

The voice of Docklands | 道克蘭之音

DOCKLANDS NEWS

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WTC's Phil Hill, Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell and Eureka Skydeck CEO John Forman

Docklands Dragon brings luck

A symbol of good luck, in the form of a large-scale Chinese dragon, could be just what Docklands needs as we start the new year.

The 100-metre long, illuminated dragon was constructed at Shed 4 and was unveiled on January 30 in Docklands, coinciding with Chinese New Year's Eve.

In Chinese culture, the dragon is an

auspicious symbol, commonly associated with prosperity and good fortune and, hopefully, the Docklands Dragon is a sign of more good things to come locally.

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No joy for esplanade

By Shane Scanlan and Bethany Williams

Harbour Esplanade could remain a festering sore for decades as the State Government and the City of Melbourne admit they have no intention of completing the project in a hurry.

Although widely acknowledged as the key to the precinct's ultimate success, the five-hectare headache has been confined to the too-hard basket for nearly 10 years without any definitive solution in sight.

More than six years after the first power-sharing arrangement between the council and Places Victoria, the parties are still to agree on a plan for the area.

Places Victoria seems determined to avoid committing to a detailed plan because it has no money to pay for it.

And the City of Melbourne appears to be hell-bent on a singular mission to restore heritage sheds to the Esplanade, no matter what direction a future master plan may take.

In 2008, Places Victoria revealed and consulted widely on its "Melbourne's

Verandah" master plan which it quickly shelved when it realised it had no money to pay for it.

The urban renewal authority is currently caught between a fundamental requirement to master-plan the area and its political desire to avoid raising a public expectation that something might actually happen.

In its most recent statement, Places Victoria said: "The development of Harbour Esplanade is a long-term project that will be staged over the next 10 -15 years, subject to available funding."

It says it is working towards a master plan, but warns the community not to expect a "Verandah"-style consultation saying it is "working towards releasing concept plans for the staged development of the waterfront within a few months".

Places Victoria Docklands manager Simon Wilson said consultation would only be sought on "further input about things like the amount of built form proposed and how Melburnians want to use public spaces on the waterfront."

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said: "While the council may put funding into the reinstatement of the heritage sheds, the wider project of completion of Harbour Esplanade is a State Government project."

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The signs are ominous

Comment

Shane Scanlan



There are many symbols demonstrating the parlous state of Harbour Esplanade and the sad fact that it won't be fixed any time soon.

Hortus, the glasshouse that is now covered by a tent, tells a story of impracticality, delay and unfulfilled promise.

Next to it, the up-again-down-again solid hoardings around the wharf areas to be demolished adjacent to Central Pier are an even greater symbol of dysfunction.

The fence was erected twice – once to the edge of Places Victoria's jurisdiction and six months later onto the area controlled by the City of Melbourne.

But perhaps the greatest symbol demonstrating the difficulties we face is a press conference held on Harbour Esplanade last December by Planning Minister Matthew Guy and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

It is well known that politicians like to pump themselves up. And they are pretty good at presenting an almost-empty glass as brimming over.

But to claim that the demolition of the condemned sections of wharf was the beginning of something wonderful was breathtaking in its audacity.

The wharves were a public danger and had already been fenced off to prevent anyone falling through them. The demolition should have been done years ago.

The Minister and Lord Mayor should have been embarrassed that the wharf areas had been allowed to deteriorate to this point.

But, without announcing any funding beyond the demolition, the pair claimed the

moment was the "start of the rejuvenation of Harbour Esplanade."

In reality, it has been more than five years since the re-development of Harbour Esplanade was announced with fanfare.

Since then, the authorities have only managed to move the tram tracks (the fences were not the only aspect of Harbour Esplanade to be done twice!).

The Guy/Doyle press conference was an ominous symbol. If this was the best news they could muster, how bad must the state's commitment to infrastructure be?

Any thoughts about a grand plan for Harbour Esplanade must be tempered against this background of economic austerity.

And, again, Docklands finds itself over-governed to the point of paralysis. You have to wonder how far advanced Docklands would have been without "power-sharing" between Places Victoria and the City of Melbourne that started in 2007 and continues today.

If Harbour Esplanade had been the sole responsibility of either party, would we be in the same state of inactivity today?

We understand that Places Victoria and the council have been talking among themselves for years about the future of Harbour Esplanade.

The community has been expecting a round of consultations on a visionary master plan.

We believe that another master plan was actually prepared during 2012 but that 2013 was spent scaling back ambition and lowering expectation.

Consultation has been promised in coming months.

The community should prepare itself to be underwhelmed.



The original Docklands Community Forum representative group at the first forum.

Forum is recruiting members

The Docklands Community Forum is looking for three new members to join its representative group.

The City of Melbourne is asking for expressions of interests from community members who are interested in taking on the voluntary role.

While everyone in the community is invited to attend and contribute to the forum, the representative group is responsible for influencing the focus of the forum and attending Docklands Steering Group meetings.

"The ideal candidate for this voluntary role on the forum is someone who lives or works in Docklands, is passionate about the area and is keen to be involved in the issues affecting Docklands, on both a small and large scale, now and into the future," the spokesperson said.

When the Docklands Community Forum was formed in 2012, 28 people volunteered for a role as a forum representative, of which 11 were selected.

Council says anyone who was overlooked for a position in 2012 is welcome to re-apply.

Expressions must be received by 5pm on February 17 and can be submitted at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutMelbourne/PrecinctsandSuburbs/Docklands/Pages/DocklandsCommunityForum.aspx

The first Docklands Community Forum for 2014 is on February 26 at Places Victoria and will run from 6pm to 7.30pm.

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Spoodle Shanti and local artist Amie Anderson want Docklands' pets and owners to join in the fun at the piazza this month.

Pet's day out

The NewQuay Piazza will be filled with the sounds of barking and hissing, squawking and purring this month, when Docklands' animal population meets later this month.

Docklands' pets (and their owners) are invited to come along to the piazza at midday on February 9 to join in the *Animate – Public Space – Docklands* event.

Local artist Amie Anderson and resident Lori Boys have collaborated on the event, which they hope will see both domestic and exotic species on show.

"The purpose of the day is to bring the Docklands locals together through the walking of their pets," Ms Anderson said.

"The project uses physical bodies, both animal and human to connect with the environment and the public space."

The event is part of *Lands*, a wider public art project being developed by Ms Anderson,

who is involved with The Food Court community arts space, which is part of the Docklands Spaces initiative.

Lands involves a series of public activation events both in the piazza and at Harbour Town and is being developed in collaboration with Docklands residents, workers and other artists.

"Whilst re-imagining and re-configuring the public space of the Docklands, the project encourages participation, community exchange and communication," Ms Anderson said.

"By using public space in unconventional and meaningful ways, new responses and identities can be formed in relation to the Docklands area," Ms Anderson said.

BAB to rehear short-stay case

After two Supreme Court appeals, the Watergate short-stay case is set to return to the Building Appeals Board (BAB).

Following a hearing on December 2, Justice Geoffrey Nettle and Justice Robert Osborn returned their decision on December 12, affirming the earlier decision of the Supreme Court to return the case to the BAB.

A new BAB panel will hear the case, but a date for the hearings has not yet been set.

The short-stay saga began in 2011, when the City of Melbourne issued owners of short-term apartments in the Watergate with building orders.

The Watergate is classified as a Class 2 building and the orders required owners to comply with building regulations applicable to a Class 3 building, akin to a hotel or boarding house, or to cease trading.

Docklands Executive Apartments operator Paul Salter appealed the orders at the BAB, but in March last year the board released a decision upholding council's orders.

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

However, before it could return to the BAB, the council appealed the Supreme Court decision.

But, as the December 12 decision revealed, this ultimately led to the same result, with the presiding justices upholding the initial Supreme Court decision and sending the case back to the BAB.

According to Mr Salter, the Court of Appeals decision was "a victory for common sense and equity".

"If people purchase an investment property, they should be entitled to offer those properties as fully self-contained residences. It shouldn't matter whether the occupants

stay for a week or a year," Mr Salter said.

Mr Salter is a committee member of the Victorian Accommodation Services Association (VICASA), which is preparing a submission for the Victorian Government.

"We are confident the information and solutions offered by the association will help resolve any concerns the Government might have regarding the accommodation services that members provide," Mr Salter said.

In July last year, Planning Minister Matthew Guy said he would increase the power of owners corporations to regulate short-stay apartments.

In December he told *Docklands News* the Government was working with Consumer Affairs in order to support the actions the council had taken.

He said legislation empowering owners corporations could be enacted by early in 2014.

The Watergate OC was legally represented at the original BAB hearings but Watergate OC chair Barbara Francis said it would not be joining the rehearing of the case.

However, she said: "We will be fully supporting the City of Melbourne in the rehearing before the BAB."

Ms Francis said Watergate owners had recently re-elected the committee who had "worked tirelessly to eliminate the short-stay problem at Watergate apartments."

Of the 12 owners elected to the OC committee just one was a new representative.

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Docklands Dragon brings good luck

Continued from page 1

The dragon will be in Docklands until February 16 and is lit up each night by colourful lanterns.

A Chinese festival is also running in Docklands while the dragon is in town, featuring entertainment, stalls and exhibitions, as part of Melbourne's wider Chinese New Year celebrations.

Standing 10-metres tall at its highest point, the dragon was created by Chinese design company Sichuan Tianyu.

Eureka Skydeck, in partnership with WTC and the City of Melbourne, commissioned the dragon in the hope that 2014 will be the beginning of a long-term strategy for growing Chinese New Year celebrations across the city.

"Melbourne has over 55,000 Chinese residents and there were more than 327,000 visitors to Victoria from China in the last year," Eureka Skydeck CEO John Forman said.

"New year is the biggest festival on the Chinese calendar and something that Melbourne celebrates within our Chinese precinct. We want to see the celebrations linked with Chinatown, through to Southbank and connect with the Docklands."

"There had been considerable local Chinese support and advice to bring the Docklands Dragon to life and there is real optimism for growth in future years," Mr Forman said.

Original plans for Chinese New Year saw the dragon situated at Sandridge Bridge in Southbank, but Mr Forman said part of the funding agreement with City of Melbourne was that the dragon be installed at Docklands.

The council has contributed \$140,000 towards the dragon and Chinese New



Eureka Skydeck CEO John Forman and WTC's Phil Hill.

Year festival at Docklands from its Event Partnerships Program budget.

Councillor Beverley Pinder-Mortimer said the City of Melbourne was delighted to support the event.

"The City of Melbourne is keen for a further enhancement of the Chinese New Year celebrations across the city and I'd encourage all Melburnians to enjoy a night out at a great local restaurant and to see the

dragon," Cr Pinder-Mortimer said.

Mr Forman said it made sense to install the dragon in Docklands at Docklands due to its proximity to the water, with the future plans for Chinese New Year in Melbourne to have events linking down the river and to the waterfront.

"This is part of a bigger push to make Chinese New Year in Melbourne the biggest celebration outside of China," Mr Forman said.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce president Joh Maxwell said the chamber was very excited about the Chinese New Year festival in Docklands.

"We're 100 per cent behind this great event and believe the extra visitation will help to raise the profile of our wonderful suburb," Mrs Maxwell said.

Mrs Maxwell said chamber representatives had visited every restaurant and café in Docklands to ensure they were informed of the event, allowing them to make the most of the opportunity.

She said the chamber had also produced a Docklands map marking all of the local cafes, restaurants, hotels and bars to allow visitors to explore all of the great hospitality offerings available.

The Docklands Dragon can be found at the corner of Harbour Esplanade and Bourke St throughout the Chinese New Year festival, which continues until February 16.

Throughout the festival Docklands visitors and locals can also enjoy traditional Chinese entertainment including music, dance and street theatre from 6.30pm to 7.30pm nightly, along with a dragon boat exhibition and cultural activities corner.

Chinese merchant stalls will also operate in Docklands from 6pm to 10pm every night of the festival.

More trams for commuters

An increasing demand for public transport to and from Docklands saw an extra 1200 tram services per week added last month.

Public Transport Victoria and Yarra Trams added the extra services on a range of routes, starting from Australia Day.

The route 75 tram, which originally travelled along Spencer St to Flinders St, will now travel along Harbour Esplanade, terminating at Etihad Stadium.

When combined with route 70 this will mean a tram to Flinders St leaving from Docklands every five minutes.

A further 26 weekday services have also been added to route 11, which travels to Victoria Harbour via Collins St.

More trams will now be running on the route during peak morning and evening periods, with services from West Preston to Victoria Harbour, via Collins St, now operating every 8 minutes.

When combined with route 48, this means a service every four minutes along Collins St to Docklands. The \$3.5 million Collins St tram extension work is also complete with tram routes 11, 48 and 31 now operating from the Dock Square terminus.

The 450-metre extension includes new tram tracks leading to a double track tram terminus at the newly created intersection of Collins St and Bourke St.

The tram track extension is part of Lend Lease's \$20 million Collins St road, pedestrian and tram network extension project and will provide a transport link to the emerging Dock Square.

At the launch of the extension Premier Denis Napthine said Docklands was one of the fastest growing residential and commercial hubs in Melbourne.

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A segway into tourism

We could soon see fleets of Segways rolling along the waterfront as the State Government moves to change regulations as part of a red-tape reform.

It had previously been illegal to operate the two-wheeled vehicles on roads and shared paths in Victoria.

But the restriction will be lifted to allow guided Segway tours around Melbourne.

The change in regulations was announced alongside 35 other red-tape reforms by Acting Premier Peter Ryan and Treasurer Michael O'Brien in January.

The change in regulations will need to go through Parliament and a licensing authority will need to be established before we'll see Segways in the neighbourhood, but one operator is definitely keen to get started.

Managing director of Segway Victoria Terry Smit said it was his company's application to government that gained the support of the red tape commissioner, John Lloyd, leading to the reform.

Mr Smit said Segway Victoria had made an application to Government to operate Segway tours in Melbourne about two years ago, but had been rejected.

The company was then invited to meet with the red-tape commissioner mid-last year.

According to Acting Premier Peter Ryan, the red-tape commissioner met with 25 different associations and a range of individual businesses before putting his reform proposals forward to government.

Mr Smit is eager to start operating Segway tours in Melbourne and has proposed a tour running along Southbank, over the Webb Bridge and through Docklands.

He said while there were no firm time frames in place at this stage he hoped the company would be operating in Melbourne in time for the next summer holiday season.

"We're delighted that this milestone has been achieved and are now waiting for the regulatory reforms that will make Segway tours in Melbourne possible," Mr Smit said.

The Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) is also pleased with the planned reform.

"We welcome this change by the State Government as Segway tours will diversify



Terry Smit and the team from Segway Victoria show off their wheels.

the tourism experience and make Melbourne an even more enjoyable place to visit," VTIC chief executive Dianne Smith said.

Treasurer Michael O'Brien said 22 of the red-tape reforms would be implemented in time to meet the Government's commitment of reducing 25 per cent of red tape by July 2014, with the other 15 reforms to be introduced in the near future.

"The Coalition Government made a commitment to significantly reduce red tape by 25 per cent and we are on track to meet that target," Mr O'Brien said.

"Cutting red tape encourages business investment in Victoria and the removal of these 22 unnecessary regulations will contribute to delivering more than \$715 million in red tape savings to Victorian businesses and the wider economy."

No joy for esplanade

Continued from page 1.

Digital Harbour developer David Napier suspects that Places Victoria and the council have developed and scrapped a second master plan for Harbour Esplanade.

He said he was led to believe that a master plan would be released a year ago but nothing happened.

"Not only do we not have a plan, but we've got holes in the ground," Mr Napier said of the wharf rectification work currently happening on Harbour Esplanade.

Mr Napier said \$300 million of funding had been committed to Docklands as part of the Docklands Community and Place Plan and that some of this funding should be brought forward to get the job done.

"At least they will create the waterfront that will attract the community that will make Docklands work," Mr Napier said.

He said nowhere else in the world was an urban waterfront development attempted without first securing the shore area.

Despite no funding to complete the job, it's clear plenty of money has been spent on developing master plans for the esplanade.

BKK Architects was charged with developing the 2008 "Verandah" concept and *Docklands News* has established that the firm also worked on at least one other Harbour Esplanade master plan.

BKK co-founder Tim Black said his firm had worked on another Harbour Esplanade master plan around two or three years ago.

This master plan was a broader concept, which positioned Harbour Esplanade as the centre-piece of a plan stretching from the Yarra River to the Maribyrnong River.

He said the plan was shelved after it was caught up in "the change of government, changes in Places Victoria and changes in the funding environment".

Last December the Planning Minister Matthew Guy and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle staged a press conference on Harbour Esplanade to announce \$16 million to demolish derelict wharf areas.

Although committing to consult on a future master plan, neither party has committed any money to complete the project.

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Wheel boosts tourism trade

Docklands got a tourism boost late last year when the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel officially opened on December 23.

And it already seems to be making a difference to the Harbour Town traders who have held on throughout the wheel's five-year rebuild.

Feedback from retailers since the wheel opened has been mostly positive.

Le Cirque Fine Foods owner and Docklands Community Forum small business representative Albert Morcos said his café had been busy since the wheel opened and the centre itself had a more positive atmosphere.

"In my opinion the centre now makes sense. We (the traders) are now part of a path leading to a major tourist attraction, rather than a path leading to a construction site."

"I've spoken to a lot of tourists who have ridden the wheel," Mr Morcos said.

"They don't know anything about its history but have seen it as they drive in from the airport and thought they should come and check it out."

According to a Melbourne Star spokesperson, since opening the observation wheel has welcomed more than 55,000 guests.

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development Peter Ryan was the first passenger to ride the wheel at the opening.

He said the Melbourne Star would further enhance Melbourne's reputation as a leading tourism destination as well as significantly boosting Docklands' economy.

"I look forward to the Melbourne Star attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors, enticing people to Melbourne from overseas, interstate and the regions," Mr Ryan said.

The wheel's designer and manufacturer, Sanoyas Rides Australia purchased the 120-metre-high wheel from ING Real Estate Development last year and it continues to be managed by the Melbourne Star



Melbourne Star Management Group CEO Chris Kelly and Deputy Premier Peter Ryan take a ride on the observation wheel.

Management Group.

Management group CEO Chris Kelly said the opening was an important day for Melbourne and Docklands.

"Melbourne Star offers more than a ride on a giant observation wheel," Mr Kelly said.

"It is a significant tourism landmark that, through a host of exciting new features, will provide a new introduction to Melbourne and a new perspective on the city."

But, in keeping with its tumultuous history, it has not been completely smooth sailing since the wheel opened for business.

One of the 21 cabins was taken out of service following passenger complaints on December 25 and 28.

The wheel also closed on January 24 after a software glitch halted operations.

A Melbourne Star spokesperson said the wheel was now fully operational with all cabins in service.

Melbourne Star Observation Wheel is open from 10am until 10pm daily.

Prices vary from \$32 for an adult to \$19 for a child to \$82 for a family (two adults and 2 children) pass.

New Places Victoria chief

Places Victoria last month appointed Gregory Anderson as its chief executive officer, but he won't take up the position until the end of March.

Mr Anderson's appointment comes more than a year after former CEO Sam Sangster resigned.

In the interim, Places Victoria has had several acting CEOs, including Places Victoria general managers Simon Wilson and Peter Armstrong and Metropolitan Planning Authority CEO Peter Seamer, who led the organisation between March and September last year.

Chairman Ken Fehily announced the appointment on January 29, saying: "I am pleased to welcome Gregory to Places Victoria in what will be the beginning of a new chapter for the state's urban renewal authority."

He acknowledged that the search for a new CEO had taken some time.

"We want Places Victoria to be a sustainable business entity that can continue to lead successful urban renewal projects like Docklands while, at the same time, creating a new pipeline of incremental development-ready sites for the private sector," he said.

"The board, therefore, makes no apologies for taking its time to make this decision."

Mr Anderson has held a range of positions in planning and property development, both in government and in the private sector.

He was part of City of Melbourne's Postcode 3000 team and has held senior positions with Macquarie Bank, Selpam and Tigcorp.

He's currently general manager of development and construction at Tigcorp and will remain in this role until March, before taking up the Places Victoria CEO role on March 31.

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Olympic dream for Docklander

Local athlete Deanna Lockett will compete on the world stage at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, this month.

At just 18 years of age, she's an Olympic Games debutant and has qualified for the 1000 metre and 1500 metre short track speed-skating events.

Ms Lockett has been skating since she was eight years old and moved with her family from Brisbane to Docklands in 2011 so she could train at the Icehouse.

Following her selection for the Olympic team in January, Ms Lockett said she was feeling excited but was focusing on her preparation.

Training in Melbourne in the lead up to the Games involved two hours on the ice and two hours at the gym six days per week, under Olympic Winter Institute of Australia's short track speed-skating head coach Ann Zhang.

Ms Lockett left Australia in mid-January to head to Turkey for further pre-Olympic training before arriving in Sochi ahead of the Games.

Given it's her first Olympic Games and she's one of the youngest competitors, Ms Lockett was modest about her chances of winning a medal but said she aimed to make the top-10.

"I hope to make the semi-final for the 1500-metre and a top-10 would be the best, but we'll just see how it goes," Ms Lockett said.



Docklander Deanna Lockett will compete in Sochi this month.

"With the Olympics, it's the top 30 women so all the skaters are going to be tough."

But she'll be one to watch at the 2018 Olympics in South Korea where she hopes to really make her mark and bring home a medal.

Joining her in Sochi is 20-year-old Pierre Boda who also trains locally at the Icehouse and has qualified for the 500-metre short track event.

"It means so much to me to have made the Olympic team, especially after making so many sacrifices and years of hard work," Mr Boda said.

"It's the biggest dream of any athlete to be able to compete for Australia at an Olympic Games."

The Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games begin on February 7, with the short track speed skating heats kicking off on February 10.

Collision claims life

A 34-year-old woman was killed in Docklands this month, following a collision on Footscray Rd.

The woman was the passenger of a Toyota Yaris, which was turning right into Waterfront Way from Footscray Rd, when it collided with a Toyota Landcruiser utility travelling north on Footscray Rd, just after 10am on February 1.

The female passenger died at the scene while the 36-year-old male driver of the Yaris sustained minor injuries.

A 29-year-old Hillside man was driving the Toyota Landcruiser and has been charged with culpable driving, dangerous driving causing serious injury, negligent driving causing serious injury, and possession of a drug of dependence.

Police have bailed the man to appear in Melbourne Magistrate's Court on February 5.

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VCAT victory for operators

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) last month ruled the Conder Owners Corporation (OC) did not have the authority to restrict access to recreation areas in the building.

In February last year the Conder OC introduced rules making pool, sauna and gym induction mandatory and restricted access for residents who hadn't completed the induction.

Induction sessions were held each Monday morning, which short-stay operators said was impractical for short-term residents, who often booked weekend stays.

Metro Real Estate, a MAB Corporation business, which trades as Grand Mercure Docklands, represented 37 lot owners in VCAT action opposing the induction procedure.

Docklands Private Collection of Apartments managers Peter and Lyn Kelly also launched VCAT action (independent of the business), claiming the rule was discriminatory.

Under section 14 of the Owners Corporations Act 2006 any OC rule which is discriminatory or inconsistent with a legal right of a lot owner or occupier is invalid.

Member Linda Rowland heard the case on November 11 before returning her decision in December.

The VCAT decision found that the OC committee did not have the power to make the rule requiring residents to undergo an induction before being granted access to the pool and sauna, because a rule requires a special resolution of lot owners.

The OC had contended that this rule was a sub-rule of rule 28 (j), which required residents to be inducted before being given access to the gym.

Member Rowland disagreed with this and found the extension of the rule to the rest

of the recreation area required a special resolution.

Member Rowland also found that the gym induction rule (rule 28(j)), while not discriminatory in how it was applied to all lot owners and occupiers, was discriminatory in the way it was implemented.

The procedure was found to be discriminatory because not all residents were able to attend the induction sessions offered by the OC. She found the implementation of the rule to be unreasonable because there was no flexibility around when and how the induction took place and who facilitated it.

The owners corporation had pointed to insurance advice as the reason behind the introduction of the induction procedures.

However, Member Rowland found that the insurer did not specifically require residents undergo professional induction on the use of gym equipment.

Rather, the insurer had suggested the OC develop an induction procedure that outlined safety rules, provided a health check and indemnified the OC against any incident arising from a resident's impaired health.

Ms Kelly said she was pleased with the outcome of the case and that "the right thing has been done at the end of the day".

Conder OC manager Michael Nugent said the OC committee was disappointed with the decision but was unlikely to appeal it.

An appeal against the decision would need to be on a point of law and would be to the Supreme Court.



Wonderland Fun Park's new tent is sure to host some amazing performances.

The show will go on

Docklands' Melba Spiegeltent is being reclaimed by its owner Circus Oz and is moving to Collingwood.

But, in the best showbiz tradition, the show will go on and Wonderland Fun Park owners Colin Davis and Melissa Head have found a bigger and better replacement for Docklands.

The couple are importing Salon Elégence from Germany, a beautiful example of "mirror tent" from the Klessen family which has been making and restoring spiegeltents for more than a century.

The new tent is 365sqm and can cater for 450 people for a show or 250 for dinner.

The Wonderland Melba Spiegeltent has over the past couple of years put Docklands on the Melbourne entertainment map with comedy, burlesque, blues and circus-based children's performances.

According to Melissa Head, the new tent will allow for bigger shows than ever.

"Our part of Docklands has become an

entertainment hub and we're really keen to work with the community to build on its success," Ms Head said.

The Heads started looking for a replacement last year after Circus Oz told them they were reclaiming the Melba tent.

In October they tracked down the Klessens family and opened negotiations on Salon Elégence, culminating with a trip to Germany for Colin early last month.

Salon Elégence lived up to its fine reputation and by January 26 was aboard an Antwerp ship and on its way to Docklands.

The Heads are leasing Salon Elégence with an option to buy if everything goes according to plan.

"We hope that our iconic speigeltent will work for us and, more importantly, will also work for Docklands," Ms Head said.

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WATERMARK

The other side of the Coyne

When book-publishing company Penguin decided to move from its Camberwell Junction office, CEO Gabrielle Coyne was firm with her instructions – she did not want to move to Docklands.

But the consultant working for the company managed to convince her to take the trip into Docklands to have a look at the heritage-listed Goods Shed South.

“It was a very cold Melbourne day, the weather was quite brutal, and we stood on the bridge at Collins St and looked down and I said: “OK, I think you’ve got me.””

It was the building over the location that got Docklands over the line but the convenience also played a role.

“We were always looking for a location that was convenient, especially from a public transport point of view,” Ms Coyne said.

Penguin (now Penguin Random House after a merger mid-last year) moved into the building in September 2012 and, when asked last month if Docklands had won her over, Ms Coyne said: “It has”.

“Even in the short time that we’ve been here, I’m certainly seeing it develop in a very positive way,” she said.

According to Ms Coyne, the movement of creative organisations such as *The Age* to the corner of Spencer and Collins St and Penguin Random House to the Goods Shed has added “an element of colour”.

“It’s getting a sense of liveliness that I felt was absent,” Ms Coyne said.

Although a busy schedule means she hasn’t had time to fully explore the precinct, and wouldn’t yet describe herself as a “Docklands expert,” she says she is working on it.

One thing she might be considered an expert on is the publishing industry.

Having worked for Penguin for more than 20 years, she’s risen through the ranks after starting her career in marketing.

In 2003 she was appointed managing director of Penguin Australia, before



Penguin Random House Asia Pacific CEO Gabrielle Coyne says Docklands has won her over. Photo by David Johns.

New Zealand was also added to her responsibilities in 2006.

Three years later she was appointed CEO of Penguin Group Asia Pacific and last year became CEO of Penguin Random House Asia Pacific, after the companies merged.

“I was very fortunate to grow in a job from a young age and was given opportunities, which meant the job was always changing, and the challenges were changing,” Ms Coyne said.

“I feel very fortunate, quite blessed.”

There are a limited number of female CEOs in Australia’s larger companies, but Ms Coyne doesn’t feel gender has ever been an issue in her career.

“I think publishing is a much more even, in fact, a female dominated industry, so it is slightly different to the rest of corporate Australia or corporate anywhere,” Ms Coyne said.

She said she had been struck by the positive response of other women both within and outside the company as she progressed

through it.

“It’s important that I remember how important it is to other women, especially younger women, to see women progress through organisations and their careers,” Ms Coyne said.

Considering her career in the publishing industry, one might assume Ms Coyne is an avid reader.

She confirms this is the case, but won’t mention her favourite book or author, saying in her line of work, it’s not the wisest move.

“Even as chief executive it’s really important for me to still be reading for pleasure as much as it is for work,” she said

“I loved going away on my Christmas holidays with a pile of books I hadn’t had the chance to read during the year.”

And, after more than 20 years in the industry, Ms Coyne said the pleasure of reading an author’s new work never dissipates.

“It’s a real joy to be one of the first people to read an author’s work.”

New tower for Collins Square

Walker Corporation has begun work on the tallest tower to be built in Melbourne in more than 10 years.

The tower will be the fourth Walker Corporation has built at its Collins Square development in Docklands, having secured big four accounting group KPMG as anchor tenant.

It had been long-rumoured that Walker Corporation was attempting to entice the company down to the Docklands end of Collins St. KPMG’s current Melbourne head office is also on Collins St but is closer to Spring St.

Walker Corporation announced the 15-year deal in December. KPMG will lease 27,000 sqm of the new tower, which overall comprises 55,000 sqm over 38 levels.

Walker Corporation chairman Lang Walker said the company was “delighted” to sign KPMG.

“Their signing reinforces Collins Square as Melbourne’s leading new commercial, retail and hospitality centre, and we are receiving even greater enquiries off the back of the KPMG signing,” Mr Walker said.

Early work began at the site in December, with completion scheduled for late 2016.



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Adding a dash of colour

Docklands had a rainbow-hued start to Australia Day when almost 2000 people took part in the MS Colour Dash.

The morning event saw almost 2000 people race around Docklands as they were showered with brightly coloured powders at different stations along the course.

According to event organisers, 1.7 tonnes of coloured powder was thrown throughout the event.

People had travelled from as far away as Echuca, Wangaratta, Drouin, Barwon Heads, Ararat and Lake Charm to take part in the fun run.

As participants crossed the finish line they were handed bags of yellow and green powder to be thrown in a patriotic celebration of Australia Day.

The event was held to raise funds for MS Australia, which supports Australians living with multiple sclerosis

The Docklands MS Colour Dash ran in conjunction with events in New South Wales, Canberra and Tasmania, which combined raised almost \$280,000.

Fundraising continues and donations can be made at www.mscolourdash.org.au



Pictured right: MS Colour Run participants were decorated with green and gold on Australia Day.



New phase in Collins St

Walker Corporation has begun phase two of the development of a new public space at Collins Square.

Phase one, which began in October and continued through December, involved the construction of planter boxes, the reconfiguration of stairs, construction of the Chiara restaurant plaza and new stone paving works.

Phase two, which began in January and will continue into March, involves soft landscaping, installation of timber screening, seating, a feature lighting system and a glazed roofing installations.

Dion Horstman’s Olympic-pool-sized canopy (pictured above) will also be installed during phase two and will stretch from the Lantern building at 707 Collins St to the front of Tower 1 at 727 Collins St.

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Docklands shines on Australia Day

Docklands was the highlight of Melbourne's Australia Day celebrations last month, with thousands of people flocking to the waterfront.

Destination Docklands' family friendly Australia Day event kicked off at 4pm and saw thousands head down to join in the fun of the thong-throwing competition, kite-making workshop, sausage sizzle and face-painting.

Roving performers also entertained the crowd, while Nova DJs provided an aussie soundtrack, which saw plenty of people up and dancing.

Destination Docklands CEO Anita Donnelly said some people were so keen they began arriving at midday.

According to Ms Donnelly, the 250 spots in the thong-throwing competition were quickly filled, with organisers having to turn people away, while around 800 kites were made at the kite workshop.

Ms Donnelly estimated at least 20,000 people turned up for the 9.30pm Australia Day fireworks and City of Melbourne pedestrian monitors recorded more than 64,000 people in Docklands between 7am and 10pm.

This year was the first time the official fireworks have been held in Docklands, having previously been staged at Kings Domain.

Ms Donnelly said NewQuay Promenade, Harbour Esplanade and Victoria Harbour Promenade were packed with people waiting to see the spectacular light show.

"The crowd was very well-behaved and we had absolutely no problems at all," Ms Donnelly said.

Ms Donnelly said Destination Docklands hoped to repeat the success next year with a bigger and better event and hoped to again host the fireworks.





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Doubts over visitor service

Docklands could miss out on a potential tourism booster unless the City of Melbourne secures a partner to help fund a visitor service at Southern Cross Station.

Council has been investigating a visitor information service in or near the city's major visitor entry point for seven years.

Most recently it funded a \$50,000 static trial at the station between September and November last year, covering the Royal Melbourne Show, Melbourne Cup Carnival, and AFL finals period.

A report on the trial recommended that the only option for a City of Melbourne visitor service at the station was a partnership model and was endorsed unanimously by councillors at a Future Melbourne meeting on December 10.

The report revealed that the visitor centre recorded 17,700 contacts over the 56-day trial, with no increase on event days.

However, 63 per cent of enquiries related to Myki, public transport and Southern Cross Station.

Just 25 per cent of enquiries related to Melbourne as a visitor destination and, of these, less than 1 per cent were specifically about Docklands.

But when *Docklands News* spoke to Cr Beverly Pinder-Mortimer about the trial in October last year she said visitor service staff were actively promoting Docklands to tourists.



Councillor Beverly Pinder-Mortimer at the trial visitor service last year.

According to a council spokesperson only "reactive enquiries" were recorded for the report, which suggests the pro-active promotional possibilities of the service haven't been assessed.

It's estimated the cost of setting up the visitor service would be \$798,000, with an annual operating cost of \$816,000.

Speaking at the Future Melbourne meeting, Tourism Melbourne manager

consider other partners.

Although councillors unanimously supported further investigation into a partnership model, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle was unconvinced the project should go ahead.

While prepared to support council officers' investigation into the partnership model he said he had not seen any demonstrated benefit for the City of Melbourne.

Cr Cathy Oke said, while there was some data showing that people wanted to hear more about the City of Melbourne, council had developed other opportunities to access this information via websites, apps, way-finding signage and the existing visitor centres.

In contrast, Cr Stephen Mayne was supportive of the visitor service concept, saying it was logical.

He said Melbourne was a rapidly growing city and when the regional rail link was fully commissioned numbers coming into Southern Cross would grow rapidly, making plans for a visitor centre a good idea.

Councillors will hear a report from management on an attempt to seek an in-principle agreement from key stakeholders on a partnership model for a visitor service by the end of March.

Barry McGuren, who presented the report, maintained the visitor service was a fantastic idea because it was an opportunity to capture arriving visitors.

He said the service should only be considered under the partnership model.

A council spokesperson said the City of Melbourne would be writing to station manager Asset Co, Public Transport Victoria, Tourism Victoria and V-Line and may



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The Australian World Dwarf Games team celebrated in Docklands last month.

Photo by Ali Ryan

Big celebration for team

Australia's World Dwarf Games team was reunited in Docklands last month.

The team, which won 76 medals at the World Dwarf Games in Michigan, USA last August, came together at Watermark in Docklands on Australia Day.

According to team captain Sam Millard,

the team had been fortunate to be asked to march in the Australia Day parade down Swanston St earlier that day.

The team then headed to Docklands for a team reunion and celebration at Watermark.

"It was great to have the support of Dante and the team at Watermark for helping the celebration be such a success, with team members attending the night from all around Australia," Mr Millard said.

When the stars come out...

Stars of the big screen can be spotted at Yarra's Edge this month when a free outdoor cinema series kicks off.

Movies *Under the Stars* at Yarra's Edge will be held at Point Park on Thursday evenings for four weeks, starting on February 20.

The cinema site will open at 6.30pm each week and early birds may be lucky enough to secure one of the best seats in the house, with beanbags distributed to the first 100 people to arrive.

A free ferry service will leave from Federation Square at 6.30pm each Thursday during the series, delivering movie-goers to Point Park and then returning them to the CBD after the film is finished.

Guests are also encouraged to take advantage of special pre-film offers at nearby restaurants or can bring along a picnic.

The films are expected to start at around 8.30pm, as the sun goes down, and the program for the twilight cinema series is:

Thursday, February 20 – *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*;

Thursday, February 27 – *The Sapphires*;

Thursday 6 March – *Finding Nemo*; and

Thursday 13 March – *The Great Gatsby*.

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Rebuilding futures at YMCA

YMCA Victoria Point had a makeover last month, with the team from Rebuild giving the gym a fresh coat of paint.

Rebuild is a facilities management company, which provides work experience and training for young people, primarily ex-offenders, who are experiencing barriers to employment.

Working with experienced tradespeople, participants gain formal and on-the-job training and develop life skills needed to make the transition into the workforce.

For Nathan Bugeja, the Rebuild program has provided the skills and experience needed to plan for his future.

The 22-year-old was getting into trouble with police before a YMCA social worker helped him secure a job at the Melbourne Zoo.

After completing six months at the zoo he moved on to the Rebuild program and has obtained his traffic controller licence, has learnt about painting and general maintenance and has developed landscaping skills.

"I've had steady work so it's been a lot less stressful that way," Mr Bugeja said.

He says the program has helped him to get back on track and now hopes to one day run his own landscaping business.

Rebuild manager Gary Sinclair said program participants were recommend from a number of different sources including the Department of Corrections, Department of



Rebuild participant Nathan Bugeja, YMCA Docklands' Billy Santos and Rebuild manager Gary Sinclair show off some of the Rebuild team's painting handiwork at Victoria Point.

Human Services, job service agencies like WISE Employment and St Vincent de Paul.

"They recommend people who demonstrate a willingness to change," Mr Sinclair said.

"They might be attending interviews and have done a substantial amount of training, but just need some help getting a foot in the door."

According to Mr Sinclair, Rebuild actively bids for work internally, through the YMCA and externally, in order to generate

opportunities for participants to gain commercial experience.

"Within the Y one of our bigger supporters has been Andrew Ward and YMCA Docklands," Mr Sinclair said.

YMCA Docklands engaged Rebuild to paint the Victoria Point site, which this year marks 10 years since opening its doors.

YMCA Docklands manager Andrew Ward encouraged other local businesses to

consider Rebuild as an option when needing work done.

"Rebuild provides excellent and comparable services to regular contractors and tradesmen," Mr Ward said.

"The difference is, that in the process, the YMCA helps create an opportunity for a young person who at some point in their life has suffered a disadvantage. Rebuild facilitates their journey back to being a positive contributor to the community at large."



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Michael and Julie Blyth now accept bitcoin at their Glow Golf business.

Glowing review of Bitcoin

A Docklands business has become one of a limited number of Melbourne retailers to accept Bitcoin.

Last month Glow Golf at Harbour Town began accepting bitcoins, a digital currency traded through peer-to-peer technology.

Bitcoins are primarily traded online but Glow Golf has decided to become one of the small number of shopfront retailers to accept the new form of payment.

According to www.coinmap.org, which maps "brick and mortar" retailers who accept bitcoins, there are less than 30 retailers in Melbourne who accept the currency, and just one in the CBD.

Michael and Julie Blyth have operated their Docklands-based mini-golf business for the past four years and have been considering accepting the currency for the past six months.

Mr Blyth said he decided to introduce the new form of payment last month in order stay ahead of new technologies.

According to Mr Blyth, the benefits of accepting bitcoins include minimal transaction fees and no delay in payment being transferred to his account, as is the case with standard eftpos and credit card

transactions.

Making a payment using bitcoins is relatively simple, with the transaction processed via a phone app.

To get bitcoins you can convert currency or can become bitcoin miner, however the profitability of this method is questionable with it becoming increasingly difficult for the average person to earn enough bitcoins to make it worthwhile.

The currency has no central or governing authority and is potentially volatile with a rapidly fluctuating value.

According to Mr Blyth, this time last year one bitcoin was worth around \$15 AUD. Today, one bitcoin sits at around \$850 AUD.

Although just one customer has paid using bitcoins since Glow Golf began accepting bitcoins in January, Mr Blyth said he believed Bitcoin would become an increasingly popular method of payment.

"I think when eBay and the like start adopting it we'll see it become more mainstream," Mr Blyth said.

Service excellence awarded

Quest Docklands had a great start to December, winning the regional and national franchise of the year at the company's gala dinner last year.

Franchisees Michael and Anne Hibberd have owned the business since 2005 and the pair said they were delighted and honoured to have won both awards.

Both the regional and national awards recognise superior guest service standards, business performance and the franchise's excellent demonstration of company values.

Quest Serviced Apartments chairman and founder Paul Constantinou said the awards

recognised the franchisee's professionalism and commitment to running a successful and profitable business.

"Michael and Anne Hibberd bought the franchise in 2005 and have been instrumental in its strong performance across a range of areas and importantly have the respect of those who work alongside them in the Quest network," Mr Constantinou said.



Michael Hibberd, Erin Hibberd, Anne Hibberd and Brendan du Kamp at the awards night.

Green advice at The Hub

Docklanders have two opportunities to learn about gardening during free lunchbox sessions The Hub this month.

On February 11, Docklanders can learn about window farming through a workshop held by Green Renters.

Window farming is an initiative aimed at people who live in small spaces where a typical garden is not possible, making it the perfect opportunity for Docklands residents.

Attendees will learn about options for growing plants in small spaces.

On February 13, horticulturalist Sandi Pullman will be back at The Hub, to share the secret of growing leafy vegetables.

Lunchbox sessions are free to attend but bookings are required. To make a booking or for more information, contact The Hub on **8622 4822**.

Both sessions run from 12.30pm until 1.15pm at The Hub, 80 Harbour Esplanade.



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Pure Docklands networking

The December Docklands Networking Lunch proved to be a great chance for local business people to get together and celebrate the end of the year.

Around 80 people attended the festive lunch at Etihad Stadium and enjoyed a meal while making connections within the local business community.

The next Docklands Networking Lunch is on Friday, March 21 and will see attendees head out for a midday cruise on the Lady Cutler.

It is vitally important that attendees board the vessel at Central Pier at 12 noon as late entrants will only be accepted by boat or by very strong swimming.

As always, the price for the lunch is \$60 and bookings need to be made by March 14.

To book email lunch@docklandsnews.com.au or call 8689 7979.

The menu for the March networking lunch is:

Entrée: Seafood platters consisting of prawns, smoked salmon and oysters.

Main: Char-grilled eye fillet on potato rosti with spinach puree and port wine jus or panzanella chicken breast, tomato, red onion, capers, basil and crisp bread, topped with a white wine cream basil sauce dressed with fresh lemon and olive oil.

Dessert: Roaming platters of mini assorted sweets.

Beverages: House beer, wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee.



Darcy Inglis, Harry Nguyen and Clinton Ramm



Lori Boys and Adam Bucholtz.



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Welcome to Docklands Boating

It's the water that makes Docklands special. So why don't we appreciate it more?

Starting this month, *Docklands News* is introducing this regular supplement celebrating our greatest asset. We want to raise the profile of our waterways as they are the key to activating the precinct.

If we get the water right, Docklands will prosper. If we continue to under-appreciate it, the opportunity will be lost.

And there's plenty to celebrate. Docklands has 7km of waterfront, an amazing array of boats, some of the best marina facilities in the country and an ever growing range of water-based activities and events. As the harbour steadily morphs from a commercial shipping port to a vibrant 40ha water park, the waterfront will become a much loved and envied point of difference.

In this inaugural edition, let's take a look at the numbers. We have four marinas (Marina YE, d'Albora Victoria Harbour Marina, Melbourne City Marina and New Quay Marina), a dedicated superyacht facility (Melbourne Superyacht Marina), three dedicated commercial landings (Water Plaza, Central Pier, Collins Landing and Melbourne City Marina), 46 private berths connected to luxurious waterfront homes and more than a kilometre of wharfage (commercial berths).

There are about 350 recreational boats and 34 commercial vessels currently calling Docklands home. If proposed plans proceed, the precinct will eventually play host to more than 700 boats.

Depending on the size of vessels, we have about 70 visitor berths. Day visits are free (up to 4 hours). Overnight stays with access to basic amenities and comfortable lounges range from \$45-50.

Melbourne City Marina, which is a dedicated short-stay facility for bona fide visitors and water-based events, currently hosts 3000 boat movements per year. That number is expected to double in the next five years.

Victoria Harbour currently hosts the Docklands Yacht Club, the Victorian Dragon Boat Association and the Melbourne Outrigger Canoe Club. These clubs will be housed in the sensational new Community Boating Hub with construction due to start this year.

Connecting to past glories - the harbour plays host to two tall ships and a steam tug, the Enterprize, Alma Doepel and Wattle. The latter two vessels are undergoing major restoration work. These are important community based projects that involve

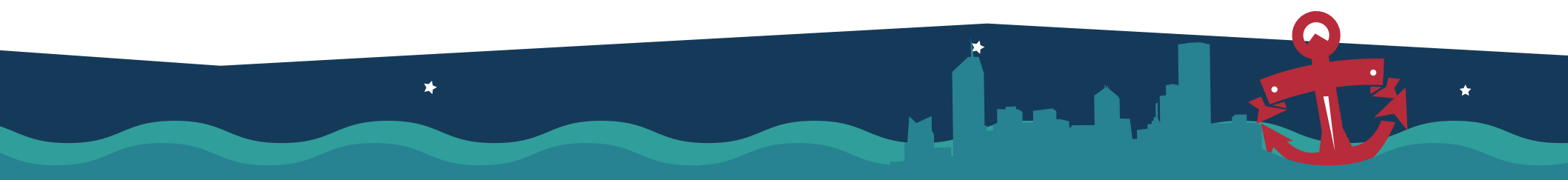
countless volunteers and help build a sense of place.

The wide variety of commercial vessels that call Docklands their home port carry well in excess of 100,000 passengers per year. If the planned ferry/passenger terminal proceeds - the industry expects that number will grow ten-fold in the future.

The harbour currently hosts a multitude of water-based events and activities. These include sailing regattas, dragon boat championships, outrigger canoe championships, fishing tournaments, kayak tours and the Summer Boat Show.

Our 40ha water park is also an incredibly diverse, mostly man-made fishing habitat that is accessible to all. Common species include: bream, salmon, mullet, snapper and the elusive mulloway. Educated shore-based anglers regularly catch and release trophy sized fish, some over a metre in length. Hard to believe - but true!

How extraordinarily lucky we are to live, work and visit this ever evolving waterfront precinct. In upcoming editions we will provide a heads up on what's happening out on the water and the latest gossip from around the traps.





Boat Show may leave Docklands

Docklands is at risk of losing the Melbourne Summer Boat Show unless the Boating Industry Association of Victoria (BIA) can gather more support for the event.

The BIA has held the event in Docklands for the past eight years, but CEO Steven Gill says the organisation is facing challenges at the current site.

MAB's plan to build a hotel on the Waterfront City Piazza, where the event's land component is currently held, has put question marks over the likelihood of the event returning to Docklands next year.

Mr Gill said MAB had been great supporters of the event and that the BIA would be speaking to the developer to determine if the boat show can coexist alongside the planned hotel.

According to Mr Gill, the BIA hoped to grow the event and was looking to City of Melbourne to provide further support.

He said the BIA was talking to council about increasing funding for the event.

"We see ourselves as doing a great job activating that space while we're there and brining people into Docklands," Mr Gill said.

Mr Gill said it was hoped the event would stay in Docklands, as "it is a beautiful spot".



However, the organisation is considering alternative sites for the event and has looked at options on both the western and eastern side of the bay.

"These issues need to be resolved quickly because we start planning for the February 2015 event now," Mr Gill said.

The 2014 Melbourne Summer Boat Show was held in Docklands between Friday, January 31 and Sunday, February 2 and, according to Mr Gill, numbers were slightly



down on previous years.

He said approximately 3000 people had purchased tickets to the event while it was estimated passing traffic reached the 15,000 people mark.

"Although numbers were down on the Sunday we think the high temperature forecast might have kept some people away," Mr Gill said.

He said the marina itself looked spectacular and, all in all, he still considered that the

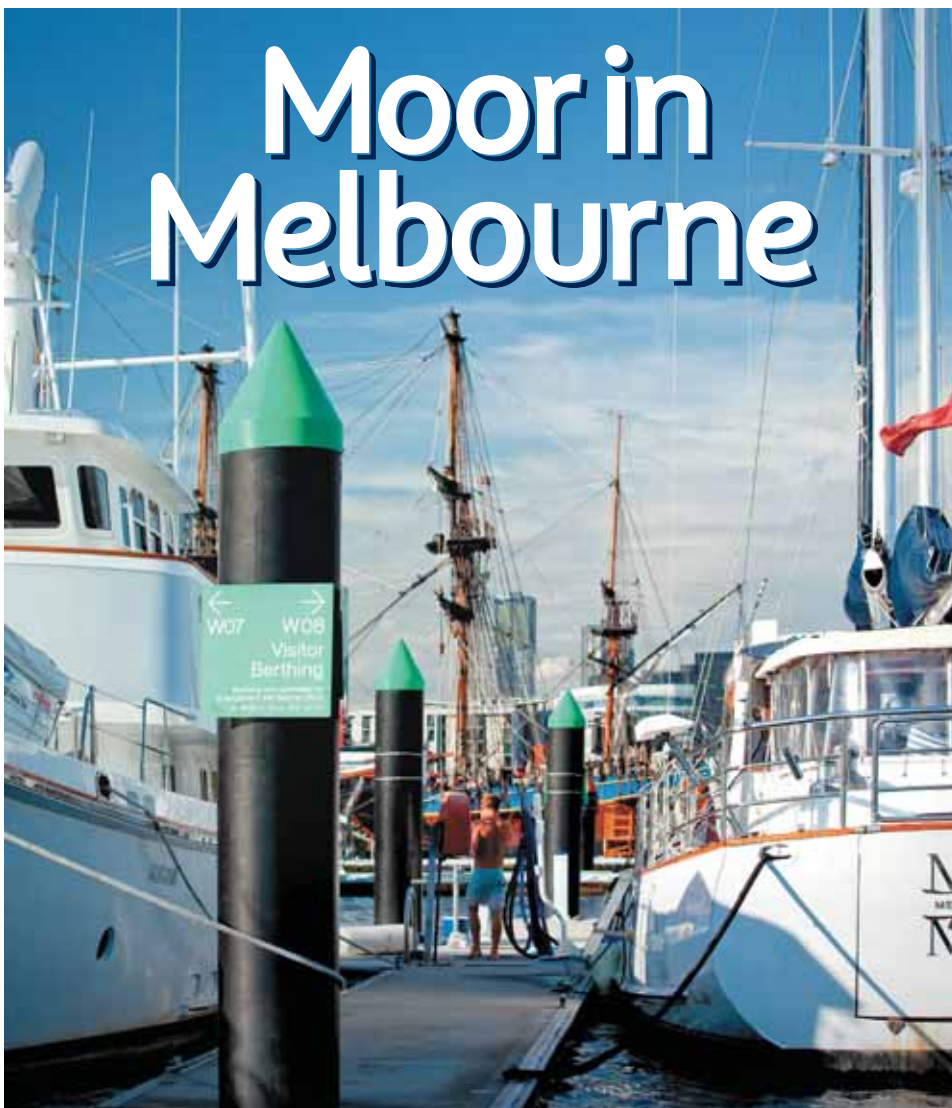


event was a success.

The event featured a range of exhibitions, including a 13,000-litre fish tank on wheels, which allowed bystanders to see the underwater action as the fish were caught, a professional fishing tournament, come-and-try sea kayaking, street performers and tours of the port.

Alongside the interactive exhibitions a range of yachts, power vessels, trailerable boats and personal watercraft were also on display.

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Love Melbourne – Love Boating – Love Docklands



Think Melbourne, think fine food, arts, culture, fashion, Melbourne Cup, AFL football. Of all the things Melbourne is noted for, boating generally doesn't rate a mention. Perhaps that's due to a perception that the weather isn't quite suited to the boating lifestyle. And yet there are over 175,000 boats registered in Victoria and some wonderful boating destinations. One in particular is a favourite of mine and in my view the jewel in Melbourne's crown – Docklands.

There are not too many places in Australia, or the world for that matter, where you can cruise into the heart of the city. From a boater's perspective Docklands has it all – a safe, all-weather destination, located minutes from the CBD, top quality eateries and bars set along picturesque waterfront promenades, great shopping with an eclectic mix of designer labels, specialty stores and discount retailers, parklands with large urban artworks, galleries, and even an ice-skating.

We often visit Docklands by boat, occasionally for an event, sometimes to go to the football, dinner or the theatre. Etihad Stadium is literally across the road and the iconic MCG and the theatre district a short tram ride away. Even Rod Laver Arena, if we're going to the tennis or a concert, is easy



to get to.

We can leave the boat knowing that it's safe and secure berthed in a modern marina, walk or catch a tram into town, then come back and stay the night on board. In the morning stroll up to one of countless waterfront cafes for a leisurely waterside breakfast, perhaps followed by a bit of retail therapy, before cruising home again.

Whenever we have guests visiting, whether they're local or from interstate, a trip up the Yarra to Docklands by boat is a must-do. The cruise up-river from Hobsons Bay is an experience in itself with its interesting blend of sights and sounds as you cruise through what is still a working port and in fact Australia's largest container terminal. And,

as you cruise under the Westgate Bridge and the city skyline first comes into view the sight is spectacular, almost breathtaking. With four marinas providing around 350 wet berths and 70 of those dedicated to casual berthing there's plenty of choice and almost always room for visiting boats. I'm involved in the marine industry and boating is my work, my hobby and my life. I've gone boating in almost every state of Australia and, while you could say that I'm biased towards Melbourne, I can honestly say that I haven't seen anything like Docklands anywhere. In my view we are ever so fortunate to have a world class precinct like Docklands and, the best part is, it's still evolving and will continue to get better and better.

A special way to go

Based right here in Docklands, Melbourne Showboat can offer you the perfect cruise package to explore the harbour and port.

According to director and captain Jeff Gordon, an increasing number of people want to celebrate special occasions on the water.

"People love to enjoy the water in a safe, relaxed and enjoyable way," Mr Gordon said.

"It's a great way to see Melbourne from a different perspective."

Melbourne Showboat offers a range of cruise packages, providing something outside the norm for birthdays, weddings and anniversary celebrations. Mr Gordon said his team was also more than willing to cater individual packages for clients.

Currently, Melbourne Showboat is offering daytime cruises around the Port of Melbourne, with lunch provided.

"You can get up close to big ships and see the busy, bustling port," Mr Gordon said.

Another unique offer available at the moment is a burlesque cruise, which include live performers, a DJ, finger food and drinks.

According to Mr Gordon, a night out on the water onboard Melbourne Showboat's Lady Cutler is always full of dancing.

"I always tell our guests to be prepared to spend plenty of time on the dance floor when they come aboard."

To find out more about cruises with Melbourne Showboat head to **www.ladycutler.com.au** or call **9499 9371**.

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Full terms & conditions are available upon request. Terms & conditions apply. This offer is only available to new customers arriving before 30th June 2014 & who will remain at d'Albora Marinas Victoria Harbour for a minimum of 3 months. The package consists of a single silver 3 strand rope in a size suited to the boat and 4 heavy duty inflatable fenders to suit the size of the boat as in a size determined by the marina based upon the size of the boat. The rope and fender package will be provided following the pre-payment of at least 3 months of berthing. Must call 9602 4511 and quote WATERWAYS to receive the complimentary package. Offer subject to availability.

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Smooth sailing with the Minister

The Boating Industry Association (BIA) made the most of the recent summer boat show by spending some quality time with Ports Minister David Hodgett.

Senior BIA officials joined Mr Hodgett for a pleasant cruise around Docklands on January 31.

According to BIA chief executive officer Steven Gill, the association had a number of issues to discuss with Mr Hodgett.

He said the BIA used the occasion to build the relationship with the Minister in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

BIA board director Paul Benjamin engages Ports Minister David Hodgett before showing him around Victoria Harbour on January 31.

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WATERMARK
Docklands



Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to news@docklandsnews.com.au

Ease up on short-term

I am disappointed at the behaviour and reporting around short-stay accommodation.

This week I have written to the Minister regarding what I consider complete fabrication of the issues that have so far been levied against the sole trader in existence here.

I moved to Docklands in 2010 and from then on had issues from one, now defunct trader who closed their business in 2013.

The building is subjected to substantial noise and general poor behaviour, but not from short-stay tenants, but more likely from tenants and owners.

Certainly, from my observations of the past 12 months, drug taking, refuse being thrown from the building, trolleys left outside, music being played loudly, damage to vehicles, cigarette butts and people spitting from the balconies relate to those that have lived longer term but have scant regard for the lives and existence of those around them.

Then, besides all the overt behaviours, there is the covert behaviours: bullying by some of the community towards tenants and short-term operators, inappropriate and misleading signs about court outcomes.

As a bystander with no vested financial interest or relationship with anyone in the apartments (thankfully) I am astounded by the behaviour. We are not living in a third world country, nor some dictatorship. We are equally entitled to live quietly and peacefully without harassment and intimidation.

Until 12 months ago. I was happy to purchase in the building but it is clear that the lack of strong management and continuing infighting of the residents has led me to move away.

So perhaps, rather than assume that the guilty parties are short-term operators, perhaps you should now consider the other side of the coin.

Name not supplied

Noise was sickening

I must bring to your attention the continuing problems with having the Docklands Sports Courts right in the middle of a residential area. Not only are players using the courts after midnight and as late as 4am, waking residents, but Saturday 25 January 2014 there was a basketball event on.

That's fine. What is impossible to deal with is the very, very loud thumping dance music that was not turned down by much when asked. What are residents to do? It lasted four hours!

Even with the doors and windows shut and blinds down we had to leave our home for the four hours because the rhythmic thumping was causing us to feel nauseous.

It's unconscionable to preclude residents from a pleasant home environment and prevent us even getting some fresh air.

This noise started at 12.30pm and continued at fever-pitch until 4.30pm. A noise complaint has again been lodged with council but I expect them to deal with this as with others - no outcome.

Rose Mercer

Class 2 residential building classification

Our company was one of many building consultants, invited to make comments in the transition from the Building Code of Victoria to the Building Code of Australia.

At no time was there any doubt as to the full intention and meaning of Class 1 and Class 2.

This did not mean tourist accommodation which is specifically identified under Class 3 with additional safety and access provision.

Vested financial interests have taken advantage of the situation which is now out of hand and a residential problem.

For example, the developer/investor applies for a complex to build residential apartments with council. The building is

designed, constructed to comply with Class 2 of the building code, avoiding Class 3 requirements, such as, fire and disability access etc, etc.

A high court judge in Sydney recently ruled that: "It can be clearly demonstrated that tourists and residents sharing common areas and exits do not mix and are not compatible."

Here it should be noted that the hotel and transport industry released a memo expressing their concern of the illegal use of apartments for tourists.

This is in direct conflict and unfair competition with the livelihood of hotel and motel operators having to meet strict operating guidelines.

George E Saalman

Alarm over Port noise

Now that Docklands has 10,000 plus residents I wonder how many other residents like me wake up to the incessant alarm than seems to be our everyday alarm clock from the port area?

There does not seem to be particular times that it starts, although around 6.30am everyday is prevalent, as well as various other times of the day.

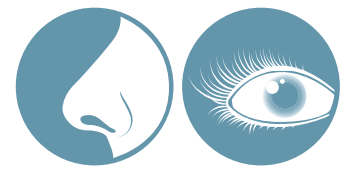
There does not appear to be any control over the alarm which sometimes runs for over an hour which, in today's regulations, suggests this uncontrolled alarm is breaking the law.

I know that, if this alarm was coming from a local Docklands business, that business would have by now felt the full force of the law and probably fined out of existence.

An alarm should not run uncontrolled for more than 10 minutes. It should be monitored, controlled and, most of all, should not be left to sound for almost three hours as it did on Australia Day.

The Port of Melbourne is an essential part of our wonderful suburb. The incessant noise is, however, not very neighbourly ...

Name withheld



DOCKLANDS SECRETS

Repeat performance

In July last year, workers contracted by Places Victoria put up hoarding around the wharves near Central Pier, before the organisation started the process of rectifying the aging wharves.

The hoarding was erected, painted black and signs were posted to advertise Central Pier tenants who had been relatively hidden by the wall.

Last month, six months after it was initially put up, the hoarding was pulled down and then moved a just a few metres forward.

It was once again erected, was repainted and signs posted once again.

Like us, you might be wondering why the hoarding wasn't put in the right spot in the first place? Why waste time and money on putting it in one spot, only to move it a few metres forward a short while later?

Docklands News understands that the part of Harbour Esplanade where the hoarding has now been placed actually falls under the City of Melbourne's jurisdiction.

Places Victoria had wanted to put the hoarding there originally, but it took all this time to get permission to put it where it currently stands.



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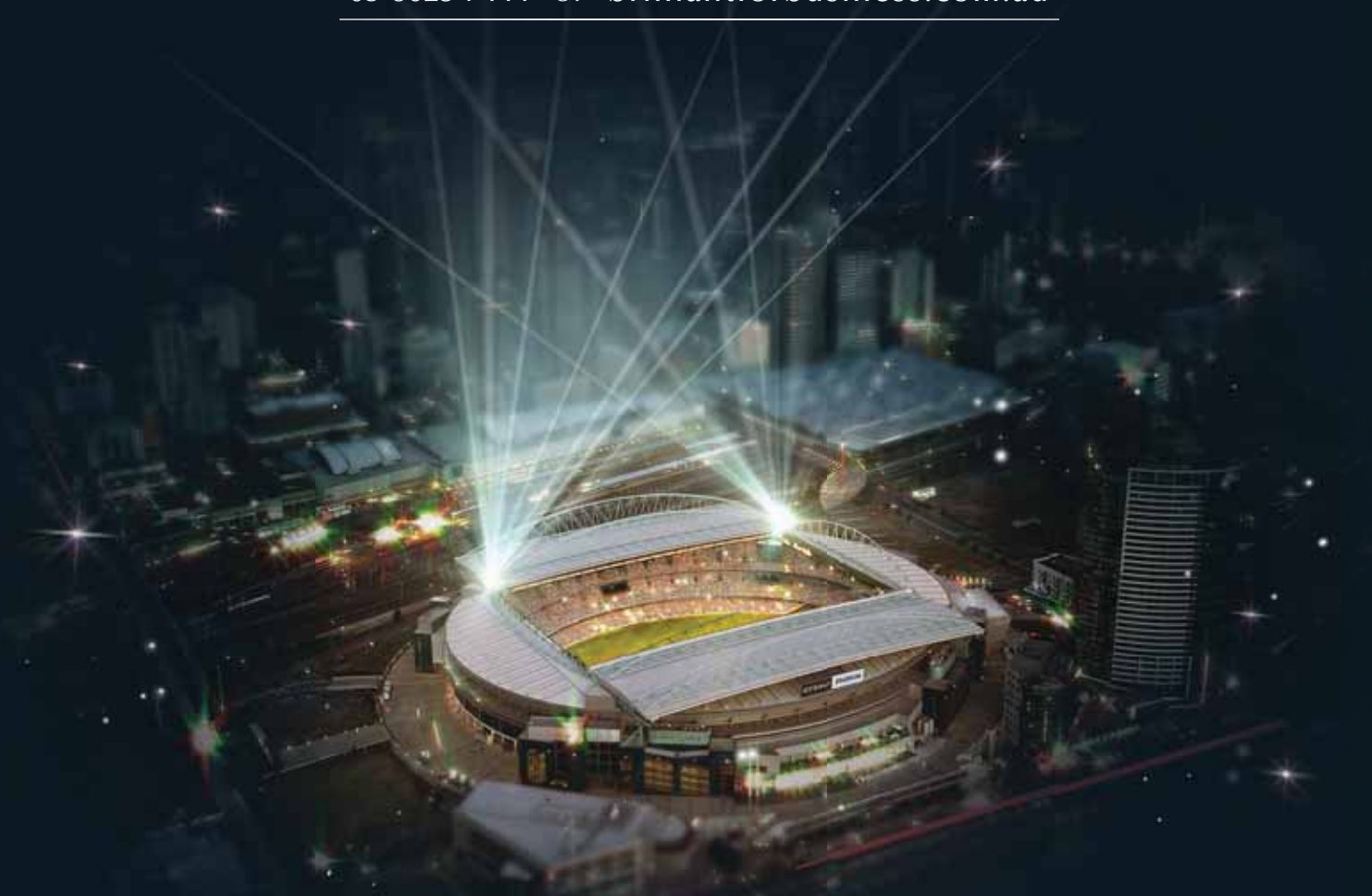
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DOCKLANDS FASHION



Pixie is at home in Docklands

10-year-old Pixie enjoys exploring the many nooks and crannies of Docklands according to owner Daniela Ranson, who says she gets walked through the area every day.

Daniela describes her Lhasa apso Maltese cross as “adorable, caring and full of life,” and says that her walks are of added importance for the opportunity to socialise with people as well as animals.

According to Daniela, Pixie is generally well behaved at home and even performs the role of a guard dog.

Despite not being a “barker”, Daniela tells *Docklands News* that Pixie will let out an “oof” as a warning if somebody approaches their front door thus fulfilling her duty as guard dog to the family.

Residing in nearby Bourke St, Daniela says Docklands is the most dog-friendly area in the city providing many trees, park areas and many other friends for Pixie to meet everyday.



Fashion on the streets of Docklands

Jody Costantino

LOCATION: Etihad Stadium concourse.

WEARS: A navy and white leopard motif Leona Edmiston dress that my partner bought me for Christmas, metallic silver heels, navy Prada bag and Louis Vuitton sunglasses.

DESCRIBE YOUR OUTFIT: Comfortable. The best thing about it is I don't have to iron the dress so I can just put it on. It's a bit quirky.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Brighton

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

I have a meeting at NAB.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING?

I have lots! A vintage Chloe bag I purchased in Hong Kong, my Karen Miller outfits and my Jimmy Choos.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Somebody wears it with confidence. I don't believe in trends. I think you need to be comfortable in your own skin and wear what flatters you.

Young Hoon Kim

LOCATION: Docklands Drive.

WEARS: Black beanie, white t-shirt with pink geometric print, jeans and red Vans. Almost everything I'm wearing was purchased second-hand from Savers in Brunswick.

DESCRIBE YOUR OUTFIT: Casual.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? I'm from

Korea originally but currently living in Brunswick.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

I work at Harbour Town.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING?

I usually wear a lot of rings, which I really like.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Feeling comfortable.

Miranda Punshon

LOCATION: Harbour Esplanade.

WEARS: White Wittner sandals, Karen Walker spotted pants, grey Gap t-shirt and Ray-Ban sunglasses.

DESCRIBE YOUR OUTFIT: Monochromal.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? North Melbourne

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DOCKLANDS?

Visiting a friend who lives in Docklands.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF CLOTHING?

My watch.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Confidence. You can wear something terrible but if you wear it with confidence you can probably pull it off.

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Community a priority for Andrew

Andrew Ward could arguably be described as Docklands' most community-minded worker.

He's worked in Docklands for the past three years as manager of YMCA Victoria Point and ANZ Centre and, in that time, has become involved in the local community.

Prior to working in Docklands, Mr Ward spent 15 years living in Hong Kong and working in an executive role in the health and fitness industry. Upon returning to Australia he was keen to take on a more people-focused role.

"I was attracted to working in Docklands because of the emerging community," Mr Ward said.

Over the past three years he has introduced a range of initiatives at YMCA Docklands including a riverbank clean-up program, a health and wellbeing service for asylum seekers and has forged partnerships several charities to provide fitness programs for people suffering disadvantage.

This year he hopes to continue to introduce initiatives at the YMCA and hopes to provide opportunities for Docklanders to get involved and offer support themselves.

Mr Ward also represents Docklands workers on the Docklands Community Forum representative group, providing a voice for the working cohort.

Mr Ward thinks the forum is a great initiative and has the potential to continue to make positive contributions to Docklands.

However, he said there should be a stronger



involvement and greater representation of people who have made a long-term commitment to living in Docklands.

"Maybe what needs to happen in the future is that people who live and invest here have a stronger voice," Mr Ward said. "Even my voice is the voice of a worker."

In addition to the forum, Mr Ward thinks Docklands has plenty going for it, describing it as accessible, modern and active.

"I like the active nature of Docklands. People like to get out, they like to run, they like to ride their bikes to work," he said.

He said the multi-purpose sports courts, which opened last year, have been great way of coaxing people out of their offices and creating a dynamic, community space.

According to Mr Ward, Docklands is also a very friendly place.

"When you walk around the CBD I think people are much more inclined to keep their head down, they don't interact, they don't talk. Whereas down here people are out and about and interacting."

"That young professional, corporate environment is really alive."

And as for those who knock Docklands because of the somewhat erratic weather? For Mr Ward it's all part of the package.

"The weather is part of Docklands' personality," he said.

"People talk about Melbourne having four seasons in one day, well Docklands can have six."



DOCKLANDER

Profile by
Bethany Williams

Tail wagging the dog

By David Sibenaler

New research has found that dogs become anxious when they see other dogs wagging their tails to the left.

Don't dogs just wag their tails, some might ask. However, according to new research published by Current Biology, dogs express their emotions through their wagging tails –

however slight the wag of the tail might be.

The explanation made in the research is that dogs that wag their tails to the left might be anxious themselves – due to the environment they are in perhaps – or that the dog might be responding to the anxiety of another dog.


When dogs wag their tails neutrally or to the right, their behaviour was observed to be more relaxed and their heart rate was slower. The experiment was conducted by monitoring the dog's heart rate and observing their response to projected images of other dogs wagging their tails.

Katrina Cot who walks her dog from Port Melbourne to Docklands says that she can't see a difference in the way her dog – Marley – wags her tail.

"Marley just wags her tail from side to side. We call her the pendulum."

Katrina says that she does notice that Marley can become withdrawn when she sees some other dogs approaching.

The research is important in illustrating that dogs are able to communicate to one another.



Docklands SCIENCE

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WHAT'S ON AT THE HUB AT DOCKLANDS

PROGRAMS RUN BY THE COUNCIL

TAI CHI ON THE DECK (JANUARY 10 - APRIL 18)

Tai Chi is an internal Chinese martial art that has been practiced since the 16th Century. It is a tranquil and graceful way of keeping fit, improving your health, and helping to prevent the stresses and strains of modern living. **WHEN:** Thursdays from January 10 - 7.30am to 8.30am (Free - courtesy of City of Melbourne and The Hub @ Docklands). No bookings required, on rainy days classes will be held inside.

LUNCHBOX SESSIONS

Bring your lunch and learn something new on the second Thursday of each month. February's two lunchbox sessions are in conjunction with the Sustainable Living Festival. **WHEN:** Window Farming - Tuesday 11 February, 12.30pm to 1.15 pm; Secret to Growing Leafy Vegetables - Thursday 13 February, 12.30 to 1.15pm. Sessions are free. Some sessions require bookings.

TUESDAY NIGHT TABLE TENNIS

Feel like a casual game of table tennis? Want to meet some other players? Then come down to the Hub on Tuesday nights, the perfect excuse to be social and active at the same time! **WHEN:** Every Tuesday - 8.00pm to 10.00pm. Gold coin donation requested. To enrol, please visit The Hub or call us on **8622 4822** for more information.

HEARING CHECKS

Hearservice, a division of the not-for-profit Victorian Deaf Society, offers free adult hearing checks at the Hub in 2014. A check takes 20-30 minutes and provides you with a copy of the results. **WHEN:** second Thursday each month, 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Appointments necessary; please ring **8622 4822** to make one. This program is run in partnership with Hearservice.

PLAYGROUPS

Playgroups are a great way for children to learn through play, and for families in the community to connect and meet. To join a playgroup at The Hub please contact Kirsty Bates: kirbat@melbourne.vic.gov.au and register with Playgroup Victoria: **www.playgroup.org.au**.

STOMPERS

Encourage your child to have a life-long love of books by coming along to Stompers, a weekly program run during school term for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years. Come along for a half-hour of stories, songs, rhymes, music and most of all, FUN! **WHEN:** Mondays - 11.00am to 11.30am. For more information call Bernadine Nolen on **9658 8302**.

PRIVATE PROVIDER PROGRAMS



INSIGHT YOGA

Want to feel rejuvenated, refreshed, alert and at the same time calm and peaceful? Come join the early morning yoga program where we'll stretch, move, breathe, explore and have fun. Students are required to provide their own mat and blanket. **WHEN:** Thursdays - 6.30am to 7.30 am. Cost: class pass works out to \$17.50 per class. Contact: Leanne at lmgillies@gmail.com to book.



MINI MAESTROS

Introduce your child to the magic of music with Mini Maestros. Our unique Australian music programs for babies and young children aged 6 months to 5 years are carefully developed by early-childhood music-education experts. **WHEN:** Tuesday mornings during school term. Contact **0412 087 811**, or email karen.dunlop@minimaestros.com.au



YULONG WUSHU TAI CHI CLASSES

Tai Chi is a 16th century Chinese martial art. It is a tranquil and graceful way of keeping fit, improving your health, and helping to prevent the stresses and strains of modern living. **WHEN:** Mondays - 12.00noon to 1.00pm. Cost: \$130 per 10-week terms. Contact: email info@yulong.com.au; phone **0407 941 101** or visit **www.yulong.com**



COREMOTION

Coreomotion is a unique journey into wellbeing, balance and vitality! This fun class incorporates techniques and movements from yoga, Pilates, belly dancing, tribal and funk fusion with focus on core awareness. Suitable for all fitness levels, no dance experience required. **WHEN:** Every Wednesday - 6.00pm to 7.00pm & 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Cost is \$15 per session / \$120 for ten sessions. Contact: Jo Young, email coremotion@mail.com, phone **0403 514 167**.



DOCKLANDS TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Improve your public speaking, leadership and communication skills. **WHEN:** Every second and fourth Monday - 6.30pm to 8.15pm. See website for further details. Cost: Free for attending as a guest. There is a small membership fee should you decide to join our club. Contact: 985430@toastmastersclub.org or **www.docklands.toastmastersclubs.org**



PILATES @ THE HUB

Running via The Centre, a registered neighbourhood house and "Learn Local" provider, our Pilates classes are run by fully qualified and experienced staff from City North Physiotherapy. Beginners and Intermediate classes available, running from February 6 to 27 March.. **WHEN:** Thursdays - 5.30pm to 6.30pm (Beginners) and 6.30pm - 7.30pm (Intermediate). Cost (8 sessions): \$185 / \$135 concession. Contact The Centre on **9328 1126** for bookings.

MR MEDITATE

Reduce stress, increase energy and calm your mind. Join in for a 30-minute meditation and practice a universal technique that works. No special equipment required. Take time out for yourself. **WHEN:** Two half hour sessions every Tuesday - 12.15pm and 1.00pm. Cost: \$10 per session of \$80 for ten sessions. Contact Tomas on **0411 345 509**.

PHOTOSHOP AND YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

Running via The Centre, a registered neighbourhood house and "Learn Local" provider, these classes will help you gain new skills in taking, editing and uploading photographs using Photoshop Elements. **WHEN:** Each Thursday - 1.00pm to 3.00pm, February 6 to March 27. Cost: \$125 / \$55 concession. Contact: **9328 9926** for enquiries.

SHIAMAK'S BOLLYWOOD WORKOUT

Burn out the holiday weight and glisten in sweat with Shiamak's Bollywood Workout. An exhilarating dance class spiced up with groovy Bollywood "jhatkas" and 'thumkas' (grooves and moves) for a complete body work-out like never before. **WHEN:** Every Friday - 12.00pm to 1.00pm. Contact: email melbourne@shiamak.com, phone **0403 137 963**.



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FACES OF DOCKLANDS



SHALINI KUMAR, 48
Owner, The Maharani Collection

Shalini has operated her store at Harbour Town for the past four and a half years. "We've stuck around because we have faith in Docklands," Shalini said. "Now that the wheel is open we are happy and we hope things will continue to improve." Shalini said she loved her shop and loved Docklands. She loves helping customers pick out the perfect scarf or piece of jewellery to complement their outfit.



KIM ROWE, 23
Manager, Blow Dry Bar

Kim has worked in Docklands for four months and likes the area, having found people to be very friendly. Kim said when she first started working in Docklands it was different to what she expected. She says it is interesting to watch Docklands as it continues to grow.



MAGGIE MENDEZ, 17
Apprentice, Esprit Hair and Day Spa

Maggie enjoys working at Harbour Town because of its open-air nature. For the past two years she has worked as an apprentice at Esprit Hair and Day Spa. In that time Maggie has met plenty of friendly people and enjoyed the great shopping in the area. Maggie said she also enjoyed dining at restaurants along the NewQuay waterfront.



GINA LEE, 26
Manager, Lashes on Latrobe

Lashes on Latrobe opened just two months ago so Gina is still learning about Docklands. She likes the area because it is quiet, close to the water and close enough to her home so she can walk to work.



JESS NESS, 16
Work experience, Docklands Private Collection

Jess describes Docklands as a very modern place. She's been doing work experience in the area over her school holidays and said while she found it very windy at first she had become used to it. For Jess, the best part about working in Docklands has been the opportunity to meet lots of different people who have travelled to Docklands from all around the world.



NICO REDDAWAY, 25
Co-director and coffee cart owner, The Food Court

Nico has been spending time in Docklands over the past nine months as part of Renew Australia's Docklands Spaces program. Nico said she had enjoyed being part of one of the first groups to bring arts and culture into the area. "I love our space and being able to look out across to the water," Nico said. "It would be great to see more of the community getting involved."

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Businesses in Docklands

WATERMARK MARKS 10 YEARS

Watermark celebrates its 10th year of operation in Docklands this year and what better way to mark the occasion than by giving back to the community.

Dante Mastrantuono, who has owned the waterside restaurant, bar and function centre for the past three years said he hoped to run five different charity events over the year.

Watermark will be in the thick of all the action when fundraising event Cupid's Undie Run makes its Melbourne debut in Docklands on February 9.

The local restaurant and bar is hosting the event, which will see underwear-clad runners take to Victoria Harbour Promenade in the name of raising funds for the Children's Tumour Foundation.

Funds raised will help the foundation provide support services and fund research into Neurofibromatosis, a genetic condition affecting 1 in 3000 births.

Watermark will host the event party, which runs from 12pm until 4pm, with the "brief" promenade run starting around 2pm.

Cupid's Undie Run events have been held throughout America and debuted in Australia in Sydney last year.

This year, the Sydney and Melbourne events will take place simultaneously and Mr Mastrantuono hopes to make sure

Melbourne comes out on top when it comes to the fundraising tally.

With 2014 marking Watermark's 10th year in Docklands a big celebration is on the cards.

"We'll have a big party and invite everyone down to enjoy some drinks and some food," Mr Mastrantuono said.

Refurbishment plans are also underway and are likely to take place in March, creating more of a lounge-style feel at the venue.

Mr Mastrantuono said he was also considering launching a cocktail bar and wine bar at the venue.

But even without any changes, Watermark retains a classic formula that has seen it stake its claim in Docklands.

According to Mr Mastrantuono, Watermark is a place for a casual, reasonably priced drinks provided with great service.

Not to mention the view from the outdoor seating area. Situated right next to the water, it's a great spot to unwind at the end of the day.

"It's a beautiful spot watch the sunset," Mr Mastrantuono said.

Watermark is located under the 800 Bourke St, NAB building at tenancy 9.

Visit www.watermarkdocklands.com.au or contact on **9642 1880** for more information.



Dante Mastrantuono ... "it's a beautiful spot to watch the sunset."

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Businesses in Docklands

DE ASIAN CONNECTION



Hafizah Hassan and Salwati Nek outside their store.

The team at De Asian Hut want locals to know exactly where to go to find delicious and reasonably priced Asian food in Docklands.

Located under the Watergate apartment building, De Asian Hut is owned by Muhammed Nek, Salwati Nek, Hafizah Hassan and Jaafar Yusoff.

The Docklands location is the fifth takeaway restaurant the quartet has opened and the first close to the city centre.

According to Ms Nek, the decision to open a store in Docklands was prompted by plenty of positive feedback about the area.

“There aren’t many Asian restaurants in this area, so we thought it would be a good option for local residents and workers,” Ms Sek said.

Offering a range of cuisines, including Chinese, Indonesian, Thai and Malaysian, De Asian Hut is sure to have something to suit every palate.

According to Ms Nek, the most popular meal at De Asian Hut is the fried rice. However, her personal favourite is the Singapore noodles.

Ms Sek said the business was already accumulating regular customers, with plenty of Watergate residents finding it very simple to phone through orders before popping down to pick them up.

Basic meals are very affordable, starting at \$6.90 for a rice and three vegetable dishes, \$7.90 for a rice, one vegetable dish and two meat dishes or \$8.90 for a rice and three meat dishes.

Ms Sek said De Asian Hut also offered combo meal deals, which are changed regularly in order to give customers plenty of options.

You can find De Asian Hut at 10/4 Waterview Walk. Meals can be enjoyed in-store or takeaway. You can also order online at www.deasianhut.com.au for delivery or pick-up.

OUTSOURCING MADE EASY

Is your to-do list never-ending? Can’t get away from work to meet a tradesperson? Don’t want to spend your whole weekend researching accommodation for your next holiday? If so, Executive Personal Concierge, based right here in Docklands, might be able to help you out.

Docklands resident Margaret Cairns started the business mid-last year with the aim of providing a service that takes the pressure off people and allows them to make the most of their time. Her clients range from busy professionals and parents to seniors and business owners, for whom she offers a range of different services.

Executive Personal Concierge can help with party planning, picking up gifts, making appointments, researching and booking holidays, taking care of pets, picking up dry-cleaning or doing your grocery shopping. “I do whatever you need to be done that you don’t want to be running around doing on your lunch hour,” Ms Cairns said. According to Ms Cairns a lot of the work

she does involves completing research and online tasks for her clients. “I recently had a client who wanted to buy a new camera so I did some research on the best deals on different kinds of cameras.” “I cut out all of those time-consuming tasks sitting in front of the computer when you could be spending time with your kids,” Ms Cairns said.

Executive Personal Concierge also assists small businesses that might need someone to do a few hours of filing, admin work or other odd jobs. “It’s a new concept to feel free to outsource. You don’t have to spend all of your free time doing time-consuming tasks,” she said. Ms Cairns charges \$50 per hour for her personal concierge services and charges in 15-minute increments, which means you only pay for the time you use. For example, if you pre-pay for an hour of assistance but the task you set only takes half that time you’ll have half an hour in credit with up to 12 months to use it. You can also pre-pay for blocks of four, eight



Margaret Cairns ... “It’s like having your own personal assistant.”

or 12 hours, at a discounted hourly rate, which also remain in credit for up to 12 months. “Really it’s like having your own personal assistant at home or at work that you don’t have to pay a full-time wage to,” Ms Cairns said.

You can contact Executive Personal Concierge by calling Margaret on **0418 694 994** or emailing info@executivepc.com.au. See www.executivepersonalconcierge.com.au for more information.



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

I was feeling so POSITIVE about 2014. I really believed, on New Year's Eve, the last day of 2013, that as soon as the clock ticked over into the New Year it would be an immediately remarkable and incredible start to what would surely be The Year of Our Lives. I had big plans for business, amazing thoughts of love, and a yearning for the inner peace to kick in ASAP.

Well, it's not that it's been a disappointing year so far, far from it. It's just that it's already being a quick year. And a quick year makes it really hard to achieve the list of perfectly achievable goals you wrote whilst sipping champagne on the deck overlooking the ocean at Christmas. It all seemed so reasonable then: "Get up, be brilliant, go back to bed" was all it was going to take, and I just couldn't wait to get started.

It's been more than a month. It's actually been six weeks. School has gone back, we are half way through the first quarter of the year and those "achievable tasks", like organising your office, freeing your wardrobe of outfits you haven't worn in three years, changing accountants to ones who don't charge you for drawing breath, starting the new "healthy

you" regime that is a simple combination of healthy and natural diet, light daily jogging, progressive yoga (that's where you progressively improve from clumsy awkward beginner to one of those guru types that can balance on just one elbow –within 12months), alcohol free weekdays and regular meditation that will see you looking 10 years younger with a peachy fresh complexion and a permanent smile of happiness and relaxation – well I have to say some of these tasks haven't been ticked. They haven't even started. And these aren't even the big goals.

I am still excited by 2014, and I still have really big plans – I'm just adopting a bit more of an "ease into it" approach. And the other thing I've found, is that some of the goals have already been, well, fine tuned.

For example, I really, really thought I might find the love of my life this year, and I was even hoping for this Valentine's Day to be the first one I don't spend alone in 10 years. It really is a silly celebration anyway, and I really don't care about it (spoken as only a true long-term single can say). But truly, I really don't care now – I went on RSVP (don't

tell anyone else, it's our little secret!) and it scared the absolute wits out of me. I must have had a secret sign on my profile that read "if you're emotionally needy contact me".

So I fine tuned my goals, and struck finding love off the list this year! Such a relief, it's been the toughest goal for so many years, I decided to just get rid of things that aren't working!

So that leaves me and 2014 with some much clearer goals, ones that are up to me rather than a complex relationship between fate, the powers that be, and cupid, to achieve.

So here they are: I am going to be a student this year and study a Diploma of Counselling (Grief and Loss, Sexual Abuse and Addiction) as last year, I was made all too aware of the desperate need of so many people in our community. I will seriously try to be fitter and healthier, although I reserve the right to have couch nights as needed. I will streamline my business so that it operates with less stress on me, and this will allow me to have more quality time with my son. My big goal is To Be Happy, happy with my decisions, my time, my life with my

family and friends.

The reason I have been able to pause, to listen to my inner voice and what I need, to understand what goals are going to be really important to me this year, is because I "eased" into it this year and thought it all through properly, rather than running with the top five thoughts masterminded with the very helpful Christmas champers.

If your goals are changing as quickly as Woolie's can change its Christmas aisle for baskets of chocolate eggs and bunnies, maybe you should take some time to work out what's really important to you.

Slow it all down, sit with things and think it through – and then commit. There is still plenty of time for 2014 to be The Year of our Lives.

I am looking forward to sharing this year with you.

Love Abby. Xx

PS please email me at life@docklandsnews.com.au, and I would love you to join me on Instagram (@abbyjanecrawford) or Facebook (Abby Jane Crawford). Xx



Happy Lunar New Year to all our readers.

This is, of course, the year of the horse and Docklands comes alive in a blaze of colour with the installation of the Docklands Dragon.

It is there on the corner of Harbour Esplanade and Bourke Street, all 10 metres high and 100 metres long of it! After dark, the magnificent beast positively glows with an awesome aura! There is nightly entertainment every night from 6.30pm until Sunday, February 16 so there is plenty of time to go have a look. It is a great family attraction.

Coxy's Big Break has filmed our dragon and is expected to be shown first weekend in February.

Don't forget there are cafes, bars and restaurants along Victoria Harbour, Central Pier and Etihad Stadium Concourse for you to enjoy a meal or a drink.

The celebrations are part of a longer-term plan to promote Chinese New Year for Melburnians and visitors alike, adding to the city's reputation as a key Chinese tourism

destination.

The nightly Chinese New Year celebrations at Docklands are free of charge. Water taxis are operating from Southbank for visitors who fancy taking the waterfront route to see the Docklands Dragon. \$5 is all it costs.

On January 29 the Docklands Chamber of Commerce held its first networking event for 2014. Sarah Lindenmayer from the City of Melbourne and the Docklands Community Forum presented an update on the Docklands Community and Place Plan. Also in attendance was John Forman from Eureka Sky Deck, Colonial Tramcar Restaurants and Red Rock Leisure who spoke about the arrival of Docklands Dragon. Over 50 guests enjoyed the hospitality of Rise Cafe and Bar, a new member to the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, and located on Victoria Harbour. If you have not been to Rise yet, it is well worth the visit.

Valentine's Day is upon us on Friday, February 14. Being a Friday what better opportunity than to treat your significant other half, or someone you would like make one, to a romantic dinner at one of

REPORTING FROM THE DOCKLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Docklands' many dining venues. Check out the Docklands Directory (www.docklandsdirectory.com.au) if you need to know where these are.

Cupid's Undie Run is a 1.5km(ish) fun run and party to be held on Sunday, February 9, the weekend before Valentine's Day, to raise funds for the Children's Tumour Foundation (CTF). The event is coming to Melbourne in 2014, joining 29 other cities worldwide including Brisbane and Sydney. Watermark in Docklands is hosting the event. It will kick off with a pre-race party starting from noon. Runners will strip to their bedroom-best and run along the Victoria Harbour Promenade for the "brief" run at 2pm, before heading back to Watermark for post-race festivities. Registration is now open. www.cupidsundierun.com.au

If you are interested in sport, then make sure you look at Active Melbourne City Sports' range of corporate sports competitions that you and your workmates can get involved in! These programs focus on inclusivity and enjoyment. Anyone can participate, regardless of whether or not you have played

sport before. www.melbournecitysports.ymca.org.au

Ok, who hasn't tried one of those Melbourne Blue Bikes yet? For under \$60 a year you can register for an access key to the great network of Blue Bike stations around Docklands and the CBD. If you keep individual journeys to under 40 minutes there are no further fees to pay. The secret is knowing the location of the Blue Bike station closest to the point you are travelling. No journey in Docklands or the CBD ought take more than 40 minutes. Once you have docked your bike, there is nothing more to worry about! There are enough helmets at each station, but if you prefer your own, they are only \$5 from any convenience store! It is the answer to discovering Docklands' secrets, so get on board in 2014!

Docklands waterways are a major asset to Docklands and yet so few of us utilise it. The waterways are calling out for a regular commuter ferry to transport passengers between Docklands and the CBD. It is a fantastic way to see parts of Docklands only visible from the water.

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A Varsity Market
Trams free city circle no 70
via Flinders no 86 via Bourke
docklandsundaymarket.com.au
contact 0412910496



GREETINGS FROM THE DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Greetings everybody

Happy New Year and trust you had a good break. Great to be back talking with you again.

Our DCA Christmas party on December 11 was a great night at the Harbour Kitchen with guests from all around Docklands including over 20 new members. Weather was fine and not too hot.

I attended the official opening of the Observation Wheel in the week before Christmas, officiated by the Deputy Premier. I have continued to plug the wheel in the media including its importance to traders and business and to the image of Docklands generally. The operating problems have been disappointing of course. I believe it's important that any problem is adequately explained to the public, including remedial action taken to avoid recurrence, in order to build public confidence.

You may have noticed an additional tram service has just started operating in Docklands, namely the 75 from Vermont which instead of turning from Flinders St into Spencer St now continues down Flinders St into and along the Esplanade. It is good for bringing more people directly into Docklands and also that it terminates

along the Footscray Road shunt line rather than down Docklands Drive which would have caused too much tram congestion.

On December 18, I attended the Docklands Security Group meeting chaired by the police, with representatives from major businesses, building managers, the DCA and CoM. Matters discussed included crime levels-lower than in CBD, vehicle and bicycle speeding and other problems; also security arrangements for NYE which are always adequate. I raised the matter of problems with cyclists. The following results of a recent survey of cyclists were tabled by the CoM:

"The surveys indicated that 16 per cent of all movements in the southbound direction in the morning peak on the pedestrian path were cyclists. These cyclists are approaching pedestrians from behind and, considering that the average speed of these cyclists is approximately 25kmh with some speeds in the low 30s, pedestrians could feel intimidated. Observations by the survey team indicate that the majority of cyclists didn't slow down at Central Pier access driveway, although they do have priority. The survey team also observed that only a few cyclists stopped to give way to pedestrians on the pedestrian crossing, most cyclists just rang their bell and continued through. Enforcement of rules will be

followed up."

On the short term rental front, the Appeals Court found in favour of the defendant Salter in the Watergate case. It has been suggested that council's argument should have focused on serviced apartments, the most troublesome and prevalent segment of the short-term rental market. Minister Guy has yet to announce draft legislation. Other courses of action are being followed up.

Repair of the wharf area along the esplanade is under way. Indications are that the type of re-development for public use will be hotly debated. Whilst council and Places Victoria talk about up-coming public consultation, they already keep telling us they intend to put cargo sheds along it. That makes a farce of the consultation process. There is a lot of objection to sheds apparent and as and when they provide specifics, the DCA will conduct a poll to check opinion. As the redeveloped esplanade will be a focal point of Docklands it is imperative that it be made a warm attractive place to visit with open grassed areas. More cargo sheds would just serve to increase the current sterility and is the last thing we want. The former chair of Place Victoria, Peter Clarke, made it clear he was opposed to the sheds idea.

NewQuay has a problem with removal of trees and fittings by the developer MAB Corporation. With council approval, tall

palm trees standing on the site of the Quays construction were removed to make way for the construction work. It was stated in writing by council the palms would be kept in storage and replanted when the work was completed. That is now not possible as the building extends to the roadway. Another casualty was the only children's playground in NewQuay which was removed.

We are requesting council to instruct MAB to replant the palms and restore the playground and equipment in prominent positions on another of their sites in the area. Additionally, we understand MAB now propose to remove more nearby palms, shrubs and innovative boat-shaped planter tubs so they can change the open area near the promenade. We are requesting council to reject that proposal.

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

Roger Gardner
President DCA



OWNERS CORPORATION LAW *With Tom Bacon*

Stoking the embers of a smoking debate

Smoking cigarettes in common property areas and on the balconies of units is a hotly-contested issue that divides any residential building.

The overwhelming medical evidence today concludes that not only is smoking severely injurious to personal health, but also "smoke drift" or passive smoking can sometimes be just as injurious to health as it is to the person inhaling the cigarette themselves.

Residents shouldn't have to put up with smoke drift and cigarette butts coming from other balconies in their buildings. If the

odour and smoke is offensive, then it can be declared to be a nuisance, and can be banned via an order from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

The key to remember here is that the activity complained about must be objectively unreasonable, not subjectively unreasonable, meaning that an ordinary person would need to find the smoking to constitute a nuisance.

Similarly, if the problem is spread throughout a building and on many levels, then an owners corporation may pass

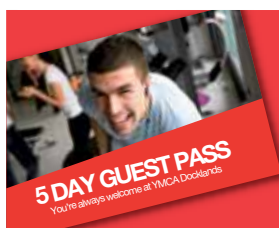
an additional rule to restrict smoking on common property, and to restrict smoking on balconies where that may cause nuisance to other residents. The additional rule would need to be passed by a special resolution at a general meeting of the owners corporation. Even if the special resolution does not pass, a lot owner or group of residents may appeal the decision to VCAT to have the rule passed and registered in any event.

On a policy front, the smoking of cigarettes shall continue to be marginalised by lawmakers in the years to come, to the extent

where smoking cigarettes may even be banned in apartment buildings altogether.

It is only a matter of time until new developments will have compulsory rules registered to ban smoking in all areas of the building. But will Victoria be the first state in Australia to pass laws to essentially make new buildings "smoke-free"? I would think so.

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



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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'S OWN TALL SHIP ENTERPRIZE

Friday 7th to Sunday 9th February 2014

Sailing from Docklands Marina Berth C03

Unleash your spirit of Adventure! Experience 19th century sailing.

View schedule and book online at www.enterprize.org.au or phone (03) 9621 1294



DOCKLANDS TOASTMASTERS

Every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month

The Hub, 80 Harbour Esplanade

Boost your public speaking and leadership skills.

Contact: email **docklandstoastmasters@yahoo.com.au** or visit **www.docklands.freetoasthost.org**



FINE LINE DRAWING AND BOTANICAL ART CLASSES

Monday and Thursday

The Hub, 80 Harbour Esplanade

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**

LUNCHTIME MEDITATION

Every Tuesday 12:15 or 1pm

The HUB @ Docklands

Reduce stress. Increase energy and raise awareness. Join in for a 30 minute meditation and calm your mind.

www.mrmeditate.com or contact Thomas **0411 345 509**

DOCKLANDS WALKING TOUR

Every day at 10.30am, bookings essential

Etihad Stadium 130 Harbour Esplanade

Explore Docklands on a walking tour. Be mesmerised by the artwork, history and architecture of the Docklands area.

Contact **0448 270 023** or email **amwt@live.com.au**

DOCKLANDS BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU

The Hub, 80 Harbour Esplanade

BJJ is a style popularised by media such as the UFC and is proven as an extremely effective form of martial arts. Phone **9016 8471**, email **info@docklandsbjj.com.au** or visit **www.docklandsbjj.com.au**

DISCOVER SAILING

Club sailing days every 2nd and 4th Sunday

Docklands Yacht Club, Shed No. 2 North Wharf Rd

Visitors welcome. For further information email **docklandsyachtclub@gmail.com**

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**



YOGA IN THE DOCKLANDS

The Hub, 80 Harbour Esplanade

Cost: \$20 per class or \$175 for a ten-class pass.

Hatha Yoga suitable for all ages and levels of experience. Phone Brooke McGlinchey on **0403 668 705** or **muditayogamelb@gmail.com**

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Sunday 8.45am, 10.30am, 6pm.

Hoyts, Melbourne Central

Sunday evening 6pm

Arrow on Swanston (488 Swanston St)

Contact **cityonahill.com.au**

JEWISH MYSTICISM... A WEEKLY INSIGHT

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

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SPORTS PAGE

Renegades

finish on a high

By Robert Bremner

Inspired by West Indian Dwayne Bravo, the Renegades held on for a one point win against the Adelaide Strikers in their recent clash but it was too little too late with the team finishing outside of the top four.

Bravo hit 47 off 33 deliveries and also picked up two wickets, which was enough to have him named man of the match.

The Renegades have struggled to capture the form of the previous season that saw them reach the semi finals. Melbourne finished in sixth position on the ladder with three wins to their name.

In a season of disappointment, Aaron Finch has once again lead from the front. He played in six of the matches and finished the season with an average of 52.40 including three 50s as well as scoring twelve sixes. Nathan Rimmington and Muttiah Muralitharan were at their stingy best this season, leading the bowling attack with 10 and eight wickets respectively.

The third instalment of the Big Bash League began with the Melbourne derby. This time the Renegades were easily beaten by the Stars whose score of 7/208 never looked like being reached. The Stars currently sit at the top of the ladder after being undefeated all season and will play in the semi finals.

Inconsistency has plagued the boys in red all year, mixing great performances with poor form. Following the Stars loss, the Renegades found themselves on the wrong end of a thriller. Perth Strikers, lead by Yasir Arafat hung on to claim a six-run victory when early on Melbourne had seemed in complete control.

The standout match for the Renegades followed, they scored an impressive 3/210 to smash the Heat by 57 runs. Aaron Finch was again at his best with a score of 81 not out, his highest for the season.

They then backed it up with a resounding defeat of Hobart Hurricanes with Finch again starring with 50 runs and Pattinson named man of the match after a four wicket haul.

The Renegades were unable to continue this form with a string of bad losses following against the Stars and bottom placed Thunder. The Renegades then suffered a two run loss to the Sydney Sixers ultimately condemning themselves to missing the finals.



The Auroras spent the Australia Day long weekend training hard in Victoria Harbour.

Auroras put to the test

Australia's national Dragon Boat team, the Auroras, was put through its paces in Docklands last month.

The team, comprising 60 paddlers from around Australia, was in Docklands for a four-day training camp over the Australia Day long weekend.

The Australian team includes 17 members of local Docklands teams,

Melbourne Flames coach Serghei Cusca is also involved with the national team, continuing his role as coach.

Last month's training camp in Docklands saw the paddlers spend plenty of time out on the water.

According to Australian Dragon Boat

Federation president and Auroras team member Kel Watt, the training camp had been tough.

According to Mr Watt, team members spent up to seven hours on the water each day, completed fitness tests on land and analysed their performance and technique through video feedback sessions.

The Auroras will head to China later this year to compete in the Asian Championships in Macau from May 30 to June 1 and at the International Dragon Boat Federation World Cup in Fuzhou on June 11 and 12.

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