

## Contents

December 2014.....	2
2014 Annual General Meeting – Outcome .....	4
2014 Annual General Meeting - President's Report.....	5
Response to Docklands News .....	7
November 2014 .....	8
Response to article p7 October Docklands News .....	10
October 2014 .....	11
September 2014.....	13
August 2014 .....	15
July 2014 .....	16
Harbour Esplanade Redevelopment Survey .....	17
May 2014 .....	18
April 2014.....	20
March 2014 .....	22
February 2014.....	24
December 2013 - January 2014 .....	26

## December 2014

### Greeting Everybody

Firstly, on behalf of myself and the DCA committee may I wish you a Merry Xmas and a Happy and Safe New Year! It'll be great to have a break.

### **Xmas Party**

Please ensure you and a partner or friend come to our great Xmas Party on Wed Dec 10 at Harbour Kitchen on the Victoria Harbour Promenade next to the NAB. Free for members. Only \$ 10 per head for non-members to sign up. Venue and a range of savouries provided; drinks at bar prices. Spread the word ; invite your neighbours. Invitation leaflets will be mailboxed shortly.

### **AGM Report**

Our AGM held at the old Hub building on November 13 was a successful night. The guest speaker Prof Michael Buxton, head of Environment and Planning at the RMIT, and well known commentator and critic, provided an informative insight into planning processes and how to take up issues. In terms of the agenda, the updated rules as required under the updated Act were adopted by a large majority. They state and formalise that membership is open to and for residents. This recognises what has been the case in practice that virtually all applicants for membership have been and are residents. It also brings us into line with other community/resident associations. Businesses on the other hand are covered by the Chamber of Commerce, with whom we liaise. Business owners and workers who are residents are of course eligible and welcome. In any event, we work for the benefit of Docklands as a whole and with that in mind a positive spin is adopted in comments to the media.

As well, the existing committee and office bearers were re-elected. A response to the prior objections by Shane Scanlan in the November News p4 can be viewed on our website. These objections were answered in the negative by the decisions by the AGM.

### **Building Fire Raises Issue of Balcony Use**

Following the recent fire in the high-rise behind Etihad, Councillors have asked for our comments on a proposal to introduce guidelines relating to use and maintenance of balconies in residential buildings. OC house rules in my experience do specify rules for balconies. These state for example not to hang towels, washing or clothes, not to throw butts over and not to leave out unsecured items and to keep clean and tidy. Unfortunately these rules are not well policed. A problem is that building managers can't see what's on balconies in their own buildings but that shouldn't stop them from going next door at times to have a look across. In view of the above occurrence, guidelines should include prohibition of hazardous material or storage. Having said that, we extend our sympathy to the affected residents.

### **Serviced Apartments**

All of a sudden we're being showered with promises- anybody would think there's an Election happening! The Labour candidate and sitting Member for our electorate Melbourne has promised a review of the short stay issue, whilst the Greens candidate has promised to introduce a bill to regulate the industry and ban short stays under 28 days. We also have a recent letter from CAV stating they are considering appropriate legislation.

### **Esplanade Re-development**

I have been given a preview of Places Victoria plans which still include sheds and pavilions with some space in between. They have no intention of putting in a linear park; we're not happy with that to say the least. Because it is a ground level development it does not require Ministerial approval

### **Wave Pool Idea**

Our comment: intriguing and possibly a good attraction provided it wouldn't interfere with boat movements, given the proximity of marinas and party boats.

**Bluescope Steel to exit E-gate**

They have just advised us that they will be ceasing operations of their steel terminal in the E-gate railway yards effective July 31, 2015. This will in part make way for the re-development of the rail yards planned by the State Government.

**General**

We have ramped up our website and we've opened a Facebook page. The DCA Facebook page is now up and running! If you have a Facebook account please "Like" our [page](#) to keep up to date with the DCA and activities happening in Docklands!

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](mailto:docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com)

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect or becoming a committee member you are welcome to call me on 0412 097 706.

Regards to all

Roger Gardner  
President DCA

## 2014 Annual General Meeting – Outcome

I am pleased to report that the DCA AGM held last night was a success.

The guest speaker Prof Buxton enlightened us on the politics surrounding urban planning and suggested what approach to adopt to influence decisions.

The President's report highlighted activities during the year. A copy is attached. Mention included the active website and the recent setting up of a Facebook page. Dominic reported on that and Jessie presented the finances.

The main agenda item putting forward updated rules for adoption was carried by a large majority. You all received a copy earlier with the agenda. They state that the DCA is for residents and members have to be Docklands residents. This conforms with virtually all other community associations. The Chamber of Commerce represents businesses and it was suggested that the liaison between the two should continue and be encouraged.

The existing committee was re-elected unanimously.

Regards  
Roger Gardner

## 2014 Annual General Meeting - President's Report

### Welcome

- Good to see you all here. Been busy year as usual.
- Delighted to announce that we have a record registered membership of over 100, continuing to build.
- Received \$3,000 grant from the Council late last year and have applied for another in this year's round.

### Our committee has helped in different ways

- Vicki does the minutes of committee meetings
- Jessie handles the money
- Dominic and Jessie manage the website
- Vicki maintains the membership register
- Damien and Yvonne provide general assistance.
- I provide guidance , attend various meetings and liaise with Authorities and other groups

### Functions and Events

- Xmas Party held last Dec at Harbour Kitchen –approx 80 Guests
- This year's Xmas Party –Wed Dec 10 at the HK again on the waterside promenade- always a great night!

### My activities

- Monthly column in the Dockland News
- Liaise with other community groups through Corba including Southbank, East City, Carlton, NM, WM, Kensington and others.
- Attend bimonthly meetings of the D'lands community forum.
- Attend PCCC meetings.
- Community group representatives incl myself met with Min Guy, requesting transparency and community consultation for projects.
- Interviewed at times by the media on matters like the wheel, parks, wave pool, empty apartments – put positive spin
- Continue to send out lists of coming events and material sent to us on POM, Council, Etihad etc.

### Other activities undertaken by your committee:

- We take up local issues on your behalf eg bicycle perils for peds, open space provision, over-development, primary school provision and more recently the redevelopment of the Esplanade.
- Local amenities being added including the new library/ community centre and Western Park at Bolte bridge end of D'lands Drive.
- Our website is regularly updated by Dominic and Jessie and we have recently opened a Facebook page designed by Jessie which looks great and I suggest you visit.
- We ran our first on-line survey earlier this year to ascertain resident views on the Esplanade re-development which had a large response, resulting in 76% of 79 responses voting for along park along that main waterfront. I presented that to senior management at both Places Vic and

Council. They appear to be stubbornly adhering to putting buildings along there but we keep fighting that one.

- I have also had to respond to continuing attacks on myself and the DCA by the publisher of the Docklands News, usually containing inaccurate and misleading information. The suggestion of rule chaos is rubbish. These attacks seem to stem from stepping on the toes of certain interests. Such attacks by a local paper on a local community association are extraordinary– his agro should be directed at D'land issues. The rules update will be dealt with under a later item tonight.
- We do not favour any political party.
- Collected first prize of \$300 for most popular voluntary organisation run by the Grill'd group in Southern Cross station outlet.
- Sorry if I've left anything out.

I and the committee look forward to continuing to be of service and to next year being a good year for all.

RG

## Response to Docklands News

I regret the need to respond to the latest attack by Shane Scanlan in the November Docklands News[p4], but it is necessary to correct misinformation and avoid members being misled. The heading "Non-residents still not welcome" is a distortion, as it has been a resident association for years. I do apologise for having to do this response and take up your time with reading it.

As said previously the DCA has operated as a resident association for years. The purpose of stating that membership is for residents is to confirm this. We cannot be 'all things to all people'. It will bring us into line with other community associations. The Chamber of Commerce represents businesses and Shane who is not a resident is a member of it. Non-residents understand and are not applying

Once again I wasn't shown the article before publication. These emotional attacks have become tiresome to everybody, particularly the misleading content. By the way I do not act alone and am a member of a committee.

Responses to some items where he is way off the mark are:

- Rather than 'presiding' over rule changes in 2009 that 'made it harder for him[me] to be challenged internally', the fact was there were only two changes in 2009 which were both adopted by the AGM; the first was a lowering of quorum levels for meetings to more realistic levels and the second was confirming that the DCA acted for residents. That was it. Inadvertently these two changes were not registered with CAV but in any event other rules remained unchanged. The generalised statement that rules had no legal basis is a total exaggeration.
- The 'new set of rules' now proposed is actually an update as required under the update of the Act in 2012.
- Apart from inserting residents for eligibility, the only departures from the model rules are retaining the existing rules [1] for lodging proxies in advance and [2] for elections for committee members and officeholders, with the latter being elected from the committee. **These existing rules adopted at a general meeting of members in 2008 have worked without any problem for 6 years and are retained for that reason. I was not involved in drafting them.**

Further inaccuracies by Shane are:

- "Mr Gardner's version insists on a written nomination [for the committee], signed--and delivered - in advance" is inaccurate. **The rule has existed for 6 years, is not my version and I was not involved in drafting it.**
- The same applies to the method of elections [described as my 'favoured methodology'], **which has been also in operation for 6 years and was not drafted by me.**

These attacks on the DCA are not in the best interest of Docklands. Publisher Shane's aggro would be better spent on attacking major issues in Docklands. For a local paper to continually attack instead of supporting the local community association is extraordinary.

Once again my apologies to all for having to do this response. We would rather not be mired down in this stuff and would rather get on with things which we are doing.

Regards to All  
Roger Gardner

## November 2014

Firstly, a reminder that the DCA Xmas Party will be held on Wednesday December 10, at the same venue as before, namely, Harbour Kitchen on the Victoria Harbour Promenade. It is a great venue on the harbour. Invitations will be distributed in coming weeks. We look forward to residents from range of Docklands areas attending including North Wharf, Harbourn town and new buildings in Victoria Harbour and Yarra's Edge.

The DCA AGM will be held on Thursday November 13 at the Hub on the Esplanade cnr Bourke Street. All members welcome. Proposed updated rules will be reviewed following an update of rules for Associations under the State Government Act.

### **Response to Article**

I have to respond to an article by Shane Scanlan in the October issue [p9] again containing misleading information on DCA activities. We were not informed or given right of reply. Such negativity is not helpful and it would be far better for Shane to work co-operatively with us for the benefit of Docklands. Far from a loss of members we have a record membership.

In terms of not catering for social needs, we have informed people of our 2014 Xmas Party being held for all on December 10. Times have changed from the early days. Docklands today has a diverse population and caters for a large variety of needs. As everybody knows we the DCA are continuously publicising social programs ranging from concerts, sporting events, exercise classes to seniors activities and story telling at the new library. In fact we can barely keep up with the work these days and we do what we can with limited resources. As in previous years we usually have at least two 'get togethers' a year.

If Shane, who is no longer a Docklands resident, and some friends want to have dinner together that's fine. Saying we've become more political is again misleading. We do not favour any political party. Like other community associations, we take up issues on behalf of residents to try and get better amenities and conditions. We stand up for residents. Everybody knows that. Compared with some other community associations we are quite mild.

### **Other items**

I attended the population debate between Kelvin Thomson Federal Labour MP and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, held in Federation Square on October 13; Kelvin promoting reduction in immigration and Robert Doyle in favour of expansion. Both are intelligent speakers but the debate whilst interesting lacked passion. Nevertheless it is a prominent topic and was well attended in the Deakin Edge theatre. The audience was vocal. Comments included the need for more infrastructure to meet increasing demand.

We collected our first prize of \$300 for recently winning the most votes for a worthy cause in a promotion run by Grill'd group. Every extra income helps our finances and is welcome. Thank you to those who supported us.

Regarding the Esplanade re-development, further to our resident survey showing a strong preference for a linear park, we are obtaining outside expert opinion, which will be reported in due course. A number of OC committee members have expressed interest in attending the Owners Corporation Network Victoria committee meeting in November as observers. Our committee is made up of members from a range of buildings in the CBD and adjoining areas.

We are ramping up our website and we've opened a Facebook page. The DCA Facebook page is now up and running! If you have a Facebook account please "Like"



our page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Docklands-Community-Association/350305515148039>  
to keep up to date with the DCA and activities happening in Docklands! 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](mailto:docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com)

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect or becoming a committee member you are welcome to call me on 0412 097 706.

## Response to article p7 October Docklands News

Again Shane Scanlan is being divisive and misleading regarding the DCA in his comments in setting up a Docklands Social Club [DN Oct] and I have to reply. As previously we were not given the right of reply in the same edition.

For starters, far from a loss of members we have a record membership. In terms of not catering for social needs, we have informed people of our 2014 Xmas Party to be held for all on December 10. Clearly Shane's scheduling a function on the same night [second Wed of the month] sabotages our function. It doesn't have to be held on the same night as our annual

function. This divisiveness is extreme and not in the best interests of Docklands. Such depth of antagonism is not healthy. It would be far better to work cooperatively.

Times have changed from the early days. Docklands today has a diverse population and caters for a large variety of needs. As everybody knows we the DCA are continuously publicising social programs ranging from concerts, sporting events, self-defence classes to seniors activities and story telling at the new library. In fact we can barely keep up with the work these days and we do what we can with limited resources. We usually have at least two 'get togethers' a year. In my time here the DCA has never had monthly 'get togethers' and if Shane, who is no longer a Docklands resident, and his friends want to organise them that's fine but don't blame the DCA.

Saying we've become more political is again misleading. We do not favour any political party. Like other community associations, we take up issues on behalf of residents to try and get better amenities and conditions. We stand up for residents. Everybody knows that. Compared with some other community associations we are quite mild.

Shane it's about time you got over your friends being offended by our stand on some issues and moved on, with considerably less bias, in the best interests of the community.

Roger Gardner

## October 2014

Greetings All

Xmas time is approaching again – seems to come around quicker every year. Anyhow it's good to see the weather warming up!. Given that, we've scheduled the DCA Xmas Party for Wed Dec 10 so put that in your diaries now. Venue to be decided and will be advised later.

It's good to see some additional attractions and facilities being introduced into Docklands. We have the car museum at the Southern end of The Esplanade, the library/ community centre with a boating hub to come nearby to that and the 2ha Western Park area being worked on at the end of Docklands Drive. We certainly need things like that, apart from other major items to be dealt with.

I met on September 25 with senior managers from the City of Melbourne and Places Victoria to discuss some issues. Firstly provision of amenities in New Quay, including our request for provision of a children's playground near the main residential towers following the removal of a small one by the developer. A site offered by Council is not that central but better than originally proposed. Removal by the developer of some six mature palm trees, shrubbery and innovative boat-shaped planter boxes was also raised. Whilst there is to be some replacement of plants in the reworked area near the Boyd building, the Council officer agreed to again ask the developer to return the palms and replant in a prominent position on another of their sites.

Discussion moved on to the Esplanade re-development. At an earlier meeting in September with the Docklands Steering Group, composed of senior managers from Council and Places Vic, a Council Manager stated that alleged windiness was the reason for proposing to put a string of sheds/pavilions along the Esplanade. I argued that windiness occurs adjacent to buildings at either end due to the wind tunnel effect but the main open stretch is no worse than anywhere else and in fact more protected, adding that if wind in open spaces was a continuing problem then our bay beaches would not be used and would be built on.

Funnily enough the group on September 25 met in the Hortus café situated in the centre of the stretch and no wind was present. In any event however, at the more recent September 25 meeting the Council manager stated wind is not the only reason for the sheds/ pavilions proposal but rather they believe the buildings will draw crowds more to inside markets and other activities. Of course the DCA argues that the proposed buildings will block the view of the water and the marina as well

as denying the provision of badly needed open space. With so many buildings already crammed into Docklands, more buildings on the Esplanade will increase the sterility of the area and do nothing to improve its attractiveness. We plan to call in some expert opinion. Incidentally I had supplied the DRG with the results of our online survey showing 76% of 80 respondents voted for a linear park. The Managers stated they plan to present their plans at the next Docklands Community Forum in late October; also that as they don't involve high-rise they don't require approval by the Minister. It's surprising how determined Council and Places Vic are to enforce their own ideas. We'd be interested to know what companies in the area think.

We continue to liaise with other resident groups who are gearing up for the November State Election. There's a lot of argument about infrastructure not keeping up with population growth. Victoria's population grew by 109,000 last year including 62,000 new migrants, so the government needs to hasten infrastructure development.

Interestingly Lord Mayor Robert Doyle will debate the rate of population growth head to head with Kelvin Thomson Federal MP on Monday October 13 at Deakin Edge Building Federation Square commencing 6pm. It's an open forum.

The Owners Corporation Network Victoria [OCNV] will hold its first committee meeting on November 6. A priority task will be to develop membership, initially in inner Melbourne. In due course we aim to development policy submissions on significant issues affecting strata owners. 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](mailto:docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com)

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect or becoming a committee member you are welcome to call me on 0412 097 706.

## September 2014

On August 4 the Inner Melbourne Planning Association [IMPA], on which the DCA is represented, held a public forum in Federation Square of eminent speakers concerning design quality of new housing and public space in Melbourne.

The overly-small apartments and lack of open space were criticised. It was stated that a high proportion of new high-rise apartments are only one bedroom, largely bought by Asian investors. Clearly there needs to be a policy review by governments.

Regarding the Esplanade re-development, our own DCA online survey resulted so far in 76 per cent of 80 respondents voting for a linear park. Only three people agreed with the plan to put old cargo sheds on the Esplanade.

Will this cause Places Victoria (PV) to modify its plans?

As we've already said, people want an open stretch to offset the cramming of buildings, with open space being at a premium in Docklands due to most land having been given to developers. The opinion is that Places Victoria / council geared their survey to support their pre-determined plans to cram in some 12 sheds along the stretch.

They have been touting their plans at times over the last two or more years and then gave four weeks to answer their survey after which their survey website was removed. Their plans and survey were criticised at the community forum on August 26. The council planning manager said at the forum that they would review the plans later in the year.

The DCA continues to liaise with other community groups to whom building development planning is a major issue, as well as infrastructure planning. These groups are from various areas including Carlton, Southbank, North and West Melbourne and South Yarra.

I attended the Docklands security meeting on August 6. These are attended by police, security, businesses, council and resident representatives. Crime stats are presented. A drug bust in NewQuay was referred to. Combating drug distribution would be helped by bringing the problem to the attention of building committees and building managers asked to report any suspicious activity. Police stated that short-stay apartments were main places to watch. On a lesser note I again raised the issue of cyclists racing along the Esplanade and promenades.

The recently-formed Owners Corporation Network Victoria [OCNV] is looking forward to progressively addressing significant issues affecting apartment owners, initially in inner Melbourne. President Roger Gardner stated they will be liaising closely with counterpart bodies interstate.

With the committee having been formed actions to be taken include arranging the canvassing of memberships, with a website to follow, after which major issues will be addressed such as weaknesses in owners corporation legislation and high-rise development planning, in order to make submissions to government.

I am pleased to report that the DCA won the most votes in a monthly competition in July to see which worthy community cause was the most popular. The competition is run by the Grill'd eatery located in the Southern Cross Station and customers enter votes progressively throughout the month.

Western Park development is under way. That's the 2 ha site adjoining Bolte Bridge at the end of Docklands Drive. It's unfortunate that it's not within close walking distance but it will provide a small recreation area. They plan to put a children's playground there which should be located closer to the residential precinct.

The place of worship to be located off Footscray Rd near the pink car park, for which tenders were called some months ago, still has negotiations to be finalised. We are told it will be awarded to one religion. 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](mailto:docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com) If you would like to talk to me about any aspect you are welcome to call me on 0412 097 706.

Regards  
Roger  
President DCA

to

all  
Gardner

## August 2014

Greetings Everybody

It was gratifying to see Minister Guy can the proposed tram bridge over the Yarra saying it will not happen in his time. It shows we can win one occasionally. Planting the bridge in the Yarra's Edge residential precinct was never an acceptable idea considering the large marina there, the need for power lines to say nothing of the noise due to the gradient. In any event there is already a tram/light rail running through the Port Melbourne/ Fisherman's Bend area between the city and Beacon Cove [109 I think] as well as the trams along Clarendon Street.

The Esplanade re-development continues to get one-way media attention with the media releases from Places Victoria [PV]. They took their survey site down after the time limit. Their summary of responses is rather confusing. It does say however that 86% of respondents want lawn/grass areas and 74% want passive areas for seating, relaxing including bike riding, despite the fact that PV/Council didn't offer a linear park option.

Why didn't they? Because Places Vic and Council are determined to put sheds along the Esplanade. As a result however of people giving priority to lawn and passive recreation, are they going to modify their plans? The concept plans which they came up with [on file] showed 12 sheds/pavilions along the stretch. The PV/Council idea is to have spaces/lanes between the buildings which they seem to suggest will provide nice passive open space! Got to be joking!

As we've already said, people want an open stretch to offset the cramming of buildings, with open space being at a premium in Docklands due to most land having been given to developers. Regarding including heritage sheds people were asked did they rate heritage buildings as important to which of course they gave support. But they weren't asked if they supported two large old cargo sheds being installed in the middle of the Esplanade stretch. In fact in our resident survey only one person in seventy supported that. PV/ Council also didn't tell people that we already have a line of these sheds along both sides of Central Pier. I might add that these sheds and pavilions will block the panorama of the waterfront. As for calling it a 'vision' I wonder what they were on. In terms of events which we send out in notifications, just mentioning that the Friday night fireworks are scheduled to continue through August.

I went through the new library/ community centre a week ago. It is certainly spacious with a lot of good features and fittings. The theatre provides space for meetings and functions. The boating hub is to be built next door. The lack of parking space is a pity.

Removal of amenities by the developer in New Quay continues. Having earlier removed a line of mature tall palm trees behind the Conder building to make way for construction, they have now removed more mature palms and shrubs from the side of the Boyd building as well as innovative planter boxes to make way for construction of a small 'square'. Council's response is they can't tell the developer what to do on his own land. My response is they can certainly recommend; but they don't give any indication of doing so. Believe it or not I've since found out that the 'square' is actually on Council land. I had asked that they suggest to the developer to return the palms to a prominent position on another site – no answer; likewise a children's playground they removed. The reply was to put it down at Bolte bridge.

Is it any wonder I say developers rule. Regarding the establishment of the Owners Corporation Network Victoria [OCNV], A committee has been formed with representatives from various buildings including a number from the CBD [including the Eureka tower], St Kilda Road and Docklands, with myself as President. This was an essential step forward to enable formal operations. It is great to get this off the ground in order to gradually take up issues and give a voice for strata owners; also to ally with counterpart organisations interstate.

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](mailto:docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com). If you would like to talk to me about any aspect you are welcome to call me on 0412 097 706.

Regards to all

Roger Gardner  
President DCA

---

## July 2014

My column this month is necessarily short as I am overseas, returning July 8. Right now I am writing this on board ship in the Caribbean near Porto Rico. Temp It's Thursday afternoon here 30 degrees, humidity over 80% but good for swimming. Sorry about that but somebody's got to do it. Hope it's not too cold in Melbourne.

I believe there was a big attendance at the opening of the Library/ Community Centre. I think our major meetings and functions will be held there in the future.

The major item I wish to comment on [ apart from doing well in the footy tipping] is the result of the online survey the DCA has conducted regarding preferences for the redevelopment of the Esplanade. 80% of respondents have opted for a linear park as first preference; 11%for a few buildings ; 7% for the large number of buildings with lanes in between as proposed by Places Victoria and Council and a mere 2% for inclusion of old cargo sheds as proposed by them. This sends a clear message to those Authorities that the people are opposed to their schemes. The issue will be pursued.

I'll be catching up with the activities of other community groups on my return. The formation of the Owners Corporation Network is taking shape with interest in committee work being registered by OC members from various buildings around the city.

This is all I am able to contribute from where I am overseas.but I will be in full swing when I return.

Don't forget to keep in touch with our website :[www. docklandscommunityassociation.com](http://www.docklandscommunityassociation.com) and you can email us at [docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com](mailto:docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com)



## Harbour Esplanade Redevelopment Survey

I said in email of May 7, attaching concept plans issued by Places Victoria, that we would conduct a survey of members to ascertain your preferences for type of redevelopment.

The short survey has now been designed and is available for response.

The link is - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9XF3X2Q>

Note you are asked to rank the options from 1 to 4. So once you have chosen as your first preference, enter 1 in that square. You then proceed to choose 2nd, 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> preferences.

As I said earlier Places Victoria has given only until early June for comment, which obviously is unnecessarily short. We therefore need you to complete the survey by June 3 please.

We need as many of you as possible to complete the survey.

Should you have any queries you are welcome to call me on [0412 097 706](tel:0412097706).

Roger Gardner  
President DCA

## May 2014

Greetings Everybody

The official Opening of our new Community Centre/Library is scheduled to take place on Saturday May 31 and I understand all are invited to attend. It will be a great asset for the community and I'm sure everybody is keen to see it.

There is certainly no shortage of coming events in Docklands ranging from a film shoot of a French period story starring Pierce Brosnan using the Enterprise vessel May 6 to 8, a Winter Festival of fireworks at New Quay every Friday night from July 4 through August 29 and another Etihad concert by Justin Timberlake in September.

The Esplanade work continues with the Stage One wharf repairs well underway. Now Places Victoria has suddenly asked for community input with ideas for the type and composition of the re-development and what it will comprise. That's good to involve us but they've given only one month to June 6 to do it which is hardly enough time for such a watershed far-reaching project and the fact that it will take years to complete. I criticised this lack of time at the Community Forum on April 30. I also criticised the fact that they have given us no options to choose from; meaning therefore how are they going to sort out a dog's breakfast of ideas. The DCA will conduct a survey of members. We will provide options ourselves to rank.

Forgive my scepticism, but I believe that Places Victoria and Council already have their own ideas and concept plans and they should have presented them to us to comment on. I say this because on a number of occasions they have stated they intend to put old cargo sheds on the Esplanade; so is this just a sham community consultation and what else have they got in mind that they should tell us. The Esplanade extending from Bourke Street to Docklands Drive is the focal point of entry into Docklands and attractive re-development to welcome people is essential. When questioned at the forum, Rob Adams, Council's Urban Design Manager, stated that there is no contract requiring Council to use the sheds, which are in storage but he likes the idea of putting them there. The resident opinion seems to be that nobody wants old cargo sheds on there and green space is a priority. We'll get on with the survey.

We have asked Council if they can help us with somewhere to hold some get-together functions for residents to cut down on expense. We used to hold them at the Hub but have had to pay for venues ever since Council removed approval to have liquor there. We have asked if a liquor licence can be made available at the new community centre.

We are campaigning for Places Victoria and Council to locate children's playgrounds in Victoria Harbour and New Quay. Currently the only playground north of the river is the one at the Flinders Street end of the Esplanade, which is insufficient. We have been told by Council that the previous small one in New Quay East near the Conder that was removed by the developer will be relocated to the planned Western Park at Bolte bridge. That location

will not be within reasonable walking distance for children. We recommend that be re-considered. Perhaps the developer should be asked to provide space in a more central location. In terms of providing for Victoria Harbour residents, we hear a playground may be provided in the new park fronting the new community centre at the end of Bourke Street.

Legislation to regulate serviced apartments is still being prepared. Interstate Owners Corporation organisations are waiting to see what Victoria comes up with.

We have asked Council to attend to cleaning and maintenance items in New Quay. If there are similar matters requiring attention in other areas please let me know and we will pass on to Council.

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](mailto:docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com)

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect you are welcome to call me on 0412 097 706

Regards to All  
Roger Gardner  
President DCA

## April 2014

Greetings Everybody

I thought I'd start off with excerpts of a report presented by police representatives at the Docklands Security Group meeting held on March 19. It contains some interesting statistics, which the police are happy to be quoted in my column as follows:

### 1. Crime Summary –

- Theft from motor car has reduced by 15% in the Melbourne West Response Zone. There have only been a few reported in Docklands in recent months.
- Assaults and robberies are down, however there was a spike in January when 6 assaults were reported on the night of the Eminem concert at Etihad Stadium.
- There have been a small number of burglaries conducted at construction sites. No residential burglaries.
- There have been a small number of thefts of bicycles from cages in car parks.
- Crime overall in Docklands is still much lower than the Central Business District.

### 2. Road Policing –

- There was a road fatality involving two vehicles on 1 February, 2014 on Footscray Road, outside Costco. The offending driver was under the influence of ICE. He has been charged with Culpable Driving
- the numbers of staff working at the Melbourne Bicycle Patrol had increased from 4 to 7. This is currently the only full time bicycle patrol unit in the State.
- There has only been 2 serious injury collisions in Docklands since the last meeting.
- the CoM and Bicycle Australia had been testing speeding bicycles on New Quay Promenade and had a tent to try and educate cyclists. It will be present again this Friday, 21 March, 2014.

I gave a summary of our DCA activities at the Community forum on February 26. Council officers gave an update on provision of community facilities. We need more accessible playgrounds for children in the northern and central areas of Docklands.

Time for the relocation of steel rail freight and redevelopment of E- gate is approaching. We are waiting on concept plans and hoping for adequate provision of green and open space which could help Docklands.

It is interesting that the Docklands area originally having been a wharves area with separated waterways, as a result has separate precincts of New Quay, Victoria Harbour and Yarra's Edge, as well as East of the Esplanade to Southern Cross Station. This has its charm as well as the practical aspects such as the separate development areas and separate boating harbours. Each sub-area has its own local issues but in addition there are overlapping and general issues such as traffic management, schooling, events and provision of general use facilities. The DCA tries to assist in all areas, both local and general, ranging from assisting in opposing the proposed tram bridge at Yarra's Edge to pushing the development of Western Park at the end of New Quay, as well as general issues such as the redevelopment of the Esplanade.

Regarding serviced apartments, we are still waiting on presentation of draft legislation and I believe referral of the Watergate issue back to the Building Appeals Board. We understand the referral will be heard in April with a decision expected around June.

It's refreshing to see a new building going up with an attractive exterior ,namely, the Medibank building. It's the luck of the draw because there is no control over exterior design by Council or other Authorities.

Our committee will be looking at ideas for social activities for younger residents as mentioned last month. We 'll canvass for ideas.

We continue to be active with other groups including Inner Melbourne Planning Alliance and Corba.

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](mailto:docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com)

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect you are welcome to call me on 0412 097 706.

## March 2014

Greetings Everybody

The forthcoming opening of the new Community Centre and Library will provide a great opportunity for members of various ages to enjoy passive and active recreation ranging as I understand it from media development and entertainment to group meetings and of course library use. The existing Hub will continue to have sports and other activities. I will continue to email out lists of activities and news to members from Etihad Stadium, Council, the Hub, Port of Melbourne and others as they come to hand.

Additionally young members of our committee will be looking at the idea of organising social activities for young people in the Docklands community, comprising mainly resident students and workers. There are a lot of these people living here in apartments.

In my column last month I highlighted concern over the type of redevelopment of the Harbour Esplanade. This extensive area between the tramlines, bicycle paths and the waterfront needs to be developed as an iconic centrepiece of Docklands. Places Victoria and Council keep insisting however that regardless of public consultation they intend putting old cargo sheds on it. This would just serve to cement the sterility. We've already suggested it should be a linear park, an excellent example of which is at Broadbeach on the Gold Coast. We await release of concept plans. Lack of funds has been given as delaying the project but that comes down to priorities and we think it's time for the project to be given priority.

On the serviced apartment front, besides the Watergate issue being referred back to the Building Appeals Board, we are awaiting release of draft legislation by Minister Guy.

The DCA is a member of IMPA, the Inner Melbourne Planning Alliance, a combined group initiated by architects and urban planners to work together on submissions on major development projects. Our involvement is to provide input of the Docklands experience. The group, now a registered association, comprises representatives from various resident associations including Port Phillip, Carlton, Flemington-Kensington, North and West Melb and Southbank. The next meeting is on Feb 28.

The Wheel keeps turning! A radio host said the other day that the kaleidoscopic lighting on the wheel at night looked bad when he crossed Bolte bridge. I replied that I hadn't heard of any complaints and that it showed of the wheel for miles around which promoted it and Docklands. People I talk to regularly in Harbourn town are hoping for increasing visitors and shoppers.

At the Owners Corporation Network Victoria meeting last week it was decided to set up a sub-committee to review incorporation rules using the rules of established groups in NSW and Queensland. An objective is to establish in due course a national front for the purpose of developing unified policy submissions on issues such as Owners Corporation legislation and major development projects.

In a recent communication to Councillors on behalf of the area criticising development excesses I stated that Council responses were feeble and that Places Victoria rubber-stamps developer plans, with resident welfare and amenity treated as irrelevant. It was gratifying therefore to see in Tuesday's press a reported statement by Council's design Director, Rob Adams, at least questioning the government's strategy, saying how can we continue to build a large number of developments straight up off the footpath and retain the amenity of the public realm. That needs to be followed up with criticism by Council of elements of specific projects as required before approved by the Department and the Minister. Elements given scant regard include sunlight, green space, privacy and wind tunnel effect.

I will be following up regarding monitoring of cyclist behaviour and crime stats for Docklands at the

next Police and Community Meeting.

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](mailto:docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com)

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect you are welcome to call me on 0412 097 706.

Regards to All  
Roger Gardner  
President DCA

## February 2014

Greetings Everybody

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

Our DCA Xmas 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 Xmas, 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 Street into Spencer Street now continues down Flinders Street 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 down Docklands Drive which would have caused too much tram congestion.

On Dec 18 I attended the Docklands Security Group meeting chaired by the police, with representatives including 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% 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 25 Km/hr. with some speeds in the low 30's, 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 focussed 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 upcoming 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.

New Quay 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 New Quay 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](mailto:docklandscommunityassociation@gmail.com)

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect you are welcome to call me on 0412 097 706.

Regards to All  
Roger Gardner  
President DCA

## December 2013 - January 2014

### Seasons greetings everybody

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

There's a lot to mention.

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

I attended a presentation by Lend Lease of its development concept plan for their large Batman's Hill site. Whilst they have been awarded the development rights, the proposed building plans have not yet been submitted for approval by the Minister. So they are engaging in the public consultation stage before that occurs, which is good. We hope we'll be able to have some effect.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speeding cyclists on the Esplanade and NewQuay Promenade continue to be a problem, despite the problem having been raised with both the police and council. They scare pedestrians who can't hear them coming. They refuse to fit bells or use them although required by law to do so. The problem is exacerbated by there being no speed limit for bicycles or any registration requirement. The State Government needs to step in.

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

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

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect you are welcome to call me on 0412 097 706.

Safe and merry Christmas and happy new year to everybody

Roger  
President DCA

Gardner