but he neglected to call in on him because of the violent, drunken abuse that may ensue.

"Now I'm a worker on the front line," he said. "I'm not the smartest bloke and I know I talk too much, but I've got a big heart and I love helping people."

Tony is an emotional guy and wells up with tears when talking of peoples' generosity.

"The people are magnificent," he said. "They open their hearts and their wallets and purses. They are just so giving."

He said Legacy was an amazing organisation which had often touched his family.

The latest support followed the suicide of his nephew on Father's Day 2011. His nephew served with the Australian Federal Police in the Solomons and East Timor and left behind a wife and two young children.

He says an electric wheelchair drastically improved his father's life in later years because it gave him dignity.

He also tells the story of "Joel", a 26-year-old Afghanistan veteran who became a quadriplegic in an accident while home on leave.

"The Greensbrough RSL sent him to the USA for therapy and training to strengthen and support him in his quest to walk," he said.

It was his father's situation that drew him to his cause and it's the reward of giving that keeps him coming back to Docklands with his trolley and donation tin.



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Chronology of a broken promise

November 18, 2014

The Member for Albert Park, Martin Foley, writes to residents saying Labor would not support a proposed tram bridge between Collins St and Yarra's Edge.

"Instead, Labor will ensure the dedicated office works with the community and transport operators to deliver alternative public transport options that work," Mr Foley said in the letter.

November 29, 2014

Labor wins the election.

February 29, 2016

Planning Minister Richard Wynne publicly rules out the tram bridge.

Speaking at a Fishermans Bend community forum, he said: "That's been ruled out. It was ruled out before the last election by us in opposition. We will be coming up with proposals for how we address a light-rail link, just not that one."

October 6, 2016

Mr Wynne starts to back-pedal.

In answer to a question from *Docklands News* at a Property Council forum, he said: "We are looking at a range of options in terms of how you get public transport into Fishermans Bend."



Mr Wynne addresses the Property Council on October 25.

"It's a very thin peninsula of land. Think of how you come over the Charles Grimes Bridge and you want to turn right into Lorimer. It's a very difficult intersection there to get into Fishermans Bend."

"One of the options is obviously to come over the Charles Grimes Bridge. One of the other options that is being obviously looked at is potentially a rail bridge as well. But we've got a fair way to go."

October 21, 2017

Draft Fishermans Bend Framework released. The bridge is back. This time it skirts the western side of Array (rather than the eastern side), avoiding Point Park.

Other than the new alignment, no further details have been released. Fishermans Bend Taskforce general manager Geoff Ward refused to tell the October 25 Docklands Community Forum how high the bridge would be.

However, he did say it would be built in the first decade of the development.

October 25, 2017

Mr Wynne defends his position in response to a question from *Docklands News* at a Property Council forum.

"When you last asked the question, the matter was still under consideration by the government. Now we are in a position to announce it."

"The crucial importance of the tram bridge is that Fishermans Bend will ultimately only develop in a way that is envisaged within the framework document if you've got a very significant public transport commitment to it."

"That's self evident and it's something that's going to be required."

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Zombie bridges are back from the dead

Continued from page 1.

An accompanying diagram shows the same alignment over the river as the previously well-developed low rail bridge concept. Engineers agree that the highest a freight train could rise in such a short distance is about eight metres.

The height of the Bolte Bridge was modelled on the top mast of the Alma Doepel sailing ship, which is currently under restoration in Docklands.

Damage from the resurrected tram bridge between Collins Landing and Yarra's Edge is mostly confined to owners of boats at Marina YE. But its re-emergence is a breach of faith, considering consistent denials from the government that the concept hadn't died with its 2014 pre-election promise.

Fishermans Bend Taskforce general manager Geoff Ward wouldn't reveal how high the tram bridge would be when asked at the October 25 Docklands Community Forum.

Instead, he advised that a consultation would be conducted at Yarra's Edge on October 31.

But Mr Ward did reveal that the bridge would be constructed in the first decade of the Fishermans Bend development.

When asked how the bridge could be back on the agenda when it was specifically not ALP policy, Mr Ward said: "I'm not the politician. I think you'd better direct that to the Minister for Planning."

"The need for public transport in Fishermans Bend is absolutely critical. It's a catalyst project for us and if you have a look at the transport plan, there were a large number of alternative routes that were considered as part of our process and that's the one the government's selected."

Opposition planning and transport spokesman David Davis condemned the Labor Party for its "treacherous breach" of its election promise.

"The Liberal Party believes this was a terrible lie by Labor," he said.

But Mr Davis hasn't said the Coalition would not build the bridge if elected to government next year. The most he is promising is to "investigate all alternative options".

The Liberal Party's candidate for the seat of Albert Park, City of Port Phillip councillor



A map from the Fishermans Bend Integrated Transport Plan revealing a desire to again choke Docklands with a low rail bridge.

Andrew Bond, is 100 per cent behind the Yarra's Edge bridge.

In September he told *Docklands News* Yarra's Edge residents didn't have a problem with the tram bridge.

Mr Davis (who refers the bridge as part of Southbank) said: "It's clear that the government is intending to cut through that area and that will have a significant area on many of the people in Southbank."

"It's not what they voted for. It's not what they wanted. Daniel Andrews has let them down and Martin Foley, the local member, has let them down. He's not been advocating for that community."

Asked how high the proposed cycling bridge on the upstream side of the Bolte Bridge would be, Mr Ward said: "There are absolutely no plans around that, other than it is a general intent. No height is even thought about at the moment."

The government is accepting feedback on its draft framework until the end of November.



An artist's impression of the low rail bridge that Docklanders successfully killed off in 2012.

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Start with Excellence.

Framework provides a bright future

By Sean Car

Sustainable integrated transport and tougher planning controls are at the heart of the State Government's latest framework for Docklands' future neighbour Fishermans Bend.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne and Member for Albert Park Martin Foley announced the much-anticipated release of the draft Fishermans Bend Framework on October 21.

Developed by the Fishermans Bend Taskforce and the Fishermans Bend Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC), the framework maps out the bold vision for Australia's largest ever urban renewal project.

Consisting of five distinct precincts of Montague, Sandridge, Lorimer, Wirraway and an Employment Precinct, the renewed framework is underpinned by a desire for a connected and sustainable community.

Guiding this vision is the implementation of new density controls for all new developments, which have been introduced to manage the area's population and

employment targets (80,000 people and 80,000 jobs by 2050).

Buildings in each of the four residential precincts will now be subject to defined floor area ratio (FAR) controls, which will ultimately determine a new floor area uplift (FAU) scheme for developers wishing to build higher.

Mandatory height controls of four levels will be placed along interface zones along Williamstown Rd, while discretionary height limits ranging between four and 24 storeys will apply elsewhere.

Located on either side of the West Gate Freeway, Sandridge and Lorimer will see the most high-rise development with unlimited height controls placed in sites located closer to the freeway.

Fishermans Bend MAC member Helen Halliday told *Docklands News* that the FAR and FAU schemes had been aligned to deliver key strategic priorities for community including affordable housing and open space.

"The density in any case is about half of what CBD plot ratios are and it's specifically targeted where there needs to be an uplift, which targets certain key social outcomes such as affordable housing," she said.

"There's a progression into high density towards the freeway, which has also been modeled to ensure that no new or existing open space will be overshadowed."

Beyond development, the framework also clearly identifies sites for proposed community facilities including open space, new schools as well sports, arts and recreation hubs.

Mapping a clear plan for public transport has also been crucial to delivering the framework, which includes plans for new tram and rail networks connecting Fishermans Bend to Docklands and the CBD.

Despite Planning Minister Richard Wynne ruling out the previous government's proposed tram bridge through Yarra's Edge at the previous election, the framework includes plans for a new tram bridge.

While the design of the bridge is still subject to consultation, the government's plan now sees a longer bridge connecting Collins St to Hartley St, avoiding Point Park in Yarra's Edge.

MAC chair Meredith Sussex AM said that the increased length of the new bridge would lead to a higher trajectory, meaning the impact on the marina would be limited.

"The design of the tram bridge is such that the alternative proposal will be higher than the previous proposal so that the marina will be significantly less affected by that trajectory than by the earlier proposal," she said.

"There was an enormous amount of work done on every single option but given we

have to ensure transport into this area we're confident that the proposal is the best available."

Metro 2 is also identified as a catalyst project in the framework, which would see an underground train network run through Sandridge and the Employment Precinct and continue on to Werribee.

With the Government's proposal to expand Webb Dock, the framework also sees the return of the controversial proposal for a freight bridge connecting Fishermans Bend with the Port of Melbourne (story page 1).

Ms Sussex told *Docklands News* that while the Government hadn't committed to the bridge, it needed to reserve the possibility.

"If Webb Dock is to expand significantly as is one of the proposals in the Infrastructure Victoria work then there needs to be an alternative route," she said.

"The existing routes are not going to cope so that's an issue for government in the longer term."

The framework also includes extensive plans for road networks and new cycling infrastructure, including a proposed cycling and footbridge aligning the Bolte Bridge.

The draft framework has been released for public consultation until December 15. To view the framework or for more information on how to participate visit **fishermansbend.vic.gov.au**

DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY FORUM

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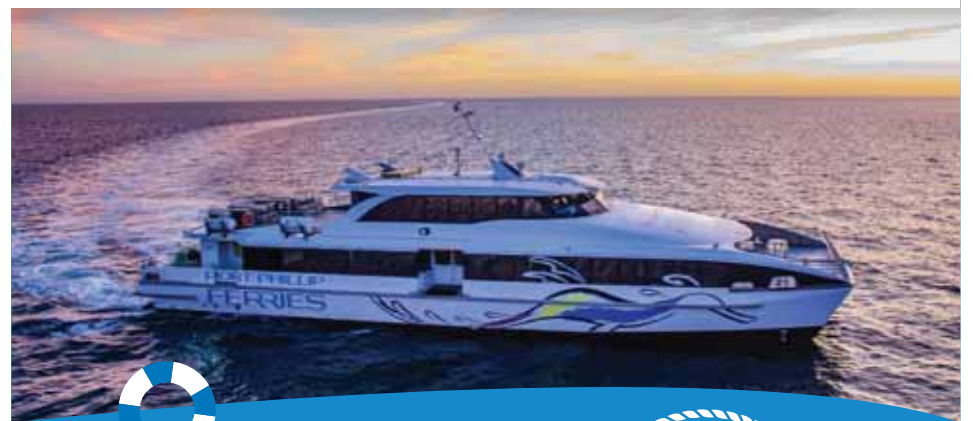
Venue: Library at The Dock, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands

The Docklands Community Forum is a meeting for residents, businesses and workers about local issues and projects. For more information, contact City of Melbourne on 03 9658 8092 or community.engagement@melbourne.vic.gov.au



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Justin Dickenson(centre) receives \$10,000 from Nelson Alexander principal David Anderson.

Big gift to local charity

Docklands real estate agency Nelson Alexander has donated \$10,000 to local charity The Big Umbrella.

Accepting the cheque last month, Big Umbrella founder Justin Dickenson said the money would be used to buy and equip a refrigerated food trailer.

Mr Dickenson said: "It means we can get more food to people in need."

The Big Umbrella feeds homeless people at Flinders Street Station every Wednesday and Thursday night between 7.30pm and 9pm.

Mr Dickenson encouraged Docklanders to pitch in and help with the activity.

"We're eternally grateful to Nelson Alexander for this generous gift," he said.

Nelson Alexander principal David Anderson said he was pleased to be part of a fund raising gift to a local charity.

The money came from "Foundation Day" in May, when 16 Nelson Alexander offices donated their fees from an auction.

Since 2005, the Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation has distributed more than \$2 million to charities.

Lifeline for DCA

By Shane Scanlan

The Docklands Community Association (DCA) was revived at the last moment in October when it was looking like it had taken its last gasp.

As reported in last month's edition, long-term president Roger Gardner failed to attract any participants, other than his son Matthew, to an annual general meeting (AMG) on September 14.

Although considerably short of a quorum and forced to abandon the meeting as well as seeking to retire due to ill health, Mr Gardner subsequently rescheduled the AMG to October 5.

Consumer Affairs Victoria model rules for incorporated associations generously lower the quorum for reconvened AGMs to just a minimum of three people.

The October 5 meeting attracted two extra participants, one of whom, John Kakos, put his hand up for the presidency.

Mr Kakos's intervention is disappointing for some community members who deliberately stayed away from both meetings, hoping to euthanise to organisation and start something anew with a clean slate.

The DCA enjoys official status and, among

other things, has an as-of-right seat on the representative group of the Docklands Community Forum (DCF).

Speaking as the president of the DCA at the forum on October 25, Mr Kakos said he intended to bring Docklands together.

"From my perspective, the DCA will have a new focus and vision with an emphasis on co-operation and collaboration with government and community organisations such as Development Victoria, City of Melbourne and local businesses," Mr Kakos said.

"I hope to bring people together to promote Docklands as the premier destination in Melbourne."

"Docklands is developing at a fast pace, not only as a tourist destination, but also as an environment and a great place in which to live and do business."

"With the new primary school and with District Docklands retail centre, the Hoyts cinemas and many world-class events, these will all help to make Docklands one of the sought-after suburbs of Melbourne."

"The DCA looks forward to being part of this exciting vision for the future," he said.

Mr Kakos said he expected former DCA committee members to re-engage with the organisation.

"It has been explained to me that once Roger leaves, they will come back. That seems to be the common theme," he said.

Festive Season Buffet Lunch

Celebrate the festivities on a Friday from 24th November 2017 with a festive lunch buffet at HQ's on William Restaurant, for \$39 per person. Bring in the whole office and enjoy traditional Christmas fare, featuring HQ's Summer Lunch menu with a selection of Christmas themed specials. We guarantee the holiday cheer!

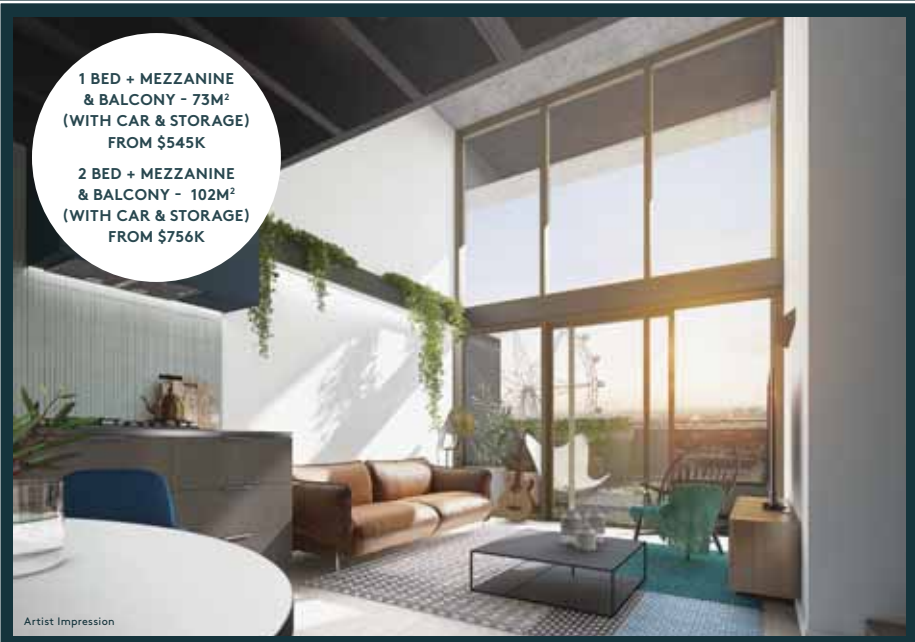
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Walk and discover art

A recently launched Harbourside Docklands Art Trail app encourages art lovers to explore the original public art in Docklands.

The art trail features 26 pieces of urban art and offers a snapshot of Docklands’ public art program and covers a range of themes including land and sea, past and present, humanity and technology and what it means to be Australian.

The walking trail has been divided into three sections: “Real and unreal”, “The dynamic earth” and “You, us and them”. Each section is around 2.5km and takes about one hour to complete.

The walking trail focuses on a key selection of major art works that typify the diversity of artworks in Docklands. The app will be expanded and updated as new artwork is delivered throughout the area.

The majority of the featured artists are Melbourne-based, such as RONE, Callum Morton, Emily Floyd, Alexander Knox and Kate Daw, with international artists Antony Gormley from the UK, Virginia King and Wang Shugang also included.

Several artists have provided commentary on their work.

Rentals rise while prices falter

By James Manton

Despite low attendance rates and an increasing supply, rental prices in Docklands apartments continue to rise while property prices have stagnated.

A **realestate.com.au** analysis of the rental market in the suburb shows that while inspection rates and online property views have dropped recently, the median unit rental cost has still increased.

Over the past 12 months, data from **realestate.com.au** shows that the median rental price is around \$550 per week - \$20 more expensive than last year and just \$10 shy of the highest price of the past decade (\$560 in 2011). The data also suggests that a Docklands unit that is on the market receives on average only 167 visitors, well below the state average of 837.

However, conversely, the cost of buying a unit has stagnated in recent years and actually dropped from its peak in 2010.

On average, a unit will cost around \$568,500, down from the high of \$637,500 in 2010 according to **realestate.com.au**.

However, the Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV) is more optimistic about Docklands



prices, recording a rise in the September quarter from around \$539,000 to \$587,000, while the Melbourne metropolitan average has dropped from \$607,000 to \$587,000

According to Domain, 64 per cent of the properties in Docklands are rented while only 14 per cent are fully owned.

As real estate agents do not have to provide property sale figures to a single authority, statistics between REIV, **realestate.com.au** and Domain can often vary.

Glenn Donnelly from City Residential

Real Estate in Victoria Harbour said that a booming population growth in the area and “vacancy rates practically at zero” were keeping rental prices high, even with “at least another 6000” new apartments to be built in the next few years.

Mr Donnelly also said that, despite low visitor and viewing figures for Docklands apartments, many were being rented to “walk-ins” off the street.

While he was unsure specifically why there was such a dichotomy between rental prices and selling prices, Mr Donnelly said it might be because of the number of single-bedroom units that have been built recently.

However, Dylan Emmett from Lucas Real Estate said the low cost of buying a unit and relatively high rents were proving beneficial for investors.

“Rental prices have been going up, no doubt about it,” Mr Emmett said. “There’s no doubt prices will begin to go up once we have a development slow-down, just like any area. Once the land’s actually taken up then the demand starts to overcome supply and prices go up.”

“From a cash flow perspective, our rental properties generally have a return of 5 to 5.5 per cent ... you go to other areas of Melbourne, you’ll get 2.5 to 3 [per cent].”

Mr Emmett said that the low inspection rates could be attributed to other areas receiving significant numbers of people just having a look as opposed to serious buyers.

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Have your say on the plans for Fishermans Bend

Fishermans Bend is Australia’s largest urban renewal project covering approximately 480 hectares in the heart of Melbourne. Plans for the development of this city shaping precinct to 2050 have been released and you are invited to provide feedback.

The following events and activities are being held as part of consultation. Visit www.fishermansbend.vic.gov.au/events for confirmation of dates, times and locations.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND DROP-IN SESSIONS

Friday 3 November
– 8:00am onwards
South Melbourne market.

Wednesday 8 November
– 10:30am-2:30pm
University of Melbourne Farmers Market.

Sunday 19 November
Drop-in session 11:00am-1:30pm.
Presentation/Q&A 1:30-3:00pm.
Sandridge Room, North Port Oval, 525 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne.

Thursday 23 November
Drop-in session 4:30-6:30pm.
Presentation/Q&A 6:30-8:00pm.
South Melbourne Town Hall Community Hub, 208-220 Bank Street, South Melbourne.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Workshops are being held to enable a facilitated group discussion. Each workshop will end in a submission. **Registration is essential at www.fishermansbend.vic.gov.au**

Wednesday 22 November
Drop-in session 4:00-6:00pm. Workshop 6:00-9:00pm. Sandridge Room, North Port Oval, 525 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne.

Wednesday 29 November
Drop-in session 4:00-6:00pm. Workshop 6:00-9:00pm. Life Saving Victoria State Centre, 200 The Boulevard, Port Melbourne.

Development industry sessions and business briefings:
Development industry sessions and business briefings will be held throughout November. For session dates and times visit www.fishermansbend.vic.gov.au/events

Public briefings with the Panel
An independent Planning Review Panel has been established to receive submissions on the Planning Scheme Amendment. The Taskforce will conduct public briefings with the Panel on the draft Framework, planning controls and background reports on Friday 10 and 24 November. For briefing times visit the website.

Making a submission
If you would like to make a submission, please visit the website. All submissions must be received by **5pm, Friday 15 December 2017**.

There will be an opportunity to present your submission to the Planning Review Panel at public hearings to be held in February 2018. Further details will be provided.

Find out how you can get involved by visiting: www.fishermansbend.vic.gov.au



A sneak peek at our primary school

By Sunny Liu

Five months after the initial community consultation, the masterplan of Docklands' primary school is now available to the public.

Spanning three levels, the vertical school champions sustainability and maximises use of space within an urban environment.

Situated at 259-269 Footscray Rd in NewQuay, the building will feature timber exterior – referencing Docklands' character and paying special tribute to North Wharf-based historic schooner Alma Doepel.

The learning spaces for the 475 students will be interconnected by green landscape and a "town square" on the ground level will be the centrepiece of the common area, including sports hall, library and art room.

Expansive terraces and rooftop gardens will also give students opportunities to be in contact with nature and grow edible plants.

Architect Andy Hayes on October 24 shared his vision for the school with the Docklands Community Forum. He said the main themes in the design included environment, safety and space.

"There are three strong points that had a big



Andy Hayes from Cox Architecture addresses the Docklands Community Forum.

impact on the design. The first was green for sustainability and also the ability for the kids to get in touch with nature. The next recurring theme was safety," he said.

"Lastly, space. We know this is a small site for the school, the challenges being to make sure there's the space for kids to run and interact with the landscape."

"We've wrapped all of the ground floor around what we call a town square, the social heart of the school. That includes all the space that all the students share, such as the library, music and art rooms."

"In the centre, we have the cafeteria as a big

public dining area. The sports hall also has potential for community use," Mr Hayes said.

School facilities such as sports hall, library and art room may also be open to the wider community and further enhance the school's status as the community centre.

"Docklands has really transformed over the last five or so years. The new school is a very important step in the continuing transformation. We see it as really essential in continuing to build a very strong community," Mr Hayes said.

He also said the school design would set it apart from the residential and commercial buildings in Docklands.

"We think it's important that the school building is different from a lot of other buildings in Docklands. This is a city piece and it should feel like a city piece. Like many schools around Melbourne that are over 100 years old and are still thriving, we'd love a sense of permanence in this building. So we are quite deliberately taking some cues off the historic buildings and some of the interior and arability that endures time," he said.

Across three levels, classrooms for prep and grade one students will be on the west of the first floor, facing the quiet St Mangos Lane that will be extended to Little Docklands Drive to allow vehicles to circle the site.

With the entire floor linked through

landscape, the east of the first floor will be taken by grade two and three classrooms.

On the second floor will be grade four, five and six students' learning spaces with panoramic views of the city.

"Our way of approaching high density isn't just to be vertical, but to create a terrain. All of the classrooms are around the perimeter and they are all interconnected by very varied landscape across many levels," Mr Hayes said.

"Each of these landscapes has a very different character. Through this the students will learn about the idea of custodianship, the students learning to care for the landscape throughout that year. There's potential for children to be involved in the planting and the nurturing of these gardens."

The school's education vision will have an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) focus.

"There's potential for the program to include all of the great things that Melbourne has to offer from an educational point of view," Mr Hayes said.

A builder for the school construction will be appointed early next year.

More information about community feedback and a virtual tour of the school masterplan can be found on www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/DocklandsPrimary

Brad Cunningham answers your legal questions

Q What areas of law can Pearce Webster Dugdales assist me with?

A Pearce Webster Dugdales (incorporating Tolhurst Druce & Emmerson) is a law firm located close to the Docklands. We provide legal services for individuals, families and business. This includes advice on all forms of conveyancing and property law, family law, commercial and business law, advice relating to wills, probate, estates and trusts as well as litigation, mediation and alternative dispute resolution.

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9am – 11am

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Free entry to The Brickman Experience*

Free flights on the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel*

11am – 1pm

Free entry to Blender Studios*

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10am

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10am – 4pm

Stencil workshops by Blender Studios in the District Kid's Garden

11am – 3pm

Bob The Builder Immersive Kids Play Zone with meet & greet at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm

Design your own cubby house and be a part of the 2018 Kids Under Cover Cubby House Challenge

Sunday 19 Nov

Trading hours 10am – 6pm

11am – 1pm

Free Seed planting workshops in the District Kid's Garden

10am-5pm

Live street art by Blender Studio artists in the District Kid's Garden

11am – 3pm

Bob The Builder Immersive Kids Play Zone with meet & greet at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm

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* Terms and conditions apply. Visit TheDistrictDocklands.com.au for more information

Dog sign mystery at Point Park

An unauthorised City of Melbourne dog off-leash sign at Point Park in Yarra's Edge has made residents easy prey for council fines for letting their pooches off leash.

A sign erected at the edge of Point Park in 2013 shows a City of Melbourne's official logo and reads "dogs off-leash", but the council said it was unauthorised.

Yarra's Edge residents John and Amanda Thatcher said they bought their retirement property here in 2013 largely because the building and nearby park were dog friendly.

He said when he moved in, dogs were roaming free at Point Park so it was unexpected when he was fined twice for letting his two dogs off-leash.

However, the City of Melbourne says Point Park has never been a dog off-leash area and the council removed the unauthorised sign around June 2013 and put up an educative sign informing park users the park was dog on-leash only.

A permanent sign was installed later "to make it abundantly clear to park users that dogs must be kept on-leash in Point Park", a council spokesperson said.

Mr Thatcher said the council should have conducted more thorough community consultation about the change and should have notified the police upon discovery of a fake sign.

Mr Thatcher has refused to pay the \$135 fine



The mystery sign which no one is claiming as their own.

for each dog let off the lead and has elected to have the matter dealt at court.

"It's been very annoying and very stressful. When we bought the apartment from developer Mirvac, it was advertised as dog



Mr Thatcher with his dogs.

friendly. But now it's dog on-leash, it has become less liveable," Mr Thatcher said.

"There are a lot of dogs living in Yarra's Edge and everyone is upset about the situation."

"We are encouraged not to use cars. But we

are not within walking distance to a dog park," he said.

Mr Thatcher said he had been writing letters to the City of Melbourne and joining petitions to call for the council to "return" the park to dog off-leash.

"All we are asking for is maybe make the park dog off-leash at certain hours of the day and displaying a map showing where the dogs can be off-leash. It should be a park for everyone and it's a great social space for neighbours to meet over their dogs and it shouldn't be taken away," he said.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said: "Point Park is not, and has never been, an off-leash park. The City of Melbourne does not know who erected a dog off-leash sign in Point Park but it certainly wasn't the City of Melbourne."

"Notably, the sign was not even a copy of City of Melbourne signage and the dog that was shown on the sign was actually on-leash."

Yarra's Edge's developer Mirvac told *Docklands News* it did not erect the unauthorised dog off-leash sign.

So the question now is, if not the council or the developer, who put the off-leash sign up?

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Laptops for Nepali schools

Docklander Ryan Saville visited Nepal last year to climb Mt Everest but came back with an idea to bring second-hand laptops to struggling Nepali schools.

Mr Saville said a massive earthquake devastated the Nepali city of Barpak and he wanted to help.

So he contacted Colgate and took thousands of toothbrushes to children in Nepal. But when he visited a school in Barpak, the debris of the school building and broken computer room made him very emotional.

He recently launched the Give A Laptop project and aims to collect 100 used laptops from Docklands and Melbourne businesses by December and donate them to the Barpak school. So far 17 laptops have been donated.

"I think it's most satisfying to see the kids use the laptops to do their homework and practise their English and other subjects," he said.

"The children are learning very advanced maths but they don't have the basic technology to help their learning."

Mr Saville said, once laptops turned four or five years old, they were often thrown away.



Docklander Ryan Saville is looking for old laptops to take to Nepal.

He said refurbishing them and sending them to Nepali schools could give the laptops a second life.

"Australian businesses throw away so many laptops. But it doesn't cost much to repair them and give them to schools in Nepal. Even our most basic laptops are considered modern in Nepal," he said.

"I will start small by sending laptops to that one school to get the system going. Then I will move on to other schools that need laptops too," he said.

Interested Docklands businesses and residents can see more information on givealaptop.org or contact Ryan Saville at Ryan@ryansaville.com.



Ryan with school kids in Nepal

Correction and apology

The October Docklands News published a letter to the editor purportedly from Paul Vella.

The correspondence was, in fact, not from Mr Vella.

Docklands News received the letter and an accompanying photography via our online facility on September 13.

It appears that it was sent to us by an unknown person and was designed to embarrass Mr Vella.

Docklands News apologises to Mr Vella for any embarrassment and hurt that publication of the letter caused.

Lord Mayor is on a mission

The City of Melbourne wants companies, entrepreneurs and business owners to take part in the 2018 Lord Mayor's Business Mission to China and Japan.

Expressions of interest are now open to the biennial Business Mission which showcases the best Melbourne has to offer in the fields of innovation, health and life sciences, urban sustainability and general aviation.

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Car park becoming supermarket

By James Manton

The company that owns and operates Harbour Town has applied to transform part of the eastern car park into a supermarket, food and retail area.

Ashe Morgan made its initial application to the City of Melbourne in December 2015. However the application has been updated twice since, with the most recent being received on September 26 this year.

The cost of the development will be around \$38.5 million.

The initial application proposed that the ground floor of the car park and mezzanine above become a single floor with the supermarket covering about half of the available space.

A sizeable fish market was to have been built into the renovated car park, however this plan has been scrapped and will be replaced with “individual specialty retailers and three food and beverage tenancies”.

A fresh food section will occupy the north-west corner next to the supermarket, and temporary plant nurseries will line both the northern and eastern outside walls.

The supermarket will take up about 4000 sqm, while retail will occupy 2698 sqm and the nursery will take 2825 sqm.

Because the ground floor will be renovated, the car park will be reduced by 131 parking spaces, although the initial 2015 application did state that the car park was “underutilised”.

A loading dock will also be built into the south-east corner of the building on Little Docklands Drive to provide docking for the supermarket and market hall.

Floors two to six of the car park will be extended about 14.9 metres north to provide more parking spaces.



Ted Dansey (right) is congratulated by ANL general manager Tom Hollyman.

Ted wins art prize

Renowned watercolourist Ted Dansey has won this year's ANL Maritime Art Award.

Announced at the Mission to Seafarers in Docklands on October 5, Mr Dansey said he was unprepared, but delighted with the \$15,000 win.

“To anyone who wonders if they are ever going to win anything, I’d say believe in what you are doing and keep at it,” Mr Dansey said.

When presented a cheque by ANL general manager Tom Hollyman, he joked about not telling his wife about his good fortune.

Mr Dansey said his winning painting, *Workhorse on the Orwell* was inspired by a sketch from a 2015 to East Anglia in Britain.

The Mission to Seafarers Victoria ANL Maritime Art Awards and Exhibition is a celebratory initiative, recognising excellence in maritime and seafaring subjects in art.

The exhibition was open daily to the public until October 27 at the mission’s historic building at 717 Flinders St.

The awards showcase artists who have created pieces based on the theme, “the relationship between humanity and the sea”.

Since their inception in 2002, the awards

have grown significantly in size and recognition and this year’s submissions have been received from across Australia.

“The exhibition is a key fundraiser for the Mission to Seafarers,” mission chief manager Sue Dight said.

“The charity relies on the support of the artists, the sponsors and the art community in raising funds for work of the organisation established in 1857.”

“The exhibition promotes all things maritime, not just ships, and helps raise awareness for seafarers’ welfare.”

This year a total prize amalgamation of \$29,000 was awarded to artists across five categories:

- The acquisitive ANL Maritime Art Award valued at \$15,000;
- The non-acquisitive Neville & Co Runners up valued at \$2000 (won by Chris Rowe);
- The acquisitive ASP Best in Traditional Maritime Art Award valued at \$5000 (won by Mary Hyde);
- The acquisitive DP World Emerging Artist Award valued at \$5000 (won by Jamie Preisz); and
- The non-acquisitive VIVA Energy People’s Choice Award valued at \$2000 (to be announced after the exhibition has concluded).

Review of Docklands Community Forum

The City of Melbourne is this month seeking local input into a review of the Docklands Community Forum (DCF).

The forum is five years old and is substantially remained in the same format led by a selected “Docklands Representative Group” (DRG) ever since.

The DRG has been working with council and Development Victoria representatives for most of the year about the best way to renew and revitalise the concept.

Council community engagement officer Melanie Del Monaco told the most recent forum on October 25 that it was now time to involve the wider public.

“How do we make the Docklands Community Forum more engaging and more inclusive of the current Docklands community?” she asked. “And more representative of the community as well.”

“What we realised was that we also needed to talk to the broader community about what they want from the forum.”

“What it should look like? What kind of topics should we have? How it should be run?”

“What we are looking to do from tonight is to run an engagement over the next four weeks to hear from you about what you would like to see from this forum.”

“We really want to revisit the purpose of the forum and understand how to make it really relevant,” Ms Del Monaco said.

The DCF was introduced five years ago to replace the statutory Docklands Co-ordination Committee, which was proving too costly to maintain.

Contributions and ideas can be shared at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/dcf

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Arjun Raina and Lilian Warrum will bring on a magical hour at Library at The Dock.

The Magic Hour

After touring around Australia and most recently South Africa, acclaimed Indian theatre producer and actor Arjun Raina is bringing his popular The Magic Hour performance to Library at The Dock on November 10 and 11.

A flamboyant dance theatre interpretation of Shakespeare's Othello, *The Magic Hour* is adding some bright colours to Docklands' urban environment.

Curator Mr Raina has a diverse portfolio in performing arts and his Indian heritage is uniquely showcased through his work.

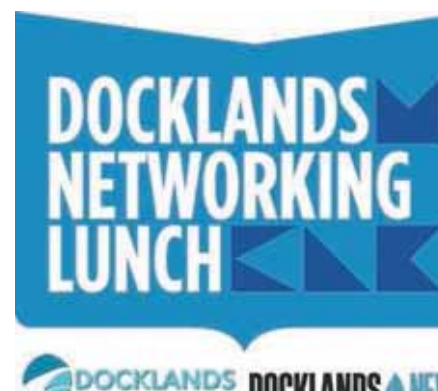
"Indian culture and arts is not just about Bollywood," he said. "*The Magic Hour* features two forms of India's classical dance, one originated from the 15th century and the other is over 2000 years old."

Wearing dramatic Hindu costume and makeup, Mr Raina will sure make the performance a magic hour for those fortunate enough to attend the show.

He said the performance also incorporated some Melbourne themes into the traditional Indian dance and theatre expressions.

Sign up for Docklands Networking Lunch

The last Docklands Networking Lunch for 2017 is at Sassone Cucina Italiana on Friday, November 24.



Anderson, who will update attendees on what's left to do in the Yarra's Edge precinct.

Numbers will be limited so book and pay early via Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/november-docklands-networking-lunch-tickets-39307834792>

After eight years, the price has rise to \$70 and must be paid in advance of the day. Bookings need to be received and paid for by November 16.

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It's a brand new venue, but it's owned and operated by an old-school Italian family who just know how to cook and serve a great lunch.

Frank Sassone is a long-term Yarra's Edge resident with venue and restaurant interests in other parts of Melbourne. When the Loading Dock restaurant space became available, the family snapped it.

Another great reason to book in earlier is because we are to hear from Mirvac Residential general manager Elysa

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Freeride skaters in Docklands before starting off on their Wednesday event.

Skates were made for moving

Dozens of skaters have adopted Docklands as the starting point for a weekly social skate.

Known as the Freeride skate, the event attracts enthusiasts from all over Melbourne and is growing in popularity since being started about two years ago by Cuong Huynh and his partner Jess.

“The idea was to build a casual social group that would connect skaters, build a strong friendly skate community and promote the skating culture in general,” Mr Huynh said.

Mr Huynh hopes the event will grow to rival a Wednesday night social skate that started from the Arts Centre in the 1990s.

“That skate consistently had over a hundred people turn up every week. We wanted to

bring back that fun mid-week activity that has been missing from Melbourne for years,” Mr Huynh said.

“We chose the Docklands due to its picturesque scenery and smooth terrain. Jess and I spent quite a bit of time mapping out the route which involved skating it over and over again whilst timing ourselves. Over the years the route has changed to make it as fun and easy as possible.”

“The group has been steadily growing over the years with skaters from all skill levels and backgrounds welcome. Numbers each week range from about an average of 30 to 40 skaters in winter to over 100 in summer.”

“The atmosphere is always super friendly and relaxed, perfect to enjoy our shared passion of skating,” Mr Huynh said.

The Wednesday night skate is a permanent event that departs from the *Cow up a Tree* on Harbour Esplanade at 8pm.

The skate is for both quads and inline skaters. It’s a friendly group recreational cruise around the Docklands area that runs for approximate 1.5 – 2 hours.

“Skating is an amazing feeling of freedom and self-expression. Either solo or with friends, it’s a great feeling to being able to roll wherever you like,” Mr Huynh said.

Get social this month

This month’s Docklands Social Club event is at the Woolshed from 7pm on Tuesday, November 14.

All Docklanders are welcome to join the monthly drinks and a meal at a different local venue.

The organisers said: “Come along and join us for food, wine and good company.”

“Isn’t springtime in Melbourne wonderful, sunshine one day, grey clouds the next but there’s always a good time to be had at our monthly gatherings.”

Last month’s event was held at Medici in NewQuay (pictured below).



IOU moves to Victoria Harbour

One of Docklands’ most notable artworks – the IOU sculpture – will this month have a new home at Water Plaza on Victoria Harbour Promenade.

The stainless steel and toughened glass IOU sculpture was created by artist Mikala Dwyer and has been a popular piece of public art in Docklands for more than 10 years.

The sculpture was previously located at the community open space on the corner of Harbour Esplanade and Collins St since 2005. However, due to the upgrade of the park, Development Victoria sought a new home for the public art.

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Bringing back memories through poetry

Yarra's Edge resident Lori Fellows has recently published a poetry collection, *The Wide Green Valley*, taking inspirations from her childhood in the regional Victorian town Orbost.

Ms Fellows said she was initially not confident about her writing and only shared her first 14-verse poem with her Docklands' writers' group.

She said when she read the poem to the group, she noticed nudges and whispers among the members and received very positive feedback.

Many members said they could relate to what she wrote about her childhood and encouraged her to write more.

Ms Fellows then posted her poems on the Orbost historical Facebook group anonymously and was met with applause.

That led Ms Fellows to create a collection of 24 poems, touching on her childhood memories, people from the past and things



Lori Fellows at home in Docklands.

she has seen and heard.

She produced these poems in less than 12 months and decided to self-publish and use a local Orbost printer to create the booklets.

She was invited to launch the book at the Orbost Club on October 20, when she also reconnected with old high school classmates

and childhood friends.

Ms Fellows described her childhood as "lonely", having grown up on a big farm.

"Many people of my age would resonate with my poems. It seems like we all had the same childhood, but in different areas of Australia," Ms Fellows said.

"It's bringing back memories that they possibly have forgotten about."

Ms Fellows moved to Melbourne in 1994 and to Docklands in 2015, when she and husband Kerry decided to downsize and get a place in the city.

"I was sick of the big house and sick of the big garden. We spent a lot of time sitting on the Monash Freeway getting nowhere," she said. "It was a big move, but we are both very happy."

It was while living in Docklands that Ms Fellows started looking back at her childhood and writing down memories.

"When I'm writing, it all comes back. I can see it. It's like I'm there again," she said.

Ms Fellows said she might be inspired to write about her retirement life in Docklands.

"I think it will come. It's funny how it can come to me all of a sudden."

NewQuay Promenade works update

The City of Melbourne expects to complete the conversion of the NewQuay timber boardwalk to bluestone this month.

The first section of the conversion was started in May and was expected to take just six weeks.

But a City of Melbourne spokesperson said the works were delayed to "avoid impacting a number of scheduled events".

"Traders and event organisers have been kept informed of the project's progress verbally by Citywide which is carrying out the works," the spokesperson said.

"Stage two construction works began in the new financial year with a revised timeline for the project to minimise the impact on events and weekend markets in Docklands."

"The replacement of timber with bluestone will create a deck that is more durable and structurally sound."

"As a result, the promenade will be able to be fully utilised for future events and by the public and emergency vehicles."

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Communication is Key



by Gregor Evans
Director, The Knight

Effective communication is the cornerstone of good management, without it you are doomed to fail.

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The Knight has a track record of providing an Owners Corporation Management service built on strong communication and transparency which is evident in its continued effective management of The Domain located at 1 Albert Road, Melbourne for over 20 years.

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evant and transparent advice to its new clients in Docklands: Flinders Wharf and Tower 1 at Yarra's Edge.

The Knight recently held a successful Information Evening at the Woolshed in Docklands to inform and educate attendees on the hot topics of Short Stay Accommodation and Building Defects. This forms part of The Knight's overall strategy to better educate and communicate with Lot Owners and to contribute to the growth of the Owners Corporation Management industry as a whole.

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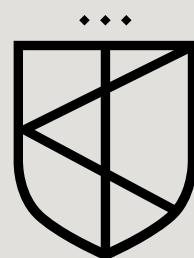
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Melbourne for Brazilians

When former Brazilian doctor Filipe Paiva came to Docklands 10 months ago, he soon noticed the disengagement between Brazilians and the local community.

“Many of us came here by ourselves and it’s very hard for us to connect with strangers, especially when you don’t dominate the language,” he said.

Mr Paiva said language barriers made it challenging for Brazilian immigrants, workers and students to feel included in Australia.

“To live here in a better way, we need to work and we need to have emotional support. And those things I believe we can get when we are contact with other.”

In 2016, Mr Paiva was encouraged by his Brazilian friends to create a short guide for Brazilians to learn more about Melbourne.

From a compact paragraph about Melbourne came a comprehensive information pack for new-coming Brazilians, introducing to them this amazing Australian city.

Mr Paiva partnered with his friend Victório Borges, who designed the graphics of the digital guide, and together they launched a website and social media group called



Victório and Filipe – authors of a guide to Melbourne for Brazilians.

“Melbourne for Brazilians”, or “Melbourne para Brasileiros” in Portuguese.

“Last September we launched the guide and we already have hundreds of followers on our social media,” Mr Paiva said.

The “Melbourne for Brazilians” guide details

how to rent accommodation, where to seek medical help, working rights, where to learn English and many other aspects of life in Melbourne. Mr Paiva said the guide had now become a “survival pack” for Brazilians not yet familiar with the city.

“The chapters talk about almost every issue.

It also includes a chapter for LGBT people,” he said

“Our aim now is to help the Brazilian community in Melbourne to get along with other nationalities, because most of us who come here don’t speak very good English and it’s hard for us to engage with Australians.”

There is an ever-growing Brazilian community in Melbourne. Mr Paiva said Docklands, with its modern facilities and convenient city lifestyle, attracted many Brazilians to live here.

“I lived at 888 Collins St and in that building alone there were more than 100 Brazilians. I think Brazilians really like all the amenities and being close to the water,” he said.

He has also created a WhatsApp messaging group for the hundreds of Brazilians who live in Victoria Harbour and also shares *Docklands News* among them!

Mr Paiva said their next step was to expand their information guide and create workshops and community group sessions to improve Brazilians’ English skills and help them develop cultural awareness to be integrated into the local community.

“Melbourne for Brazilians” can be viewed and downloaded from www.melbourneparabrasileiros.com and people can join in conversations about engaging with the Brazilian community on Facebook at fb.com/melbourneparabrasileiros.



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Artists market to re-launch

By James Manton

The famous Blender Studios, which moved from the CBD to Docklands in February, will hold its fifth Blender Artist Markets in The District (formerly Harbour Town) this month.

The markets will take over an entire wing of the newly-named The District on November 17 and offer a wide variety of stalls, galleries, projects and studios for the public to come view and enjoy.

Blender Studios director Adrian Doyle (he prefers just “Doyle”) says the artists at Blender Studios are excited to be a part of the reinvigoration of Docklands as a suburb and hub of Melbourne.

“We’re really glad to be in Docklands because it’s like an unwritten book,” he said. “We’re part of it from a really new, early beginning.”

Blender Studios was formerly located off Franklin St in the eponymously-named Blender Ln, but after losing its lease in February, moved to its new, large workspace in The District.

Doyle said Blender was “really lucky” to not only find such a large space within its price range, but also a shopping centre that “had the vision” for what the artists want to do.

“Originally [the plan] was to make Docklands a destination resort and it’s working. You can feel it,” he said.



Doyle at home in the new Blender Studios.

“It’s really interesting to see the collaboration between the corporates and the artists with what they’re trying to do here.”

“And when the market comes, that’s when we’ll see it in full flight.”

The Blender Artists Markets only offers local and handmade goods for the public to view and buy, including artisanal crafts, food, or fashion available to all, with live music and performers also keeping the crowds entertained.

As part of the markets, the entire Blender Studios workspace will be opened to the general public to come and see work from over 30 artists spread throughout the labyrinth-like floor.

“Part of the deal (of moving to The District) was that we opened our studios to the public. It’s the only time people can just walk around Blender,” Doyle said.

“We’re becoming so intertwined with this area that we’re not going anywhere any time soon. I think it will really help this area.”

However, Doyle didn’t quite get everything he wanted for the markets.

“I wanted to have a crying clown,” he said. “I’ve always wanted a crying clown, there’s nothing more freaky.”

The Blender Artist Markets will run every Friday night throughout summer from 5pm-9pm in the new Arts Precinct at The District starting November 17.

Come and meet a Docklander

After a successful trial in May, the City of Melbourne is proceeding with Docklands’ first Sunday Streets event on November 26.

Merchant St will be closed between Bourke St and Victoria Harbour Promenade for the event, which runs between 1pm and 4pm.

Announcing the initiative at the Docklands Community Forum on October 25, community engagement officer Melanie Del Monaco said it was designed to bring people together.

She said the trial event on Harbour Esplanade in May attracted more than 170 people.

She said only 10 per cent of people surveyed at the event said they felt connected to their community.

“But 60 per cent of people said they wanted to feel connected,” Ms Del Monaco said.

“Events like Sunday Streets are about bringing people together to help make those connections.”

She said, among other activities, a “Meet another Docklander” speed-dating-type activity would be conducted.

“It’s a new event that’s kind of based on speed dating, but without the romantic activity!” she said.

Sunday Streets will be concluded with a community parade.

Council supports final MQ tower

The third and final Melbourne Quarter tower received unanimous support from City of Melbourne councillors and has been referred to the Planning Minister for approval.

Councillors gave their nod to the 25-level Collins St commercial tower at the October 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

Council planning portfolio chair Nicholas Reece called Melbourne Quarter a “historic” project.

“It’s 130,000sqm of new space in Melbourne. It’s going to involve 12,000 workers when it’s complete,” he said.

“When they write the history books of Melbourne about the economic and business epicentre of the city moving towards the water, Melbourne Quarter will be seen as a significant step in that move,” Cr Reece said.

Cr Reece said the public realm and building sizes at Melbourne Quarter all met the approved development plan and he was pleased developer Lendlease had referenced

Docklands’ heritage in activating Aurora Place.

Melbourne Quarter’s project director Brian Herlihy said: “We’re grateful for council’s endorsement of Two Melbourne Quarter at last month’s Future Melbourne Committee, and look forward to the proposal being considered by the Minister for Planning in due course, as momentum continues to build across the Melbourne Quarter project.”

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All about sustainability in Vic Harbour

Victoria Harbour’s residents, workers and visitors were recently treated to a public lecture at The Exchange at Knowledge Market.

Addressing this idea was Tim Campbell, Victoria Harbour’s project director, who said the key to delivering sustainable cities was ensuring developers truly believed in their vision.

“Connecting people to the place they live and work in has been one of the guiding principles underpinning Lendlease’s commitment to sustainability in Victoria Harbour. This has seen us deliver many innovative sustainability initiatives across the precinct,” he said.

“Spanning 30 hectares in Docklands, this waterfront neighbourhood has the largest concentration of green star rated buildings in

Australia and includes more than 30 per cent of open space.”

“Victoria Harbour as a community can claim many firsts in sustainability. At the time of construction, the Forte building on Buckley Walk was the world’s tallest cross-laminated timber residential building, and the popular Library at The Dock is Australia’s first Six Star Green Star public building. Victoria Harbour has also been awarded a Six Star Green Star Communities rating, representing world leadership in master-planning,” Mr Campbell said.

Further to the above accolades, Mr Campbell said the community had embraced a range

of sustainability initiatives.

“Existing cycling infrastructure, including bike share stations and end of trip facilities are provided throughout the precinct. We reused existing wharf materials for construction of Library at The Dock and Buluk Park, and a community group has been formed to manage the community gardens at Victoria Green,” he said.

Jack Noonan, manager of climate change projects at Sustainability Victoria, also presented, addressing what Victorians think about climate change, sustainability and renewable energy.



Victoria Harbour project director Tim Campbell addresses a Knowledge Market forum on October 10.

Stadium fixing planning issue

By James Manton

Etihad Stadium management is in the process of rectifying planning issues Melbourne City Council had with its use of the concourse.

As reported in August by *Docklands News*, Etihad Stadium has sought retrospective planning and building permission for a number of huts and sheds which had been illegally constructed along the eastern concourse.

However, a City of Melbourne spokesperson says a planning permit was recently granted for the huts and sheds, while an application for an outdoor bar had been withdrawn earlier in the year.

The spokesperson said Etihad Stadium had applied to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation to modify its alcohol serving areas.

The spokesperson also said the council was working with Etihad Stadium to bring outdoor advertising “into compliance” with the council’s regulations.



Ride to make smoothies

Hundreds of Melbournians who rode their bikes to work celebrated with an early morning power smoothie on Harbour Esplanade for Ride2Work Day on October 18.

The Ride2Work Day is Australia’s largest celebration of commuter riding. Held annually in October, the day celebrates the benefits of riding to work and brings together the communities that support it.

The breakfast is a chance to give regular bike commuters a pat on the back, and an opportunity to encourage others who might like to give riding to work a go.

Docklands workers stopped by tents set up on Harbour Esplanade to provide some pedal power required to make the fresh and fruity breakfast smoothies on the Active Melbourne City Sports smoothie bike.

Local workers have the chance to join in lunchtime sports at the Docklands Sports courts for the 2018 season. More info at amcs.melbourne.vic.gov.au

AMP signed for One Melbourne Quarter

Lendlease’s Melbourne Quarter project has secured finance giant AMP as one of its anchor tenants at One Melbourne Quarter.

AMP will relocate its Victorian office from 750 Collins St to Melbourne Quarter’s first commercial tower, joining Lendlease’s headquarters and engineering firm Arup at the 13-level building at 699 Collins St.

The financial services company will occupy 9720sqm of office space once the building is completed by September 2018.

“Signing a blue-chip tenant like AMP to join us in the heart of the Southern Cross precinct demonstrates how this project promises to revitalise Melbourne’s corporate identity,” Lendlease’s managing director for urban regeneration and infrastructure development, Mark Menhinnitt, said.

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The recording studio at Library at the Dock.

Recording studio open

Library at the Docks has recently upgraded its recording studio and is now running induction sessions for the general public.

From 2pm to 4pm on alternating Mondays and Wednesdays, locals can book themselves into an induction session and learn how to operate and take care of the professional-level equipment.

Once the induction has been completed, participants will be able to book the studio by contacting the library.

The new studio contains both a control room and a recording/live room.

Lacrosse cladding dispute drags on

By Sunny Liu

The decision on who should pay for the removal of combustible cladding on the Lacrosse building has been further delayed until late 2018.

No meaningful discussion or resolution was reached at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) directions hearing on October 25, when the Lacrosse owners' corporation and builder LU Simon's representatives agreed to have a 30-day hearing starting on September 1, 2018.

The hearing will decide who is responsible for replacing the combustible building cladding that fuelled a fast-spreading fire three years ago.

In October 2015, the City of Melbourne ordered the 400 Lacrosse apartment owners to replace the external cladding but the owners' corporation is demanding that LU Simon pay for the replacement, the cost of which could reach \$5 million.

VCAT deputy president Catherine Aird

told the owners' corporation and builder at the October hearing she was concerned nothing might be done until 2019.

"September is already towards the end of the next year... and it would be a disaster if this is not finished by next Christmas, because this will go onto the following year," she said.

Apart from disciplinary actions by the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) against the building surveyor and LU Simon in 2016 and a failed VCAT action for the builder to install balcony sprinklers instead of removing the cladding, no action has so far been taken to address the issue of non-compliant cladding.

It is likely that four years after the fire at Lacrosse that caught the nation's attention, the residents would still live in a building covered in combustible cladding.

LU Simon is fighting a separate case in the Supreme Court, where it is seeking to prohibit the VBA from giving it a "direction to fix" the cladding on six other buildings.

In the Lacrosse case, the tower will be subject to a building order issued by the City of Melbourne.

A further six buildings, including the Mariner building in NewQuay, have been recently revealed to have non-compliant cladding.



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DOCKLANDS FASHION



Fashion on the streets of Docklands

Dita Elmazi, 39, Yarra's Edge

LOCATION: Yarra's Edge

DESCRIBE WHAT ARE YOU WEARING: I'm just wearing some comfortable jeans with a simple white t-shirt and a denim jacket.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING: A good pair of comfortable pants.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS: Living here and working here.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE: Something that fits you and suits you. Something that's also comfortable and something that suits you.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT: Trying to match everything so it looks good in one piece, and something that also suits your body.

Sarah Clare, 33, Sydney

LOCATION: Harbour Esplanade

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE WEARING: I'm a real Vinnies girl so I'm wearing vintage clothes today. I put together the outfit from op shopping. It's nice to dress up.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING: I love this dress. It's can be worn in summer and in winter if I put stockings on. It's also mono-chrome so it always goes well with red lips.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS: I'm here for work.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE: Vintage. I'm obsessed with late 50s, early 60s French styles. I also have a two-year-old son so my clothes needs to allow me to bend down or run if need to!

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT: Clothing is a way to express yourself without words. Wear what gives you confidence and you have to own your fashion choice. There's no point in wearing something over the top that you are not comfortable with.

Sarah Sneed, 32, St Kilda West

LOCATION: Victoria Harbour

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE WEARING: It's spring themed, or at least it's supposed to be - it's so cold today! I'm wearing an H&M coat, some colourful pants and a pink jumper with ribbons.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING: I love my pants. They are so bright and so comfortable. They are great for work.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS: I work here.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE: I generally wear more vintage clothes, although not so much today. Today I'm going for more corporate casual, the "in-between" feel.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT: I think it's important to wear what makes you feel good in, be it colours or patterns. That's what I do. I don't worry about what other people think of my style, as long as I'm happy with it.

Docklands secret



Politician disrespects us

Docklanders interested to learn what our Federal Member of Parliament thinks of us can gain insight from the winter edition of Flemington-Kensington News.

Adam Bandt writes for the community paper and clearly has a poor impression of Docklands.

In a story about a Victorian Government plan for a public housing estate, Mr Bandt describes the plan as "Docklands-style development".

But he apparently is not being complimentary with this description.

"The eastern end of the Flemington/Kensington boundary already suffers from traffic congestion and a lack of planning," the Melbourne MHR writes.

"If we turn it into another Docklands, it will affect everyone."

Ouch! Not exactly the attitude locals would expect from their elected representative.

When is the next federal election?

New open space

A temporary new open space lined with trees and benches is now open to the public.

The previous storage space for construction materials between 883 and 889 Collins St in Victoria Harbour has been transformed into a public leisure space connecting Collins St to the waterfront.

The space features greenery and is permanently open for nearby residents and workers to enjoy the water view.



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What I love about Docklands

There's no place like home

I have been away from my apartment in Docklands for three and a half weeks and have necessarily thought a great deal about what makes a place home.

Being a migrant for me, and I think for many, means we don't feel we totally "belong" anywhere. We are floating between two cultures and two lands.

Yet, as I have been travelling, I have seen that most cities are very much the same in terms of the people who inhabit them.

In every city there are ear-budded teenagers glued to their devices, harried mothers dealing with tantrum throwing children, spellbound lovers arm in arm, bearded baristas steaming our morning lattes, early-risers walking their dogs which often seem to be smaller versions of themselves, street vendors with something vital for sale, pigeons on the lookout for some tasty scraps, panting joggers with pained expressions on their ruddy faces, too-loud talking businessmen sealing a deal by phone, exhausted commuters jostling for seats during the after-five rush hour and, sadly, many sleeping rough under bridges.



Regent Canal

All of these people can be spotted whether you are in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Rotterdam or Docklands and in all the smaller towns and villages that make up a city, a country, a place on this earth we share.

It's perhaps then not the people that change a place, for we will find friendly people and grumpier types anywhere we go. Wherever you find yourself there is always someone willing to show you the way when you are lost or recommend the best place for a special meal or the tucked away cafe that does the "best coffee".

What maybe sets each place apart are the structures for which they have become renowned. Big Ben, Tower Bridge, St Pauls,

the red buses and oh so many more are quintessentially London.

The majestic Edinburgh Castle is instantly recognisable on the hill in Scotland's beautiful capital. The Erasmus Bridge and inviting Markethal are but two of Rotterdam's treasured landmarks.

I have explored these and so many more on my travels but the most treasured memories I have of my trip are associated with the water, which always calls me home.

The crashing waves on the secluded beach I enjoyed during my Poldark-sites trek to Charlestown on the Cornish Coast; the sleepy little village called Frinton-on-Sea; where there are no pubs, no concreted car-parks, no rush hour but there is a sandy beach and stunning sunrises to rival any in



Cornwall

other more famous resorts; the busy port at Rotterdam with its magnificent bridges, often architectural masterpieces; the Water of Leith that divides the city of Edinburgh; the green-algaed water that eases the boats slowly through Regent's Canal in East London and London's own Docklands on the famous Thames.

In each of these places and many more, water provides the setting for relaxation and inspiration – wherever one might travel.

And as I took in the sites and breathed in the aromas of each of these places I was reminded of how much I enjoy my home on the water at Docklands.

My trip was stimulating, exciting and at times exhausting and I know I will want to travel again very soon. But for now, all the stimulation, excitement, joy and water views I need are here, at home, my home in Docklands.



Stella Barber

This column is open to everyone who loves Docklands. Send your contribution to: news@docklandsnews.com.au

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The very social Axl

Axl the Spoodle (cocker spaniel and poodle) has quickly established his social network in the past few months of living in Docklands.

Axl's owner Carlos Matte said he was impressed by young Axl's social skills, which might have also been reinforced by Axl's puppy eyes.

Axl runs up to greet everyone he sees and is pleased to always get some hugs and kisses in return for his enthusiasm.

Carlos said their daily walks often had to be extended because Axl was so busy meeting everyone and would not leave until

he was absolutely exhausted.

"Sometimes I would let Axl run up and down the stairs with me just to wear him out so he can have a good sleep at home," he said.

However, it seems Axl's outstanding social skills only apply to humans, as he is often very timid around other dogs.

"He's actually scared of other dogs, but he loves people," Carlos said.

Apart from always wanting to make new friends, Axl is also very smart for his young age.

"He has learned how to sit and he also sits before we cross the road. He learned that trick very quickly," Carlos said.

But when Carlos instructed Axl to perform the trick during the interview, he was busy meeting other people.

Melbourne’s history through costumes

By David Amaya

Helen Ebsworthy has dedicated seven years of voluntary work into her passion for costume design.

“I was sailing in the schooner Enterprize and someone asked me: ‘could you make some clothes for us?’ Then, everything started,” she said.

Actually, her community contribution extends beyond the Enterprize. Helen has designed more than 700 hundred costumes for major Melbourne events and, regardless of the hours she spends, she just charges a few cups of coffee.

Her studio is located on North Wharf Rd, in the same building where Customs once operated an office.

The structure was built about 30 or 40 years ago but, through Helen’s work, it contains more than a century of Melbourne’s history.

She designs all of the costumes for Melbourne Day which celebrates the foundation of the city; the dresses for the Melbourne Colonial Dancers who represent 19th century dancing; and the dresses for Marching Australia, a traditional event that has come to life after a number of decades.



Helen Ebsworthy at work in Docklands.

“The Melbourne foundation celebration is my favourite because this is one of the few cities in the world that can say the day and the time it was found – 30th of August of 1835,” Helen said.

Helen is the kind of person who was born to serve the community. She is also a nurse and every May 12 she goes to work playing the role of Florence Nightingale, the woman who established modern nursing for women.

“I make Florence’s costumes for me and for my colleagues to celebrate the birth of the woman who revolutionised nursing in the 19th century,” she said.

She also serves as a guide for costume design students at one of the city’s universities. The students go to Helen’s studio to experience real work in the industry.

“They learn every phase of costuming and also how to use industrial machines, work safety and how to work as a team,” Helen said.

In her studio there is always a new project. At the moment, she is working on the costumes for an artistic group called Spontaneous Shakespeare, for which she has to replicate traditional dresses from the 16th century.

“I feel good working in this project because there are many professional actresses and high level of performance,” she said. Helen is designing 26 costumes for men and women.

She said she was very selective with her projects and everything had to be community focused. Despite every costume potentially costing hundreds of dollars, Helen’s motivation doesn’t come from money.

She will continue designing for those who come to her studio with an artistic project. The only requirements she will ask for are creativity and a few cups of coffee.

Street Art

Fresh paint drips in Docklands

If you have been hangin’ out in Waterfront City lately you may have noticed the gigantic new street art precinct unfolding.

We at the Blender call it *The WestBank* as large sections of the newly-named District Dockland’s infrastructure has been taken over by urban art – and this is just the beginning!

This month the world-renowned AWOL crew and Lucy Lucy will create a gigantic artwork on the wall of the Eastern Car Park on Waterfront Way.

This will be one of the largest murals ever done in Melbourne and will showcase the beautiful and unique works of these acclaimed artists.

Towards the end of the year another street art superstar, Adnate, will be creating his own mural on the external walls of the Blender Studios.

In addition to these two huge commissions, Blender Studios is also working on one of the largest collaborative street art walls in Australia on Waterfront Way. The wall already features over 20 artists from Melbourne as well as a number of international guest artists.

Blender aims to completely cover this monolithic wall by the end of the year from a series of paint jams that will be happening over the coming weeks.

The final outcome will be the most star-studded collaborative artwork Melbourne



has ever seen. It will become a who’s who of the street art scene and will become a destination in itself for art lovers across the city.

If you’re in the area, pop down and check it out. Chances are you’ll get to see some of the street artists in action, high up on the boom lifts filling in every blank space on this

huge canvas.

The wall has been carefully curated to ensure the final composition is world-class but, at the same time, the artists have been given full creative and conceptual freedom to express themselves, ensuring the collaboration is a true and eclectic representation of Melbourne’s burgeoning and diverse street art scene.

There is no doubt these public art offerings will change the atmosphere of the entire area, injecting a permanent wave of colour, chaos and culture into the ever-unfolding story of Docklands.

It has been a wonderful journey with the ongoing support of The District, who believed in our crazy ideas and have provided the funding to make this dream a reality. We (Blender Studios) are so excited to be a part of the story of Docklands.

Till next time, cheers punkz.



Adrian Doyle
Blender Studios founder and director

We Live Here

Short-stays behind property price pain

The Victorian Government must address the state's unregulated commercial short-stay industry, if it's serious about fixing Melbourne's housing affordability crisis.

New statistics show the city's average unit price is now \$564,540 – up 2.1 per cent in the last quarter. The median house price rose to \$818,000.

Melbourne is now at risk of experiencing the same housing affordability issues hurting families and crippling the Sydney market.

The situation was already at a crisis point back in July – when housing affordability in Melbourne was at its lowest level since surveys began in 2000.

According to the ABS, Victoria has the highest population growth rate in the country – rising by 2.4 per cent from March 2016 to March 2017.

The figures show the problem is only getting worse as more and more properties are taken off the rental market and listed on to commercial short-stay platforms like Airbnb.

A study from the University of Sydney clearly showed the link between the city's housing affordability crisis and commercial short-stay platforms.

It revealed an estimated 6000 homes had been removed from the rental market and placed on commercial providers.

It showed there were 1268 properties listed on Airbnb – equivalent to 144 per cent of vacant rentals in the entire city!

But despite all of this, what is the Victorian Government doing to fix the crisis?

Last year the Government proposed legislation which heavily favoured Airbnb, making supply problems even worse.

This month, at the launch of the Northcote by-election it targeted rental-bidding apps as a means to fix rental affordability and totally ignored the problems caused by short-term letting.

Rental reforms target the wrong apps

The Victorian Government's rental app reform is targeting the wrong problem and the wrong apps, and will do nothing to place downward pressure on skyrocketing property prices.

It's not the introduction of bidding apps that got us to where we are today.

It is predominantly supply issues, and it is the multi-billion dollar, unregulated platform Airbnb that is driving down the supply of units that would otherwise be on the rental market.

Furthermore, the effectiveness of a ban on bidding apps is lost if someone in your building can put five apartments on Airbnb and no one has the power to do anything about it.

If it wants to make renting fairer and more affordable then the Government must take action now to place downward pressure on prices, and the first place to start is the unregulated short-stay industry.

Unlike bidding apps, the Airbnb app is not some emerging issue – it is real, present and is driving up prices right now.

At the very least, strata members should be given the right to decide if Airbnb and other commercial short-stay operators are allowed to operate within their buildings.

We Live Here is a growing movement providing a voice for residents living in apartment blocks and now represents more than 200 buildings across Melbourne.

In addition to important concerns about affordability, residents have also experienced significant problems with Airbnb in relation to safety and security, wear and tear and

amenity.

The government is considering a range of recommendations after a parliamentary committee found its proposed reforms to the short-stay industry were inadequate and unfair to residents.

Clearly, giving owners' corporations the right of self-determination when it comes to Airbnb and commercial short-term letting is an important measure that levels the playing field for residents, who've had no say for too long.

These are the significant reforms our state needs to fix the affordability and supply problems that are making it so difficult for locals in Northcote and across the greater Melbourne area.

No comfort on tram bridge

Contrary to the report of comments made by residents in 2013 and cited in *Docklands News* last month, the Yarra's Edge community today is not happy with the bridge concept.

Led by Phil Spender they have been long-term, vocal opponents of the scheme and welcomed the announcement in 2015 by the new Minister for Planning Richard Wynne that the tram bridge had been "ruled out".

Apart from loss of amenity, other issues concerning We Live Here members in the area in relation to the tram bridge include:

- The effect on two parks on either side of the Yarra. Docklands has been poorly treated with public open spaces, in the overdevelopment of the area. Compare the lavish parklands on the north, east and south of the CBD.

- Congestion in Collins St, west of Harbour Esplanade: Four Lend Lease towers at 883 – 889 Collins (1200 apartments) have been completed, with at least four more planned or under construction towards the Bolte Bridge. ANZ II is also under construction. Where was the transport analysis? A tram bridge will make things worse as the trams cross and stop the single lane of traffic.

We Live Here calls on Richard Wynne to honour his promise, to listen to community concerns and not bow to the pressures of big business in Fisherman's Bend. There must be an alternative solution.

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to make a donation please visit our website at **welivehere.net**.

We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests.

You can reach us at **campaign@welivehere.net.au**. We Live Here members can make a presentation to your owners' corporation committee upon request.

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



www.welivehere.net
emails to **campaign@welivehere.net**

Owners' Corporation Law

Not all liability policies are created equal

Do you sit on the committee of your owners' corporation (OC)?

If you do, are you sure that you and your personal assets are adequately protected if the committee and the owners' corporation have legal proceedings filed against them?

The good news is that adequate and reasonably affordable insurance coverage is readily available. The bad news is that most OCs do not have adequate coverage.

The problem very often occurs because the directors and officers (D&O) liability coverage is not the focus of OC insurance packages.

The reason it is often not the focus, is that most brokers are not intimately familiar with the coverage and, to be honest, this is not a big-ticket item for most brokers.

Although it is not the main generator of premium, it is a coverage that requires careful thought. In fact, the OC manager,

who is usually delegated the responsibility to renew or obtain the insurance, should demand that the best available coverage be presented.

The second problem is due to the fact that, most often, the main OC insurers are the direct insurers like the big, nationally-known insurance carriers. (This is not to say that some of these carriers may not have a more comprehensive product available.)

These carriers may provide a great product from a property and general liability standpoint, however, they generally do not provide a comprehensive directors and officers liability product.

Everyone assumes that they have full coverage. The reality is that "full coverage" and "appropriate coverage" are not the same thing.

There is no question that you get what you pay for with insurance.

In summary, if you cannot answer yes to virtually all of the following questions, your D&O coverage is probably not adequate:

- Does the definition of insured extend beyond the actual committee members and office bearers?
- Does the definition of insured protect past, present, and future members?
- Does the definition of insured include employees (such as caretakers or building managers and cleaners if employed by the OC)?
- Does the policy provide a defence to claims and proceedings (as opposed to just reimbursing for such costs)?
- Does the policy cover defamation?
- Does the policy defend claims seeking non-monetary loss?
- Does the policy cover wrongful termination or other employer liability claims?
- Does the policy cover discrimination?
- Does the policy defend you where there is

a claim or lawsuit for failure to maintain or obtain adequate insurance?

The potential claims against OCs and committees are only limited by the creativity of plaintiffs and their lawyers.

In these times when people have no qualms or concerns about suing their neighbours, let alone their own committee or building, the proper protection is worth its weight in gold.

My advice is that each committee should review its policy and ask its broker and OC manager to obtain the maximum possible coverage, relative to the size of the building and the complexity of its issues (and occupants for that matter). It is better to be safe than to be sorry.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

What Women Want

Full of the joy of life

I am full of the joy of life. Literally, full and overflowing with joy. The sun is shining in magnificent glory on my little world around me.

The sky is just a little bit bluer, the trees are just a little bit greener ... I just feel that there is so much to be grateful for.

The reason for my joy is simple. We are alive, we are loved and we are surrounded by possibility. We have options, we have choices and I love waking up every single morning and making them.

Sure, I don't always make the best choices (like the bottle of wine last night was probably not the best choice for a cracking Monday morning!) but they are my choices to make, my life to live.

My priorities are simple: raising my son is number one and the rest focus around our time together. And what a privilege that journey is, to watch him grow and make his

own choices, to see him explore his options, to see him dedicate himself to pursuing his priorities in life.

Time with family and friends is the greatest gift we receive – an opportunity to love and be loved, to share our journey so that no matter the ups and downs the path will always take, we have each other to support, celebrate, nurture and hold.

I know, I'm sounding just too damn full of the joy of life for no real apparent reason – but that's the whole point. All it takes is the smile of a child, the sun shining, the laughter of friends – if you are open to feeling the joy in the simple things, then life is just a magnificent place to be.

Of course dark things happen – scary, violent, unexpected nasty surprises can pop up in life and knock you for six. But falling back on the most simple of truths – that you are alive, that you have choices – that there is a life so worth living – helps steer us through the hard times and reminds us of all that matters – love. Love for your self, love for your family, love for this life that we have.

I received the shocking news that a friend died unexpectedly a few days ago. Grief is a

tangled process, but the outcome for me is just how magnificent every day that we have with each other is.

What a woman wants is to feel nothing but joy every day, but what a woman needs to realise is that she can choose to see that simply by remembering all that really matters is we are given the CHANCE to make our own choices every day that we wake up.

Please make the most of it, and see it for the gift that it is.

Love each other and look after each other. See the joy in all that surrounds you, because that is what it's really about.

And when you really open your eyes to the simple joy of being alive, well all the colours are just that little bit brighter.

With much love,
Abby x



Abby Crawford
life@docklandsnews.com.au

Letters to the Editor

Begging to differ

I beg to differ with the sentiments expressed in the article “Even more government” (Docklands News, October 2017).

The Metropolitan Partnerships is not “government” but an initiative designed to enhance the engagement of community and business with local councils and the state government.

As a member of the Inner Metro Partnerships I hold out hope that the partnership will contribute to a sustainable metropolitan Melbourne for all through joined up government and engaged community.

Other members of the Inner Metro Partnerships bring a depth of community and business experience that along with the yearly assembly will provide another avenue of engagement for local councils and the state government to consider in their decision-making.

The Inner Metro Partnership has identified “managing growth” as a key objective with the priorities of inclusiveness, shared economic well-being and environmental sustainability. It's worth a go!
Martin Brennan



Send your letters to
news@docklandsnews.com.au

Health and Wellbeing

Laughter, the key to working together

How do the 60,000 people who work in the Docklands area usually mark Christmas?

With an office disco, or ping pong or bowling or trivia or fancy dress, and ... drinks? Or maybe just a drinking marathon? The thinking is “we have worked hard and it's time to relax”.

Who could argue with that?

I'm not going to suggest a teetotal office party – this is still Australia and there's no harm in sharing a few drinks. But in addition to the usual “letting loose”, smart workplaces are also reflecting on 2017 with laughter sessions – simple group activities that have proven mental health benefits and are also truly unforgettable bonding sessions.

Busting Christmas stress in a fun way

Team laughter sessions are a great way to dissolve stress and break down barriers that might have built up, or soften relationships that might have strained, in that stressful rush to finish projects before Christmas.

I have seen this from running more than 1000 corporate meditation and/or laughter sessions with Docklands employers – from

big four banks to finance sector giants to big corporate law firms to Victorian state government departments.

At first, laughing out loud with colleagues feels weird, but try it and you will be a true believer. Laughter energises people and creates a great atmosphere that lasts for hours, sometimes days and even weeks. It brings people together.

Even in neutral, respectful offices – especially in such cultures – a laughter session reinforces existing bonds and makes it much easier to approach colleagues we don't know well, and it helps when collaboration is called for. In short, laughing together for 30 minutes flows into better working relationships.

I'm hesitant to use that well-worn cliché the one about laughter being “the best medicine” – but I can't avoid it because it's absolutely true. And it's possibly more relevant in the workplace than anywhere. The feedback I have received is that people who laugh together work better together.

How laughing together affects us

We know instinctively that laughter is good for us, but science has also proven what it does to our bodies. It has been shown to improve cardiovascular function and help strengthen our immunity and endocrine system – which produces the

hormones needed to regulate (among other things) sexual function, reproduction, sleep and mood.

Laughter also shuts down the flow of stress hormones running through our bodies.

Research has also shown that when laughter is “benevolent” – laughing “with” rather than “at” others – it is especially rewarding. Undeniably, laughing together has social benefits. Who hasn't felt the relief of laughing just because the person you are looking at is laughing? Those are ancient cues at work, all about strengthening bonds in a group or family.

When laughter is done deliberately, there are measurable benefits – perhaps most obviously but maybe most importantly, it reduces symptoms of depression and anxiety. It does this by lifting levels of serotonin, a neurotransmitter needed for experiencing wellbeing and calmness.

Depression and anxiety are by far the most common mental health issues and can have serious impacts on productivity and workplace culture.

calm the mind.

Meditating by concentrating on your breathing produces feelings of calm and clarity and can improve the focus of a mind that has gotten too busy.

A busy mind can be a sign of anxiety, but with practice we can train our minds to slow down, to recognise and assess thoughts – even disregard unhelpful thoughts – instead of getting caught up in worry and racing, circling thoughts.

Research into meditation over many years, from around the world, has shown a regular practice reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression, improves sleep and can even help reduce chronic pain.

Once we have slowed down our busy minds, we are in a good place to get the most out of the laughter sessions.

A combined practice of silence and laughter, especially in a group setting, is a gift to staff and to the business – by creating optimum conditions for teamwork through bonding and clear thinking.

Silence and laughter

Meditation can be combined with laughter – not in the same moment of course – for a double helping of good mental health.

In our ‘silence and laughter’ sessions, we begin with a few minutes of meditation, to



Tomas Jajesnica
Founder of Mr Meditate
www.mrmeditate.com

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

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Business

Personalised services for all buyers

The Aulsebrook family has been operating its mortgage broking business, Morgan Brooks, since the 1980s and has recently relocated to Docklands.

Being in the centre of the banking and finance hub, Morgan Brooks stands out with its personalised service, in-depth industry knowledge, experience and community involvement.

"With many lenders adapting digital technology, many of our competitors have moved to online applications supported by offshore call centres. Although that method may hold appeal to tech savvy borrowers there's no substitute for experience, personalised 24/7 service and knowing what lenders "appetites" are at any point in the lending cycle," Ashleigh Aulsebrook said.

Morgan Brooks specialises in residential and commercial mortgage loans for clients who may find it challenging to get a loan due to existing exposure to other lenders or simply self-employed individuals with complex financial statements.



"We offer a free Loan Approval Insights Report setting out the 10 most common mistakes borrowers make when applying for a loan. It's never quite as simple as just filling in the boxes and crossing your fingers. Today, lenders are adopting different rates

of interest when stress testing your ability to service the loan you are applying for, not to mention other loans you may already have. Responsible lending is today's lending mantra," Ms Aulsebrook said.

"For us, it's about understanding our clients' motivation and objectives and then matching their personal financial background with the lender that most closely meets or surpasses those goals. It's not always the bank with the cheapest rate although having said that we have owner occupied rates as low as 3.68%."

Morgan Brooks was established as a family business more than 30 years ago and 40 per cent of its shares were at one time owned by Australian Unity and it had 108 franchises across Australia.

Following the GFC and Australian Unity's sale of its building society, the Aulsebrook family bought back the shares and rights from the shareholders and franchisees and Morgan Brooks went back to being a family business in 2005.

"We previously had offices on Collins St and Flinders Lane and moved to Brisbane. Coming back to Melbourne all these years later, we are aiming to gain a foothold in Docklands," company founder and managing director Richard Aulsebrook said.

Mr Aulsebrook is a broker with a wealth of knowledge in non-bank lending, having worked in the United States for Citibank CA, San Bernardino S&L and Century Park Financial Corporation in the securitisation division.

Now three decades in business, Morgan Brooks has formed strong relationships and has built an impeccable track record with securing loans for first-home buyers and seasoned investors.

Its new location in Docklands also gives it the strategic advantage to reach out more to clients who prefer personalised service and more competitive rates from mortgage brokers than big banks.

"We have a wide range of loan products and having our own Australian Credit Licence means we can work with any lender. We have several "white label" loan products providing access to a variety of loans not otherwise available through the branch network, which is a big bonus of using a broker," Ms Aulsebrook said.

Morgan Brooks provides free advice and information for anyone with questions about home and commercial loan.

www.morganbrooks.com.au
info@morganbrooks.com.au
1800 801 999.

Even more expertise from lawyers

Many Docklanders will have become familiar with the tone and style of lawyers Tolhurst Druce Emerson (TDE) – the city firm that adopted our suburb some years ago.

And no doubt, news of a merger with another similar-sized city law firm, Pearce Webster Dugdales, (PWD) has been cause for celebration at the newly merged firm.

The good news for clients is that the new firm is just a larger version of the old. Former TDE partner, Randall Bradshaw explained that PWD was chosen simply because it shared a similar culture.

"One of the reasons I thought a merger could work was the two firms were so compatible, with our people, expertise and our attitudes to practising law," Mr Bradshaw said.

In the six months since the merger, Mr Bradshaw said clients had remained engaged and happy and that the people-focussed charm still remains.

"Clients are perfectly happy with the new arrangement because, it's the same culture here," he said.

In April TDE staff packed up their files from 520 Bourke St and moved into PWD's offices at 379 Collins St.

PWD partner Glenn Harvey said that the merger had gone well and that the new firm has around 45 staff members.

"All things considered, it's been remarkably harmonious," he said.

Mr Harvey also said the merger worked



because of shared values and principles.

He said, although nothing was left to chance, he felt he could have done the deal on a handshake.

There's a quiet, understated strength and sense of empathy and expertise that defines the people at the new firm – now called Pearce Webster Dugdales.

"Like TDE, we're about building generational relationships with individuals, families and businesses," Mr Harvey said.

To assist its clients, the firm has expertise in wills, probate, estates and trusts, family law, commercial and business law, property law and litigation, mediation and alternative dispute resolution services.

Mr Harvey likened relationships with his firm to how people relate to their GP.

"We often see people at stages of their lives when they are vulnerable and under stress – particularly in relation to the work we

undertake for our clients in family law and wills, probate, estates and trusts."

"In these areas we assist individuals and families and we want to be their trusted advisers over the course of a lifetime. This means that we conduct the full range of work in these areas from day-to-day issues to solving highly complex legal problems," he said.

Small business owners will also get particular value as clients of PWD.

"Often, small business owners undertake quite a number of property and contractual dealings. Once again, we have the expertise to assist with any level of business issue they may be facing. We can offer them the same level of expertise, but with a more personalised level of service, than on offer from many larger city law firms," Mr Harvey said.

PWD is proud of the level of expertise

available within the firm. For a mid-sized firm, a significant number of their lawyers are accredited specialists in their chosen field of expertise.

"For a lawyer to be an accredited specialist we have had to undertake post-graduate qualifications, conducted by the Law Institute of Victoria in our chosen area of expertise," Mr Harvey said.

"This makes us amongst the most experienced and competent legal practitioners in our fields within Victoria," Mr Harvey said.

Mr Harvey said it was equally important for him and his staff to feel that they were giving their clients value.

"You need to come to work and enjoy what you do. We all gain great satisfaction out of assisting our clients and solving their legal issues," he said.

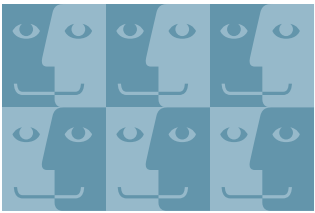
Underpinning all this is a personal approach – and PWD has been doing this for generations.

Founded in 1907 by Alfred Pearce, the firm is one of Melbourne's oldest. In 1921, Pearce joined Clarence Webster and their sons and grandsons continued the tradition as Pearce and Webster until 1993 when the firm merged with Dugdale, Dimmick and Stevens to become Pearce Webster Dugdales.

Mr Harvey said the latest merger with Tolhurst Druce & Emmerson had resulted in an update to its logo and image.

As an indication of the seamlessness of the merger, Pearce Webster Dugdales has also adopted TDE's logo style and corporate ethic of, "Working with individuals, families and business."

This all bodes well for Docklanders who now have a bigger and better local legal firm to call their own.



FACES OF DOCKLANDS

Question: What is your favourite thing about Spring?



AWAK KONGOR, 22, KINGS PARK, RETAIL

There are so many things! I love the flowers, the sunshine and the spring fashion. The sunshine is probably the best part – it's where I get my energy from!



SUDIP BANJARA, 20, ESSENDON, STUDENT

I love spring – it's definitely the queen of the seasons! I also like the cool weather in the mid-season between winter and spring. It's not too hot and not too cold.



SHIRLEY FORCEY, TAROONA, TASMANIA, RETIRED

I love seeing the trees coming into bloom, with all the blossoms, and the new leaves appearing. I also like the baby birds!



IKA SAPUTI, 25, CBD

I like that the weather is not too cold like winter and not too hot like summer. It's the perfect time of year for a picnic and to enjoy different places around Melbourne.



ASEP BUDIANTO, 28, CBD, STUDENT

Definitely the weather because of the clothes I can wear. It's also good weather to go out all the time.



SHAUN WANG, 24, DOCKLANDS, STUDENT

The temperature is the best part, because it is much warmer than winter. This year winter was so long so the weather is good now to go out and enjoy life.

Christmas fun for community

By David Amaya

Christmas Community Day comes with loads of events to kick off the festive season.

This series of popular Docklands activities will take place at Library at The Dock and Buluk Park from 10am-3pm on December 6.

The full program will be available on the library's website in mid November.

Here are just some of the activities to celebrate the Christmas community day.

Bake off

Your secret Christmas baking recipes will be welcomed at the Docklands residents bake off that shares the sweetness brought by the holidays. Bring on your inner sweet tooth and participate in five categories: Chrissylicious, All I Want for Xmas, The Brightest Star, How Santa Got His Belly and How Santa Lost His Belly. There are also kids categories for the creative young ones to get their baking hats on. A small token prize is awarded to each category winner and the non-competitive bake off is all about the community. To participate, send an email to bookingthedock@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Open Door Singers

Listen to the beautiful Christmas carols brought by Docklands' very own choir and join in to explore your own talent.

You don't have to be a professional singer to

find your voice in this choir that encourages Docklanders to come together.

Kids Craft

Children will find a hub to let their creativity fly through this craft session. There will be some surprises by the chefs at Saluministi.

Sunday Music Lounge

The local favourite Sunday Music Lounge is back with a bang, launching on November 26 with singing duo Liona and Janna Tatafu. Tatafu will perform some of their latest music with touches of Soul, RnB, Blues and Reggae. This session has been moved forward due to the Christmas Community Day, but will give an early feel of the festive cheer with music. Also enjoy the Indie pop by Melbourne artist Yeo Choong. Yeo is participating in a mentorship program for creative producers at Library at The Dock and will showcase his talent at the library in the coming months.



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SKYPAD Living

Activating vertical villages

The Heart Foundation has long advocated walkable neighbourhoods with connected streets and open spaces to promote physical activity, but what opportunities are there in our high-density vertical villages?

One popular future view of high-density living is that people will give up their cars and become “active transport users” – walking, cycling and running for trams, trains and buses.

And Dr Jennifer Kent, a research fellow at the University of Sydney, agrees that there is certainly a relationship between high density built environments and physical activity. However she also notes that “... higher housing density alone will not make people more or less active.”

So what activity options are available for us of the vertical villages?

Of course there are our increasingly well-appointed (if not always used) building gyms along with such well-established notions as walking groups (though it would be useful if our community associations could compile this information in a central location!).

I have also heard conversations about the use of internal stairs for some friendly inter-building vertical racing – our own Eureka Climb.

Thoughts were that this could be an annual event starting at Docklands, moving the next year to Southbank and then to the CBD.

If the idea of stair racing is unappealing, Royal College of Art graduate Elena Larrib has designed Vycle, a pedal-powered, vertical transportation system that eliminates the need for stairs or lifts by allowing high-rise dwellers to cycle up



their buildings. Her vertical transportation concept resembles the front half of a bike attached to a vertical rail, which is fitted to the side of buildings (or even scaffolding!). It is powered by a continuous cyclical movement and balanced with counterweights, meaning that it is only one's own body weight that needs to be overcome.

Not convinced?

There are some other interesting things happening with bikes – such as Daan Roosegaarde's smog free bike which generates clean air as you pedal. While still at the concept stage, the Dutch designer sees the bike being implemented through bike sharing programs such as Mobike in China (though such an approach might be a

bit contentious in Melbourne at the current time).

Moving on from bikes, there are also options that can be undertaken in the privacy of our own apartments.

Too small you say?

The Holy Grail remains dual function and there are a few cool things I have come across.

Table tennis anyone?

German designer Tobias Fränzel has created the Ping Pong Door – a two-in-one affair that stores a fold-out ping pong table in your doorway. The table tennis door is literally a door that hinges forward from its centre to become a ping pong table.

When not in use, it looks like a regular

door, except it is bright green with a stripe down the middle. But when you swivel it down, it becomes a ping pong table (though not regulation size).

Continuing the theme of dual use, there are also multi-function tables which switch from being, for example, a pool table to a dining table. Or there are ones that double as a pool table and an air hockey rink that may also convert into a dining or boardroom table.

Local manufacturer, All Table Sports, makes a range of these in their factory in Moorabbin, and Enzo of All Table Sports says that if you have something in mind that they don't already have, talk to him about making one specially tailored for your compact space.

This also could be an option for those vertical villages fortunate enough to have common areas for resident socialising.

Now let the games begin!

If you would like links to the research or organisations mentioned, please visit and like SkyPad Living on Facebook.



Janette Corcoran

Apartment living expert

<https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/>

SKYPAD
LIVING

Chamber Update

Harbour Town is rebranding

Harbour Town Melbourne is becoming The District Docklands, a new shopping oasis for Melbourne featuring a retail centre re-launch.

H&M, Cotton On and other exciting retailers are now open in a new village for Docklands. A new entertainment precinct, fresh food hall, Marriott Hotel, residences, commercial offices and open public spaces are also coming soon.

The exciting transformation in several stages will deliver a vibrant destination that is truly Melbourne, a natural hub for community spirit and engagement. With an active calendar of events, festivals, attractions and community activities, it will offer unique experiences every day. It's a place with something for everyone.

A full crowd packed our latest network event

A full contingent of 50 DCC members and guests packed our latest network event on Friday, October 6.

We began the evening at the beautifully renovated Woolshed Pub with President Johanna Maxwell welcoming all.

A convivial affair led to some great networking before the guests headed off to the Wonderland Spiegeltent, currently homed at the corner of LaTrobe St and Harbour Esplanade. Two and a half hours of laughs ensued with Peter Helliard headlining the acts.

Keep an eye out for our next event as they are fully subscribed within days of release.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce AGM

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual general meeting on November 16 beginning at 5.30pm at Oscar's Table, NewQuay Promenade.

All current financial members are invited to nominate for positions on the executive committee with voting for the positions of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary to occur on the night.

All current positions will be vacated prior to the meeting. Nominations are due by close of business Monday, November 6 and details of the event are posted on our website – www.docklandsc.com.au/blog/

Get exposed

By becoming a chamber member you expose yourself to over \$1000 worth of incentives!

Becoming a Docklands Chamber of Commerce member should be your first step in doing business in the precinct. Benefits flowing from a micro membership (\$100) include:

Two tickets to all our network events, dinners and special occasions. We have between six and eight of these each year and feature our member's businesses;

A business listing on our website – www.docklandsc.com.au – which ranks on the front page of Google for basically all search terms related to Docklands;

■ A minimum spend on social media advertising equal to your membership investment primarily through our Facebook profile with 128k followers;

■ First in first served sponsored tickets to external events;

■ Approved posting and advertising through our newsletter;

■ Access to our invite-only Docklands stakeholder forums where the movers and shakers of Melbourne share the latest

information about upcoming events and activations; and

■ Member first promotion.

Our members include the largest business in the Docklands precinct such as the AFL, Harbour Town and The Atlantic Group but we also have a multitude of sole traders.

Our three purposes are to promote Docklands, promote our member businesses and advocate on behalf of the precinct.

We think we do it really well but we'd love your feedback. After all, we exist to promote you.

Our executive committee, executive officer and media director are all available to be reached at any time. If you'd like to know more then please visit our website – www.docklandsc.com.au



Shane Wylie

Media Director

www.docklandsc.com.au

DOCKLANDS
Chamber of Commerce

WHAT'S ON
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

6-7.30PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, KNOWLEDGE MARKET
RMIT DESIGN EXHIBITION
KnowMa's free exhibition features work created at RMIT's design, innovation and technology's studios. Showcasing ethical food production consumption, personal digital data and reconfigurable systems.

FROM 7PM, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11, MEDICI, NEWQUAY PROMENADE
DOCKLANDS SOCIAL CLUB
Join other locals, workers and residents for a monthly social gathering in a relaxed, informal setting. Come along for a drink or sit down for a meal. Everyone is welcome.

NOVEMBER 10 - JANUARY 10 2018, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
PEACE NOT WAR EXHIBITION
Big names in national and global art scene stand up for human rights by addressing peace, war, violence, homelessness, Indigenous and refugee issues through art. FREE.

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

EVERY SUNDAY, 10AM-5PM
NEWQUAY PROMENADE
DOCKLANDS SUNDAY MARKET
A variety market featuring arts and crafts, books and more. For more info, ring **0412 910 496**

11AM-12PM, NOVEMBER 23, MISSION TO SEAFARERS
DOCKLANDS HISTORY GROUP
Learn about the rich history of the 100-year-old Mission to Seafarers building at 717 Flinders St, Docklands. FREE. Book on Eventbrite.

2- 4PM, EVERY TUESDAY, SASSONE, 70 LORIMER ST
YARRA'S EDGE SOCIAL CLUB
Come along to connect with your neighbours, and/or join one of our mini-clubs. Casual & friendly. **www.facebook/YarrasEdgeSocialClub**

EVERY WEEKDAY
6.30AM, CORNER OF SOUTH WHARF DR AND POINT PARK CRES, YARRA'S EDGE
LIVE LIFE GET ACTIVE
Free outdoor fitness classes, including X-training, boxing and yoga. Register at **livelifegetactive.com**

2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, 6-7PM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
"ANY BOOK" BOOK CLUB
This book club does not have a set reading. Instead, it can chat about any book. Share your love of reading and be inspired by other bookworms about what to read next. FREE.

7-9.30PM, NOVEMBER 18, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
HARAMBEE – LOVE IS LOVE
Harambee A Cappella is performing about all that is love at the library. Celebrate the emotional rollercoaster ride of love with the singer group. Tickets \$15-25.

EVERY OTHER SUNDAY 11AM-4PM
DOCKLANDS YACHT CLUB
COMMUNITY SAILING DAY
Come and try sailing with the community. No age limit and no fitness requirements. People with disabilities are welcome. \$20. **docklands.yachting.org.au**

EVERY 1ST & 3RD SATURDAY, 10.30-11AM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
CODE CLUB
A fortnightly workshop that teaches children to code and improve their problem solving skills and logical thinking. For 9-11 year olds. Book via Eventbrite. **9658 9379** or **makerspace@melbourne.vic.gov.au**

1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 10-11AM, BULUK PARK
LAUGHTER CLUB
Laughter can help improve physical and psychological wellbeing, so get together for a therapeutical laugh. FREE.

2ND & 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 6.30 PM
700 BOURKE ST - ROOM 3.101
DOCKLANDS TOASTMASTERS
Boost your public speaking and leadership skills.

2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, 4-5.15PM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
JAZZ BREW CAFE
A monthly Docklands Jazz lounge at Library at The Dock's foyer. Sip some coffee while enjoying the diverse Jazz tunes. FREE.

EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY
12.30 – 1.30PM LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
LUNCHTIME STORY LOUNGE
Story time for adults, with handpicked stories and poems read aloud in a relaxed setting. Slow down and enjoy the simple pleasure of listening. FREE

2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 2-4PM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
ADHD SUPPORT GROUP
Peer-support meetings or Q&A sessions with expert about ADHD in adults. Adults affected ADHD and their families and friends are encouraged to attend. \$2 donation. Facebook @AdultADHDMelbourne

WEDNESDAYS 5.45PM-7PM
LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
OPEN DOOR SINGERS DOCKLANDS
Find your voice, experience the joy of singing in a choir and meet new friends. **www.opendoorsingers.org.au**

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 9.30AM-12PM LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
CHINESE BOOK CLUB MORNING TEA
Meet other readers, have a chat and find some new Chinese books, magazines or DVDs to borrow. FREE

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 10AM, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB
Probus Clubs for men and women over 50. Meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities. Contact **mspc.docklands@gmail.com**

EVERY SATURDAY, 9.30AM, COMMUNITY HUB AT THE DOCK
CYSM SEA DRAGONS
Three free dragon boating sessions. Contact Vicky at **cysm.seadragons@gmail.com**. **www.cysm.org/dragonboat**

WEDNESDAYS AT 5.30PM, SATURDAYS AT 8.30AM
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LIBRARY AT THE DOCK - WEEKLY PROGRAMS

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Every Thursday 7-9pm
Challenge yourself with friends at this regular catch up of ping-pong enthusiasts.

TAI CHI AT THE DOCK
Every Thursday 7.30-8.30am
Come along to find your inner peace and power at this weekly community Tai Chi session that is open to people from all walks of life. The ancient Chinese martial art is a tranquil and graceful way to keep fit. Beginners welcome. FREE.

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

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

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

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

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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE

Elite women share their inspiration

By Julie Cantrill

The Australian Women's Ice Hockey League (AWIHL) summer season is underway at O'Brien Group Arena, with Melbourne Ice Women's (MIW) team playing the Brisbane Goannas on October 28.

Champions for four years running, MIW's winning streak came to an end earlier this year when the Sydney Sirens and Brisbane Goannas took first and second place.

Determined to win back the McKowen Cup, MIW have added some talented new players and have taken on two new imports. Three new recruits to the 2017/18 team are Jessica Pinkerton, Kim Lo and Kathrin (Ketta) Scheuerlein.

They are excited to be playing and keen to show fans why they have been chosen to represent the premier ice hockey team.

Sources of inspiration

Sometimes our sources of inspiration are close to us while others we admire from afar. Jessica, our new import, said: "Throughout my journey I have faced a lot of adversity but the one thing that always got me through and inspired me to keep going was the love and passion my dad showed me."

"He taught me a special kind of strength. Whenever I need inspiration I think of the countless hours my dad devoted to my



Melbourne Ice Women in action. Photo courtesy of Richard Costello.

career, I think of the fun we've had and will continue to have. That's what drives me."

Kim's inspiration comes from the team. "The best part about being selected for MIW is getting to train with some pretty talented ladies," she said.

Ketta's role model is Hilary Knight. "She has always been my inspiration. She is amazing to watch. I love the way she forechecks the puck and creates scoring opportunities involving her whole line. She never gives up and plays aggressive and clever. She has also been quietly working in the background developing the NWHL," Ketta said.

Dedication to the sport

Kim has risen to the new challenge of playing ice hockey with enthusiasm. "It all

began about five years ago after watching a Rangers game in New York. Despite not knowing any of the rules it still seemed like a really fun, exciting, yet challenging sport to be a part of. I then enrolled in beginner hockey school at both OBGA and Oakleigh and soon enough hockey had taken over my life," she said.

Learning a new sport is rewarding but being an elite player requires dedication. Jessica said: "Preparation starts long before that opening game. Physically, eating a balanced diet, staying hydrated and regular off-ice training is very important."

"Emotionally, I try to get the proper amount of sleep each night, while sticking to a schedule keeps me accountable and helps me stay stress free! Mentally, I find it very important to visualise. Keeping a clear mind

and setting goals helps me focus my energy to the season I am preparing for. Consistency is key, and finding time for rest and recovery is much needed."

Ice hockey has been Ketta's favourite sport since she was 14. Having grown up in Germany, she moved to Melbourne in 2000 and began playing with the Oakleigh Angels. During this time, several ice rinks closed in Victoria so Ketta moved into inline hockey, playing in their national team.

"I've been dying to get back on the ice so last year I made the decision to hang up my inline skates and go back to ice only. I have also been dreaming about being part of a professional hockey team like MIW and now here I am. I am really excited about new challenges I face as a player and being part of a new team," she said.



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