

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS



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Flipping out in Docklands

Isaac James loves to flip out in Docklands to practise parkour.

Parkour is described as an attitude and training method to allow you to move through any environment at speed. The 17-year-old from Frankston and his mates say Docklands is an ideal location.

Hopes raised for water fireworks

By Shane Scanlan

Many Docklanders were delighted in February to see fireworks and dragon boat racing back where they belong – on the water in Victoria Harbour.

On February 4, a spectacular fireworks display was shot off a barge in Victoria Harbour, just as it used to be on New Year's Eves before the City of Melbourne stopped the practice in 2016.

An interesting aspect of this event was that it was a private show for Chinese New Year and it came as a surprise to most people.

The City of Melbourne (CoM) had been advised but appears to have played no role and a council permit was not required because it was not a land-based event.

Parks Victoria issued a Recreation Activity Event (Bays and Waterways) permit to the fireworks company ShowFX Australia and supervised the event, including providing three boats to enforce an exclusion zone.

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce was particularly delighted with the event as it has consistently maintained that Docklands fireworks should be launched from the water.

Chamber president Johanna Maxwell believes the February 4 event has set a precedent and makes it more difficult for the city to continue to refuse to return the fireworks to the water.

"This leaves the door open," Mrs Maxwell said. "It shows that there is no particular danger associated with waterborne pyrotechnics."

ShowFX director Allan Spiegel agrees, adding that waterborne fireworks were far



The February 4 event.

safer than shooting from rooftops.

"I mean, if they fall on buildings with cladding, what's going to happen," he asked. "The council is scared someone is going to fall in the water, but look what happens in Sydney Harbour when they have half a million people lining the harbour."

Mr Spiegel said a firework mishap had resulted in a 1.5 metre hole being blown in the Marvel Stadium roof.

With the council effectively sidelined from

Continued page 15.



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Comment

Shane Scanlan



The threat of short-stay operators taking over residential towers stems from a failure of government regulation.

Unintended consequences are flowing from ill-considered decisions as well as a general failure to recognise emerging patterns in inner-city living.

The result is a looming perfect storm which will likely result in residents being displaced and wholesale profiteering by an unscrupulous and determined small cohort of opportunists.

The three major regulatory problems are:

- The state's deliberate backing of the short-stay industry by failing to grant owners' corporations (OCs) adequate control of their buildings. The just-enacted OC Amendment (Short-stay

Accommodation) Bill 2016 formalises and legitimises short-stay letting in residential buildings;

- The state's failure to outlaw proxy farming. In investor-majority buildings, it is ridiculously simple for any individual to harvest a majority of votes to control an OC; and
- Protection offered to short-stay operators under the Residential Tenancies Act. They are running a business, but the law protects them as if they are vulnerable renters. Some commercial operators are taking unreasonable advantage of this, effectively disenfranchising landlords.

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is being clogged with cases brought by real estate agents pursuing unpaid rents by some short-stay operators. The "cat and mouse" games being played out are costing landlords thousands of dollars in legal costs.

In a current case, a landlord who succeeded in evicting a short-stay operator after months of unpaid rent is being sued for \$40,000.

Owners' corporation law is in serious need of an overhaul to reflect the realities of the 21st century. It appears legislators think they are dealing with how a small number of people living in blocks of flats in the suburbs interact.

But strata living will soon overtake detached housing as the default situation in Victoria.

And, in our part of the world, owner-occupiers are a vulnerable minority easily swept aside by proxy farmers determined to take over OC committees.

Take a look at Melbourne's skyline. Pretty much all of these recent residential skyscrapers are owned by investors (either off-shore or domestic) who are motivated by financial return.

Why wouldn't they give their proxy vote to someone promising to increase their profits?

These proxy farmers don't need an actual connection with a particular building to end up in control.

And they don't need many proxies in investor-majority buildings to achieve this. Low attendance at annual general meetings creates the opportunity.

They only need a relatively easily-acquired list of investor-owners with their addresses to get started. Once acquired, they either convince owners to grant proxies or simply fake their signatures on proxy forms.

Currently, there are few documented examples that this has happened. But that's no reason to be complacent. A storm is looming and, unless the Victorian Government takes urgent steps to prevent it, the damage will be catastrophic.



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Towers targeted for takeovers

By Shane Scanlan

Apartment towers are facing takeovers by short-stay apartment operators able to turn them into quasi-hotels.

Operators are successfully harvesting owners' corporation (OC) proxy votes in majority-investor-owned towers – and it's all perfectly legal.

Unlike NSW, there is no limit to the number, or total proportion, of proxy votes that individuals can harvest in Victoria – and it looks like the flood gates are about to open.

In the past, stories have emerged about OCs being taken over by utility and other contractor-type vested interests. But organised short-stay operators appear to be emboldened by the lack of regulation and oversight.

Professional facilities manager and former Residents 3000 president John Dall'Amico is involved in a draining struggle where an OC is being swamped by representatives of a property company, which has a short-stay apartment division and informal ties to a strata management company.

He said owner-occupier OC members were questioning the possible motive behind having members on the committee with no actual obvious connection with the building.

"They're neither owners, renters or investors," Mr Dall'Amico said. "I will leave it to others to determine the motives behind their push for control of the committee. And whether loop-holes in the law make it possible to profit from residential buildings."

"From my observations as a provider of facility management services it appears there is very little that can be done given the current laws. Most residents are first-time owners of apartments and have very little knowledge or understanding of owners' corporation matters. They are perplexed and left not knowing what to do, or believe."

In Docklands, a short-stay operator in November threatened a landlord with a



\$100,000 lawsuit if he refused to pass over his OC proxy vote. It is understood a number of similar letters were also sent to other landlords.

A lawyer for the operator wrote to the landlord asserting the landlord was in breach of the Residential Tenancies Act because building management allegedly denied the lawyer's client a right to "peacefully enjoy their residence and access all common property in the building".

The lawyer complained about "intimidation, physical and racial abuse" of ethnic Chinese staff by building management.

The lawyer then suggested assignment of proxy voting rights to the short-stay operator as a solution to the problem and asked that irrevocable proxy rights be inserted into the lease. Suggested amended lease wording included:

"The landlord may not revoke this appointment during the term of the lease, including any further term/s, except in instances where the tenant refuses to pay rent."

"The landlord acknowledges that the tenant has entered into the renewal of the lease at the specific rate in reliance upon the powers conferred upon it by the preceding clause and that the tenant will suffer damages and loss in the event it is prevented or attempts are made by the landlord to prevent the tenant from exercising its proxy in the manner set out above."

Three days later, on November 30, the lawyer again wrote to the landlord saying:

"In not taking action, after our clients have raised their concerns that the OC management is not allowing them to have quiet enjoyment of their property, our client feels that he has no option but to hold you liable as landlord. Our clients estimate that their total loss and damages are in the range of \$100,000."

"If our clients do not receive a response from you detailing the satisfactory steps you wish to take to immediately remedy the situation by close of business on Monday, 3 December 2018, we have been instructed to issue proceedings."

At the last annual general meeting of the circa 500-unit Docklands tower concerned, only eight people voted, leaving the OC particularly exposed to takeover at the 2019 meeting.

Strata lawyer Tom Bacon said proxy farming was rife in Victoria because the law was inadequate.

"There is little to curb this practice under the current OC legislation in Victoria. Proxy farming is rife in the industry, and this has allowed the rot to set in over many years as sophisticated short-stay operators, managers, real estate agents and building caretakers have exploited the situation," Mr Bacon said.

"In NSW, the state government introduced sweeping legislative reforms in 2016 to end proxy farming by permitting a person to only hold one proxy vote at a time, made it unlawful for leases and other agreements to include an 'irrevocable proxy' clause, and disqualified persons and proxies from voting on certain matters when they had a pecuniary interest in the outcome of the motion."

Mr Bacon said the Victorian Government had been reviewing OC law since 2016 but secrecy surrounded its intentions.

"The rumour is that the legislation is being re-written secretly because it's already out of date, and because the reforms didn't go far enough to improve liveability for residents and owners," Mr Bacon said. "So, there is no cavalry coming over the horizon anytime soon. Many high-rise buildings in Melbourne are highly exposed right now, and for the foreseeable future."

The government has committed to releasing an "exposure draft" of an Owners Corporations Amendment Bill by June 30.

A spokesperson for Consumer Affairs Minister Marlene Kairouz said: "We're committed to working with the public to ensure the views of stakeholders and the community are carefully considered."



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Local contribution to search for cure

The recent death of respected local Damien Woodruff has prompted support for research into pancreatic cancer from Docklands Private Collection of Apartments.

Business principals Lyn and Peter Kelly have been long supporters of charity and have now swung their support behind Pancare.

Last August Lyn’s brother Len Reddoch also died from pancreatic cancer so the lethality of the disease has really hit home.

Lyn explained that, unlike many other cancers, only 8.7 per cent of pancreatic cancer sufferers survive past five years. She said symptoms were hard to diagnose and, once a positive diagnosis was made, it was too late for all but a few.

“We just want to do all we can to get the survival rate up,” she said.

The Kellys have traditionally supported two charities through their business. Until recently, they supported the Alannah and Madeline Foundation as well as Motor Neurone Disease Australia (MND Australia).

Peter said they felt that the Alannah and Madeline Foundation was getting plenty of support from elsewhere, so they decided to fund Pancare instead (while still supporting MND Australia). With their friend and Docklander Julie Kehoe dying in 2007 from motor neurone disease, the Kelly’s have a personal connection with that disease as well.

One dollar from every room booking goes to



Kerri Woodruff (left) is joined by Michelle O’Donnell, Liz Kelly and Lyn Kelly.

the two charities – amounting to about \$2500 per month.

Damien Woodruff’s widow Kerri said she was thrilled and overwhelmed by the Kellys’ decision to back Pancare.

Kerri has been instrumental in fundraising for pancreatic cancer research, having started an annual fundraising lunch after Damien was diagnosed more than four years ago.

Known as 4 Women for Pancare, the first lunch was attended by 25 people and raised about \$6000. About 80 people attended the second lunch at Cargo in 2016 and raised

\$14,000. In 2017, the number was \$42,000 and last year an attendance of 240 resulted in \$64,000 for Pancare.

She said Damien’s aim was to last five years, which was currently only achieved by 7 per cent of sufferers. But, she said, the survival rates had improved recently, so there was cause for hope.

Damien’s relatively long survival was due to early diagnosis, despite symptoms being commonly associated with benign ailments such as itchy skin as well as stomach and back pain.

“Damien had a pain in the gut for about six

months but thought it was just indigestion,” she said.

She said in Damien’s case, MRIs and CT scans were inconclusive and, unless specifically asked for, blood tests won’t find any trace of the disease.

The Woodruffs have been popular and well-known residents of NewQuay for about five years.

She said they had lived in many brilliant locations, but Docklands stood out as the best place to make valuable and lasting friendships.

As owners of 1995 Melbourne Cup winner Doriemus, they run a “punters club” with other locals, with the winnings being pooled to fund some fun social nights out.

Now that she’s on her own, she feels confident and safe living with the benefit of the physical security that apartment tower living brings.

Kerri said Damien moved most to tears when he bravely spoke at last year’s 4 Women for Pancare lunch, but had a smile for everyone.

“Onwards and upwards was his favourite saying,” she said.

For more information and a chance to donate, visit www.pancare.org.au



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Community picks up slack

The Docklands community has stepped up and taken control of the area's sports programs after the City of Melbourne's (CoM) contractor pulled out of Australian operations.

The CoM's Active Melbourne City Sports Program (AMCSP) was run by Limelight Sports from July 2014 until the end of last year when the company ceased operations in the country.

And while the council reviews the program and plans for the future, Docklands locals and workers have organised their own competitions.

A functioning competition running at The Hub was discovered by Sport Staff One, who had been keen to fill the service gap created.

Lanre Abedayo, an analyst at Public Transport Victoria, played soccer in the AMCSP last year and started reaching out to teams involved after he heard the competition wouldn't be running this season.

Soon there were nine teams signed up, enough to organise the Tuesday competition that started on February 5. But Mr Abedayo said there was an overflow of interest.

A Friday competition is launching on March 4, and a Monday competition is in the process of being set up.

Teams involved include the Bureau of Meteorology, Public Transport Victoria, Open Universities, ANZ, AMP and NAB.

Mr Abedayo said he was involved in a number of different mentoring and community type roles, where he saw his responsibility as giving back.

"I don't care about race, gender, whatever. I guess I want to do to people what I'd like them to do to me," he said. "I believe in karma, so I just do what comes on my conscience."

Keith Buxton from Sports Staff One said the company was collaborating with the previous management team to ensure the competition was run "smoothly, professionally and for the benefit of all the participants".



Lanre Abedayo has shown community leadership by organising lunchtime sports.

"Active City Sports is launching in Melbourne to give city workers the opportunity to play sport during their lunch breaks," he said.

"The competition will begin with five-a-side soccer in March, before new sports will be offered. This is a fun and entertaining way to keep active with your colleagues whilst working in the city."

"Those interested in joining can contact us on acs@ssoaustralia.com or on **9642 1370**."

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said the council would undertake a review to determine appropriate future community offerings.

"Each of our recreation centres offers a huge range of programs and we encourage members to get in touch with their local club to find out more."

Netball programs are also running at The Hub for Docklands locals, with Melbourne Netball expanding into the suburb after 18 years at Flagstaff Gardens.

Melbourne Netball founder Clare Heasly said Docklands offered an important demographic for such programs.

"We really wanted to open up in Docklands because it's just that further distance from the city that means that there is a more residential audience and potentially a demographic of more isolated people," she said.

"We want to get the isolated person out of their apartment because odds are there's people in the same block that don't know each other."

"Particularly the high ratio of international students in Melbourne understandably stick together and don't expand in an integrative way. We'd like to help them feel less isolated."

The netball competition at The Hub has just started running on Wednesday nights and late sign-ups are welcome: melbournenetball.com/venue/the-docklands-netball-3/



Tower closer to start date

Preparations are underway for the start of a new commercial tower in LaTrobe St.

Hoardings have been erected around the site at 1000 LaTrobe St, with developer Poly predicting a start to construction of a 24-storey office tower in August.

The building includes five levels of podium parking and 31,000 sqm of A-grade office space.

Poly Victoria executive director Steve Wang predicted the development would redefine commercial projects.

"This is our first development of this stature in Victoria. It incorporates an elevated design which will offer tenants a workspace like they've never experienced before," Mr Wang said.

"Outside of the CBD precinct, Docklands is the largest working hub in Melbourne and there are tenants in the area who are expanding at a rapid rate."

"In line with all Poly developments, the design encompasses a strong ecological emphasis for both tenants and locals to appreciate," he said.

"1000 LaTrobe St has been carefully crafted to be positioned as one of Docklands' most iconic buildings to date."



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Smoke and mirrors cloud the cladding issue

Editorial Comment
By Shane Scanlan

The Neo200 fire in Spencer St on February 4 reignited public disgust that, five years after Lacrosse, this can still happen. But it will continue to happen until liability is determined.

Until “who’s to blame” is universally accepted and legally binding, no real progress is possible.

Like in the 2014 Lacrosse case, builder LU Simon was singled out and besmirched in the media as the obvious villain. But does the “builder” actually define what materials should be used? Or does the builder merely follow the plans and specifications provided?

Wouldn’t the developer, in collaboration with architects, define these things?

What about the role of the fire engineers?

And (to directly address the elephant in the room), what about the role of the building inspectors? Surely the organisation that signed off the building carries responsibility?

It has been well documented that outsourced building inspections have failed the public, but you won’t hear that from the state government. And that’s because such an admission would invite liability to its door. The role may be technically outsourced, but it’s done on behalf of government.

The Melbourne Municipal Building Surveyor finds himself in a curious position in these cladding fire situations. Issuing building orders to rectify problems caused by “approved” non-compliant materials is not a good look.

The Victorian Building Authority and municipal councils are happy to make demands of owners. A series of notices were dispatched late last year.

Indeed, the government position is to burden apartment owners with the responsibility and cost of rectification works. How is that fair? Wasn’t it incumbent on government to ensure apartments were constructed with compliant materials?

Also last year the state government offered loans to owners to undertake remedial works. A generous gesture? Or a cynical attempt to “normalise” the idea that owners are responsible and the government is not?

The process has started, but it’s hard to

say how many years we are still away from having a legally binding understanding of exactly where such liability lies.

After a six-week hearing, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) retired in October to ponder just this question in a test case centred on the Lacrosse situation. As *Docklands News* went to press, a finding had not been made.

But it is likely that multiple parties will be saddled with proportional blame. In the firing line are owners, builders, developers, building surveyors and inspectors, architects and fire engineers.

And, with so much at stake, the “losers” are not likely to accept the VCAT decision anyway. The Supreme Court is likely to be the next theatre of combat, followed by the Court of Appeal. How far will this go?

Five years could easily turn into 10 years before this fundamental question is resolved.

In the meantime, taskforces, building authorities and councils continue to assess and direct owners’ corporations (OCs) to take action.

Considering that liability is still to be resolved, you can understand OCs wanting to make their buildings safe, but also not wanting to pay for someone else’s mistakes.

Get revved up at Sky Park

Start your engines, there’s a free slot car track coming to Melbourne Quarter to celebrate the Melbourne Grand Prix.

From March 14 – 15, Melbourne Quarter’s Sky Park in Collins St will be transformed into a mini Grand Prix arena, delighting Docklands’ Formula 1 enthusiasts, residents, visitors and workers.

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Lessons to be learned by NAB

By Rhonda Dredge

The impact of the Royal Commission into banking is beginning to filter down to street level as officers at the NAB are briefed on issues raised about customer hardship, loan defaults and farm debt mediation.

The officers appeared to be riveted by the briefing at NAB's giant co-working space in Docklands on February 19.

At one stage a flow chart appeared on a large screen under the heading Optimising Data Governance.

About 100 of the bank's credit team attended the briefing but it may take a long time to win trust from customers

"There are lessons to be learned from the Royal Commission," said one attendee, a credit officer from Scotland who declined to elaborate.

Basically, the lessons were up there in brilliant lights for all to see: when a customer gets old, skips a loan repayment or has a slow year on the farm, the bank has taken advantage rather than offered a helping hand.



Now those policies are under review at NAB.

Customers are cynical about bank culture and a casual visit to the "Village" at 700 Bourke St does little to suggest that it is becoming more helpful.

The foyer is vast and is full of chances to connect via ATMs, lectures, meetings, consultations, interviews and a cafe, yet there is no-one to really talk to.

A customer is made to feel puny here. If you see someone you know in the distance it's easier to message them on a phone than call out or wave because it is so busy and noisy.

Opened by NAB as a place it could extend to its business partners for free meetings, the Village is seen by those who work in the vicinity as part of the system of hot desking aimed at cutting costs.

Desks are expensive in Docklands. If a corporate team has 10 people and eight desks, employees are rotated and encouraged to work from home. When corporations expand they sublet spaces from other companies.

Some readers love the tales of derring-do in the commercial property media, the gossip

that KPMG is paying \$10 million a year for rent and the financials that go into clinching development sites.

When *Docklands News* visited the Village, the vast space was alive with the chatter of smartly-dressed corporates conducting meetings. A woman at one table was being interviewed for a job. "It's lonely at the top," she said.

Two other women were taking notes. The words "leadership team" and "human resources" drifted across the co-working space.

A group of six at another nearby table was negotiating a sub-lease. "We can create two more desks," said one property guy, trying to clinch the deal.

At a smaller table one suit was advising another that there would be two interviews and a pre-selection process.

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"What do you love about the HR role?" the interviewers asked their candidate. There was not a touch of irony in their voices. People have been schooled in corporate-speak.

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Angela wants to create great places

By Shane Scanlan

Development Victoria's new chief executive officer (CEO) Angela Skandarajah's career has, in some ways, paralleled the success of Docklands.

As a “baby lawyer” Ms Skandarajah started her career as a property lawyer working on Docklands stadium at the turn of the century. And, without much guidance, all the players involved had to pretty much work it all out from scratch.

“It was a real eye-opener from a legal point of view,” Ms Skandarajah said. “You don’t build stadiums every day!”

At that time Ms Skandarajah was only starting her career with law firm Minter Ellison, where she rose through the ranks to become managing partner of the Melbourne office and national head of its real estate practice.

In February she was appointed Development Victoria (DV) CEO after nearly a year acting in the role.

When she resigned from Minters in July 2017 to take up the role of general counsel for the newly-formed DV (formerly Places Victoria), many would have considered it a fairly radical career move.

But, she explained, she saw it as an opportunity to make a real difference.

“I’d been involved with the projects but was always one step removed,” she said. “So this was an opportunity for me to get my hands dirty from the perspective of the actual proponent of the projects.”

“I actually jumped at the opportunity. It was the right timing in life, and all of those kinds of things as well.”

“But it’s also an opportunity to give back and the government is well placed to be able to make a difference.”

Ms Skandarajah spent 21 years combined with Minter Ellison and Freehills – sometimes representing government, and sometimes representing developers.

“Sometimes in a commercial law firm the objective is profits for your clients and the



Development Victoria's new chief executive officer (CEO) Angela Skandarajah.

like, so it was a fabulous opportunity. I didn’t think twice,” she said of her decision.

And, like her own career, Docklands itself has come a long way.

She said friends had told her Docklands was a great place to live.

“I think it would be fabulous to live there. I like the inner-city feel, so it would suit my lifestyle. I like to walk everywhere and be close to the action,” she said.

“I have not heard of any negatives from people who live there.”

But she also acknowledged that negative perceptions of outsiders had affected Docklands.

“One of the challenges that we have are the perceptions around the Docklands and some Melburnians might have had an early experience that’s formed their views,” Ms Skandarajah said. “But, it’s evolved so much, it would be great for people to re-experience it and maybe some of those negative perceptions might be redressed.”

She said it was too easy to be critical in hindsight and predicted that, when completed, former prejudices would be forgotten.

“It has to be remembered that investment in Docklands was seen as a way of activating

the economy,” she said.

“There’s a lot of criticism of some of the early-stage development, but it’s easy in hindsight to say ‘we should have done this’ or ‘it could have been done better.’”

“But we have to remember that there was no money in government so they really had to facilitate private sector investment. And I think it’s been a success on that front.”

She said there was no doubt the development of Docklands had delivered for government.

“One dollar of public money spent for 99 dollars of private money – that’s a great outcome,” she said.

“The government did a lot of trunk infrastructure and remediating the area, but the private sector did a lot of the heavy lifting.”

Ms Skandarajah acknowledged the challenges facing the current government to develop Fishermans Bend, where it doesn’t own the land and has taken a consultative approach.

“It does require incredible co-ordination to be able to bring the different levels of government together and the various stakeholders,” she said.

“And it’s a different approach. The

Docklands was government-owned and it’s easier to do it when it’s a clear plot of land that’s all in one ownership.”

“But that doesn’t mean that governments should shy away from trying to achieve great urban renewal outcomes. To address some of the accommodation for people issues we’ve got to get smarter about how we do that and Fishermans Bend is a great opportunity to do that.”

“I think we’re lucky that in the city we have these sites and areas of land so close to our CBD.”

Ms Skandarajah said her organisation was well placed to develop other precincts in the state on the back of experience gained and lessons learned in Docklands.

“I think it’s a really exciting time in the precinct space. And with our new portfolio of Priority Precincts under Minister Jennings I think there’s a real focus on it,” she said.

“I think it’s going to be a good story if you can take the lessons out of Docklands and roll them out elsewhere.”

“Those lessons are about integration, about the transport opportunities and about the public spaces. How do we deliver great urban public spaces as part of these developments?”

She also acknowledged that, after nearly 20 years, Docklands was still waiting – particularly for the completion of Harbour Esplanade.

“With Docklands, that’s coming,” she said. “It wasn’t probably there initially because of how it had to be funded. And getting that balance right with great public realm and urban spaces cost money. So how to balance the need to deliver and get commercial outcomes?”

On the question of preserving Harbour Esplanade for public use, Ms Skandarajah said she agreed in principle, but that no final decisions had been made.

“I don’t think we’ve formed any firm views. We’ll consult with government about what possible uses there are,” she said.

“That waterfront area is a great face for the city, so we wouldn’t want to lose the public connection into that space. I think that would be one of our driving factors.”

“It takes time to create places and spaces,” she concluded.

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Corporate growth continues apace

Docklands continues to grow its corporate presence, with insurer QBE and International Workplace Group's co-working brand, Spaces, among the latest newcomers.

Lendlease reports that QBE will join anchor tenant ANZ in Victoria Harbour's latest commercial building at 839 Collins St.

QBE will occupy around 6000sqm across three floors and will move approximately 400 employees from 628 Bourke St by mid-2019. ANZ has already leased 26,500 sqm of the building.

Designed by award winning architect Denton Corker Marshall, the building's floorplate designs give clients the flexibility to scale their workplace operations up or down without the need to lease extra space.

At Melbourne Quarter, Lendlease says Spaces has secured 7000sqm across two buildings.

Spaces will occupy one floor at One Melbourne Quarter and more than 4000sqm

over two floors at Two Melbourne Quarter. It will also utilise the business lounge facilities in each building's lobby as extensions of its workplace.

Spaces' members will also have access to the precinct's wi-fi enabled Sky Park.

There will be over 700 flexible workstations available when Spaces moves into One Melbourne Quarter in May this year and Two Melbourne Quarter once it is complete in mid-2020.

The precinct will also be the Victorian home of AMP and Energy Australia, which will join Arup and Lendlease.

Spaces' model allows customers to pay only for the space they need, scaling operations up or down to boost employee productivity in their choice of work environments.

At nearby Collins Square, newcomers include NBN Co, Mars Australia, The Executive Centre and IQ Group.

Among new retail offerings are 8 Street and Carl's Junior at The District Docklands and Sergy Boy and Peddler at Melbourne Quarter.

Right: Lendlease's 839 Collins St, where QBE is joining anchor tenant ANZ.



Table is tops at the Nolan

Nolan tower residents celebrated the acquisition of a "community table" on Friday, February 22.

The purchase adds plenty of options for future use of the tower's podium level outdoor area.

Resident Lyn Faull explained: "The girls at the Nolan Tower know how to spend Friday

afternoon tea on their new community table overlooking Docklands' beautiful harbour."

"We walk together on Friday mornings, and enjoy one another's company," Ms Faull said.

"Maybe next time we will enjoy a mixed curry night."
"Who knows what this table will create!"

In our photo Margaret, Helen, Gail, Mona, Mira, Sue, Diane, Diane, Lyn and Verna show their appreciation.

John Henry answers your legal questions

Q. I am having trouble opening a bank account as I don't have photographic identification such as a passport or drivers licence. What can I do?

A. Nowadays, you require photographic identification to open an account with a bank or other financial institution, to register any transaction involving land, when acting as an executor (where there are assets to deal with), or adding yourself as a signatory to a bank account (where you are acting under power of attorney).

Medicare cards and birth certificates are not photographic identification. If you don't have a current drivers licence or passport, in Victoria you can obtain a Proof of Age card from the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation for these purposes.

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30 & 31 March
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Food and Wine Festival

Brunswick's Noisy Ritual urban winery is bringing winemaking to Docklands, opening a pop-up winery and bar as part of the 2019 Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.

Between March 20 to 30, the Noisy Ritual Pop-Up Fermentation Bar at Victoria Harbour will be serving wine by the glass, tasting flights and bottle alongside delicious wares from neighbouring Saluministi.

Become part of Noisy Ritual's proud tradition of people-powered winemaking by taking part in a Demystifying Winemaking

workshop on Saturday, March 23 or Saturday, March 30 (\$78).

On March 19, the Victoria Harbour edition of festival cult favourite, Crawl 'n' Bite, features an exclusive preview of the Pop-Up Fermentation Bar, as well as workshops, blind tastings, drinks and snacks at Saluministi and bespoke chocolatier Kep Whitley's eponymous store (\$98, includes hands-on workshops, blind tastings, snacks, wine and soft drinks).

Tickets for both events can be purchased at www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au/program/noisy-ritual-popup-fermentation-bar

More information and workshop tickets available at mfwf.com.au

Skate protest fizzles

A planned protest by skateboarders against media personality Sam Newman failed to materialise on Sunday, February 16.

Mr Newman attracted media attention in January when he briefly confiscated a skateboard and pointed out that skating was banned at Yarra's Edge.

Much was said about the incident, including a well-publicised event "Skate Sam's Steps" to which thousands either committed to attend or expressed interest in attending.

The protest, however, was a fizzer, with no skateboarders present at the allotted starting time of 10am.

The Facebook event sponsored by "Right Wing Jesus" and "The Bird" said Mr Newman was a "well known skater hater".

The page claimed the Mr Newman "has been caught on camera roughing up a young skateboard rider during a fiery confrontation. He's refusing to apologise, claiming the target of his aggression got what he deserved. So, come and skate the set of steps outside Sam's joint. Music stage with mosh pit, food trucks, pop-up skate shop, Renegade sound systems, chill-out-area, creche, paramedics on site. Fun day for the whole family!"

The Herald Sun obviously took the event seriously writing in the lead up: "Sam Newman has described himself like a prisoner in his own home as police urge him not to confront skateboarding "pests"



Sam on lockdown in skateboarding scrap

GOSSIP QUEEN Sam Newman has described himself as like a prisoner in his own home as police urge him not to confront skateboarding "pests" who threaten to rally outside his Docklands apartment in protest against him.

who threaten to rally outside his Docklands apartment in protest against him."

It's hard to tell who should be most embarrassed by this non-event.

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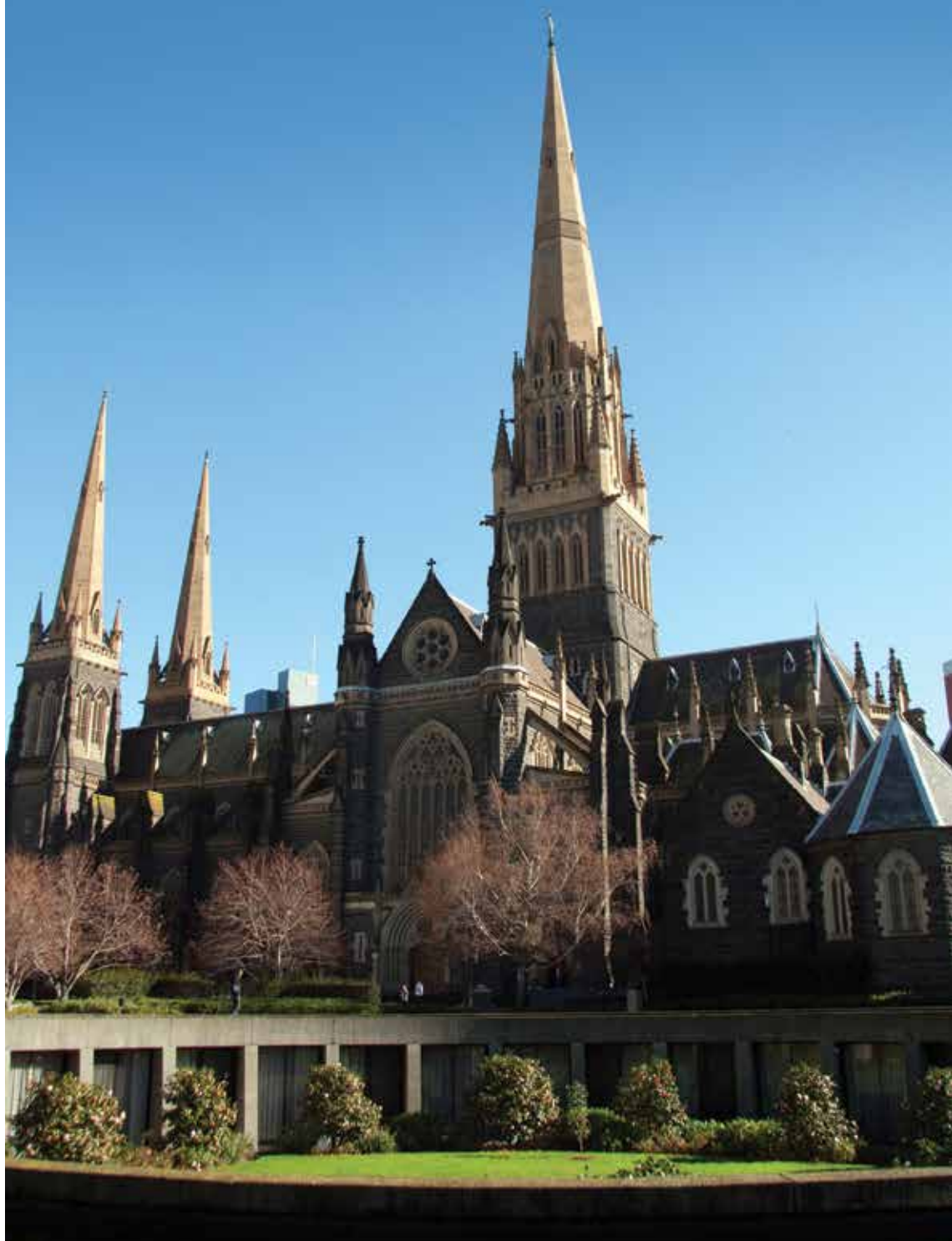
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EASTER MASS TIMES

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SUNDAY 14 APRIL – PALM SUNDAY

Vigil Mass of Sunday | 6:00pm, 13 April
with cantor and organ

Mass

with cantor and organ | 8:00am, 9:30am

Solemn Mass | 11:00am

With procession celebrated by Most Reverend
Peter A Comensoli with St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

Evening Mass | 6:30pm

with cantor and organ

MONDAY 15 APRIL

Weekday Mass | 7:00am, 1:00pm

TUESDAY 16 APRIL

Weekday Mass | 7:00am, 1:00pm

Chrism Mass | 11:00am

(Mass of the Oils)

Celebrated by Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli
with St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

No Reconciliation

WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL

Weekday Mass | 7:00am, 1:00pm

Reconciliation | 12:00 midday

THURSDAY 18 APRIL – HOLY THURSDAY

Reconciliation | 12:00 midday

Solemn Mass of the Last Supper | 7:30pm

With Cathedral Choir celebrated by Most Reverend
Peter A Comensoli with St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

FRIDAY 19 APRIL – GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross in the Cathedral | 9:00am

Ecumenical Way of the Cross | 10:00am

Begins at St Francis Church, cnr of Lonsdale
& Elizabeth Sts

The Passion of our Lord | 3:00pm

With Cathedral Choir celebrated by Most Reverend
Peter A Comensoli with St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

Reconciliation follows The Passion

Tenebrae | 7:30pm

With Cathedral Singers

SATURDAY 20 APRIL – EASTER SATURDAY

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night | 7:30pm

With Cathedral Choir inc. paschal fire, Baptism,
Confirmation and first Holy Communion
Celebrated by Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli
with St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

SUNDAY 21 APRIL – EASTER SUNDAY

Mass | 8:00am, 9:30am

with organ and cantor

Solemn Mass | 11:00am

Evening Mass | 6:30pm

with cantor and organ

All transport options should be considered

By Keith Sutherland,
chairman
Yarra Residents Action Group

After an exhaustive process the Fishermans Bend Planning Review Panel handed its final report to the state government late last year and several recommendations were made looking to the future of this exciting redevelopment and infrastructure project.

One of the main contentious issues for residents of Docklands and Yarra's Edge was the issue of a tram bridge from Collins to Lorimer streets.

In the original "draft for consultation" framework it was identified that the Jacobs Report Stage 1 study only assessed above-ground river crossing options.

The review panel acknowledged that this provided little comfort to property and boat owners of the broader community.

The review panel appreciated our submission of an alternative option to the tram river crossing but ruled that it was outside its terms of reference.

We have now identified three alternative options which we believe are far better and cheaper and should be considered and evaluated prior to making a disastrous decision.

(1) Immersed tube under the Yarra close to Bolte Bridge and under Lorimer St would eliminate the need for two expensive tram bridges plus tram crossing and property acquisitions.

And it could be used to remove container trucks off extremely busy Lorimer St by using the tube to shift containers from Webb to Swanson Dock possibly using automated robotics. This would reduce traffic congestion along Lorimer St and the Montague intersection which is one of



Trackless trams like this can save billions of dollars for the state government.

Melbourne's busiest.

(2) With some minor adjustments, trams routes 12, 96 and 109 can be rationalised to use Queens Bridge which is home to Melbourne's most under utilised tram route, 58. This would eliminate undesirable traffic impacts and would require new tram tracks for about 400 metres along City Rd.

This option recommends the full use of tram route 109 up to the crossing of Boundary St and from this point, the Fishermans Bend tram could branch off anywhere within the new precinct including the full length of Plummer St.

(3) The latest in transport innovation and technology are "trackless trams" or autonomous rail transport (ART) which appear to be the most exciting way of the future in transport needs.

Trackless trams are neither a tram or a bus and they run on roads and have rubber wheels and can reach speeds up to 70 kmh and can carry up to 300 people. With five carriages they can carry up to 500 people. In three years of trials no impact on road surfaces have been found.

The ART are a huge improvement from light rail and considerably cheaper. Light rail in Sydney and the Gold Coast have cost about

\$120 million per kilometre and it's believed trackless Trams cost around \$6-\$8 million per kilometre.

It replaces the noise and emissions of buses with electric traction from batteries recharged at stations in 30 seconds or at the end of the line in 10 minutes.

Why would the state government rush to make an important decision using old technology when the Fishermans Bend redevelopment extends to 2050?

The review panel accepts that providing public transport infrastructure requires detailed planning and assessment, design and business case development, which we would totally agree with.

They also stated, and I quote, "no doubt, this task would most likely be an iterative process, taking some time to complete".

It has been suggested that PTV/ Andrews Government have already made a decision so does that mean it's been a sham review process looking at alternatives to a tram bridge?

The government stated that it had set aside \$1 million for a business case so hopefully that will be made available prior to making any decisions on a tram bridge.

Bolte Precinct plan revised

The City of Melbourne has approved an amended development plan for the Yarra's Edge Bolte Precinct that includes plans for maritime, public space and wellbeing facilities at the site's western end.

The parcel of land on Lorimer St, part of which sits directly under the Bolte Bridge, has been discussed since 2006 when the initial precinct plan was approved.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said he was glad to see progress on the site.

"I think the Docklands community will be ready for this to happen," he said. "It's good to see it getting to this point."

The current *Yarra's Edge Bolte Precinct Development Plan* was approved by the planning minister in 2013 under the premise that the Metropolitan Fire Bridge would build an emergency services centre at the western end of the site.

However, in 2015 the MFB withdrew its interest and as a result, the 50-metre building earmarked for the site was no longer relevant.

Development Victoria (the site's owner) has now applied for built form of up to 90 metres along the Lorimer St frontage.

It has said the amended mixed-use precinct will incorporate a "blend of commercial and residential uses, as well as community recreation and open space areas".

As part of this, it has proposed:

- A health and wellbeing hub;
- Maritime waterfront facilities; and
- Arts and recreation facilities within the current heritage sheds.

Cr Nicholas Reece said he was glad the collaboration between the council and Development Victoria had yielded a strong outcome.

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North Wharf crane restored

Developer Riverlee has completed its restoration of a heritage-listed crane at North Wharf.

Recognised in 2002 for its historical significance to Victoria, the crane was built in 1948 by Malcolm Moore Limited and is acknowledged to be part of Melbourne's most intact cargo berth from the pre-containerisation era, also known as Berth No 5.

A collaborative process between Riverlee, consultants Lovell Chen, the City of Melbourne, Department of Planning, Department of Treasury and Finance and Heritage Victoria, the crane restoration will form part of Riverlee's \$450 million mixed-use development, Seafarers Place.

Originally located at the western end of the historic Shed 5 Riverlee opted to relocate the restored crane to the eastern end to make it more publicly accessible, and to integrate it with Seafarers Rest Park.

Riverlee's development director David Lee said it was important the mixed-use development was sympathetic to the wharf's industrial past.

"We are excited to bring the rich history of the site back to life as much as possible and in particular, the restoration of the crane



was so important to both Riverlee and the various partners involved," Mr Lee said.

The wharf, which dates back to the post-war era, has also undergone refurbishment.

"The crane demonstrates what a lively area the wharf once was in the mid-1900s, and alludes to a similar atmosphere that is about to come to the new Northbank precinct," Mr Lee said.

"We look forward to continuing to tell the story of the site's historical relevance and reference its history throughout our project."

Designed by architect Fender Katsalidis and landscape designer Oculus, Seafarers Place will comprise 145 apartments, a 5-star hotel, a 1000-seat function centre, which will occupy part of Shed 5 and a 3500 sqm park.

Construction is set to start next year.

Hopes raised for water fireworks

Continued from page 1.

water events, Mrs Maxwell has flagged the possibility of locals hosting their own fireworks events without council permits.

Mr Spiegel said the February 4 event cost about \$25,000+GST – close to \$10,000 to Parks Victoria and about \$15,000 for eight minutes of spectacular fireworks.

"I'm not saying the chamber would do this, but the way seems clear for businesses acting independently to get something happening," Mrs Maxwell said.

But the council has ruled out New Year's Eve fireworks returning to the water, but says it may consider it for smaller events.

"Future New Year's Eve fireworks will not be returned to the harbour," a spokesperson said. "However, for events that attract less patrons to the precinct, water-based fireworks and water-based activities may be supported."

Mrs Maxwell said: "I wonder what would happen if someone collected \$25,000 from local stakeholders and went to Parks Victoria for a permit for 9.30 fireworks from the water?"

She said the loss of the 9.30pm Docklands New Years Eve family fireworks in 2012 was a bitter blow that local businesses were still reeling from.

Mrs Maxwell said it was great to see a dragon boat regatta return to Victoria Harbour on February 15 and 16.

"The dragon boats went to country Victoria after losing patience with the authorities here in Melbourne," she said. "I don't know what has changed, but it sure looks good."



Voyager underway at Yarra's Edge

Mirvac has started its \$300 million Voyager residential tower at Yarra's Edge.

Voyager will rise 130 metres tall with 315 apartments across 43 levels and will be completed in mid- to late-2021.

The tower will include a mix of artist and flexi-apartments, one-, two- and three-bedroom luxury residences, as well as Sky residences and an exclusive residents-only rooftop lifestyle space on level 43 – the first

of its kind in Yarra's Edge.

Apartments range in size from 53 sqm to 173 sqm, with some accessing sweeping north



facing views of the city skyline and down the Yarra River. Residents will have access to a first rooftop space with indoor and outdoor amenity for private dining, as well as a bar, lounge area, theatre and karaoke room.

The fluid form of the Voyager building was designed in response to both air and river currents, with the bronzed curved facade reflecting the changing light of the sun.

Residents will be within walking distance to the nearby Wharf Club, which boasts a pool, spa, steam room, gym, fitness facilities and cafe.

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Going home on the ferry

By Rhonda Dredge

The water is inky and reflecting the colours of the boats. The sun is gleaming in the western sky. A friendly ticket guy is waiting with a joke. The setting is almost too good to be true.

Leigh Hogan arrives 15 minutes early off the Collins St tram, sits for a pleasant wait and the ferry turns elegantly at the dock at 5.33.

Leigh will spend a leisurely 90 minutes on board with wifi, reading and movies.

During that time his partner will be organising tea for his five children but the pay-off is that she will have the backdrop of a nice seaside location. The *Bellarine Express* is Melbourne’s only commuter ferry with a scheduled pick-up and delivery service to carry workers to and from the city and it is providing a new twist to an old story.

The ferry heads towards the Bolte Bridge, not full, but with enough passengers and a fare structure that beats driving your car and parking it in town.

The intricacies of family life and the logistics of making a living preoccupy many young families seeking more space than Melbourne can provide and a sea change is one option.

Before moving to Drysdale near Portarlington, the Hogans lived in Berwick but Leigh sat in one-and-a-half hours’ of traffic on the way to work, paid to park his car then did a shift as a salesman for a software company, before driving home.



“We bought a weekend house,” Leigh said. “It turned into every week.” The ferry was a big part of their decision to move. The coastal lifestyle was better and the travel time equivalent.

Three hours’ down-time four days a week is a dream come true for any family person. For the price of \$24 for a return ticket Leigh

can wipe off the stresses of work and prepare for those of family life.

“It helps keep sanity. There’s time to unwind.”

On the journey he gets to see the shipping, the industrial areas, cruise ships on the bay itself. Even on rough days “it’s not as bad as all that. You get a couple of bumps”.

The *Bellarine Express* has been going for more than two years. Some 80-85 commuters use it between Docklands and Portarlington, a figure that is up on last year’s.

In the past, Melburnians have been slow to embrace ferries. Many services have been mooted, but they haven’t been economical or fast enough to attract commuters.

Now with the Bellarine Peninsula ferry service up and running, with a schedule that fits in with the working week, the possibilities of variations on the sea change theme have increased.

Since the popular TV series *Sea Change* was aired 20 years ago, the idea of city slickers rebooting their lives in small coastal communities has been part of the culture.

Back then Sigrid Thornton played a frustrated magistrate with two children who falls for a laid-back boatie, Diver Dan. The new permutations may not be quite as romantic but they do have appeal over other family options.

Channel 9 will be showing a sequel this year starring Thornton. It remains to be seen what the critics will make of the reboot.

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COLLINS SQUARE 

Christian Kimber



Everyone has a story to tell

By Jay Miller
MtSV Heritage Register

Do you have a story or memory in your family archive about the Mission to Seafarers?

During the centenary of World War I many communities have been encouraged and inspired to gather vulnerable and precious memories and their stories.

From the mid-19th century the bays and ports of Melbourne started providing for the needs of seafarers. By 1917 the current Mission to Seafarers (MtSF) at 717 Flinders St was opened – ready for another century of operation.

During the mission's centenary year there was a marked rediscovery of connections, a linking of stories to family names and ships in its archive.

This has helped us preserve and build on these links. Many friends and supporters and some complete strangers brought us gifts, stories and images that have enriched our organisational history and clarified our perspectives.

Contributions such as these have helped us make sense of the “jigsaw” that tends to be the story of any venerable organisation.

As a result, our heritage archive volunteers are busy researching these links further and helping us to “map” the mission's timelines and activities.

For example, listing and identifying the heritage properties and locations – many being regular venues for picnics and outings on special days such as New Year and Boxing Day.

This helps us link to the families who helped the mission. These families include the Forges, generous owners of the famous stores, whose daughters regularly organised concerts and events to entertain and fundraise.



Pat Dann - Pat dropped in to the Mission to share stories and memorabilia from Mission to Seafarers with us. Her family commitment to the Mission at Hastings has been a long strong association.

We know more now of families such as the Darvalls, and the Mcphersons, the Ducketts, the Frasers and the Northcotes, the Outhwaites, the Rentouls, the Simpsons, the Tracy and Godfrey and Oliver families, to name but a few very important connections.

It was wonderful to meet and connect further with some of the descendants and relations of these families last year.

Listed in our archives are hundreds of family names of volunteer members and supporters, many essential to the actual running of the mission services.

The parallel establishment in the early 20th century of auxiliary member networks across the state and beyond were vital to the cause of seafarers.

As local “beacons” these advocates acted as important reminders of the work of merchant and naval services.

As a repository and with a historical and heritage archive still being catalogued, it has become clearer that in many ways the MtSV

also played an integral role in supporting some key areas of business development and the evolution of Melbourne as a major trading port and state capital.

The sea has always been key, and this is recognised on Melbourne's coat of arms, displayed on Princes Bridge for all to see.

Not only does the mission aim to preserve stories but it aims to reconnect the many citizens who helped us to transition to the present, and continue services to seafarers.

We would like to re-connect with and acknowledge the many communities across Victoria that were once part of our network.

There should always be a time for reminiscences and exchange with family or friends' histories.

We welcome any contributions of these you would like to share about your family links to the sea and especially the mission. Stories or facts can be verbal, written, video or podcast.

Please contact the mission at info@missiontoseafarers.com.au

Sky-farm in the works for Docklands

An old car-park in the Docklands end of Flinders St may be turned into a “sky-farm”, if authorities approve a plan submitted for the works last year.

A planning application was submitted in August last year to turn the top of a 10-storey car park at 671-701 Flinders St into a “working farm, nursery, shop, cafe, event and educational space.

The applicant, Biofilta, has design and engineering sustainability projects in place around Melbourne and the world – including at Birrarung Marr and Fitzroy Gardens.

But it is unclear whether the application will be accepted, sent back for changes or rejected outright as there were 34 objections to the application.

The objections were largely from locals living in apartments around the site. Their concerns concerned privacy, noise, traffic, security, odours, light pollution and waste management.

The hours of operation for the space were defined typically as between 9am and midnight, but with room to operate until 3am on occasions.

The event space would have room for 500 patrons.

There would also be a greenhouse, solar energy and a bee-hive garden.

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Wishing you a happy new year!

By Connie Luo,
Docklands resident and
Year 11 Lauriston student

Happy Chinese New Year! Huge celebrations have been held for 2019 Lunar New Year in the Docklands and the CBD.

February 5 was the first day of Chinese New Year, the year of Pig. People from northern parts of China traditionally make dumplings as their New Year's Eve dinner.

Most of the commemorative events happened on Sunday, February 10. It was a congested day, as more than 50,000 people swarmed into the CBD. Not only Chinese people were there in celebration of their traditional new year festival, but local Australians were there too.

"I am really excited to get red packs," said Amelie, a CBD resident. Red packs refer to the red envelopes which are given to children by elder family members, wishing them a healthy and happy new year.

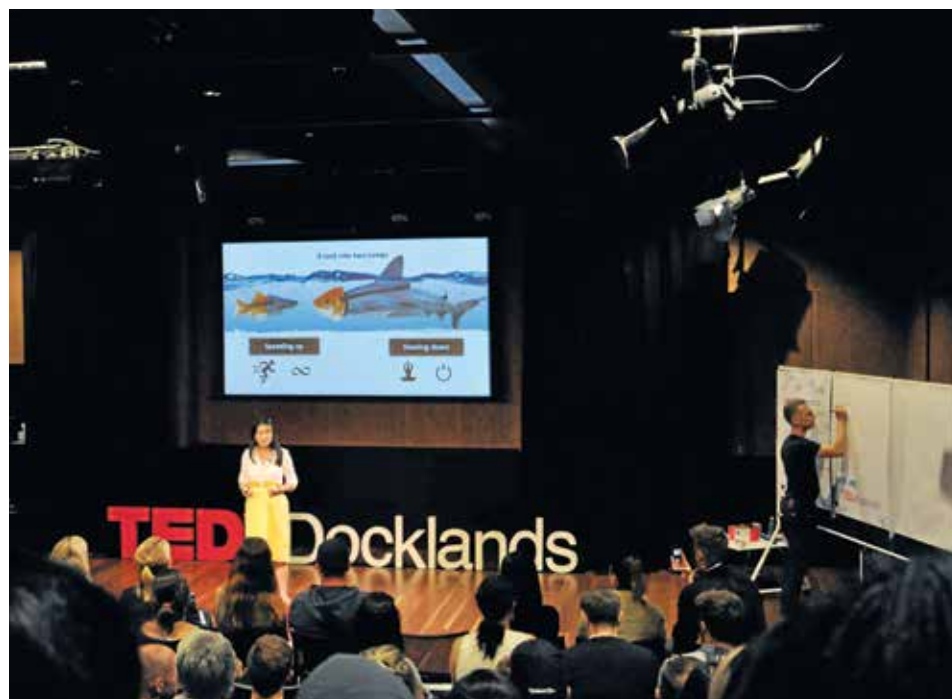
A 60m dragon paraded through Chinatown. Lion dances are indispensable for new year celebration. A performance of *Three Little Pigs* by children was lively and amusing



and the central city was blanketed with a festive atmosphere.

On February 16, a lion dance was again performed on the dock in Docklands. In addition, dragon boat races were conducted, with local Docklands residents participating. Teams three and four eventually won the regatta.

The new year festivities had finally come to an end, I wish you a best 2019!



TedxDocklands

Docklands had its first ever Tedx day at the Library at the Dock on February 21. From now, the event will be held annually in Docklands.

The day had a packed schedule, with 12 speakers stretching from 10am to after 5pm.

Docklands News caught the second speaker, 3 Pebbles director and open memory champion Kathy Lang. She spoke on the incredible human ability for memory inherent in everyone, if it's trained properly.

At the end of her talk Ms Lang gave each audience member an envelope containing a pebble, collected from a unique location somewhere in the world.

Docklands News received a pebble from New Caledonia with the message: "We invite you to participate in creating the pathways to a better future. Remember, even a small ripple can have life changing influences ... regardless of where it starts."

Other speakers included famous male model Nick Bracks, digital media technologist, entrepreneur and musician Finbar O'Hanlon and Australia's leading collective awareness and change facilitator Leigh Bundy.

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Patrick Honan, Horticulturist, will deliver six interactive workshops at the Mission to Seafarers 717 Flinders St, Docklands



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Social Club

The March Docklands Social Club event is to be held on Wednesday, March 13 at Bhoj in NewQuay.

The "club" is a gathering of locals interested in getting to know fellow Docklanders and meets in a different venue each month.

In February, the group met at Pok Pok in Bourke St. Come along on March 13 from 7pm. Bhoj is at 54 NewQuay Promenade.



The February 12 gathering at Pok Pok.

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An educational sea change

For parents in rural areas, a child's acceptance into a selective senior high school in the city is both exciting and a complication.

For a year after Sam Stoffel's son was accepted into Victoria College of the Arts secondary school she spent half her time in Halls Gap and half in Docklands.

"We couldn't sustain that," she said.

She was acting principal at Halls Gap Primary School. As a teacher with over 25 years' experience she valued her son's course. Now, she's taken a year's leave and is in Docklands full time.

She doesn't know how long she will be here for, but she'll still be teaching. She's starting up her own school readiness program as well as tutoring and coaching.

The morning we met, she said she'd just seen some new data on television: "One in five children in Victoria are not ready when they reach schools."

"I've been working a bit at South Melbourne Primary School, but I just identified this need for school readiness," she said.

"Kids often aren't ready academically, developmentally and socially when they enter school."

"It's causing a lot of angst for parents, and kids that start behind stay behind and fall further behind. I want to be the person who can help."

Mrs Stoffel said her programs weren't simply for young children approaching school age, but anyone who was transitioning to primary school at any level. She highlighted the large international community in the area.

And she says the community here was surprising to her and her family. Coming from the small, picturesque Halls Gap "we didn't necessarily think that was something we'd find in the city".

"We were very surprised at the sense of community here. I've joined the Docklands choir and that's the best decision I've made." "I've made some amazing friends and I get to go and be uplifted by song with the Docklands community."

Mrs Stoffel and her family live on Victoria Harbour, an area where she said everyone was open to communicating with you and building friendships.

"We love what the chamber of commerce has done, we've gone to some of their programs that they offered over summer," she said.

The films in the park are a favourite too. Even the water activities attract their attention.

"We can see ourselves maybe getting involved in the dragon boats in the future."



All scouts on deck

Docklands welcomed a special set of international visitors on February 19, as Scouts from the People's Republic of China climbed aboard the Enterprize.

As part of their Melbourne tour, the students boarded the vessel for a two-and-a-half hour round trip down the river and into the bay.

Enterprize is a replica of the ship that brought the first European settlers to Melbourne from Tasmania in 1835 and was designed to be as authentic as possible.

Enterprize general manager Michael Womack said on the day that the expedition might not be so smooth for the youngsters.

"It's a bit bumpy out there today according to the captain. But they're scouts - they'll be right," he said with a smile.

This was the second year Mr Womack and his team has welcomed the group.

"Oh they're very receptive and keen to get on board. It's exciting for them. I don't think they get out on the water very much, so they seem to enjoy themselves."

For more information about day sails, private charters and school education programs, visit enterprize.org.au or call 9621 1294.



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Classic cars on the docks

Some of the state’s finest vintage vehicles descended on Docklands in February, as the Alma Doepel Supporters Club played host to a motor enthusiast meet-up.

On February 9, the Victorian Federation of Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicle Clubs met at the Shed 2 location for a special meeting of its clubs.

Cars were displayed in the normally gated area, before a lunch was held for 80-100 delegates.

Alma supporter’s club committee member Bill Reid said the event was a huge success.

“These events don’t just happen and this one took a fair bit of behind the scenes negotiations to make it work,” he said.

The *Alma Doepel* is a 116-year-old ship that was once used as a World War II supply vessel, and now resides in Docklands where

it is undergoing an extensive \$3.3 million restoration.

The restoration is into its final stages and Alma volunteers guided the visitors through its progress throughout the day.

Following this, the federation voted to make a generous donation of \$1000 to restoration efforts.

The money will used to purchase two spotted gum hull planks, with the club’s honour board reflecting the federation’s donation.

Tim Christie, president Morris Car Club of Victoria, (left) and Neil Athorn, president Federation of Veteran, Vintage and Classic Vehicle Clubs (right) present Alma Doepel project director Peter Harris with \$1000.



Prisonerfans relive the glory days

By David Schout

An international fan group of ‘80s TV show “Prisoner” have converged on Docklands to celebrate the show’s 40th anniversary.

On February 23, fans both local and abroad (including the UK and US) hopped aboard Docklands’ Steam Tug *Wattle* – a 1930s era tugboat used as a set in a number of the show’s episodes.

The fan group, known as Partners in Crime, visited other Melbourne locations used during the show’s run (1979-1986) on the day. But organiser Barry Parker said securing brunch aboard the *Wattle* was their “big coup”.

The steam-powered tugboat was used as a set in episodes 641-643 (of 692) of *Prisoner*, an Australian soap set in the fictional women’s prison Wentworth Detention Centre.

In the specific episodes, four inmates were



Partners in Crime soak up the authentic atmosphere aboard Wattle.

given work release on the *Wattle* to learn ship-maintenance skills and “get some fresh air”.

One of the inmates planned to use her temporary freedom to kill a prison rival, and eventually sabotaged the vessel’s inlet valve.

Partners in Crime was formed in 1998 in the UK city of Derby.

The fan club produced a series of newsletters and fanzines called *The H Block Herald*, a nod to *Cell Block H* – the show’s name in the UK.

In it, they detailed their attempts to find out information about the show and track down cast members, a distinct challenge in the pre-internet days.

Original founder Roz Vescsey also successfully lobbied for the show’s re-run on UK television, and eventually moved to Australia in 2001 where she kept the group going.

These days, the group organise annual fan and cast get-togethers in Melbourne through its Facebook page.

The group was particularly keen for their celebration of the show’s 40th anniversary to include an event aboard the *Wattle*, a ship in the final stages of a 10-year restoration.

Jeff Malley from the Bay Steamers Maritime Museum, the volunteer organisation restoring the *Wattle*, said it wouldn’t be long til we see her return.

“The *Wattle* will be steaming on Docklands very soon,” he said.

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Creating an urban village

New CEO of The District Docklands George Karabatsos is very excited about the incredible opportunity that the precinct represents to the futures of both Docklands and Melbourne.

With nearly 30 years of experience working in the retail property and investment industry, George's understanding and passion for new his role was clearly evident as he walked and talked *Docklands News* through his vision for The District last month.

And listening to his take on the future of The District, it's hard not to get excited. Between what is already there and what is on the way, Mr Karabatsos said he believed the precinct was quickly evolving into what he referred to as "the pulse of the harbour".

But more broadly, the precinct's direct connection to the city's north-west growth corridor, including future urban renewal zones at E-Gate, West Melbourne and Arden-Macauley, gives it all the makings of something very special for our city.

"I genuinely believe this is instrumental in that broader vision and how Docklands is seen," he told *Docklands News*. "It's quite an amazing environment if you look at it in the medium to longer term and there's not many opportunities you get where you can help be a part of shaping a new district within a suburb like this."

"I'm still very early on in my first year but we've already got about \$150 million worth of projects that we are delivering on in 2019 so we're very excited."

Having worked in a number of senior management roles in the retail and property sector, which have included the likes of Colonial First State and Westfield, Mr Karabatsos's level of expertise is just what The District needs to accelerate its transformation.

Melbourne born and bred, his understanding of our city's cultural fabric is something he is keen to weave into the "community fabric" at The District - creating a destination that he believes has the



The District Docklands CEO George Karabatsos.

potential to help transform the city.

Following the rebrand of The District Docklands by owners Ashe Morgan in November 2017, the precinct has already seen significant changes on its journey transforming into what George calls an "urban village" providing retail, entertainment and leisure.

Its master plan portrays an exciting image for the future, with a new fresh food market, Marriot Hotel and new commercial and community services currently under construction, while the new Hoyts Cinema headlines a new dining and entertainment precinct.

Combine all of that with more commercial and residential growth in NewQuay, a new primary school and a proposed pedestrian link from North Melbourne Station through E-Gate, the future looks bright.

As the man charged with leading this exciting chapter in the precinct's story, Mr Karabatsos said he was thoroughly enjoying

his new role. While there are still a number of challenges that lay ahead, he said the biggest was changing peoples' perceptions about The District.

"Not many people know the brand The District Docklands and I think the biggest challenge will really be how do we deliver on the community and visitor expectations on what the product is and what it needs to stand for to become the life of the city and heart of the harbour."

"What does that mean? It means it delivers amenity to residents, to workers, visitors and we really need to bring all these components together that are quite unique to us."

"Property as a whole is a very stable investment vehicle but it is a reflection of how communities live, work and play."

"Unless you're in tune with how the community around you is growing and changing and what their needs are, the amenities they need then you kind of miss the boat."



Park Cinema – March screenings

The final two Park Cinema movie screenings have been announced for March.

Showing in Buluk Park on March 2 will be *The Never Ending Story* and on March 9, as part of the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) *Pick of the Litter*.

Victoria Harbour has partnered with MIFF to bring *Pick of the Litter* to the free Park Cinema screen.

It's a story that's as educational as it is heart-warming, following five puppies from the moment they're born, through to their various foster families and their pairing with hopeful new owners.

Park Cinema is a BYO alcohol and food event. There will be a designated food delivery pick-up point for Uber Eats and Deliveroo and snacks will be available from nearby Victoria Harbour retailers.

To take the Park Cinema picnic to new, delicious heights, this year guests can pre-order local retailer Saluministi's Antipasto Box (\$30), which includes stone baked ciabatta, mortadella, cacciatore salami, provolone, buffalo mozzarella and more.

Local bespoke chocolatier Kep Whitley will also be open with house-made ice-cream pops for \$5.

Gates will open at 7pm and screening will commence at about 8.30pm. As there is no reserved seating, it's suggested that guests arrive early to secure a spot.

Tickets are free but are strictly limited. Book early to avoid missing out via Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com.au/o/park-cinema-presented-by-victoria-harbour-10829439120

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REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS

First Collins Wharf tower completed

Residents have started moving in to No. 1 Collins Wharf, the first residential tower in the Collins Wharf precinct in Victoria Harbour.



In conjunction with No. 1 Collins Wharf reaching completion last year, the first part of Yarra Walk has also now opened.

Yarra Walk is a unique over-water pedestrian experience that will eventually stretch 500 metres from Bourke Dock, to Eco Park at the western tip of Collins Wharf.

The walk will complete a 3km activity loop and is the first of many public spaces to be delivered as part of Collins Wharf, including Eco Park, Community Green, Promenade Park, Bourke Dock and some pocket parks.



Burger heaven for overnight campers

Self-described “food lover” Joshua Bullock camped out for 20 hours on February 13 to ensure he was first in the queue when Carl’s Junior opened its Docklands store.



The look on Josh’s face says it all. Photo courtesy Alexandre Schoelcher.

Mr Bullock, 36, lived in the US as a high-school basketballer and developed quite a passion for the hamburger outlet. Some 20 years of cravings made sure he wasn’t going to miss out on the opportunity of free burgers for a year.

He travelled on the train from Seymour with Joanne Wickham the day before – arriving at 11am and staying the night (sleeping on the red carpet) before being rewarded with the first burger at about 8.30am on February 14.

The new outlet under the Southern Star Observation Wheel made the “free burger every week for a year” offer to the first 50 patrons.

Glen Iris resident Marie Taylor achieved fourth place in the line. She explained that her interest was more about participating in a unique experience.

“I’ve never tried one,” she said. “For me it’s about creating memories.”

For Americans Carl and Sandra Wenz, it was the third time they’ve been in the top 50, having been first at Victoria’s first Carl’s Junior outlet at Knox and third for the chain’s Cranbourne debut.

With the vouchers being transferrable to other stores, the Pakenham couple are eyeing off a chance to dine out four times a week by attempting to be among the winners when a Ballarat store opens at the end of March.

Offering the benefit of his intimate knowledge, Carl told *Docklands News* that a Western Bacon cheeseburger with crispy cut fries “couldn’t be beat”.

The chain’s vice-president franchise

operations and development Asia, Brad Sommer, said the brand was moving its Asian headquarters from Singapore to Melbourne.

He said there would be 30 more stores here in the next four or five years and that the brand would employ “a couple of thousand” people.

Mr Sommer said some 80 local people would be employed at the Docklands outlet.

And it appears that the local contingent are made of stern stuff too. In the lead-up to the opening, fire sprinklers were accidentally set off – resulting in a flooded kitchen.

For the overnight campers though, the opening went smoothly. Mr Bullock was reportedly well satisfied with his reward. The look on his face tells the story.



Carl and Sandra Wenz – Victoria’s most prolific fans.



The ribbon is cut marking the opening of the Docklands Carl’s Junior outlet.



Marie Taylor enjoying a unique experience.

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Seasons Now Open

Celebrating St Patrick's Day

By Asleen Mauthoor

Since 1897, St Patrick's Cathedral has been a key focus for St Patrick's Day celebrations.

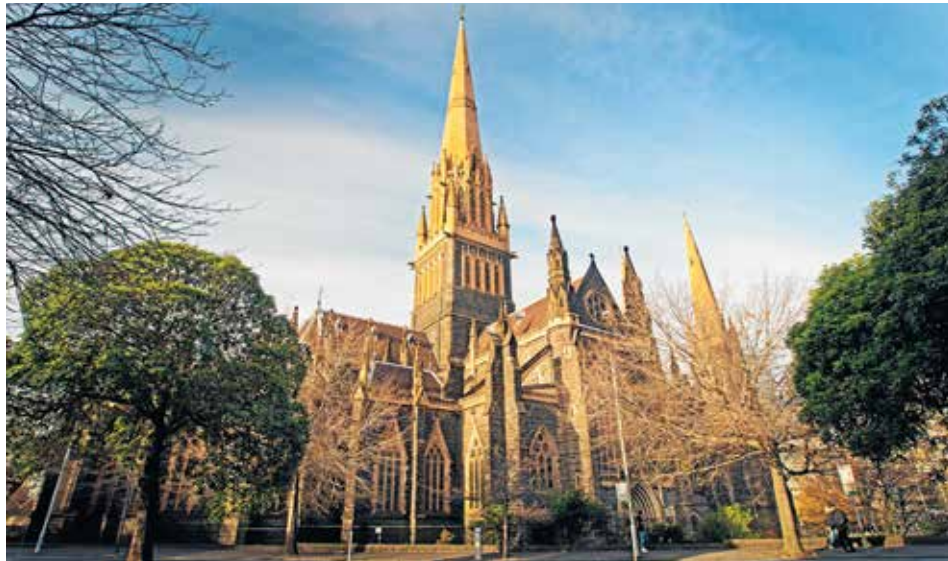
Although St Patrick died around 462, the new cathedral dean, the Reverend Werner Utri, believes the saint is still a significant figure.

"St Patrick was a person who suffered much, having been sold into slavery while still young," he said. "Perhaps Patrick is still a model for us today as we face life's trials and tribulations – perhaps we need to be reminded that God is with us."

Fr Utri, who took up his position at the cathedral in January, finds the work quite different from usual parish appointments.

"It's part of my brief from Archbishop Peter Comensoli that St Patrick's Cathedral be a place of welcome and hospitality, a place where music, the arts, theology and faith intersect; a place of outreach and mission to the wider community," Fr Utri said.

"My hope is that all visitors will experience



something of that hospitality and welcome, and some of the sense of peace that a beautiful place of prayer can instil in

people."

"We are planning to offer refreshments and hoping to have live Celtic music after each of

the Sunday masses on St Patrick's Day."

Renowned for its excellent acoustics, the cathedral has always been a venue for fine ecclesiastical music and music will play a prominent part in the 11am mass on St Patrick's Day.

"The St Patrick's Cathedral Choir will sing a recently-commissioned work, entitled the *Mass of St Patrick* by Melbourne musician and composer Roger Heagney," director of music, Paul Taylor, said.

Visitors can take a virtual tour by downloading the St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne Virtual Tour app.

Mass times: St Patrick's Day Schools Mass - Friday, March 15 - 10.30am; Saturday, March 16 - 6pm; Sunday March 17 - 8am, 9.30am, 11am and 6.30pm.

Further details to be published at www.stpatrickscathedral.org.au

Vertical Living

Energy vulnerable vertical villages?

Energy is the bedrock of modern life but are we high-risers too exposed?

Our vertical villages stand already accused of energy guzzling with claims that apartment living can consume 25 per cent more energy than detached dwelling living. A large percentage of this goes to our dependence on air conditioning due to our floor to ceiling windows. Added to this, our common property – lifts, pools, gardens – also draw heavily on our purse with the energy used here accounting for up to 60 per cent of the total building's energy consumption and 25 per cent of administrative fund levies.

While our energy consumption is, of course, a financial concern, perhaps more worryingly, we vertical villagers are now being discussed in terms of our energy vulnerability.

Are we a "vulnerable group" in terms of energy?

Let's be a little pedantic and look at the meaning of vulnerable.

Coming from the Latin vulnerare (to wound) and from vulnus (a wound), being vulnerable can be about exposure to particular adversity and, in our case, being open to specific hurt (wounding) due to our energy arrangements.

According to the Group of Energy Efficiency Researchers (GEER), this is

precisely what we of the vertical villages are – that is, exposed, susceptible and energy vulnerable.

And who is GEER to so deem us?

GEER is a group of research and industry members drawn from institutions across Australia which are concerned with the health, wellbeing and quality of life for people who are confronted by energy challenges such as affordability and sustainability. (I must now disclose that I am a member of GEER and will be presenting in April at the IREE conference on improving residential energy efficiency.)

So, how are we vulnerable?

Consider the wide array of ways in which we vertical villagers might be wounded by our energy arrangements.

Let's start with thermal performance. A study by Melbourne University (2017) found many of Melbourne's high-rise apartment blocks deficient in their thermal performance. In fact, without constant air conditioning for cooling, these apartments become "uninhabitable". Compounding this, the frequency and length of heatwaves are expected to significantly increase (potentially tripling), as is Melbourne's "heatwave amplitude" (i.e. the intensity of the hottest day of the hottest heatwave), so say researchers Herold, Ekstrom, Kala, Goldie and Evans (2018). This means we will be cranking up our air conditioning even more, which leads us to another sore point – embedded energy networks and our ability to choose our energy provider.

Canstar Blue explains an embedded network as a contract between the building owners and an energy retailer for the latter to supply power to all of the properties in that development. Developers often opt for this arrangement as it is less expensive than installing individual meters. However, it also means that the option of switching electricity providers is not possible for individuals and can be extremely costly for the entire building.

But perhaps we could seek help through the energy schemes offered by our governments such as the Victorian Government's Solar Homes Package?

Unfortunately, as vertical villagers, we do not "own" our roof, and this means that individually we do not qualify for these types schemes.

Perhaps help might be more forthcoming from programs specifically aimed at vertical living, such as Smart Blocks and NABERS for Apartments.

Disappointment again.

Smart Blocks has slipped quietly away and, as for NABERS for Apartments, while most residential buildings which participated in the pilot have received their rating, little else has been forthcoming (i.e. how to improve these ratings). And logic dictates that without dedicated action to improve energy consumption, a building's rating will likely be the same (or lower) next year – so why go to the bother of participating next round?

Yet hope springs external.

There are emerging some very clever innovations for vertical dwellers.

Take Solgami.

These origami-style blinds hang inside a window and generate electricity as light reflects against the folds of the panel. The geometry of the design also allows more natural light inside, a point in its favour compared with the darkening effect of strong window tints.

According to Ben Berwick, the director of the Australia-based design firm Prevalent, the aim is to reposition cities (and specifically our vertical villages) as places of production rather than solely consumption.

Naturally the amount of power generated will vary inline with window size, orientation (in this case, west is good!) and climate.

And while Solgami is not yet commercially available, it is this type of multi-faceted approach where several issues are simultaneously dealt with (temperature, light and energy) that promise us a better path.

In this way, we vertical villagers can become less energy vulnerable – but only if we are energised about our issues!



Janette Corcoran
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DOCKLANDS FASHION



Nate Boudoukos, 25, finance officer

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE

WEARING: A jacket from Peter Jackson, jeans from General Pants. Shirt and tie from H&M.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING: Denim jacket.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS: Work.

STYLE: Casual or alternative corporate.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT: Lines and shape.

Emily Lee, 21, unemployed

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE

WEARING: I am wearing a grey hoodie and jeans.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING: I like jeans, blue jeans skirt.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS: I am coming here because of a work trial. I live in Brunswick.

STYLE: I like casual style, but when I go to party I wear a lot more girlish clothing.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT: It depends on the person's style and personality, freestyle or casual.

Eva Philipion, 22, biotech student

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU'RE

WEARING: Smart trousers I think. Derbys, like city shoes, and casual white top. And a very nice backpack.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING: I like little bags. I am really into shirts and blouses. I like Bordeaux colour, a dark red.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS: I am just walking on my own to get to a clothes fair. A friend told me.

STYLE: I am just wearing city and smart clothes, like Parisian style. I stopped wearing jeans because they're not comfortable. I like matching colours too.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT: It's hard because everyone has their own style and I don't want to judge. It's about personal taste. It's a good outfit when you feel comfortable and pretty and you're proud of it.

10 Years On



Skandia skipper Grant Wharington ... he asks "how could the Government consider cutting Docklands off?"

March 2009, Issue 40

Top yachtie takes a swipe at bridge proposal

Victoria's most awarded yachtsman Grant Wharington has weighed into the Docklands low rail bridge debate with the suggestion that it was ludicrous to even consider the idea.

"We've created this multi, multi-million dollar asset here in Docklands. How could the State Government even consider cutting it off from the water," he said.

He said a rail tunnel under the river was the obvious answer to the problem of moving shipping containers from Webb Dock to the freight facilities at Dynon Dock.

"It seems such a waste," he said. "If it costs \$100 million extra to put it under the river, then so be it."

"I would have thought they could amortise that extra cost through a levy on each container in a very short time."

The former Sydney to Hobart line honours winner said yachts would no longer visit Docklands if the low bridge was built.

The Port of Melbourne Corporation has proposed a rail bridge with only eight metres clearance but has so far refused to comment on it to the *Docklands Community News*.

Last month the DCN carried a summary prepared by Defend Our Docklands Or ... (DODO) convenor Michael Lindell. The Port of Melbourne declined to either confirm or deny the accuracy of the claims.

DODO is holding a meeting for concerned Docklanders at Nina's under the Southern Star Observation Wheel at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, March 18.



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Owners' Corporation Law

Boom, boom, bust and out -

More builders and developers will choose to "go bust" instead of being held accountable to owners' corporations (OCs) for dodgy building defects

An OC recently found out the hard way, when the builder it had taken to VCAT for building defects slipped into voluntary liquidation shortly before the hearing, leaving the OC out-of-pocket and unable to chase any other wrongdoers in the matter.

In my view, this is a cautionary tale for consumers and investors of apartment buildings and the lessons ought to be heeded by other OCs otherwise the same thing could happen to them.

Ascot Constructions Pty Ltd [In Liq.] constructed a three-storey residential apartment building in 2011 at Caroline Springs. Soon after the occupancy of the brand-new building, complaints about defects including water leaks, blocked pipes and flammable cladding emerged.

It took the OC three years to bring proceedings against the builder for damages in respect to the defects and a further three years before the claim was finally set to be determined at a hearing in VCAT in late 2018.

The architect and building surveyor had also been joined to the claim but had ultimately acted to settle their share of the liability before the hearing outside of the

proceedings.

The OC was left with approximately \$2 million in out of pocket costs and the building company tipped itself into voluntary liquidation shortly before the commencement of the VCAT hearing.

This meant that VCAT was left with no option but to strike out the OC's claim, leaving it with no way of recovering the outstanding costs from the builder.

Three key lessons can be taken away from this experience. OCs and owners that find themselves in a building defects dispute with a builder should:

Act quickly to bring a claim against the liable parties. One of the problems in the case above, was simply the amount of time that it took for the OC to commence proceedings;

Retain good building experts and engineers to provide the OC with accurate and timely reports that can be used as evidence in legal proceedings; and

Be open and flexible in negotiations and settlements because of the unavoidable danger of the respondents going into liquidation.

Ascot Constructions is not the only

recent example that OCs have to learn from.

Hickory (a large construction company) placed its subsidiary H Buildings Pty Limited into voluntary administration in late-2018, around the same time as 13 claims for the rectification of cladding and building defects were being made against it by various Owners Corporations in VCAT.

It should be noted that Hickory say that its subsidiary was liquidated due to unrelated mounting legal costs in an unrelated case in Western Australia.

In the meantime, if a defect arises in your building be sure to use the small window of opportunity to bring a claim, do your due diligence on the ability of the builder and other concurrent wrongdoers to meet the costs of the claim, and remain open minded and practical when conducting negotiations and settlements.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.

Tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

Neighbour Day in Victoria Harbour

To celebrate Neighbour Day, Docklands residents are invited to a block party in Buluk Park, Victoria Harbour on Sunday, March 31 from 11am – 3pm.

This is a free event held in conjunction with the City of Melbourne and Lendlease, and will include food, a coffee cart and other interactive activities for both children and adults.

This year will build on last year's successful event, which saw over 200 residents gather in Buluk Park.

Visit City of Melbourne's 'What's On' guide (whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au) or victoriaharbour.com.au for more information.

Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community, encouraging people to connect with those who live in their neighbourhood.

Chamber Update

The Summer Campaign

The chamber been running the Docklands Summer Campaign – a range of events and activations combining business offers in Docklands.

We started off with Port Phillip Ferries and Hoyts where we brought 40 beaming faces from Portarlington to Docklands for the day. The feedback was amazing, and we will be offering this as a regular attraction particularly when the Docklands-Geelong route begins.

We then had a gorgeous Valentine's night aboard Melbourne Boat Hire's *Birrarung*, followed by a truly huge three-course feast at Berth.

Another 40 people attended "We're doing Docklands" – combining a meal and drink at Urban Alley with unlimited fun at Archie Brothers. Such a night and one we'll be sure to repeat.

Finally, we finished off with progressive dining at Merchant Society and TAP831. These certainly won't be our last offerings so keep an eye out on our socials for some amazing specials. To give you a guide, every one of these was at least 30 per cent under retail cost.

Run 4 The Kids

Run 4 The Kids is quickly sneaking up on us. This iconic Melbourne event, attracting some 40,000 runners and spectators is returning to Docklands for the start and finish.

For the first time ever both the long and the short run will head over the Bolte Bridge. If you are a business in Docklands, then Run 4 The Kids has some amazing branding and advertising available. Follow our e-newsletter and socials to find out more.

The harbour is alive

As a long-term resident of Docklands, it's been amazing to see the subtle and then not-so-subtle changes that have occurred.

Sitting on my balcony last Sunday the sight of the harbour with so much motion was heartwarming.

The arrival of the Go Boats has certainly created a buzz. In just one day their boats clocked some 300km up and down the Yarra. Combine that Melbourne Boat Hire's fleet and the revamped *Lady Cutler* being packed out it was gorgeous to see.

The Harbour is our future as a precinct.



Shane Wylie

Media Director
www.docklandsc.com.au



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We Live Here

Cladding, short-stays and rooming

As evacuees trudged out of the CBD high-rise building that caught fire in February, the media stepped in to interview the victims of this alarming incident that has been blamed on combustible cladding.

Many people interviewed were short-stay visitors. One interviewee was a short-stay business operator who claimed to manage dozens of apartments in the building.

Overcrowding was also reported as a feature of an earlier fire at the same address two years earlier, and just last year there was a report of gangs of youths running amok at an out-of control party in a short-stay apartment in the same building.

These are not isolated incidents.

It is time the government took notice of what is going on under its nose. Instead, we are supposed to congratulate it for enacting the OC Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2016, which became law early this year, but which doesn't begin to scratch the surface of the many issues facing residents in high-rise communities.

The fire that raced up the 41-storey building at Neo200 in Spencer St had some similarities to the Grenfell fire in London in 2017 and the Lacrosse fire in Docklands in 2014, both of which were linked to combustible cladding used on the exterior of the buildings.

The fire appears to have started in an apartment on the 22nd floor and raced up seven floors damaging the balconies before it was extinguished.

One person suffered smoke inhalation and hundreds were evacuated from the 371-apartment building opposite Southern Cross Station.

The assistant chief fire officer for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade said combustible cladding material was found on parts of the building near the balconies and it is believed to have been one of the fuels that accelerated the fire.

It was also reported that the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) knew that this building was fitted with "non-compliant cladding material" and had referred it to the City of Melbourne Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS).

However, following an audit in 2016, the City of Melbourne MBS determined the building was "safe for occupation" and "no further action" was required.

This is not the first time We Live Here has been made aware of different advice being provided by the relevant authorities and it is fortuitous that no one was killed or injured in this fire.

Combustible cladding, however, is not the only feature of this fire being investigated.

A history of overcrowding and short-term rental parties at this building has also been identified.

After another fire in 2015, beds were found in stairwells and apartments converted into cramped rooming houses with living areas rented to multiple tenants as sleeping spaces.

In September last year, police were called to the building at 7 am one morning following reports of 40 young people running wild and fighting inside the building. Some youths were armed with

knives. On arrival police found that the party-goers had dispersed, leaving behind significant damage to the building.

In February the Victorian Minister for Consumers Affairs issued a media release announcing the enactment of "tough new penalties for out of control parties".

In the light of the events referred to above, which are by no means uncommon, it is risible and insulting to owners' corporations (OCs) that try so hard to manage their buildings to be burdened with such a piece of legislation as vacuous and self-serving as the so-called Airbnb Bill.

This legislation only makes things worse for high-rise owners trying to recover costs from delinquent short-stay guests. We repeat the question we asked of Daniel Andrews and Marlene Kairouz in our previous newsletter, namely: Please tell us how this Bill is actually meant to work in practice?

There will be more on these issues in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, if anything raised in this column strikes a chord with you, please write to the government with your stories and let them know what they need to do:

REVIEW the process for determining which buildings are at risk from combustible cladding and improve the method of communication with those buildings;

RESTORE powers lost by OCs as a result of Justice Riorden's 2016 Supreme Court judgement; and

REFER to owners and residents for our opinions on proper regulation of the short-stay industry.

Put a fire risk management plan in place NOW

We Live Here made this recommendation before and the recent fire makes it important enough to repeat: All high-rise apartment buildings must implement a fire risk management plan NOW.

The plan should set out all the management steps you have implemented to make your building safe while the assessment is being carried out.

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 welfarehere.net

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

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



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

Pet's Corner

She's the boss, and I like it!

By Kevin Jingga

When you think of having a dog as your pet, you would expect yourself to be the master over your companion.

But that's not the case for Holly. The Havanese full breed is the boss of her owner, Debbie Brown.

"At the moment, she is my boss, I like it, she makes me get out in the morning," she laughed.

This unique relationship started off last year when Debbie was grieving over the death of her previous pet and was looking for comfort in her single living household.

"I lost my other little one and I thought I needed to find another one when I was ready - one that was hypo-allergenic because I am allergic," she said.

She went to a Melbourne show, had a look and got in touch with the breeder, which ended up with Holly.

"Havanas have a beautiful nature. They don't judge you for anything, they just love you and boss you," she said.

"She is different to my other dog. He was very quiet, like a gentleman, and she's very 'voicetrous' and likes to boss me around".

However, Holly is not only bossy, she is also a tender-hearted creature on the right occasion.

"I was sick for a long time last year and she kind of nursed me," she said.

This 14-month togetherness created a lot of good memories for Debbie.

"She loves everybody, all dogs all humans, is very easy to toilet train, and she loves life," Debbie said.

Havanese are known to be affectionate, responsive, intelligent, playful, companionable and gentle. Their life span varies from 13 to 15 years. They weigh around 4.5 to 7.3 kg and are 23 to 27 cm tall.

Debbie Brown with her Havanese dog Holly.



Fears lead to fewer fines

By Shane Scanlan

Melbourne councillors have been told almost \$2 million in parking fines was not collected in the last quarter mainly because of “infringement officers requesting to be paired up over safety concerns”.

In a quarterly financial report presented to councillors at the February 19 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, chief financial officer Michael Tenace reported that \$1.8 million less than expected was collected from fines in the second quarter of 2018-19. The figure is 8.4 per cent under budget.

“This unfavourable variance is due mainly to lower number of infringement notices being issued as a result of infringement officers requesting to be paired up over safety concerns,” Mr Tenace said.

But his explanation has been corrected by an official council spokesperson who said: “The decline in parking infringement revenue is due to a number of factors, including the impact of extreme weather (both heat and rain) on our on-road staff in recent months, a small number of officers working in pairs and some vacancies in our team which are being advertised.”

The spokesperson said the general trend for collection of parking fines was down in recent years.

“Revenue generated from parking fines in our municipality has decreased year-on-year for the last four years as a result of fewer cars



visiting the city,” the spokesperson said.

However, the council’s August 2018 financial performance reported that \$3.7 million (9 per cent) more than expected was collected

in 2017-18.

“This favourable variance is due mainly to increased number of parking infringement penalties,” the report said.

The first quarter report for 2018-19 also reported a “minor favourable variance” of \$200,000.

The council spokesperson revealed that parking officers were soon likely to be wearing body cameras in an attempt to prevent them being assaulted.

“There was no specific incident that led to a relatively small number of officers asking to be paired-up,” the spokesperson said.

“It is not yet clear whether pairing-up officers has had any impact on reports of assault. The majority of assaults on our officers are verbal assaults.”

“The streets are our officers’ workplace and we do not tolerate any form of abuse encountered by our officers in the course of their work. We work closely with Victoria Police to ensure the reported assaults are investigated.”

“We are currently in consultation with a view to introducing body worn cameras as a proactive measure to support officers’ safety on street. A number of other councils around Australia are using this technology and have reported a significant drop in incidents,” the spokesperson said.

Calls to dob in drug dealers

Local police and the City of Melbourne on February 14 asked locals to dob in drug dealers.

As part of a Crimestoppers initiative, Insp Craig Peel and Cr Beverley Pinder helped launch a local campaign aimed at disrupting the manufacture and supply of drugs in the city.

After being introduced by Crime Stoppers Victoria representative Caroline Reid, Insp Peel said information provided by the public was highly valued by police.

“Community information is vital to allow us to get a full picture about the manufacturing and selling drugs. The information could be the missing piece that allows us to disrupt these operations, disrupt organised crime,” Insp Peel said.

He said police relied on information from the community every day and anonymous reporting was equally valued.

Cr Pinder said the City of Melbourne fully supported the initiative.

“This event today is to encourage Melburnians to pick up the phone and make a call. Police resources are always very stretched and I think it falls upon us as members of this community to feel a sense



Cr Beverley Pinder.

of responsibility and support the police,” Cr Pinder said.

Information can be reported on **1800 333 000** or at **www.crimestoppers.com.au**

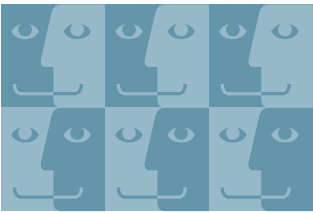
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FACES OF DOCKLANDS

Question:

What is opinion about Chinese New Year celebrations in Docklands?



MANON WERQUIN, 20, UNEMPLOYED

It's great, lots of colour, lively, it's a good thing. We have to mix our culture around here. It's important to the society.



KATIE OHORA, 36, SERVICE ENABLEMENT MANAGER

I don't know the whole thing because I am from Ireland and none of my friends celebrate it. But I see a lot of excitement around it.



ANIL JINDAL, 35, IT ENGINEER

It's fantastic, there are a lot of events in different areas. Just in front of 100 Harbour Esplanade there was boat racing for two days. There was fireworks as well. It's a very good opportunity to interact with different cultures. There is local and Indian participation.



ALINA FELIC, 19, SUBWAY CREW MEMBER

Yes, it is really cool. In German we wouldn't do something like that. So it's really cool. It's really multicultural, so all of them feel welcome here. It's a really fantastic environment.



SAM PARRY, 24, LIVE CAPTIONER

I think it's good for multiculturalism in Australia and promoting social cohesion within Australian. It's good for Chinese Australians and those who are studying or visiting from China.



HIREN PARIKH, 44, IT SERVICE STAFF

That's what we need in Australia. More languages, more brains to make Australia better.

Health and Wellbeing

Flexibility, mobility and wellbeing

One of the most physically impressive athletes (only in my opinion ...) has to be a prima ballerina, or any accomplished ballet dancer for that matter.

Their grace, posture, power and strength comes from years of disciplined training. If you have participated in yoga, Pilates or stretch class recently you will be able to pick the dancers a mile away.

They are the ones that just seem to fall into the splits as if they were born that way – but that's not the case. Very flexible and mobile individuals have likely been active and stretched every day of their lives and we, well probably, not so much.

I am not recommending we should all start stretching every day for two hours for the rest of our lives. What I am suggesting to you is to incorporate some stretching, mobility and relaxation exercises into your weekly routine in the interest of your own wellbeing.

Let's start with some basics: we should all be exercising, or at least be physically active for 30-45 minutes per day, every day.

Now you may be close or even on top of this but have you incorporated your stretching and mobility exercises into this routine? If you are taking yoga, stretching and Pilates classes regularly you most likely have this covered. If not, your regular

exercise without stretching and mobility exercises will be great for building muscles, muscle tone and strength, and improving your cardio vascular fitness. But without stretching, it is likely to be having an adverse impact on your mobility and flexibility.

So for every workout you do, make sure you are stretching the muscles worked, and also all the muscles around your spine and hips. This will help reduce neck and back pain. You should also incorporate flowing stretches with movement as a preference to just static stretching. If you are not sure, join a stretch or yoga class and get your own feel for it that just make it what you do.

Health benefits of running

Running is one of the most portable and least expensive forms of exercise for participants.

You can run by yourself if you prefer solitary exercise or you can run with friends or join a run group if you are looking for a more social experience.

Aside from investing in a good pair of runners and some comfortable running clothes (loose fitting, breathable material), the cost of participation is low.

If running is one of best forms of exercise (it is), then why don't more people get out and run? The reason is because it is hard work. But like most kinds of hard work, it pays off.

Let me re-clarify; when I say that it is hard, I mean hard to get started. Once you find your rhythm and develop a routine, running

becomes enjoyable.

So if you are just starting out, first get clearance from your doctor to run. Then follow these tips to make sure your there is longevity in your career as a runner!

- Build it up – distance, time and intensity;
- Warm up and cool down/stretch with every session;
- Drink plenty of fluids - before, during and after;
- Vary the workouts – don't run every day;
- Plan your course – think about the environment, surface, safety and pollution; and
- Track your progress – you will improve, so your progress will motivate you to continue.

Why run anyway?

- Build stronger bones;
- Strengthen muscles;
- Improve fitness;
- Maintain a healthy weight; and
- If you can't run, walking with some enthusiasm is also great!

Five tips to help manage lower back pain

Before you reach for the medication... make sure consider the following tips to help manage your lower back pain for the long term:

- Exercise - It doesn't need to be strenuous, but maintaining regular and gentle exercise routines like walking and getting out of a seated position will help;

- Limit down time - Excessive bed rest or lying down can be counterproductive. It may help relieve the immediate symptoms by taking pressure off the spine, but will not resolve underlying issues. If you can move, then you should. And the more you move the better;
- Strengthen your core - Poor core muscular conditioning places strain on the lower back. Strengthening the core muscles will provide more support to the spine;
- Improve your flexibility - Tight hamstrings, hip flexors and lower back muscles can play havoc with your posture and alignment of your pelvis. Combined with balanced strength work in these areas, stretching and improving flexibility will provide long-term solutions and pain management;
- Consult a physiotherapist - Rather than relying on generalised advice or information, consult a physiotherapist. They will assess your personal situation and pain, and then prescribe treatment and actions including strengthening and flexibility that you can complete in your own time.



Andrew Ward

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

Docklander

Mona’s enjoying her upside down life

By Meg Hill

When Mona’s friends from Canberra visited her new Docklands apartment, they told her she’d “changed everything”.

An apartment in Docklands is a far cry from a suburban-styled Canberra house. Mona describes the move as her life gone “upside down”.
“But we’re loving it, and in our fifties!” she said.
Mona and her husband moved to Docklands in September 2018. Their son had flown the nest to start at Melbourne University, but the nest followed him.
“Before that we thought maybe moving to Sydney or Melbourne would be a good idea, we just wanted more out of life,” Mona said.
“We felt that there was more and I think God just opened the door to us in Melbourne.”
They stayed in an interim apartment while hunting for their own. It was near Docklands and they grew to love it here. Eventually, they found an apartment in the Nolan building at NewQuay.
Before their 10-year stint in Canberra, Mona and her family were in New Zealand for 15 years. She met her husband at medical school in their native India.
Her husband still works as a doctor, but Mona made a career switch into family counselling a few years ago.
She said after moving to New Zealand she and her husband experienced their toughest times. It was a culture shock and they were isolated and away from home. Resentment and a blame game started.
But they pulled it together and Mona’s passion for fixing families is now her career.
“I said I never wanted to be bitter in my life



Mona at the NewQuay waterfront.

and it’s been an amazing journey. We’re best friends now and our marriage is incredible.”
But change is still a process, even while working through it with your best friend.
“After four weeks in Docklands I said ‘I think it’s time to go home.’”
“It hadn’t set in yet that this is home. It felt like a holiday, but I felt away from home.”
Mona said that she stuck with it and captured a new sense of home in her heart.
Now, while establishing her counselling practice in the area, she said she finally had time to go back to her book and edit it.
She wrote it years ago, about the story of

her marriage, but had always been too busy to fix it up.
Now, in Docklands, it seems it’s her own kind of therapy. And when she said she feels at home here now, it doesn’t ring hollow – she’s even familiar with the wait staff along the NewQuay waterfront.

What Women Want

We are all being too brave

My body is fatigued, my eyes feel heavy and the burden of bravery is taking its toll on all aspects of my life.

It becomes difficult to keep fronting up, to keep smiling – to keep bravely moving forward.
I think we are all being too brave. We hold our bravado like a shield, we use it to protect ourselves, we engage it to hide the ever-widening cracks. We keep ourselves too shiny and we pretend we are bullet proof. We bravely show that we are ok, that we are positive, that we have “got this”. This bravery is a mask, and whilst admirable in so many ways, it is bloody hard to keep doing.
Traditionally when we think of bravery, it is about being scared of something, but doing it anyway. Like heading off to war, we envisage an impending battle to brace oneself for, a stiff upper lip and a steely eye as we proudly – with heart in mouth – march

off to protect those we love from enemy attack.
Or bravely fronting up to something we fear, whether it’s the dentist or a plane, knowing we must commit to the path we fear if we want to get to where we need to be – a painful tooth being fixed, a flight to a long-awaited destination the reward.
But I think the link between fear and bravery is now different, I think that we are actually just too afraid to show how we are really feeling, how vulnerable we sometimes become, how much something is hurting – that we put the mask of bravery on and pretend we are all good because that’s easier than exposing our true feelings.
I know that when I’m unsure of someone’s actions – a lover’s for example – I can feel very vulnerable and confused by how they are hurting me and instead of simply asking what their intentions are, I put a bullet proof barrier up, smile brightly and force myself to act like everything is completely fine – because, bravely, I tell myself it doesn’t matter.
It doesn’t matter what they do because I won’t let anyone hurt me again. And I don’t want to be vulnerable, it terrifies me to let my guard down, to let someone see they are able to hurt me. So I pretend it doesn’t matter. I bravely keep walking.
It’s like my darling friend, bravely facing the biggest battle against cancer. She is so brave. So f’ing brave. But she must cry at night, she must be terrified, because there is nothing else that cancer is except terrifying.
She is my best friend, and we bravely smile and say “we’ve got this”. I tell her I love her, but we are still too scared to let the cracks show because it’s just too terrifying. And so we smile our shiny smiles while the unshed tears sting at our eyes and we bravely keep walking.
Bravery is to be admired. It is a true symbol of strength. It is not to be underestimated. But I think we should all, collectively, look to change our relationship between bravery and fear.
I feel (and fear) that our bravery is stopping us from sharing our true feelings, our pain, our fears ... and maybe, just maybe, we would all be a little richer for sharing our

vulnerabilities just a little more.
Maybe we would realise how loved we are, if we just let people in. Maybe we would realise that many of our fears, have no place in our lives.
So let’s continue to bravely keep walking – towards our truth, towards sharing, towards overcoming fear. Let’s bravely speak of our fears, rather than hide our fears behind our bravery.
I wish you much love this month, strength and peace.
Abby x
Thank you for your emails, and please know you can reach me at **life@docklandsnews.com.au** or join me on FB & insta **@abbyjanecrawford**



Abby Crawford
life@docklandsnews.com.au

WHAT'S ON
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

TUESDAYS-WEDN-THURSDAYS AT THE HUB - 12-2PM (1H CLASS)
COME AND LEARN FRENCH

Share your lunchtime with colleagues and friends and learn something new. It's a lot of fun!

Contact Amanda on 0405 086 480 or at frenchlyspeaking@gmail.com

FIRST THURDAY OF THE MONTH, 9.30AM – 12PM LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
CHINESE BOOK CLUB

Come along for morning tea and a look at the new Chinese books at the Library at The Dock. Meet other readers, have a chat and find some new Chinese books, magazines or DVDs to borrow. **FREE**

7 AND 7.30 AM ON FRIDAYS AT THE HUB BASKETBALL COURTS
EARLY MORNING FITNESS

\$10 per class after the first month. 30 minute high intensity classes designed to fire the metabolism and burn fat.

Call Bill on 0438 628 301

11AM EVERY SUNDAY
SUNDAY WORSHIP

City Light Methodist Church at St Peter the Mariner's Chapel. Mission to Seafarers, 717 Flinders St. English and 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

WEEKNIGHTS – MON-THURS DOCKLANDS AND CITY
SOCIAL NETBALL

Living inner city? Come and meet new people and burn some stress. Mixed teams and ladies over 18+ Call or text 0419 887 719 melbournenetball.com.au

SUNDAY 24TH OF MARCH 10AM - 4PM (INCL 2 BREAKS), LIBRARY AT THE DOCK (PERFORMANCE SPACE)
DOCUMENTARY FILM

"The Phenomenom of Healing - Help & healing on the Spiritual Path" by the Bruno Groening Circle of Friends

FREE. 0435 173 452

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

EVERY SUNDAY, 1-2PM
RON BARASSI SNR PARK
ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Fun, friendship, leadership. www.ultimatevictoria.com.au

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH, 7PM
BHOJ RESTAURANT – 54 NEW QUAY PROMENADE, DOCKLANDS.
DOCKLANDS SOCIAL CLUB

The "club" is an gathering of locals who are interested in meeting other locals over a meal, a drink and conversation. All welcome. Diners pay their own way.

TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS 12-2PM, SATURDAYS 11AM-3PM SHED 2
ALMA DOEPEL RESTORATION

Tour "Behind the Scenes" the work involved in restoring this 115 year old Australian three-masted top sail schooner. Learn the rich history, the purpose of the restoration and the challenges. **FREE**

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

6.30 PM TO 8.30 PM 1ST, 3RD & 5TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH, LIBRARY AT THE DOCK - COMMUNITY ROOM
MIGHTY DOCKLANDS TOAST-MASTERS

Boost your public speaking and leadership skills. http://mightydocklands.easy-speak.org/

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

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 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

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 by ADHD and their families and friends are encouraged to attend. \$2. Facebook @AdultADHDMelbourne

WEDNESDAYS 5.45-7PM
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

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS 9AM TO 12PM LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
WESTJUSTICE

(TAAP) provides specialist advice, casework and representation to vulnerable and disadvantaged people who are having residential tenancy issues and is funded by Consumer Affairs Victoria. 9749 7720.

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
SHED 2, NORTH WHARF RD
DRAGON MASTERS DRAGON BOATING

Contact Jeff Saunders on 0417 219 888 or Jeff.saunders@digisurf.com.au

LIBRARY AT THE DOCK - WEEKLY PROGRAMS

STOMPERS
MONDAYS AT 10.30AM

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

SONGBIRDS
WEDNESDAYS AT 10.30AM

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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE



Melbourne Ice Women at the VicSport Awards on February 20.

Ice women are tops

Docklands-based Melbourne Ice Women's (MIW) ice hockey team has won the VicSports Award for the best sporting team for 2018.

The award was announced on February 20 at the annual VicSports Awards Night for 2018 at Marvel Stadium.

The awards recognise outstanding sporting performances at the elite, national and international levels and are presented for individual athletes, for teams, for administrators, officials and community initiatives. There were four finalists in each category, and the winners were announced at the awards night.

MIW is based at the O'Brien Group Arena and plays in the Australian Women's Ice Hockey league against teams from Sydney,

Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

MIW is the current national champion and will finish the 2018/19 season on top of the ladder.

There to receive the trophy were 2018 captains Christina Julien, Georgia Carson and Kylie Padjen, head coach Marcus Wong, MIW president Val Webster and Ice Hockey Australia's womens director, Kylie Taylor.

President Val Webster said the team was thrilled to be recognised at this level. "As an amateur, volunteer-run, completely self-funded team, there is enormous effort and time and expense required by the players and crew to be the very best in the country," Ms Webster said.

"Currently on top of the ladder, and looking towards the finals in Adelaide in March, the team is training hard and hoping to top off a fabulous season by retaining the Championship Trophy to display alongside the VicSport Award."

Stars unveil Marvel mural

A new mural and basketball court at Marvel Stadium was christened by Australia's biggest basketball stars on February 19 in the lead-up to major events at the stadium later this year.

The massive mural features Andrew Bogut, Liz Cambage, Lauren Jackson, Ben Simmons and Andrew Gaze – a collection of Australia's most successful players.

Andrew Bogut, Liz Cambage and Lauren Jackson attended the unveiling and played on the court and posed in front of the mural while Fox Sports presenter Tim Robinson addressed the audience.

The Australian Boomers will be playing the USA Men's Team at Marvel on August 22 and 24. The games are expected to bring 100,000 fans to the stadium.

"To celebrate the Boomers versus USA basketball games in Melbourne in August, Visit Victoria in collaboration with Basketball Australia commissioned internationally-renowned graffiti artist Sofles to create a mural celebrating Australian basketball together with the three-on-three court that will be available for use by the public," Mr Robinson said.

"The installation demonstrates Melbourne's pride as a home of basketball and is set to become an iconic must-see Melbourne space for any sports fan."



Liz Cambage, Lauren Jackson and Andrew Bogut at the unveiling.

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