

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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Christmas in Docklands

Docklands is getting into the festive spirit on Friday nights in the lead up to Christmas.

The first “Christmas on the Green” event took place on November 29 but, don’t worry, there are still another two events from 4pm to 8pm on December 8 and 13.

The Victoria Green event features a market, food and drink vans, a pop-up garden bar and live music, with a different band performing each week.

Council ‘fence sitting’ on bridge

The City of Melbourne has supported a proposal for a tram bridge across the Yarra River but has suggested further investigation is needed to ensure the bridge doesn’t restrict access to the marina at Yarra’s Edge.

The proposed bridge is part of the Fishermans Bend draft vision and would extend from Collins St across the river through Point Park at Yarra’s Edge and into Fishermans Bend.

Councillors unanimously endorsed the City of Melbourne’s submission on the draft vision at a Future Melbourne meeting on November 19.

Estimates for when the proposed bridge would be constructed have ranged from as soon as five years to as far off as 20 years.

At the same time, planning authorities have been adamant that no decisions have been made around the design of the transport link.

Accordingly, there has been uncertainty and concern around how the link will impact on Yarra’s Edge if and when it is built.

Council’s submission states that it generally supports the draft vision and is supportive of a tram link across the river describing it as a “critical connection” with the CBD.

But the submission suggests further investigation is required into design options for the tram extension that will cater for the maritime role of the waterways.

City of Melbourne is committee of management and landlord of the marina involving 149 leases with tenure until 2030.

Its submission references the concerns of the

Yarra’s Edge community over the proposed bridge including preventing passage for most of the boats currently in the marina, loss of Point Park and compromised views.

Speaking at the Docklands Community Forum on November 27, City of Melbourne urban design manager Rob Moore said from council’s perspective the park wouldn’t be destroyed.

And, despite concerns expressed by the community and included in the submission, overall council’s submission is supportive of a transport link across the river.

“Whilst it is understandable that the proposed new crossing raises these issues in the emerging Yarra’s Edge community, this needs to be balanced with the broader city-shaping objectives of the Fishermans Bend urban renewal area,” the submission states.

“This will benefit the whole central city and the current alignment seems to offer the best opportunity to do so.”

“However, the detailed alignment, design, role and operation of the bridge connection needs to be thoughtfully considered to ensure that a workable solution for a river crossing can be achieved.”

The Yarra’s Edge community has been vocal about its resistance to the bridge proposal.

Continued on page 11.

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2013 could well have been the year that Docklands turned the corner.

It has been a year of “normalisation” in that some of this year’s event would have, in previous years, been thought extraordinary.

These days the opening of new corporate campuses and apartment towers barely raise an eyebrow.

Instead of looking at our vast hectares of undeveloped land in semi-despair, we now accept that it is just a matter of time before the rest of the world comes to appreciate the opportunity.

Even the re-opening of the wheel will not be thought of as a panacea for a troubled suburb.

Did anyone else notice that the Docklands-bashing in the mainstream press eased up in 2013? However, it’s unlikely that the shock-jocks and columnists have changed their views. It’s more likely that they have just done the “Docklands is a disaster” story to death.

It’s reassuring to see new restaurants opening in Docklands. While confined particularly to Batman’s Hill and Victoria Harbour, this is nevertheless a vote of confidence in our suburb.

Significantly, these two precincts see

themselves more as an extension of the CBD and are beginning to distance themselves from the term “Docklands”.

On the issue of reputation, 2013 has been a wasted opportunity to develop a uniting brand for all Docklanders.

Perhaps we had too much faith in the Docklands Community Forum (DCF), where the question of brand was originally identified by the community as one of four priority issues but has not been discussed this year.

The DCF continues to conduct itself as an information session with the prospect of the community actually setting the agenda fading fast.

The City of Melbourne seems to have engaged well with the so-called Docklands Representative Group (which it selected and appointed) but appears to have confused this group with the forum itself and the wider community.

Destination Docklands chairman David Cochrane has expressed a desire to get the brand development issue off the ground, which is to be applauded. It remains to be seen whether his staff can adopt an inclusive style of thinking that will be required to be successful with this.

While there are still significant pockets of gloom within Docklands, this year saw a greater general level of confidence emerging.

As a barometer of the general economic health of the suburb, *Docklands News* witnessed an upsurge in unsolicited advertising enquiry towards the end of 2013.

Fingers crossed, this continues into 2014 and the Docklands local economy begins to gather the momentum it lost about four years ago.

Docklanders are being encouraged to recycle through a new initiative being supported by the City of Melbourne.

Council has partnered with recycling rewards program GreenMoney to launch a 12-month trial that allows residents to earn discounts and offers by recycling.

The first of its kind in Victoria, the trial will be available to 15,000 households across Docklands and Southbank.

According to council’s environment portfolio chair Cr Arron Wood, the trial is a creative way to educate and encourage people to recycle more.

“The City of Melbourne is recognised as a global leader in sustainability and one of the reasons for this is our willingness to try innovative new solutions,” Cr Wood said.

“One of the biggest challenges we face as a capital city council is the amount of landfill we produce, so we are always looking at new ways to reduce it and improve recycling.”

Exo residents and Docklands business owners John Bradshaw and Mark Scholem are already keen recyclers and say the Green Money program is a great idea.

“It’s a great way to incentivise people who might not be in the habit of regularly recycling,” Mr Bradshaw said.

And given Docklands’ collection of sustainable buildings it seems Docklands is the perfect fit for a recycling scheme.

“For people living in an urban environment it’s particularly important to be able to contribute to the sustainability of the broader environment,” Mr Scholem said.

The GreenMoney program works by allocating points to participating households at a rate of 50 points per kilogram of recycling collected.

Current data shows local households collect around 2 kilograms of recycling per week, equating to potential earnings of 100 points.

See www.greenmoney.com.au for more information and to register.

Sign up for Relay for Life

The Docklands Relay for Life team has put out the call to businesses interested in signing up for next February’s event.

The event is being held at Etihad Stadium on February 5 and will raise funds to support

the work of the Cancer Council.

The Docklands relay is an eight-hour event, starting in the afternoon and continuing into the evening.

To find out more about how your business can get involved in the Docklands Relay for Life event contact Cris Lumley on **9275 9569** or Elise Hopper on **9282 1247**.

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Watergate case returns to court

The Victorian Court of Appeals will decide if the Watergate short-stay apartment case should return to the Building Appeals Board (BAB) or if the board's decision should stand, following an appeals hearing last month.

The hearings are completed and Docklands News understands the two presiding Supreme Court judges are expected to issue their decision before the end of the year.

In March, the BAB upheld building orders issued by the City of Melbourne to Docklands Executive Apartments operator Paul Salter, who runs short-term apartments in the Watergate building.

The 2011 orders required owners to comply with building regulations applicable to a Class 3 building or to cease trading. Watergate is classified as a Class 2 building.

In May, Mr Salter successfully appealed the BAB's decision at the Supreme Court, with the case ordered back to the BAB to be reheard.

However, the City of Melbourne appealed this decision and on December 2 Justice Geoffrey Nettle and Justice Robert Osborn heard the case.

Besides many references to precedent law, much of the material presented at both the BAB and Supreme Court hearings revolved around the meaning of the term dwelling, which is used in the definition of Class 2 buildings.

The Building Code of Australia (BCA) defines Class 2 as "a building containing two or more sole-occupancy units, each being a separate dwelling".

Discussion around the definition of the term continued at the December appeals hearing.

Council's lawyer Tim Margetts maintained the word had a condition of permanency,

while Mr Salter's lawyer Richard Niall said this was a narrow reading.

Mr Margetts maintained the BAB had made the right decision originally in terms of the way the word dwelling was defined.

The BAB's determination, issued in March, stated that the panel had formed the view that a dwelling was not defined just by the physical characteristics required by the building code but also by a sense of connection between the occupants.

The panel found that nature of use was a factor a building surveyor considered when classifying a building.

But Mr Niall said there was evidence to suggest that the term dwelling does not have the narrow meaning prescribed.

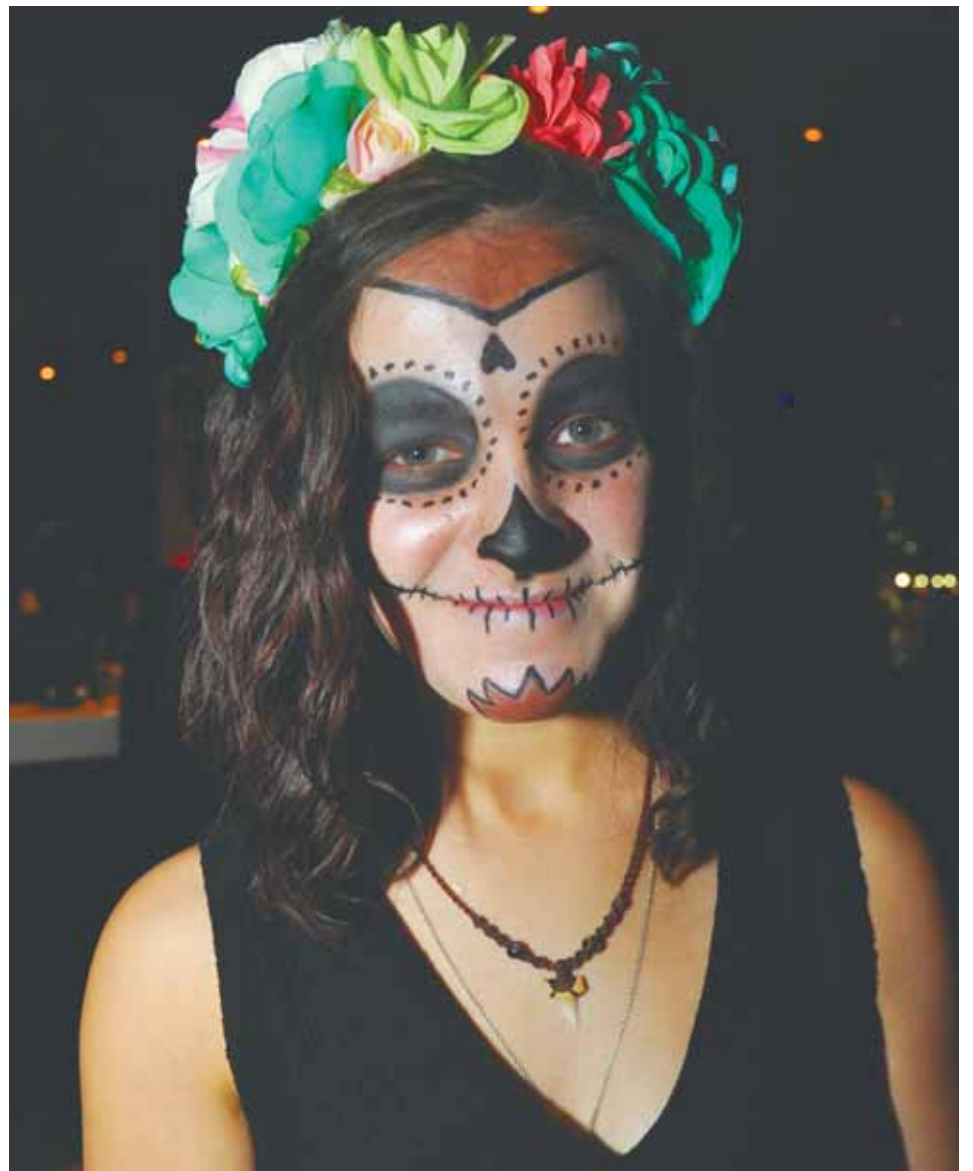
He said there was no reason to "read down" the term dwelling.

In his submission, Mr Margetts argued that a change in use altered a building's classification and elicited other requirements under the BCA.

He also said there was evidence of danger due to the change of use.

Mr Niall maintained that where the BCA has sought to regulate short-term accommodation it had done so specifically.

He also said because Class 3 of the BCA dealt with hotels, the approach of council and the BAB was to "shoehorn" anything that looked like a hotel into that category.



Docklands Pharmacy and News shop assistant Rebecca Nutter got into the Halloween spirit.

Fright night in Docklands

Ghouls, ghosts and pirates paraded through Docklands on October 31 as they headed to James Squires' Halloween Charity Ball.

Around 100 people attended the event, raising \$5000 for the Make a Wish Foundation and Childwise.

"The idea for the event was inspired by the efforts of leaders in these charities and an opportunity to put something back into the community, creating an annual event we can

repeat each year and together do something positive," James Squires owner David James said.

A range of businesses supported the event, including Mornington Estate, Mercure, Flik Studio, McPherson, Sweeney, Motionators, Le Cirque and Balloon Twisting with Con.



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Victoria Green, enter from
807 Bourke Street, Docklands



An artist's impression of the upgrade.

Another upgrade for Merchant St

Lend Lease will upgrade part of Merchant St in an attempt to entice the worker population to spend time in the precinct after the working day is done.

Refurbishment work will take place on the western side of Merchant St to modify existing tenancy layouts to create a hospitality precinct.

The upgrade includes work on the exterior facades and canopies of the retail spaces along the north/west section of Merchant St, including the creation of balcony seating in the corner tenancy.

“The works will focus on making the spaces

more ‘hospitality-friendly’ by changing materials and doing things like increasing space for footpath trading, repositioning trees to provide shade at concentrated areas, modifying the awnings and generally lifting the standard of design and construction,” a Lend Lease spokesperson said.

“By ensuring there’s quality hospitality offerings in Victoria Harbour that remain open at close of business, workers will be more likely to stay in the precinct to socialise and relax rather than head up to the CBD.”

“The small-scale works in Merchant St are intended to make a significant difference to the street’s appeal making the area more people friendly, offering a genuine alternative to the CBD and affirming Victoria Harbour as Melbourne’s premier living waterfront.”

Work is set to start in early 2014.

A very special resolution

Dock 5 has become the first known Docklands owners corporation to pass a special resolution.

Special resolutions are notoriously difficult to pass as they require 75 per cent of owners to vote affirmatively.

Significantly, Dock 5 achieved an immediate special resolution on November 28 with more than 75 per cent agreement on a plan to alter the exterior of the building.

According to OC member Tom Burt, the plan involves the extension of the louvres on levels four, five and six on the Cumberland St side of the building around the corner onto the Hubbuck Lane side.

Mr Burt said Dock 5’s original design involved a “living wall” of vegetation on the Hubbuck Lane side of the building.

Mr Burt said the OC had worked closely with Dock 5 developer Lend Lease to establish the living wall but had been unsuccessful.

“Despite four re-plantings in seven years in

an effort to generate growth, regrettably we couldn’t get anything to grow, despite our best efforts,” Mr Burt said.

Mr Burt said the Dock 5 had decided to seek an alternative to the “living wall” about a year ago and had worked closely with Lend Lease to determine the best solution.

Lend Lease will contribute funding towards the alteration work.

“This has been a joint effort to overcome the problem we have had,” Mr Burt said.

The Dock 5 OC has previously achieved interim special resolutions, which happens when 50 per cent of owners vote in favour of a proposal and less than 25 per cent vote against it.

The resolution then sits for 29 days to allow for objections and then becomes a special resolution after this time-frame has passed.

Western Park plans revealed

Docklands residents, workers and visitors can learn more about the planned Western Park development at two information sessions this month.

The four-stage Western Park project was announced in July and will see community facilities delivered to the western end of NewQuay.

According to Places Victoria general manager Simon Wilson, his organisation will hold two drop-in information sessions in early December for the community to view concept plans for stage one of the project.

Mr Wilson said construction of stage one was due to begin in the middle of next year and would include delivery of a sports field, together with a pavilion, children’s playground, new roads and a car park.

The information sessions will be held in the foyer of Places Victoria at 710 Collins St on Thursday, December 5 from 3pm until 7pm and on Saturday, December 7 from 10am until 2pm.

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The waterways team speak with Commander Frank Stockton.

Waterways team to the rescue

A quick response from the City of Melbourne's waterways unit on November 27 saved charter boat Mandalay from a watery grave.

The craft was sinking at its Central Pier mooring when an alert Nolan tower resident raised the alarm just before 5pm.

By 5.30 waterways staff had started pumping water from the stricken vessel but called for emergency services help shortly after when the magnitude of the problem became apparent. Some 45 minutes later the fire brigade had pumped the vessel out.

It is believed that the vessel would have gone to the bottom within an hour had its plight not been noticed.

Mandalay's owner Keith Rankin told *Docklands News* that the vessel appeared to have been taking water for three days but that its main pump had failed and, in the process, had destroyed the power supply to the boat.

Mr Rankin said that, without power, auxiliary pumps failed to activate and the vessel was slowly sinking.

He said it was normal for wooden boats to "weep" water and be automatically pumped

out and that Mandalay had been rescaled only last year when she had been out of the water for four months.

Mr Rankin said he was dealing with a family emergency in Warburton when he was alerted by phone about Mandalay's predicament.

Mr Rankin was on his way to Warburton in February 2008 when he similarly learned that another of his vessels, Lady Chelmsford, had sunk at its Central Pier moorings.

Lady Chelmsford spent three years on the bottom of the harbour before being broken up for scrap.

However, Mr Rankin rejected any suggestion that there were any further similarities between the Chelmsford and Mandalay situations.

He said there was evidence of a break-in on Chelmsford before the 2008 sinking that that witnesses reported that her pumps were going flat-out as she sank.

No decision on VCAT hearing

Short-term apartment operators believe induction procedures introduced at the Conder building earlier this year are discriminatory, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) heard last month.

In February, the Conder Owners Corporation made pool, sauna and gym induction mandatory, citing advice from its insurer.

At the hearing on November 11 the OC's lawyer Mitch McKenzie told VCAT the introduction of the new procedures was proper and appropriate

Residents of the building are required to complete an induction before being given swipe access to the facilities.

Short-term residents are only able to use the facilities after completing one of the induction sessions held each Monday morning. Operators opposing the induction rule at VCAT say this is impractical for short-term residents.

Metro Real Estate is a MAB Corporation business, which trades as Grand Mercure Docklands out of the Conder, and is acting for around 200 lots in the VCAT action.

During the VCAT hearing last month, Metro's lawyer Robert Hay said the induction procedures were "clearly discriminatory".

Mr Hay referenced a Court of Appeals decision, which said, in exercising its power, an OC must not operate in a way that unfairly discriminates.

He said it was "absurd" that the induction process allowed visitors of inducted long-term residents to use the facilities but prevented short-term residents and their guests from using them.

"So you are in a better position if you are the guest of a long-term resident than if you are a short-term resident," Mr Hay said.

Mr Hay also referred to the insurance document the Conder OC relied on when passing the resolution for the induction procedures.

He said the insurance document was

dated April 2011, but the meeting where the resolution was passed was not until December 6, 2012. He said residents were not advised of the induction procedure until January 31, 2012, suggesting there was no urgency about the matter.

Short-stay operator Lyn Kelly said she believed the introduction of induction procedures at the Conder had nothing to do with insurance.

Lyn and Peter Kelly manage Docklands Private Collection of Apartments and, when they launched VCAT action personally (independent of their business) owned one apartment and managed four apartments at Conder.

Since launching the action, they have sold their apartment and now manage just two apartments in the building.

"I feel this is all about the serviced apartment business," Ms Kelly said.

But the Mr McKenzie said the rule restricting access to the gym, sauna and pool was proper and appropriate.

He said it flowed from the rule that allowed body corporates to ensure safety and security of common property.

"There's an unfortunate tension and it's been read as if it's intended to make things difficult for short-term residents," Mr McKenzie said.

He said people would be differently affected by the rules and it was unfortunate that short-term users may be affected.

He said there was already discrimination inherent in the existing arrangement in so far as children and non-residents not being allowed to use the gym.

The parties have been granted temporary access to the facilities until a decision is reached by VCAT.

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Docklands has been good for business

As someone who knows a thing or two about business, ANZ CEO Mike Smith says Docklands has been good for the giant bank.

He says the opportunity to design the bank's own building is paying dividends, as is the suburb itself.

"Docklands is coming of age," he said. "Any development like this takes time to mature and I think it's unrealistic to expect it all to work immediately, because the culture of a place evolves. And that's what Docklands has been doing."

With 7000 staff in Docklands, Mr Smith's organisation contributes a lot to the local economy and Docklands also gives back to the bank.

"Our experience overall has been a very good one," he said. "I think the staff were originally quite worried about coming down here in terms of its perceived isolation. It was quite important that we got the food outlets up and running and that helped a lot."

Mr Smith said the most senior managers of the local financial institutions were all based at Docklands, contrary to a common perception that only "back of house" work was done here.

"I haven't heard that and it certainly isn't the case in our institutions," he said. "I find that strange because, if you look at the banks, the NAB head office is here, our office is here, the CBA's Melbourne office is here and their head people are here too," he said. "All my meetings are here. All my customers come down here to see me."

Mr Smith acknowledged that Docklands was sometimes underestimated.

"If people haven't been down here for a long time, I think they sort of think it's half developed. It's evolving and is probably much more developed than people realise," he said.



ANZ CEO Mike Smith enjoys his Docklands' outlook.

"It's a bit like Southbank. People used to talk about Southbank in the same way. Now it's part of the city and they don't even notice. So, I think it's just a question of time."

Mr Smith does have some gripes though – in particular, traffic.

"I don't think that it has really been thought through. They have slightly improved getting out of here, but it can still take up to 20 minutes to get out (on to Wurundjeri Way) which is ridiculous really," he said. "And, as they build more stuff, they have to think about the traffic."

"They also made a lot of the roads single lane rather than double lane when they had the space. It doesn't make sense to me."

"Discouraging cars may be an interesting concept, but it's not very practical because

you need to have extremely good public transport to support that structure."

"It may be environmentally sensible, but it actually reduces productivity quite considerably and, right now, that's important. The economy needs stimulus. It doesn't need things done to it to slow it down."

"In terms of real retail access, it's a shame that Myer did not have a bit of a store in its office. Docklands needs a shopping centre, which is still missing at the moment."

"Being on water and having these views of the bay is very attractive. Water brings something special to a development. One of the things that we don't use properly is the river, in terms of a taxi service. That would be a lovely way to get to work," Mr Smith said.

Still waiting for Hortus

The Harbour Esplanade glasshouse 'Hortus' won't open this year, with further delays hampering construction efforts.

The project is being delivered by Utopian Folk, a collaboration between Folk Architect's Christie Petsinis and Tim Wilson and Utopian Slumps' Melissa Loughnan, who were awarded a Places Victoria contract to activate the site.

It will include an edible plant installation, a communal outdoor space and a café serving seasonal produce.

The project was originally announced in July 2012 as part of the launch of the Docklands Community and Place Plan and was due to open in September of the same year.

But the glass house didn't open in September 2012 as planned and by February this year there was no sign of construction starting anytime soon.

Delays were put down to multiple issues including difficulty obtaining a permit to operate on Crown land and the original cafe operator backing out. At the time, Utopian Folk said it expected Hortus to open in autumn.

But in April, Places Victoria general manager Simon Wilson said Hortus wouldn't open in autumn and instead construction was hoped to start by mid-year and would take about 10 weeks.

In August construction began and it was hoped Hortus would open by summer.

However, at the time of publication it had been more than 14 weeks since construction began and Hortus had still not opened.

Mr Wilson said the reliance on in-kind assistance in the design and construction of Hortus had led to some delays.

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Council invests in our waterways

The City of Melbourne is investing in Docklands' waterways culture through the creation of a new marina lounge at NewQuay.

Council has purchased the former Fix nightclub at NewQuay piazza for \$1.95 million and will convert it into a marina lounge and waterways office.

According to waterways manager Doug Jarvis, the new lounge could be exactly what's needed to create a social landscape around the waterfront and attract more boats to the harbour.

Mr Jarvis said Melbourne City Marina's main competition were yacht clubs that offered more than just comfort, but also provide a place where people could spend time with friends and meet like-minded people.

"We figured that was what we needed. We needed to create a club-like environment," Mr Jarvis said.

According to Mr Jarvis, the marina lounge needed to provide a quality customer service facility, have inter-seasonal use, create a hub of activity on the waterfront and be a drawcard for the Docklands community.

Councillor Kevin Louey said Docklands was continuing to evolve.

"It was important for the city to be active in the precinct as there is an expectation that our waterways will be utilised more and more once visitors to the area see the ease of access to Docklands via the river or the bay," Cr Louey said.



Councillor Kevin Louey and waterways manager Doug Jarvis show off the new site for the marina lounge.

Mr Jarvis said 80 per cent of the marina's current market was made up of Melburnians.

"To get them to come out of the Williamstown Yacht Club, Sandringham Yacht Club or St Kilda Yacht Club you need something extremely attractive," Mr Jarvis said.

Exactly what the site will look like is yet to be confirmed, with designs for the lounge currently at a conceptual stage and yet to be costed or budgeted by council.

But Mr Jarvis said the waterways team had envisioned a sitting area with a fireplace overlooking the harbour, a large kitchenette,

a recreation area and a boardroom.

He said the main feature of the new lounge would be a large deck looking over the entire harbour, providing visitors with a visual connection to the boats and the water.

The harbour views provided by the new marina lounge will contrast strongly with the existing lounge, which has a limited view of the water and looks across the empty piazza.

"We think this is really going to change our marina," Mr Jarvis said.

"Our job is to activate the water and the bigger picture is 365 day movement on the water."

"If we can create the movement on the water then we can create that liveability, that humanisation part of it."

Mr Jarvis said the marina lounge would also work in harmony with the community boating hub planned for the opposite side of the harbour.

"Hopefully, if our ambitious plans work, there will be sailing in the harbour all of the time and we'll see people who have introduced their kids to sailing bring their bigger boats up, sit in the comfortable lounge, look over the harbour and watch their kids sail," Mr Jarvis said.

Mr Jarvis said the new lounge could potentially be the key to lifting occupancy and activity on the waterways.

"We're very proud of the fact that we grew the occupancy 11.9 per cent over summer last year against a lot of trends going in the opposite direction," Mr Jarvis said.

He said the goal was to continue building the occupancy and to get it up to 33 per cent.

"If there was one bullet to get that occupancy to lift significantly it's this office and lounge," Mr Jarvis said.

Refurbishment work is expected to start following the council's next budget, with the new lounge and waterways office hoped to open by December 2014.

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Arts event is full of surprises

By Shane Scanlan

Waterways-based art event 5 Short Blasts is surprising in many ways.

A lone trombonist playing a sad tune in the cold dawn light from the former port control tower for the benefit of the 20 passengers passing below in a flotilla of five small boats is a surprise.

So too, are the girls performing on shore with co-ordinated semaphore flags.

The technical sophistication of the experience is surprising – the event uses radio and internet technologies to broadcast the soundtrack of what is essentially an oral history of Docklands.

Listening to the personal stories of people involved in our waterways in an otherwise silent port is an immersive and moving experience.

And another surprise is the cost of the event. At \$400 worth of City of Melbourne funding per head, it is indeed a privilege to be among the 500 people who will experience the event from the water.

The event runs over 12 days between November 22 and December 15, with two trips on each day leaving from and returning to Docklands.

The artists themselves, Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey, received about 20 per cent of the \$200,000 council budget (the Port of Melbourne is understood to have also



A flotilla of boats sets off from Docklands for the 5 Short Blasts experience.

contributed funding) with the rest being spent on labour and infrastructure.

Ms Flynn and Mr Humphrey say they intend to purchase the infrastructure from the council should the event show commercial promise.

The City of Melbourne’s arts and culture portfolio chair, Cr Rohan Leppert, said he considered the exercise value for money.

He said the community involvement in preparing the project was at least as important as the experience of those who were taken on one of the organised tours.

It was particularly gratifying that the project had contributed to community building in Docklands and had also positively

introduced Docklands to Melbourne’s artists.

A council spokesperson said: “Over a two year period, artists and community members have been researching the history of Docklands and the Port of Melbourne.”

“Through live recorded interviews, artists Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey have developed a sound-scape of people whose lives revolve around the waterfront.”

“The budget for this project was \$200,000. The complex and intricate project involved over 150 community members. Over 500 people will experience the project first hand and many more people can experience the project online, through live streaming or via the 5 Short Blasts radio station www.5shortblasts.com.au.”



An image of the man police believe can help with enquiries.

Woman assaulted

Police are seeking witnesses after a 22-year-old woman was assaulted in Docklands last month.


The woman was walking on Bourke St near Harbour Esplanade around 2.20am on Saturday, November 23 when she was grabbed from behind and assaulted.

The woman screamed and was able to break free and run to her car, which was nearby.

The offender is believed to be an Asian man in his early twenties. He’s described as 180 cm tall, medium build, tanned and clean shaven with an orange fringe.

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Inside Docklands' library

By Bethany Williams

Over the past year residents, workers and visitors have watched the Docklands Library and Community Centre rise from the docks.

To the average Joe, the outside of the building looks to be complete but fences still surround the structure and the inner workings of the building remain a mystery.

Last month *Docklands News* was lucky enough to receive a guided tour of the library, and gained insight into how the new library will look and feel once complete.

Being delivered by Lend Lease, the City of Melbourne and Places Victoria, it's already clear just what a different community space of this size will make to the Docklands community.

"We expect the library facility to become the centrepiece of Victoria Harbour's civic heart, complemented by Dock Square Park and the family services and boating hub which will sit adjacent to the building," Lend Lease Victoria Harbour project director Claire Johnston said.

Development work is now at its peak, with up to 90 construction workers on site daily.

Apart from being Australia's first public waterfront library, it's also the first public building made from cross laminated timber (CLT) in Australia.

It required a smaller number of site workers in comparison with traditional concrete and steel structures, with just 20 workers on-site during the early phase of construction.

The use of CLT is also estimated to have reduced construction time by about two months.

The building has two main entrances, one on the waterfront and the other on the south side of the building opening onto Dock Square.

When entering from the waterfront, the



An artist's impression of the children's library in the Docklands Library and Community Centre.

initial sensation of openness almost makes you feel that you're outside.

A 2.4 metre high window runs the length of the building looking out across the harbour. It's mirrored on the opposite side with an identical window looking out across Dock Square.

"From the outset it was important that the design enabled visual connection from the harbour, through the building to the new park. The large windows also allow for indoor-outdoor connectivity and an abundance of natural light," Ms Johnston said.

The ground floor has been touted as a place where people can meet and interact, with a small cafe near the entrance, a children's library and activities area.

A staircase acts as a focal point for the library winding its way up each level of the building.

According to Ms Johnston, the internal colour scheme will consist of a neutral palette, complementing the timber structure.

"The internal palate focuses on natural timber finishes and blacks and whites. A

fresh yellow is used in selected areas to create visual contrast to some specialist spaces," Ms Johnston said.

"In the children's area, the palette becomes more playful and includes a range of bright colours."

While there's nary a book to be seen at the moment, up the staircase on the first floor of the building will soon be recognisable as a traditional library space, eventually housing most of the library's 50,000 strong collection.

The first floor features smaller windows than the ground floor, unfortunately failing to take advantage of the potential for wonderful views.

According to Ms Johnston, the upper floors of the library offer activities where natural light needs to be more modulated.

"A balance between connection to the spectacular views and providing more enclosure has been achieved through horizontal windows."

It's anticipated the library will open in April 2014, with Dock Square due for completion around the same time.

Good stuff

Local social enterprise Good Cycles was recognised as Melbourne's best new business at the 2013 Business 3000+ Awards last month.

The awards, which celebrate the achievements of small and medium-sized businesses within the City of Melbourne, were held last month at Waterfront Venues in Docklands and recognised a range of different businesses.

Good Cycles is a not-for-profit enterprise which offers mobile bike maintenance while, at the same time, providing support and opportunities for people experiencing disadvantage.

The organisation, founded by Luke Wright and Loretta Curtin, opened a workshop on the ground floor of Places Victoria's Goods Shed North office earlier this year after signing a peppercorn lease.

Mr Wright said winning the new business award meant a lot to the organisation.

No carols

Planetshakers has cancelled its Docklands carols event after failing to attract enough sponsorship.

The popular event has been held at the Waterfront City Piazza in Docklands for the past three years and last year attracted around 20,000 people.

Planetshakers spokesperson Darryn Keneally said the decision to cancel the event was made in November.

"Planetshakers have acquired a new facility in the city and need to watch our spending at the carols event as we didn't attract all of the sponsorship required," Mr Keneally said.

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Parking price hike

Parking prices in Docklands are on the rise, with almost every off-street parking spot in Docklands raising its rates since last year.

An increasing demand for car parks outweighing the current supply is believed to be the reason for the growing prices.

The most expensive daily rate for parking in Docklands is at the rear of 717 Bourke St (Channel 9) which will set you back a maximum of \$52 per day, rising from a daily maximum rate of \$49 last year.

It's closely followed by Exo, which opened this year and has a maximum daily price of \$45.

Spencer Outlet Centre is not far behind, charging a maximum of \$38 per day. Etihad Stadium is also pricey, with a daily maximum of \$35, jumping from \$29 last year.

For people making quick visits to Docklands, just one hour of parking at the stadium will set you back \$15.

Elsewhere in Docklands, including Harbour Town, Aquavista, development sites in NewQuay and at Lorimer St, you can park for an hour for as little as \$2 or \$3.

The cheapest all-day parking in Docklands is \$8 and can be found at 86 Lorimer St (for visitors of residents).

Although it has risen from \$6 to \$10 per day, Harbour Town is also still on the cheap side.

Digital Harbour also offers good value,

maintaining its \$10 flat rate for all day parking and offering 200 spaces.

Central Pier parking rates have also remained stable with casual parking for \$12 (with patrons required to be out by 4 pm) and a valet car service after 4pm for \$20 between Monday and Thursday and \$30 from Friday to Sunday.

For those who make it into Docklands on time there are some good deals to be found in early-bird parking.

The cheapest is at Aquavista where the early-bird deal is \$8. If you're early enough you can park for \$14 at the World Trade Centre, at the rear of 737 Bourke St for \$15 at Etihad for \$16, at Watergate for \$19, at Exo for \$18 and at NAB and the back of 700 Collins St for \$21.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell said parking was a challenge not only in Docklands but throughout the city.

Mrs Maxwell encouraged visitors to plan ahead and to take advantage of the many public transport, walking and cycling links throughout Docklands.

For a comprehensive guide to parking in Docklands pick up a copy of the 2014 Docklands Directory which is being distributed to all residences and businesses in Docklands this month.



Picture-perfect wedding outfit

Local resident and business-owner Joh Maxwell celebrated her daughter Jenni's wedding last month, while wearing a mother-of-the-bride outfit made right here in Docklands.

Joh (pictured above with Jenni and husband Alan) said Artistic Styling's Hanh Tran designed and created the outfit, which was made from silk Joh had picked up while on a business trip in Abu Dhabi.

"I had an idea of what I wanted and explained it to Hanh who was able to draft a pattern, take care of fittings and create the

outfit," Joh said

Hanh also helped with alterations to the bridesmaid dresses.

Hanh said she was ecstatic that Joh was so pleased with the end result.

"The best part of my job is meeting people like Joh," Hanh said.

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Lend Lease happy with Batman's Hill feedback

Community consultation on the Batman's Hill draft masterplan has ended and, according to Lend Lease, overall feedback has been positive.

According to project director Brian Herlihy, the development team has been encouraged by the feedback gained through the consultation process.

"There was nothing that came out of it that suggested we were heading down the wrong path. So that encourages us in what we are doing," he said.

Lend Lease held a series of community information sessions along with one-on-one sessions with various stakeholders over the past month.

The draft master plan for the 2.5 hectare site shows four commercial buildings (two with Collins St frontage) ranging in height from 93 metres to 150 metres.

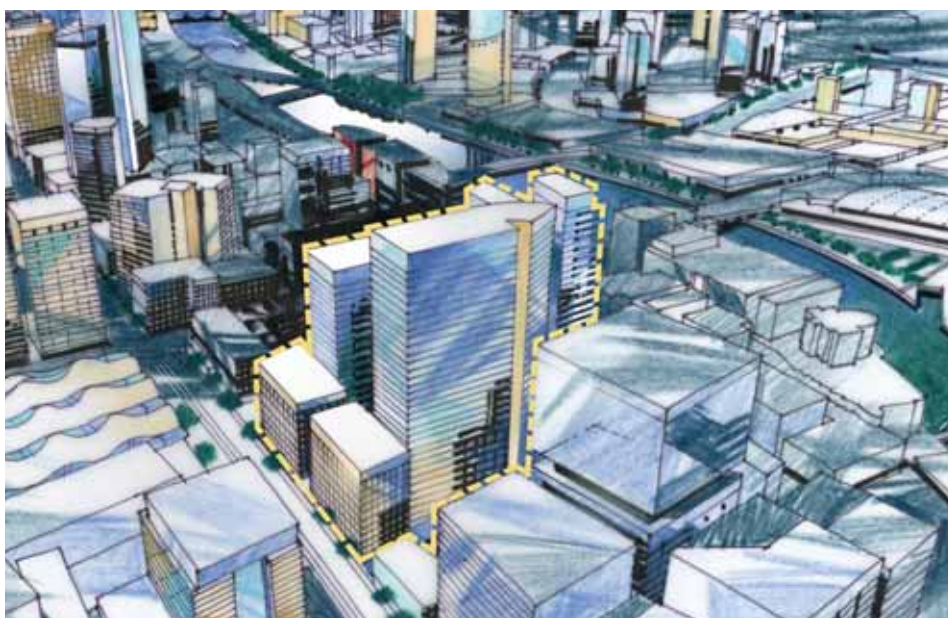
The plan also features two mid-rise strata offices ranging in height from 20 metres – 45 metres and three residential towers, consisting of 600 apartments, in the south-east corner of the site.

It features a platform above Wurundjeri Way, which will become a public space called the City Room, accessible off Collins St and via pedestrian links across the site.

The City Room is a major public plaza, with a glazed roof to protect from the elements and a focus on dining and retail, with 400 sqm of retail space.

"The City Room will be a very vibrant space with opportunities for public events such as music, performance, corporate events and a range of activities," Mr Herlihy said.

A new laneway on the eastern side of the site will connect Collin St to Flinders St sloping down to a pocket park in the residential area and then continuing down to Flinders St via a public lift and stairs.



An artist's impression of the Batman's Hill site.

"There are pedestrian and cyclist routes throughout the site connecting Southern Cross to Flinders St and across to South Wharf, and connecting east-west also," Mr Herlihy said.

"We want to allow people to move more seamlessly through the area."

The development plan also commits 1000 sqm to community facilities, with the development proposing one community space on the City Room and another off the north to south lane.

According to Mr Herlihy, the function of these community spaces was one of the issues raised through the consultation process prompting suggested uses including a public auditorium, a meeting room, a gallery, exhibition space or a performance space.

"It's been a deliberate decision in our master plan to put them (the community facilities) in places of high public use and really draw people through the site," Mr Herlihy said.

According to Mr Herlihy the counterpoint to the City Room would be a pocket-park located off the north-south laneway and surrounded by residential buildings.

"This square will have more of a green focus and a neighbourhood feel," Mr Herlihy said.

"It will be like a little oasis from the hustle and bustle of the surrounding city."

Mr Herlihy said the historical significance of Batman's Hill, in terms of its indigenous heritage and being the site of John Batman's cottage, would be preserved through the redevelopment, potentially through artworks, paving and landscape design.

Council 'fence sitting' on bridge

Continued from page 1.

Prior to its November 19 meeting, council receiving 37 items of correspondence in relation to its Fishermans Bend submission, the majority coming from residents.

Additionally, more than 200 people attended a public meeting held by the Marina YE Tenants Committee and Owners Corporation 1 (representing the Yarra's Edge towers) on the issue in October.

The tenants committee and OC engaged a professional planner and legal experts to produce its formal objection, which was submitted last month.

Marina YE tenants committee chair Phil Lack said he believed the City of Melbourne had received plenty of objections to the bridge and that its statement about further investigation into design options was made to pacify objectors.

He said he was sure talk of making the marina accessible would be dismissed once investigations found an opening bridge to be expensive and impractical.

Labor member for Albert Park (within which Yarra's Edge falls) Martin Foley has also come out in support of the community and said he had called on Planning Minister Matthew Guy to extend the consultation on the draft vision in Parliament.

"They need to be more strategic about the interests and investments of the existing community," Mr Foley said.

Yarra's Edge developer Mirvac has also made a submission on the Fishermans Bend draft vision but declined to comment.

Last call for lunch

The last Docklands Networking Lunch for the year is on December 13 at Etihad Stadium. Email lunch@docklandsnews.com.au to reserved your spot.



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The people have spoken

Joni Dennis's work proved to be popular with both the critics and the masses at the annual ANL Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition this year.

Ms Dennis was named the exhibition's People's Choice Award winner for her acrylic on canvas painting *Quick Smart* last month and was awarded \$2000 donated by tug boat operator PB Towage.

Visitors to the exhibition voted her painting as their favourite from amongst the 95 works selected for the exhibition.

Ms Dennis's painting also received second place in the ANL Maritime Art Prize at the launch of the exhibition in October.

"The PB Towage People's Choice Award is an award that enables the public to vote for their favourite piece of artwork in the exhibition," Mission to Seafarers Victoria CEO Andrea Fleming said.

"Over the past five years the award has contributed substantially to building the Mission to Seafarers' database as voters."

"Building an audience is important to all charities and this added dimension is of great benefit to the mission for which we are most thankful to our sponsor PB Towage."



PB Towage group managing director Charlie Kocherla, the artist, PB Towage managing director Tony Cousins and Mission to Seafarers CEO Andrea Fleming.

Alien encounter in NewQuay

If you've wandered down Doepel Way recently, you might have spotted some interesting creatures lurking in the corners of a once empty shopfront.

After seven years of vacancy, the shopfront has now come to life, with some interesting new tenants, in the form of large-scale puppets, visible through the windows.

Ampersand Studio is the newest Docklands Spaces project, with artists Joe Blanck and Felipe Reynolds moving into the space last month.

The pair have both had extensive careers in film, theatre, television and events in Australia and internationally.

Most recently, while working for Global Creature Technology, they were part of the team that designed and built the animatronic marionette puppet for King Kong: The Musical.

Joe and Felipe's plan for Ampersand Studio is to create an open studio exhibiting eclectic, local contemporary art and a place where people can meet the artists behind the work.

"The idea is to create a space for artists who think a bit differently and might struggle to be exhibited elsewhere," Joe said.

According to Joe, the gallery will be a place where people can acquire progressive contemporary art as well as having bespoke pieces commissioned.

The space is already full of interesting artwork, including Phillip Millar's *The Alien Tourist*, which can be spotted through the window.

Joe took the large-scale puppet for a wander around Docklands last month, coming across a children's birthday party, to the kid's delight.

Joe said he would be keen to continue with



Kids meet *The Alien Tourist*.

similar events as the studio establishes itself in Docklands.

He also said he was keen to collaborate with the other Docklands Spaces projects who have moved into vacant spaces in the area over the past year.

"I'm really excited and proud to be a part of it," Joe said.

"It's a great opportunity to be a part of a new arts hub in Melbourne."

Ampersand Studio is located at Shop 111, 401 Docklands Drive (enter via Doepel Way).

Ampersand Studio's official opening is on Friday, December 13.

Renewal continues

Renew Australia's Docklands Spaces project has been validated by the extension of the project through to mid-next year.

The success of the program was celebrated last month with the launch of a walking tour, which guides visitors to each of the creative projects that have taken up residence in Docklands over the past year.

Docklands Spaces gives creative enterprises access to unleased spaces rent-free on short-term leases.

The program, which is a collaboration between Places Victoria, the City of Melbourne and Renew Australia, began in March this year with the aim of activating Waterfront City Piazza.

Since then it has branched out into Harbour Town, with 12 different enterprises now taking part in the program.

These include 3D printing retailer Studio Batch, exhibition and studio space D11 @ Docklands, art space The Food Court and social enterprise The Revolution Project.

Next year the initiative will extend even further across Docklands.

"With the program extended we'd love to see more developers get involved in the program by donating some of their empty tenancies for use by new, dynamic businesses," Renew Australia founder Marcus Westbury said.

"The Docklands Spaces project is a people generator that helps achieve our vision for a popular destination, with a mix of used and engaging places in a world-class waterfront setting."

A map of the Docklands Spaces walking tour can be found at any of the spaces or can be downloaded from www.docklandsspaces.org



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It's planting season

Head down to the Docklands Community Garden this month for a community planting day on Saturday, December 7.

Following on from the successful spring planting day in September, this month's event will be all about summer planting.

Kicking off at 11am, the day will start with a gardening seminar by Sandi Pullman in the brand new community garden pavilion.

Sandi will provide tips on growing tomatoes and some lucky attendees will even receive their own tomato plant to take home.

A barbecue lunch will follow, before getting stuck into planting the summer crops in the afternoon.

According to garden volunteer Greg Wise (pictures below), the spring planting day in September resulted in plenty of new faces getting involved with the garden. It's hoped this month's event will encourage even more locals to get involved.



The recently elected Docklands Chamber of Commerce executive is made up of both old and new faces.

New chamber team

The Docklands Chamber of Commerce has elected a new president for the second year running.

Former vice president, Joh Maxwell, was elected unopposed at the chamber's annual general meeting on October 30.

Outgoing president Stephen Clement was elected vice president, while Josephine Tan and Bill Reid will continue as executive members and will act as treasurer and secretary respectively. Matt McInnes also continues on the executive.

New to the chamber executive are Melissa Head, Ebba Lindblom, Paul Keisler and Tony Bailo.

Aussie-day fun

Docklands is set to take centre stage on Australia Day next year when it hosts Melbourne's official fireworks for the first time.

Usually the fireworks are held at Kings Domain Gardens, but event organiser Destination Docklands has managed to secure the event this year.

"We have worked for nine months on this event and a major goal of ours was to attract the official Australia Day fireworks display to encourage visitors to the area and what a tremendous show it will be," Destination Docklands CEO Anita Donnelly said.

Official Australia Day events will kick off at 4pm on January 26, with a range of activities planned including face-painting, a thong-throwing competition, a kite-making workshop, roving performers and of course the Aussie classic - a sausage sizzle.

The weekly Docklands Sunday Market will continue into the evening for a night-time market along NewQuay.

"The day is really about immersing yourself in the whole Australian experience, it's great old-fashioned fun for the whole family with all things Australian being highlighted," Ms Donnelly said.

"We encourage families to come and embrace the sea breeze, admire the boats and even join a workshop to learn how to make a kite and fly it along NewQuay."



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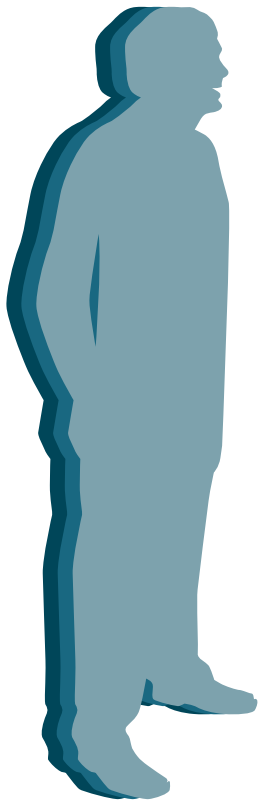
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DOCKLANDER

Profile by
Bethany Williams

Big ticks for Lori

For NewQuay local Lori Boys, 2013 has been a year of setting new goals and achieving them.

At the beginning of the year Lori decided to take a 12-month career break from her job in the corporate world in order to explore new avenues.

First on her list was establishing her own freelance management consultancy business *The Pending Coffee*. Tick.

Second was focusing on her writing through a travel blog, writing for publications in and outside her industry and contributing to *Docklands News*. Tick.

And third, giving more attention to charity. For the past six months Lori has been a board member of the Women's Information and Referral Exchange (WIRE).

At the same time she's taken on the pending coffee philosophy through her business (hence the name). Each time she earns a fee through writing or consulting she pays it forward by purchasing a pending coffee or meal in an anonymous act of charity.

This means the next person who asks if there's a pending coffee or meal available at that restaurant or cafe (preferably someone in need) gets it for free. Tick.

Although she's lived in Docklands for the past 10 years, her corporate job meant a lot of travel and not a lot of time to spare.

So her career break has given Lori the chance to rediscover the place she's lived for the past decade.

Lori and her husband moved to Docklands in 2003 after a chance lunch in Docklands saw Lori fall in love with the area.

"I came down for lunch on a Friday when Docklands was still in its infancy. I thought it was worth having a look at the apartments while I was here and at the time there were three available. I fell in love with one, brought my husband down on the Saturday to have a look and we signed the paperwork on the Tuesday," Lori said.

"I just fell in love with it – the waterfront, the proximity to the city and the vision for the place."

While a big part of her career break was travel (she's visited 13 countries in the past 12 months), there's also been plenty of opportunities to explore her own backyard.

"Since I've taken this career break I've definitely gotten to know the locals more," Lori said.

She's also taken on the *Docklands is Beautiful* website (www.docklandsisbeautiful.com.au) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Docklands-is-Beautiful/263936710311261), giving her another opportunity to explore the things that make Docklands great.



For Lori, the best part about Docklands is, no questions about it, the waterfront.

And although she doesn't have any pets herself she loves meeting all of the dogs out walking along the promenade. "I think I know more of the dogs' names than their owners," Lori said.

With her career break drawing to a close Lori says the past year has definitely changed her outlook on life.

"I'm more at peace, and I'm proud of myself and what I've achieved."

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DOCKLANDS FASHION



Fashion on the streets of Docklands

Bi Nguyen, 28

LOCATION

Harbour Town.

WEARS

Shoes from Industrie, G-Star raw jeans, leather jacket from Politix, basic tee and hand case from Typo.

DESCRIBE YOUR OUTFIT

Normal, casual.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

I'm job hunting. Looking out for places in need of a barista.

FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING

My shoes from Industrie.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

What suits your body size and the way you wear it. I'm a bit skinnier I think its important not to go too skinny or too loose.

Clinton Tomeldan, 20

LOCATION

Spencer St.

WEARS

Nike shoes from Glue, Globalize shirt, tee from Edge, Levi jeans from General Pants.

DESCRIBE YOUR OUTFIT

Indie-urban.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

I work at Edge here in Spencer Outlet Centre.

FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING

My shirt.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Something different and unique. I think outfits that mix and match, copy from others are interesting and attractive.

Barton Zaia, 20

LOCATION

Spencer St.

WEARS

Stussy jumper, Zara jeans, Alpha shoes, leather bag.

DESCRIBE YOUR OUTFIT

Casual.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

I live on Spencer St so just passing through.

FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING

My jumper from Stussy.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Simplicity.



Having a ball

MAB Corporation's beach ball was installed last month, providing a creative solution to wind tunnels in New Quay.

The five-metre high sphere was designed by The Quays architects McBride Charles Ryan and has been installed between Harbour One and The Quays.

It's designed to appear as if a beach ball has blown in between the two buildings and acts as a wind-stopper while also serving as a gateway for pedestrian access to Marmion Way.

Pop-up park

A temporary park opening at Yarra's Edge in December will add some extra green space to the precinct.

Yarra's Edge developer Mirvac is working with the City of Melbourne and Places Victoria to create a temporary parkland on an unused future development site.

The site is located at the corner of Point Park Crescent and South Wharf Drive, between Point Park and the Yarra's Edge townhouses.

Speaking at the Docklands Community forum on November 27, Places Victoria officer Ronan Mellan said Mirvac had committed \$200,000 to the project.

He said the council would test the suitability of new trees in Docklands.

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PET'S CORNER

There's always time for a tummy rub . . .

Chances are you have seen Gidget walking along the promenade at Docklands with her owner Monique. And quite possibly Gidget has rolled over on her back so that you can give her a tummy rub. She loves those tummy rubs almost as much as she loves roast chicken and vegemite.

Gidget, a five-year-old Chow Chow is originally a Canadian native who emigrated to Docklands from Toronto.

On secondment in Toronto for four years, Monique decided that if she was to stay in Toronto then she needed to get herself a loyal companion. And so she chose Gidget. Or did she? Maybe Gidget chose Monique. Gaze into those soulful Chow Chow eyes and you fall in love with this gorgeous dog.

"She is a very friendly, sociable dog who absolutely loves people but she can be stubborn sometimes," Monique said.

Monique said, when she was on her twice-

daily walks and didn't want to go home, Gidget would "just sit on the ground and not budge".

Also a lover of the beach, Gidget hasn't yet figured out that she can swim or that cats are supposed to be her enemy. Rabbits, on the hand, well that's another story.

History tells us that the Chow Chows were apparently bred in China to protect the Emperor. Given Gidget's gentle nature, Monique doesn't see a guard dog in her future.

By Lori Boys



Seasons Greetings from the team at **YMCA Docklands**

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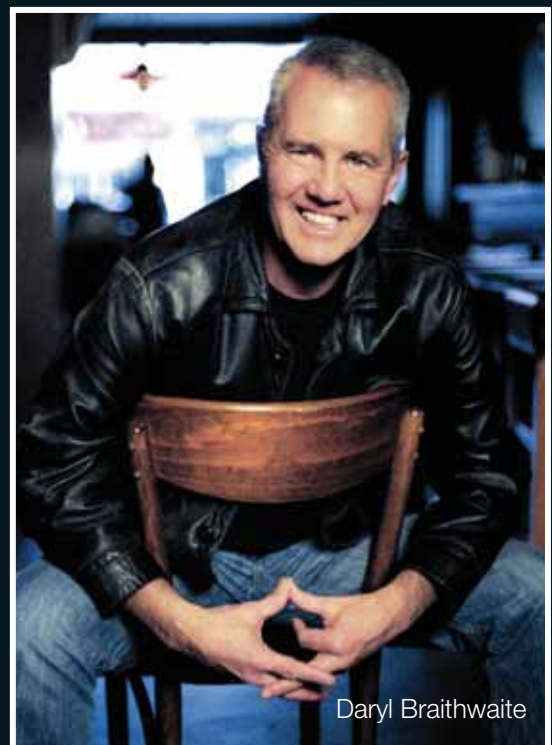
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What *With* Women *Abby* Want *Crawford*

“So this is Christmas, and what have you done? Another year over, and a new one just” well, just around the corner.

But certainly another new one about to begin. This song, by John Lennon, still gives me a lump in my throat, and brings a tear to my eye. It really makes me think about the year that has been, the friends and family that have passed, the people who will be celebrating in so many different ways – the fact that Christmas should be for everyone.

When I hear John Lennon sing “what have you done”, to me the question is what have you done *that is worthwhile*. And I think that’s why I can get emotional, thinking “have I done *enough*”?

Enough to be a good person, in my own opinion. Enough to know that I have helped, in a positive way. Enough to sit back with a champagne and say “rejoice”. I probably get a bit too emotional at Christmas time, and probably should put on *Jingle Bells Rock* and enjoy a cocktail, but I can’t help think if we all just did a little bit Just a little bit more.

I’m not saying to not enjoy Christmas, and hey, who doesn’t enjoy spending Boxing Day surrounded by mountains of wrapping paper from a stack of present giving, in full recovery

mode from way too much ham, champagne and general good cheer.

I’m not saying you should swap your beachside getaway holiday for two weeks of helping clean up the Philippines ... although I, along with millions of others, would thank you if you did.

And I’m not saying you should cash in the iTunes cards you received to support a child in a third world country for a year.

I’m not even saying you should go down to your community Christmas lunch for the poor and give a hand – although I will be doing that.

What I am saying is, what if you think about what you *could* do throughout the year – and then imagine how you’d feel sitting back at Christmas and being able to say “you know what I did this year? I made a difference”.

It doesn’t have to be big, but maybe there’s a way you could help someone, or an organisation that helps lots of people, or the environment or animals. Maybe you could help build a house for people in

disaster areas, maybe you could contribute financially to a worthwhile cause, maybe you could volunteer a little bit of your time.

Because, imagine if we all did? If we all gave just a little bit? Even if we all just started to care that little bit more? I think that’s a New Year’s Eve resolution we could all make ... to help, just a little bit more.

So when I think about this being Christmas, and I look proudly at my son, I do think briefly about the one new years resolution I made that hasn’t been achieved – I haven’t found love, the partner that I was so open to finding. I didn’t even come close!

However, I have plenty of very funny disastrous date stories, which are great for dinner parties! But what I did do is achieve the resolution & goal that I **could** control – and that was to give more.

I have now been appointed, just at the end of this year, to the role of chairperson for my local health service and I volunteer my time working with the hospitals, health services and our community.

Through my business, I have donated product and event services to charity – my goal for next year is for those contributions to grow.

This goal sits right alongside my other big goal – to be the best mum I can be. In fact, I think it actually is part and parcel, to teach my son the values that I hold dear.

I am a single mum, running my own business and I have been passionate about contributing to not only my community but to organisations that can reach many more people than I can alone.

It has been rewarding, as well as humbling to see those with even less, give more. So if I can give just this little bit, I am hoping you might be able to find your way to give if you haven’t already.

I want to thank you, for giving me the privilege of writing this column for you for another year. I want to thank each of you who have taken the time to write to me.

I now (literally, I’ve just poured a champagne!) raise my glass to each and every one of you. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With much love, Abby

Don’t forget you can email me at **life@docklandsnews.com.au**

PS please join me on Facebook or Instagram with either **abbyjanecrawford** or **loveandprotect**. See you there! xx

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DOCKLANDS SPORTING AND COMMUNITY FACILITY

The community is invited to learn more about the concept plan for stage 1 of the Docklands Sporting and Community Facility. Located in north-west Docklands, this facility will be developed in stages, and at completion will provide a range of leisure and recreational uses for the community.

The first stage of the project includes delivery of a sports field, together with a supporting community pavilion, children’s playground, new roads and a car park.

Information sessions regarding stage 1 of the project will be held in the foyer of Places Victoria’s offices at 710 Collins Street, Docklands on:

- Thursday, 5 December 2013 - 3pm to 7pm
- Saturday, 7 December 2013 - 10am to 2pm

Community members are invited to drop-in at any time during these sessions to speak to a project team member and view the project plans and information.

For further information visit www.places.vic.gov.au/westernpark



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FACES OF DOCKLANDS



DAVID CRANE, 70

As a city local residing in Russell Street, David says he is a regular visitor to Docklands for its good selection of food and shopping. He describes Docklands as a “good idea that is half finished” but believes that the potential of the area is enormous.



MICHAEL GEORGE, 64

As owner of Vaza Café in Harbour Town, Michael says that the atmosphere in Docklands is continuously rising with more and more visitors seeming to pass through every day. He says he enjoys working in the area for that very reason and that business is good!



VLADO ROBAT, 58

Docklands is a great place to be when the weather is good and he is looking forward to seeing what the opening of the wheel will bring to Harbour Town. As curator of the Australian Art Gallery, directly opposite the entrance to the wheel, he is hoping that the opening will help more people flow through his gallery in the future.



MARCIA SHEE, 40

Visiting Docklands for the first time from Adelaide, Marcia says Harbour Town is like nothing she has ever seen before and is impressed with the selection of shopping in the city in general. She says that Adelaide could learn a lot from Docklands and that based upon initial impressions she is a fan of the area!



SHARON ZONNEVELD, 40

As a visitor to Harbour Town for the great selection of shops, Sharon does suggest to Docklands News that the precinct should open at 9 o'clock instead of 10! Despite living an hour out of the city, Sharon says that she always enjoys coming to Docklands as it offers something different.



TRENT ZONNEVELD, 4

Out shopping with mum and dad, the smile on the face of our young Docklander-for-the-day suggests that he is looking forward to an action-packed morning at Harbour Town. This Docklands News reporter was also particularly jealous of what is a very cool insect jacket Trent is showcasing to the camera!



10 YEARS ON

Looking back at Docklands' first decade

By Peter Crowley

Docklands in 2003 was a transforming suburb - formerly a thriving port that had been dormant for a quarter century, it was on a trajectory to its next iteration.

Already almost a decade of thought and planning had gone into the vision for Docklands and, informed by the development of other disused ports around the globe, the new waterfront of Melbourne was unfolding.

The Arkley at NewQuay and 50 Lorimer St had opened in 2002 and, on the city side of Docklands the Grand Hotel had been

occupied for a while. But 2002/03 saw the opening of new buildings at Yarra's Edge and NewQuay, and new restaurants and cafes beside them lured visitors to Docklands.

Docklands was taking shape, but 2003 marked the emergence of the new Docklands community. On a wintry February 3 night, the first Dockfest was staged, featuring a kayak/running event called the Corporate Challenge, open air food and beverages, and energetic samba music and dance on Central Pier.

Community committees formed, meeting in apartments and the Docklands Authority offices to map out ideas and activities to bring people together.

Those ideas included the formation of the Docklands Community Association, set up to

create opportunity for residents to connect, share interests, unite to respond to issues and, most importantly, to plan social activities that would draw residents together.

Then there was “Carols by the Cow”. Imagine this – a community choir meets at the Hub, rehearsing for weeks, running through a program of traditional Christmas tunes.

The Salvation Army, keen to be visible and to support this new community, supplies musical support. The iconic Cow Up a Tree is proposed as the setting, so choir member and local resident Vince Muscatello ferries hay bales, one at a time, in the passenger seat of a BMW sports car to build a nativity setting beside the cow.

On a balmy pre-Christmas evening, against

the backdrop of the sun setting before the Bolte Bridge, the choir performs to an audience of about 90 Docklanders who have spread out seats and picnics around the cow.

Having practised for weeks, choir members have committed not only to a performance but to a vision, an idea that Docklands residents can do things together and become a community.

This performance is a pivotal event and captures a moment in the emergence of a new regenerated suburb, a thing not seen in inner Melbourne for a century.

This is 2003, the year that also saw the birth of the Docklands News and, 10 years on we recognise these milestones in the development of Melbourne.



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GREETINGS FROM THE DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Seasons greetings everybody

Our DCA Christmas party is on Wednesday, December 11 at the Harbour Kitchen on Victoria Harbour from 7.30 pm. It's a wow of a night and everybody attends. Invitation flyers will be going to residents shortly. See you there. You can contact us about it on the email address below.

There's a lot to mention. There's a groundswell of objections from Yarra's Edge residents to the proposed tram bridge over the Yarra, close to the residential towers. The purpose of the bridge is to connect the Collins St tram at the end of Victoria Harbour with Port Melbourne and the Fishermans Bend development. There are other options for tram service routes. Objections have been lodged with authorities and the DCA has lodged a supporting objection.

I attended a presentation by Lend Lease of its development concept plan for their large Batman's Hill site. Whilst they have been awarded the development rights, the proposed building plans have not yet been submitted for approval by the Minister. So they are engaging in the public consultation

stage before that occurs, which is good. We hope we'll be able to have some effect.

Just to clarify, the large site lies between the rear of Southern Cross Station and Collins Square and extends from Collins St to Flinders St. It is below the level of the Collins St overpass. The two proposed towers are a reasonable height. One is commercial and the other residential. Aspects always of concern to us are the amount of open space, building separation, wind tunnel effect and parking.

They say 1000 car spaces will be provided on-site. The other elements will be addressed later in planning applications. We would like to see more public open space than the 40m by 40m in the plans – part of which is a separate small area.

The DCA has responded to the Local Government Electoral Review saying the ward system should be adopted for the City of Melbourne. Under the present system there is no councillor representing any particular area especially so in our case where none of the councillors lives in Docklands. We have also supported a call by other community groups for limitations on campaign contributions/ donations with proper transparency and for the re-introduction of attendance voting with postal voting optional, to increase interest and participation.

The quarterly meeting of the Owners Corporation Network was held on November 21. Regarding serviced apartments, in the Watergate case council's appeal to the Supreme Court hearing is set down to go before a Full Panel of the Supreme Court, with three judges, on December 2-3. A decision may not be handed down until the new year.

Other matters discussed included strata management and greater public notification of developer plans proposed by the DPCD following discussion with Minister Guy.

The Inner Melbourne Planning Alliance is due to meet again on December 12. The newly-formed alliance is in the process of setting up structure and procedures. A main topic at present is the Fishermans Bend re-development with Port Phillip residents having made a major submission.

Speeding cyclists on the Esplanade and NewQuay Promenade continue to be a problem, despite the problem having been raised with both the police and council.

They scare pedestrians who can't hear them coming. They refuse to fit bells or use them although required by law to do so. The problem is exacerbated by there being no speed limit for bicycles or any registration requirement. The State Government needs to step in.

Places Victoria is putting on a public display in its offices at 710 Collins St of the plans for development of Western Park, at the end of Docklands Drive. Times are 3pm to 7pm on December 5 and 10am to 2pm December 7.

If any reader would like to become a member of the DCA or has any suggestions they wish to put forward regarding activities or issues, they are welcome to contact us on docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect you are welcome to call me on **0412 097 706**. You can also keep up with things on our website www.docklandscommunityassociation.com

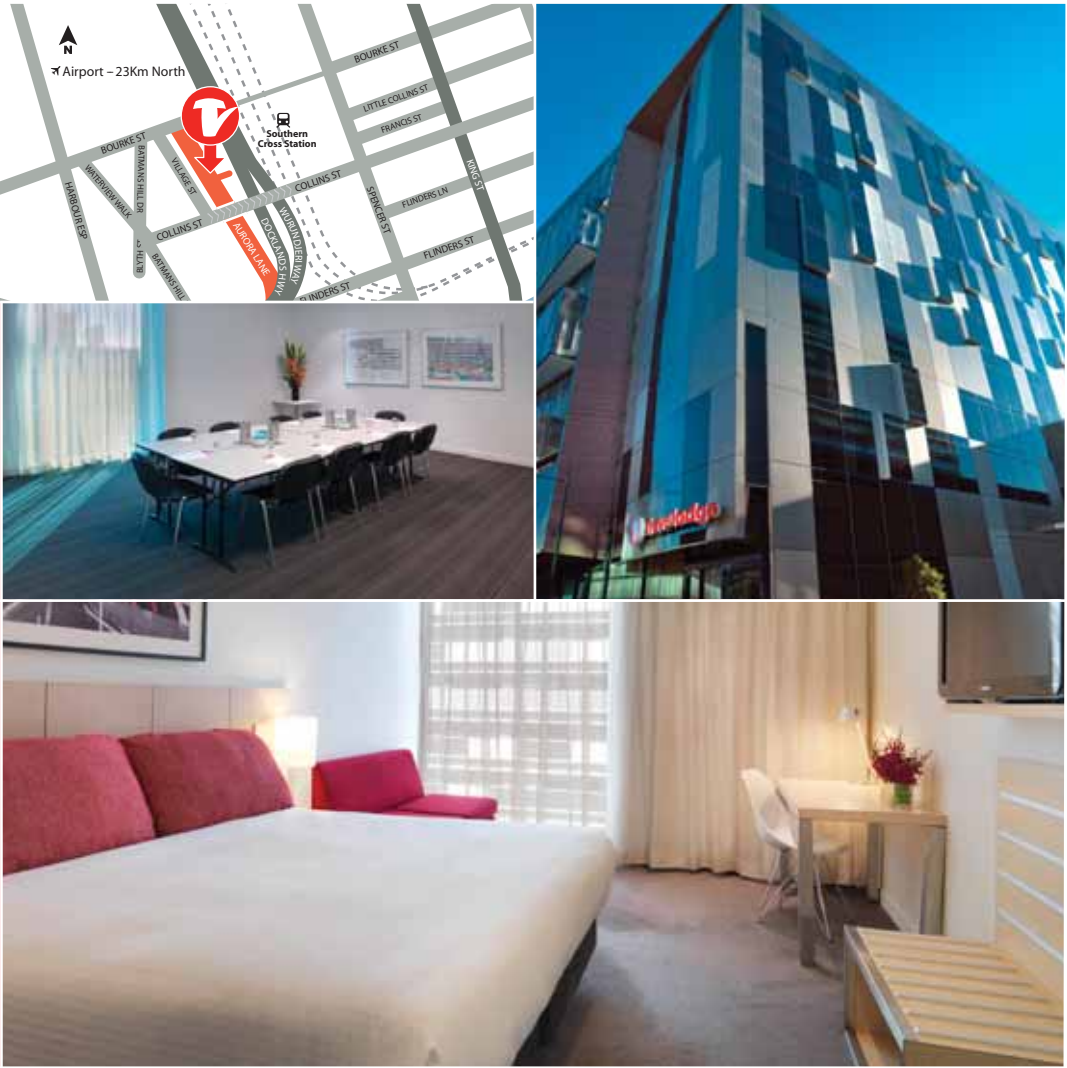
Safe and merry Christmas and happy new year to everybody

Roger Gardner
President DCA

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Businesses in Docklands

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NOW THIS JOB IS A BIT DIFFERENT...

For Tereza Todd, going to work each day means coming face-to-face with a 750 kg crocodile.

Tereza is lead aquarist at the SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium and is one the croc keepers taking care of new addition, saltwater crocodile Pinjarra.

At over five-metres long, Pinjarra is one of the largest crocodiles on display in the world and has been living at the aquarium since September.

According to Tereza, working as a croc keeper involves a range of different tasks.

“My daily croc duties generally involve checking the water quality and exhibit temperature twice daily, hosing Pinjarra down with fresh water to stimulate him, plus chatting to him so he gets used to our voices,” Tereza said.

Tereza said other duties included feeding attempts twice a week, exhibit cleaning and speaking with staff about Pinjarra’s behaviour alongside tending to other aquatic animals.

Tereza has worked at the aquarium since 2008 and has worked with crocodiles both at

the aquarium and in previous roles.

Apparently not getting enough of crocodiles at work, Tereza also keeps them as pets. “I’ve kept crocodiles at home for years and currently own a pet freshwater crocodile named Victor,” she said.

But working with a large crocodile such as Pinjarra required some extra training.

Tereza said earlier this year she and four other aquarium staff members attended “croc college” in Queensland where they learnt the finer details involved in caring for one of the world’s most feared predators.

“The curriculum was pretty intense but when you’re dealing with such a large and powerful creature you definitely don’t want to leave anything out,” Tereza said.

Given his size you’d think Pinjarra would have a massive appetite but according to Tereza, large animals like Pinjarra can take a few months to settle into new homes.

“We’ve been closely monitoring his behaviour each day since his arrival and can see he’s gradually regaining his appetite. Each day he is exploring his new surroundings a little more and lapping up the attention from all his visitors,” Tereza said.

“Once he is completely settled we expect he will eat a couple of chicken portions every day.”



Pinjarra, who is believed to be around 50 years old, was relocated to the aquarium from a crocodile farm near Rockhampton in Queensland where he has lived for the past 20 years.

According to Tereza, because saltwater crocodiles are one of the world’s most feared predators, many people don’t understand why it’s important to preserve the species.

“If we wish to protect them for years to come, it’s imperative to help educate the public

and that’s what we hope to do working with Pinjarra at SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium.”

Apart from seeing Pinjarra at Croc Lair, visitors can see a range of underwater creatures at the aquarium, from penguins, to sharks, turtles, and tropical fish.

The SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium is located on the corner of Flinders St and King St and is open every day of the year from 9.30am until 6pm.

IT’S “ALL GOOD” AT VA BENE



Va Bene Pizzeria on Central Pier celebrates five years of operation in Docklands this month.

With views across the water and a cosy communal atmosphere, the Italian restaurant has been a favourite with many Docklanders, who have grown to become regulars over its five year history.

According to managing director Anthony Jaye, marking five years of business feels like quite a milestone.

He said the restaurant would mark the occasion with a gathering of current and former staff, including a special few who have been with the business from day one.

When asked why he originally chose to open the restaurant in Docklands, Mr Jaye said the main drawcard was the waterfront.

Both he and business partner/executive chef Marisa Travain are from Italian backgrounds and connect Italian food with boats and the waterfront.

“There’s a certain connection between sitting on the water and enjoying food and wine,” Mr Jaye said.

“During daylight savings begins we have some beautiful sunsets across the water, it’s a beautiful place to be and very Italian.”

Mr Jaye said for him the highlight of the past five years in Docklands had been the strong connections forged with local people.

“It’s very rewarding to have people walk in and greet you by your first name,” Mr Jaye said.

The cultivation of a family feeling around the restaurant connects perfectly with its ethos of sharing great food and wine around a table and its name, which translates to “all good”.

So what’s next for Va Bene?

Mr Jay said he was looking forward to New Year’s Eve when the restaurant provide a front row seat to the midnight fireworks.

Head chef Daniel Miletic has tailored a menu especially for the occasion, featuring many of the year’s most popular specials.

Mr Jaye said the restaurant was still taking last minute bookings for Christmas functions and New Year’s Eve.

You can find Va Bene at Central Pier, 161 Harbour Esplanade and can contact the restaurant on 8623 9690.

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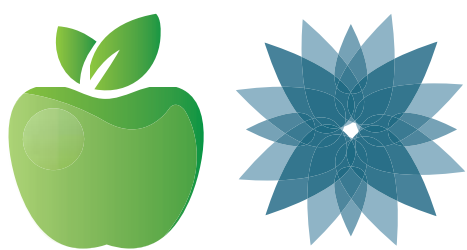
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HEALTH & WELLBEING

By *Andrew Ward*,
YMCA Docklands manager

Christmas eating tips

Did you realise that the average Christmas lunch can be equal to, or in some cases double, your daily nutritional requirements? And that's just lunch!

Here are five simple nutritional tips to help you stay on track during the festive season:

- Focus on portion sizes – Do something different this year! Make Christmas lunch last all day with a series of tasty smaller and healthier courses, as opposed to the giant sized, three-round meal. Bonus tip – insert exercise or outdoor activities between courses;
- Eat desert –Depriving yourself will only increase the craving which can lead to over-consumption later;
- Avoid over consumption of alcohol – Alcohol has no nutritional value, and a lot of calories. It can also impact your ability to make sound decisions;
- Drink lots of water in place of alcohol; and
- Where you can, get in early and influence the organiser of your Christmas party - you don't want to be a spoil sport so let them know about your great ideas to do Christmas lunch differently in 2013!

Christmas exercise tips

It is widely recommended that adults should exercise a minimum of 30 minutes per day, every day to maintain good health and to avoid excessive weight gain. This of course varies depending on the individual but is a good starting point.

What tends to happen over the Christmas is that regular exercise routines drop in priority, and are replaced by higher priority festive activities. The good news is that both can exist in harmony with a little bit of planning.

Here are some simple exercise tips to ensure you make it through Christmas without going backwards:

- Increase energy expenditure as your energy consumption increases;
- Make a morning work-out part of your holiday routine;
- Lock-in exercise commitments with your friends and family;
- Break up the big days with a work out or outdoor activities;
- Create a two-week Christmas workout plan; and
- See your personal trainer.

Lunch time is active time

Looking to get active, build fitness and have fun all during your work lunch break?

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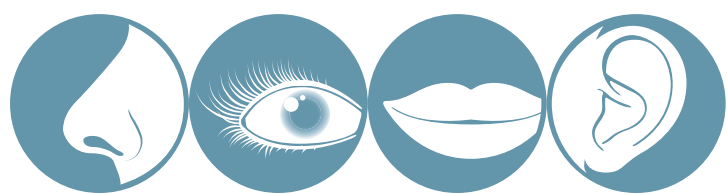
Dates: Autumn 14 week season (February – June)

Where: Docklands Sports Courts

When: Games are conducted Monday to Friday during lunchtime

Game times: 12:00pm, 12:30pm, 1:00pm, 1:30pm

For further information visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/amcs or email amcs@ymca.org.au



DOCKLANDS SECRETS

Graffiti or art? Definitely art!

From Bangkok to Brooklyn, Tokyo to Hong Kong and now ... Docklands.

Wandering through Waterfront City Plaza you may have noticed some "street art" gracing the walls.

To the untrained eye, it might just look like rather good graffiti but closer inspection reveals a clue.

These works have been painted by the artist known as TWOONE, an internationally acclaimed street artist, originally from Yokohama.

With his work found all over the world (including the interior mural for Myer's young fashion floor basement) he can now add the beautiful Docklands to his international portfolio of exhibitions.



Letters to the Editor

Response 1

In response to your article dated October 1, 2013 "Council profits from Docklands". The following points are provided for clarification and context.

The unbudgeted Marina YE fees and associated costs referred to in the article arose out of a change in operating model for the management of the marina. The fees represent quarterly outgoings paid by tenants to fund the operating expenditure of the marina.

It is worth noting that the fees are calculated based on a cost neutral/cost recovery basis with no profit generated by council.

Yours sincerely,

Phu Nguyen
Chief Financial Officer
City of Melbourne

Response 2

Why was I not surprised that you hid my response down the back of the News?

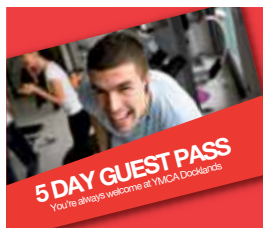
Also that you didn't apologise for major inaccuracies in your report.

Weak effort Shane! Your over-the -top animosity is obvious to all.

As somebody has remarked, your article did you more harm than it did us.

Roger Gardner

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DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY CALENDAR



THE FOOD COURT

Thursday till Sunday, 12pm - 6pm
Waterfront City Piazza

A group of artists have transformed the longtime unleased Food Court, into an exhibition and arts events space. Check out our latest exhibitions and events and enjoy our free Wi-Fi over a hot drink (Pop-up Coffee stall coming soon).



MARITIME PORTHOLE GALLERY

Open Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm
428, Docklands Drive.

The Porthole Gallery is a Community Arts Project supporting the Mission to Seafarers.

porthole@missiontoseafarers.com.au

Mob: **0438 724 917** Like us on Facebook: **Maritime Porthole Gallery**

DOCKLANDS SUNDAY MARKET

Every Sunday from 10am until 5pm.
New Quay Promenade

A variety market featuring arts and crafts, vintage, ladieswear, jewellery, secondhand books and more.

Contact 0412 910 496 for more information.

LUNCHTIME TABLE TENNIS

Wednesday and Fridays
The Hub, 80 Harbour Esplanade

Cost: No charge.

Table tennis continues to grow in popularity. BYO lunch.

For details **8622 4822** or **docklandshub@melbourne.vic.gov.au**

MELBOURNE SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

First Thursday of the month, 10am
Wharf Hotel, Siddeley Street

Probus Clubs for men and women over 50. Come along, keep your mind active, meet new friends while enjoying activities and shared interests. Contact Carol on **9646 5256** or **carolbergcb@gmail.com**

CAROLS AT THE HUB

December 12, 12.30pm - 1.15pm

Melbourne's own sing-along choir will be visiting the Hub for a free Christmas carols lunchbox session.

Lunchbox sessions are free but bookings are required. Contact the Hub on **8622 4822**.

DOCKLANDS TOASTMASTERS

Every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month
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The University of the 3rd Age offers two classes on Mondays and Thursdays. To make an enquiry regarding the classes, please ring U3A on **9639 5209**

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www.mrmeditate.com
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Dragon Masters has something for anyone. Please contact Jeff Saunders **0417 219 888** email **Jeff.saunders@digisurf.com.au** or visit **www.dragonmasters.com.au**

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Sunday evening 6pm

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Third Saturday of every month 5pm - 7pm

Alma Doepel Restoration Site Shed 2, North Wharf Road, Victoria Harbour, Docklands.

Learn about our restoration project and see if you would like to get involved.



MELBOURNE FLAMES DRAGON BOAT CLUB

Every Sunday 8.30am for 9.00am start

Shed 2, North Wharf Rd, Victoria Harbour

We paddle and train hard and have a lot of fun doing it. Come and see what all the fuss is about for three free paddling sessions - no commitment, no questions asked. **www.melbourneflames.com.au**

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

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The Hub, 80 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands

Meet for worship and enjoy a tea or coffee afterwards. Ph: **9827 3595** or visit **www.victoria.quakers.org.au**

DOCKLANDS ROTARY

Every Thursday, 7.15am

Harbour Kitchen, Victoria Harbour Promenade

All welcome.

Contact president, Joseph Ebbage on **9097 1749**.

MELBOURNE LIBRARY SERVICE STOMPERS SESSION

Mondays at 11am

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DOCKLANDS SPORTS PAGE

Melbourne lacking Heart

By Robert Bremner

Melbourne Heart and Melbourne Victory's seasons are heading in opposite directions with the winless Heart playing for pride while Victory are looking for their first title in five seasons

Melbourne Heart have struggled to find form in the early stages of the 2013 A League season. They currently find themselves at the bottom of the ladder and have not won a game this year, with only two draws and five losses to their name.

The club recently rejected repeated offers from a Chinese businessman to take control of the organisation for a reported \$9 million. The news is only getting worse for the struggling club with coach John Aloisi under mounting pressure with the club's performances being labelled lacklustre and causing both disappointment and anger amongst fans.

The club is currently on a five game losing streak and recent performances don't show any signs of turning this around. One silver lining is the imminent return of injured captain Harry Kewell. Kewell has been injured most of the season and perhaps his on field leadership is what the club is needing most right now.

Meanwhile, after a slow start Melbourne Victory's season is beginning to pick up. The season began with draws against rivals Melbourne Heart and Adelaide United

before coach Ange Postecoglou left the club to take up the vacancy of the Socceroos coaching position.

In his final match as coach his team sent him off in style, upsetting current ladder leaders Brisbane Roar 1-0. Victory were unlucky the lose the points in a 3-2 loss to Sydney and were gallant against the Wanderers.

Melbourne got themselves back on the winners list last week against Adelaide in a bizarre contest that saw them come away with a 3-0 win, yet lose most of the important statistics and all with only a 10 man side after Adrian Leijer was sent off just before the half time break.

The coming weeks will help shape Victory's season as they attempt to make another finals appearance. Games against defending champions Central Coast (away) and Newcastle (home) will be important for Victory. While Heart faces assignments against Adelaide United and last year's runners up Western Sydney and will hopefully place a win on the board.

The next few weeks may either make or break Aloisi's future as coach of the club.



Local team Dragon Masters training hard in Victoria Harbour.

Docklands Cup is up for grabs

Local and regional dragon boat teams will battle it out for glory at the Docklands Cup this month.

Around 300 paddlers are expected to compete in 200 metre, 500 metre and 2 km races throughout the event.

According to Dragon Boat Victoria spokesperson Melissa O'Brien, around 12 clubs are expected to compete, including teams from Ballarat, Geelong and Wodonga.

"Participants from all around the state will be invited to battle it out for the coveted Docklands Cup and competition promises to be strong with a number of Victorian paddlers having recently represented Australia at the World Dragon Boat Championships in Hungary in July," Ms O'Brien said.

The Docklands Cup is on Sunday, December 8 in Victoria Harbour with races starting at 9 am and continuing throughout the day.

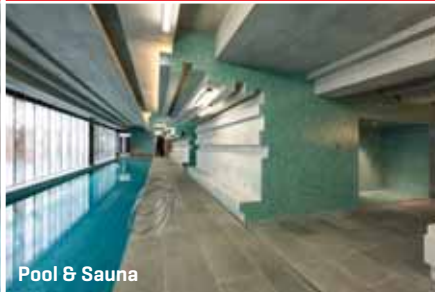
Victoria Harbour also hosted the Australian Corporate Games on November 23, while the WTC Wharf Dragon Boat Cup on November 17 saw 300 paddlers compete.

For those inspired by the thrill of the competition, Docklands dragon boat club the Melbourne Flames is holding a free come-and-try session on Sunday, December 15.

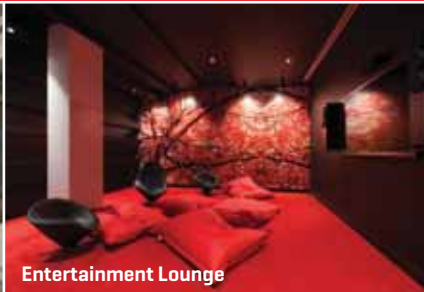
Potential paddlers should head down to Shed 2 on North Wharf Rd at 8.30 am on December 15 to take part. See [www.melbourneflames.com.au](#) for information.



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