



GREETINGS FROM THE DOCKLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Hope you all had a great Christmas and holiday break and welcome to the New Year.

Our membership keeps growing and welcome to our new members. If you would like to join please contact Paige Jay at andypaige@optusnet.com.au.

The Christmas party at The Hub on December 11 was a big success. Some 70 odd people (not too odd!) from all parts of Docklands attended and there was good music, prizes, food and wine. Our local member Bronwyn Pike came along and joined in the festivities.

The New Year celebrations and fireworks were well attended and a great time was had by all. Security was well organised, with good police presence and there were few, if any, reports of trouble. We have reported this news to the City Council and Etihad Stadium management who like to get our feedback.

Our DCA website is continuing to be developed, with various layouts under consideration and will be ready soon.

Council has finally agreed to erect signs on the New Quay Promenade prohibiting vehicles including motorbikes except for commercial or event purposes. Signs are due to be erected in early March.

We will be deciding on social activities for the New Year at our first 2010 committee meeting in early February. Any suggestions are welcome. Please email to Paige Jay at the email address above.

We queried VicUrban regarding plans for the vacant block in Bourke Street opposite the NAB. Their reply is that one third in the middle will be public open space connecting to the Village Green and the remainder will be built on, with no date set as yet.

We have raised with council the lack of off street and on street car parking for The Hub community centre, which is indicative of the severe lack of parking in Docklands generally. We have asked them to review The Hub problem. To add insult to injury they have got no standing signs on bays behind The Hub which clearly serve no purpose other than revenue traps. We have requested these be changed to parking.

We have recommended to VicUrban that the vacant end of Central Pier, which is a vantage point for sightseeing, be converted to public open space possibly with a maritime sculpture. They have given a non-committal reply saying nothing has been decided yet.

We continue to push for the provision of more public open space and parkland, which is very limited, particularly at the busy northern end of Docklands. VicUrban continues to talk about learning, recreational and public boating hubs but there is still nothing concrete.

I attended the regular Police and Community Consultative Committee (PCCC) in January which reviews local issues and I also attended the council-run Events Co-ordination Committee which reviews forthcoming promotional events in Docklands, in order to look after residential amenity.

Sincerely
Roger Gardner
President DCA

Docklands Infrastructure Requirements

Docklands is a wonderful place with an exciting future. Since its inception ten years ago too little attention however has been placed on urban planning. The priority of the State Government and its Dockland authorities has been focused on building and commercial development. As a result little infrastructure apart from public transport has been provided.

Since the City of Melbourne Council became involved in service provision in Docklands in July 2007 its authority has been limited and the Planning Minister's announcement that the Council will be given increased responsibility for planning has been welcomed by us residents. What planning specifically is yet to be identified and of course it remains to be seen how much will be achieved given that the three power structure of the Docklands Coordination Committee will still apply, whereby decision making is shared with VicUrban and the State Government.

The infrastructure we are still waiting for includes such things as parks and gardens, land based recreation and sporting facilities, art and culture facilities, a theatre, community centre, community boating hub, visitor parking, taxi movement arrangements and others. It is a sad indictment that after seven or more years of occupation there is virtually nowhere you can sit under a shady tree in any sort of a park. This infrastructure will also benefit visitors and to some extent workers. The redevelopment of the busy Harbour Esplanade will be good but is only a start. Our big concern is we are all the time waging a rearguard action to get these things and that there is hardly any land left to utilise. At present there are only token pieces of public green space to be



seen . We are told that a villa development at New Quay West will include some internal green space provided by the developer, but apparently the only public open space of any size left is at the end of Docklands Drive at or under the Bolte bridge, which is not exactly a prize location.

Given that the Docklands population is projected to grow from 6,000 now to 17,000 by 2020 and the workforce from 19,000 to 40,000, it is imperative that what suitable land is left be immediately reserved. One way out is the land across Footscray road which will become available when the railways freight areas are moved as planned by the State government. They have mooted low cost housing but it is a clear opportunity to include space for public usage.

We all want to see Docklands achieve its full potential and cater for all needs and the DCA will play its part in helping towards achieving those ends. We will be putting forward further ideas.

Roger Gardner
President Docklands Community Association
Sept 18,2009



“Meet and greet” goes off

Community is alive and well in Docklands – as evidenced by the strong turnout at the Community Association’s recent “meet and greet”.

Up to 100 people packed into The Hub on June 18 with all Docklands precincts well represented.

DCA president Roger Gardner said: “The meet and greet night was a great success with the biggest attendance for a DCA function that I’m aware of.”

“The organisation of the event was a team effort and a big thank you to all our generous door prize donors. We had guests from all areas of Docklands from NewQuay to Yarra’s Edge.”

“We signed up a lot of new members and a couple of new committee members. This

bodes well for the future of the DCA and I look forward to leading our committee team in planning our future activities in terms of both social events and local issues.”

Door prizes were supplied by: Aqua Hairdressers; Vibromania; Melbourne Yacht Club Hotel; Nutshack; Safeway; Squires Loft; Hair House; The Nixon; Flowers on the Dock; Bojh; Victoria Harbour Pharmacy and News; and The Hilton Hotel.

Food was supplied by: Degani; Lamore; Victoria Harbour Sushi Bar and Noodles; IGA Liquor @ Dome; and MYO.

