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December 2015

Xmas Party

The time has come around again for our Xmas Party. It will be held again at Harbour Kitchen on Thursday December 10, which is on Victoria Harbour next to the NAB. We will again have use of the pavilion on the water. It will be a great night as usual. There will be prizes for which raffle tickets will be drawn. Last year we had nearly \$1,000 worth of prizes from local businesses which we hope again to achieve. So we look forward to your company! Starts at 7.30 pm.

More Developments

You may have noticed the news about approval of the development on North Wharf near the Seaman's Mission. This is a good one as it will get rid of the old shed eyesore and provide retail space and open lawn. It is located between Flinders Street and the river and hopefully will draw people.

Ron Barassi Snr Park is open for business

A lot of money has been spent on it with a bitumen road around one side, change rooms, children's playground and car parks. Although it is rather out of the way, hopefully it will be well used.

We are told the scheme for a church on Footscray Road has stalled with lack of agreement on specifics.

Open forum on Fishermans Bend Development

We have received an invitation from the Fishermans Bend Network to attend an open forum on likes and dislikes about our areas as part of the learning process towards their development program. The forum will be held at the Docklands Library on December 8 -5 to 7pm. Comments will be provided by respected professionals in architecture and planning.

Short Stays/ Serviced Apartments

There is still no decision from the Government following the panel enquiry held earlier this year. I was called in again to express views when I reiterated our position including the request for 7 day minimum stays. There has been objection to asking for 7 days and why not 30 days. But we have to be realistic; the panel stipulated no minimum at all to which I was the only dissenter. 7 days will get rid of the weekend parties which are the main offenders. In the latest on the Watergate case, VCAT gave leave to appeal to the Supreme Court. We understand that will be heard in the New Year.

High-rise Development in Suburbs

I attended the meeting of Corba, the coalition of resident groups, on November 11. The main issue is overdevelopment of high-rise apartments in various areas, not just inner city. Councils are approving



schemes but residents are objecting.

City of Melbourne (COM) Organisational Capability Review

At an earlier meeting Ben Rimmer, new COM CEO, discussed the importance of opening up City of Melbourne to outside scrutiny. Some findings were, that the organisation needs to be more future orientated, adopting to current circumstances and community expectations, such as management of customers and issues. Also management of some small organizational structure changes.

The Review means putting in place a 10 year action plan of asset and organisational management, delivery of this, and getting on with the task facing City of Melbourne. Ben stated that many staff gave input but were surprised at the results. However, Community Consultation being an issue with resident groups, he is encouraging staff to discuss how better to handle this process. Let's hope it all works. He also touched on the fact that as new to council meetings he was concerned about the way objectors attacked council officers. He stressed his need to provide a safe work place for his staff.

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Regards to All

Roger Gardner

President DCA



November 2015

Sorry there was no column in October due to being in hospital with a leg infection. But now back in action and good to be back.

Short Stays/ Serviced Apartments

Watergate are pressing ahead with their appeal to the Supreme Court with the hearing scheduled for November 11. The appeal is against the VCAT Judge's decision to allow short stays. Watergate obtained the required majority vote by residents to enable it to proceed with the appeal. I attended a follow-up meeting with department officers to review our position on short stays. I repeated our position of requiring a minimum period of 7 days stays, which whilst significantly less than overseas minimums would allow family holidays and business short trips whilst banning

weekend parties. We believe this to be reasonable, whilst on the other hand business interests oppose any duration ban. Interesting to note that NSW Planning Minister Stokes has established an enquiry into the adequacy of short term letting regulation in NSW.

Age Article – poor publicity

An Article in the Age on October 18 was unnecessarily harsh in its criticism of Docklands in terms of criminals living here and their activities. The article was headed 'Ganglands, not Docklands: new high-rises harbour the gangland crowd'. The article referred to three alleged criminals living here but I think you could find three criminals living in a number of suburbs. Notwithstanding, I will raise the article with the police at the next Docklands PCCC [Police and

Community Co-ordination Committee] meeting] in Dec. These meetings are well attended with up to 20 reps from various areas, including business and residential.

An article in the Age on October 18 headed 'Ganglands, not Docklands: new high-rises harbour the ganglands crowd' was unnecessarily harsh and cited limited evidence referring to three crooks living in Docklands. Whilst not condoning it, I'm sure we could find three crooks living in a number of suburbs. I will raise the article with the police at the next Docklands PCCC [Police and Community Co-ordination Committee] meeting] in Dec. with the objective of testing the subject. These meetings are well attended with reps from various areas, including business and residential and it will be interesting to get their views.

Railyards gone

We had some battles with the railyards people over the years in terms of noise. We had a number of meetings with their representatives and were able to obtain conciliatory outcomes on a number of issues which we appreciated. Now they're gone and silence reigns from there except for clean-up works like track removal. Of course this will be superseded by E gate development which will get under way in due course.

Better Apartments



I attended a meeting in October on behalf of the DCA with an officer of the planning department and two town planners to establish our views on better apartments with reference to interior design. I suggested that matters included larger rooms, higher ceilings, air conditioning, better construction materials and adequate lifts. I suggested however that it is difficult to separate the interior from the exterior. When asked why we bought our apartment I said it was a combination of the interior newness and layout and the exterior views, closeness to the city and public transport. The exterior brings in a number of other issues including space between buildings, sunlight, public open space and wind tunnel effects. I suggested the interior and exterior should be considered in conjunction.

Events

We seem to be getting more varied public events in Docklands. At Etihad Stadium we have the speedway championships on October 24 and the cage-fighting on Nov 15. Notice the police have stated they will refuse entry to underworld figures and bikies for the cage-fighting. These events will be followed by an AC/ DC concert in December and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in February. Additionally a fund raising overnight bicycle ride will take place in January from Harbour Esplanade. Certainly no shortage.

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Regards to All

Roger Gardner

President DCA



August 2015

Greetings Everybody.

Trust you are well. Some of these winter viruses take a while to get over as I've recently experienced.

Short Stays/ Serviced Apartments

The Watergate management must be feeling a bit down after VCAT refused their application to stop the short stay operator from continuing the practice. As I understand it this was on the basis that they didn't have the power. This came after the Courts decreed that the renting of an apartment could not be limited on the length of stay, which brought in the definition of a 'dwelling'. As to whether the case for limitation was based on the right grounds can be debated. The Watergate action has been a first in Victoria. On the other hand there has been a different outcome in NSW where in April the Land and Environment Court ordered the cessation of weekend rentals immediately and holiday rentals from October in the Bridgeport building in central Sydney. The building management were ordered to pay the costs of the City of Sydney who had brought the action.

As I reported earlier the Panel appointed by the State Government, of which I was a member, to review the Short Stay issue in CBD residential apartment buildings completed the review in May. I as the only resident representative was outnumbered by industry interests who put forward ineffectual whitewash recommendations. I then put in a dissenting submission. Minister for Planning Richard Wynne replied in writing that the issue is under consideration and confirmed this in a meeting on July 21. Perhaps there could be further consultation.

Better Apartments Discussion Paper

Minister Wynne recently released a discussion paper for review of design of apartments. It listed fourteen elements affecting apartment amenity including daylight, sunlight, space, outlook, natural ventilation, noise, outdoor space, landscape, energy, waste and carparking. Included in these are overshadowing, building separation; wind tunnel effects should be added, which we will mention.

Council approved its submission on July 7, stating the purpose being to develop Victorian Apartment Design Standards to achieve reasonable quality. The Council submission includes some interesting and telling facts concerning widespread deficiencies in previous building quality. Quote: "only 16% of new developments between 2006 and 2012 were assessed as good. In the high-rise category none were assessed as good. Future Living research also identified that Melbourne has the narrowest and least rigorous policy guidance on housing quality for medium and high density developments compared to like cities. There has been a trend in the City of Melbourne for increasingly small apartments, with 40 per cent having less than 50 square metres of floor space, the minimum size for one bedroom apartments in Sydney, Adelaide and London. There were a



significant proportion of bedrooms with no windows which 'borrow' light from neighbouring rooms, or saddlebag rooms which provide a window but often with a long narrow window corridor. Many of these issues can be attributed to poorly configured site layouts." The DCA supports the comprehensive submission by the City of Melbourne.

Meeting with Minister Wynne

I was one of five representatives of various Community Groups who met with Planning Minister Richard Wynne on July 21. Various matters relating to both suburban and inner city planning issues were raised including control over apartment developments alongside existing housing, tighter design guidelines and adherence and short stay rentals.

Rubbish on Harbour Edges

Earlier in the year Places Victoria stated they were implementing a method for clearing rubbish from the waterfront edges. This is separate from the Council managed traps. Unfortunately rubbish still accumulates along the waterfront and does not appear to be cleared regularly, particularly in corners. It looks most unsightly. We trust Places Victoria will give additional attention to the matter.

Events

The Council sponsored fireworks are continuing every Friday night in Victoria Harbour during July and August. These have been drawing good crowds. Other coming events include the annual Regatta and Blessing of the Fleet on Sunday August 30. This celebrates Melbourne's waterways with an assembly of vessels and commemorates Melbourne with a re-enactment of the arrival of Melbourne's first settlers. The event activity is centred on the Victoria Harbour Promenade and NAB forecourt.

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Regards to All

Roger Gardner

President DCA



July 2015

Greetings Everybody. Trust most of you are well- I know we can't all be all the time. I'm reminded of this as one of our members was hit by a car and left with a serious injury and we wish her an early recovery. Lot to talk about so I'll get on with it.

Esplanade Redevelopment

The Docklands News stated in April " the 'master plan report' needs to be put on hold while a new, honest and open public discussion is conducted about how this public land is to be traded". Well it hasn't happened and no time was wasted in quietly submitting it to Council for approval- at its meeting on June 2. No Councillor or officer had the courtesy to notify us of its inclusion in the agenda. By chance I happened to notice it in glancing through the agenda online two days before.

How does this 'secrecy' come about? It occurred again recently with Council in April quietly approving a building on the piazza. As I've previously said it's at least partly explained because, unlike other Councils, where I have direct experience, The City of Melbourne has no ward system by which Councillors are required to look after the ward area they are elected to represent and in which they normally reside. No Councillor lives in Docklands and to my knowledge CoM Councillors in the main do not often visit it. Hence their apparent lack of knowledge and interest.

I attended the meeting and was given their standard two minutes for a member of the public to speak, regardless of the Esplanade being a multi-million dollar long term project and that I was representing the community association as its President. Given the blank faces around the bench the disinterest was almost palpable. The really telling thing was there was no debate and after a couple of questions, the project plans were passed unanimously! This appears to be to a limited extent explained but not excused by, as I found out Councillors meet behind closed doors in advance with officers who 'explain things' in what's called the Councillor forum [not to be confused with an open forum]. From reading the documents supporting the agenda item, it is clear the officers detail their presentation but do not include community comment or any contrary views or options.

This process is flawed because of that and also because the items including pros and cons should be debated in open Council and not decided on beforehand behind closed doors. In my brief address to Council I reiterated that the Docklands community voted online for a linear [long] park and is opposed to up to 12 buildings being installed along the 400m stretch as shown in the master plan , with buildings up to 3 stories high! We are even supported in the criticism by a major developer. This plan will obliterate the water panorama. I want to emphasise that support for

the linear park is not primarily for locals but to provide a welcoming vista and relaxing area to attract visitors to Docklands and present it well. But for the last few years Places Victoria and Council officers have determinedly adhered to this master plan without modification. We still don't know why. Given that the main feature is the long stretch development , associated services such as a ferry service if viable and heritage vessel mooring would obviously be good.

In response to a point I made, a Councillor asked the officers was it correct that they did not include a linear park as an option in a general public survey they conducted. A Places Victoria officer present answered true and when asked why replied it wasn't considered a practicable option, which is clearly ridiculous. Wind has been used as an excuse but wind only applies beside buildings at



either end and not along the open stretch any more than anywhere else, otherwise open beaches around the bay would be built on. Additionally the plan includes placing two large old cargo sheds on the Esplanade , referred to as heritage sheds to appeal to respondents but their survey failed to mention

there already are a number of the sheds lining both sides of Central Pier, thus rendering more unnecessary.

Regardless, the motion to adopt was put and passed unanimously without detailed debate, with the proviso that the development stages would be subject to review. Unfortunately however experience shows that a master plan is rarely if ever significantly changed.

Meeting with Planning Minister

I will be joining a few representatives from other community groups in a meeting with Minister Wynne in July to discuss development policy.

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Regards to All

Roger Gardner

President DCA



June 2015

Greetings Everybody. Trust you are well. A couple of significant things have recently occurred as reported below

New Quay tower approved by Council a disgrace

The May Docklands News reported Council's unanimous approval for MAB developers to build a 17 storey residential tower on the existing Piazza in Waterfront City, which will destroy the iconic open event area. The article did not refer to that or to substantial residents' objection and other background. It was the first we knew of Council's consideration and approval, given quietly at its April 21 meeting.

There are a number of important criticisms.

There was no consultation with the Docklands Community. Council's unanimous approval is a disgrace. Some Councillors have notified a conflict of interest when it comes to development proposals; apparently one declared a conflict of interest in this case.

Importantly, the building should be constructed at the rear of the area fronting Docklands Drive and leave the piazza alone. Instead, as a puny offset they propose to put a small 'park' at the rear [approx. 45m by 45m] which will lack an open view of the water; also the 'park' will have a roadway on the side to provide access to and from the building at the front.

We voiced this to Places Vic and Council previously as well as the Minister who expressed concern but nobody in authority has been prepared to go against what the developer wants. As I've said previously developers rule.

Due to the proposal to put the building on the piazza we have already lost major events held on it including the annual Japanese cultural festival, attended by up to 10,000, as well as concerts, shows and markets. It is also used by families for relaxing.

A public meeting attended by over 100 people was held on the Piazza on Oct 6, 2011 protesting against the proposed building . It was reported at the time. It is the only public protest meeting ever held in Docklands. This was not mentioned at the Council meeting. The agenda documents for the Council main meeting made no reference to this background.

Ironically, Council could have applied for an amendment to the Master Plan for the area but apparently officers talked them out of it in a closed meeting beforehand saying it was unlikely to succeed. This was not mentioned at the public Council meeting; the only aspect queried by a Councillor was parking.

Any development over 25,000 sq m requires Ministerial approval; below that can be approved by Council. Apparently the developer marginally reduced the size to enable approval by Council.

I sent an email to all Councillors criticising the quiet approval and providing the background. Robert Doyle responded he is investigating. Only one other Councillor responded, saying he had visited the site. This lack of response from others is par for the course.



From what I've seen there is a distinct lack of energetic debate at Council meetings. That's totally different to what I was used to as a Mayor and Councillor of a large metro Council where heated debate was regular and divisions were called for to record who voted for what. This is partly explained by MCC having no ward system that requires each Councillor to be responsible for his/her area and no Councillor lives in Docklands. The process and the decision again shows that when it comes to development in Docklands. Council has no regard to community amenity.

Cage Fighting proposal for Etihad

We passed on the result of the resident online survey, with 75% of 124 responses voting against, to Etihad management, with copies to the Premier and the Police Commissioner. The Police are already against it. The Etihad CEO was not happy; so be it as we are trying to protect the welfare and image of the densely populated residential area. This is the first time we have objected to any proposed event over the years at Etihad. They have plenty of events without the need for that.

Short Stay/ Serviced Apartments- State Government Panel of Enquiry

The panel of which I was a member has finished its sittings and recommendations are to be put to the Minister. I was the only representative of affected residents, with some support from one other member. The area covered by the enquiry was inner Melbourne including Docklands. I was outnumbered by industry and tourism representatives. Council abstained on the basis that they do not have the resources to handle registration and enforcement of any requirements. I have put in separate recommendations which will go to the Minister.

That is all I have space for this month.

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Regards to All

Roger Gardner

President DCA



New Quay tower approved by Council a disgrace

The May Docklands News reports without criticism Council's unanimous approval for MAB developers to build a 17 storey residential tower on the existing Piazza which will destroy the iconic open event area. Nowhere does the article refer to that or to substantial residents' objection. Why are we not surprised! The DN did not give us a chance to respond.

There are a number of important criticisms:

1. There was no consultation by Council with the Docklands community. We didn't know it went to Council. Their unanimous approval is a disgrace. Some Councillors have notified a conflict of interest when it comes to development proposals but apparently it didn't apply in this case.
2. A public meeting attended by over 100 people was held on the Piazza on Oct 6, 2011 protesting against the proposed building . It was reported at the time. It is the only public protest meeting ever held in Docklands.
3. The plan was around even back then. It sat with Minister Guy who commented to me at the time that he didn't like the idea of blocking the view of the water, much less destroying the piazza. The plan has recently re-appeared at Council.
4. The building should be constructed at the rear of the area fronting Docklands Drive and leave the piazza alone. We voiced this to the Minister but nobody in authority has been prepared to go against what the developer wants. As I've said previously developers rule.
5. Due to the proposed building we have already lost major events held on the piazza including the annual Japanese cultural festival, attended by up to 10,000, as well as concerts. It is also used by families for relaxing.
6. The proposed park at the rear will lack an open view of the water; also the 'park' will have roadways on the side to provide access to the building at the front.
7. The exterior design of the building is atrocious. Any development over 25,000 sq m requires Ministerial approval; below that can be approved by Council. Apparently the developer marginally reduced the size to enable approval by Council which duly occurred.

How much of the above background did officers provide to Councillors; how many Councillors looked into those things above or visited the site before voting – probably few if any. If they had at least one might have queried the destruction of the purpose -built piazza. The process and the decision again shows that when it comes to development in Docklands

Council has no regard to community amenity and thumbs its nose at the community.



May 2015

Greetings Everybody Trust you are all well.

April was a big month with Easter, Anzac Day and the start of the AFL season.

DCA Committee Added Members

I am delighted with the response from a number of members nominating to join the committee. This was in response to a call for nominations following a number resigning due to moving out of Docklands including our long standing Treasurer Dr Jessie Xin Zu who has taken up a position in Canberra Base Hospital. Such relocations are not uncommon in Docklands due to the transient nature of much of the population. On your behalf I would like to thank Jessie and other members for their contributions. The responses to fill positions means we will be able to continue strongly.

Cage Fighting Proposed at Etihad

The online survey of resident opinion resulted in well over 100 responses with the result being 75% against the proposal to hold the event in Docklands. The survey site told us this was a significant response. We had our concern over staging the event at Etihad because of the concentrated residential nature of the Docklands area and concerns for safety, security and anti-social behaviour in surrounding places and bars as well as apartments. Police are already opposed to the activity being staged in Victoria much less Docklands. Etihad have plenty of events without adding that. We will pass on the concerns and survey result to Etihad management and Authorities.

Short Stays/ Serviced Apartments Panel of Enquiry

The panel of enquiry of which I am a member set up by the State Government to review short stay operations in residential apartment buildings in inner Melbourne has met three times and is due to finalise recommendations by end May.

NSW judgements

In relation to apartment buildings, the following highly interesting reports of two Court judgements in NSW have been forwarded by our NSW counterpart for the OCNV:

Firstly, the Botany Council took a developer to Court for proposing to build apartments smaller in size than required under the NSW State Environment and Planning Policy. The Court decided in favour of the Council thus requiring the developer to build larger sizes required under the Policy. There are no similar regulations as yet in Victoria, although the issue of small apartments has been

raised here.



Secondly, short-term letting has been banned in the Bridgeport apartment building in central Sydney. Managers of the building have been ordered to stop weekend rentals immediately and cease holiday rentals from October this year. The NSW Land and Environment Court has given Australian Executive Apartments, managers in the building until September to stop letting apartments as short term rentals. They were also ordered to pay \$10,000 costs to City of Sydney who took the action.

The Esplanade

The report in last month's Docklands News echoed our call for retention of the public open space as originally planned and for proper public consultation. Places Victoria and Council have steadfastly refused to budge from their plan to put a number of buildings along the stretch despite our call for a linear park.

Lorimer Street/ Yarra's Edge

We support the call by residents of Yarra's Edge for removal of the planned tram bridge over the river and for consideration to be given to the adequate retention of amenity for Yarra's Edge residents in the planning of development of Fisherman's Bend, including overshadowing, traffic and other infrastructure.

Owners Corporation Network Victoria

At the last committee meeting in April it was agreed there needs to be more compliance and better regulatory powers to control strata apartments being developed in Melbourne. Currently developers are able to build apartments of one bedroom 42 sqm and two bedrooms 50 sqm which is unacceptably small. Council seems to be doing nothing to fix it.

The glut of high-rise development in inner Melbourne is adding to infrastructure problems which include increased traffic congestion, passenger congestion on public transport; lack of governance with regard to building protocols with

some apartments poorly constructed and with little or no ventilation.

The State Government and Council need to take action in these matters. The OCNV is also raising these issues with the Authorities.

Events May

Scheduled is Duathlon event of runs and cycling May 1 -4



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Regards to All

Roger Gardner

President DCA



April 2015

Lorimer Draft Structure Plan

This particularly affects Yarra's Edge residents in respect of elements such as the proposed tram bridge and developments on the other side of Lorimer Street. I attended the public briefing by CoM and Plan Melbourne officers held at the Library on March 11. The large resident audience was highly critical of the lack of consultation for particular sites, including heights, shadowing, densities and traffic effects. It was stressed that Authorities must take concerns of residents into account when considering development proposals. The meeting was advised of forthcoming consultation sessions for the draft structure plan in March and April. Residents were encouraged to register with *Participate Melbourne*, the Council's online engagement site, to provide input and follow the public conversation.

Short Stays in Residential Apartment Buildings

The first meeting of the Panel of enquiry into the practice was held early March at which the issues were identified and assessed. I submitted to members a listing of serious anti-social behavior, vandalism, damage, added costs, etc associated with short stays/serviced apartments, together with photographic evidence. The problems are now extended by the emergence into the market of international operators such as Airbnb and Stayz. Future meeting will look at solutions and recommendations.

Cage Fighting at Etihad- Resident Survey

There is concern regarding the effect on Docklands' image; also safety and security outside the venue resulting from holding cage fighting in Etihad stadium, which it has been reported in the media will be held there in Nov. We are therefore running a survey amongst residents to obtain their opinion regarding holding it at Etihad. They are not short of events. The Police have stated their opposition to holding this sport in the State.

Esplanade Re-development

The Director of Digital Harbour, an architect I think, gave a presentation at the Community Forum criticizing the plan by Places Victoria and Council to put pavilions along the length of the waterfront. He stated that the harbour views should be maintained and not blocked; also that the public consultation carried out by Places Victoria and Council did not necessarily reflect community views. We have already argued that their public surveys were designed to support their plans. He rejected their claims that built form is necessary to lessen the effect of wind saying it could be achieved through screening and planting. We argue that in fact the stretch away from the buildings is no windier than any other open space. He stated that this long derelict concrete stretch has created a barrier for visitors and general use for far too long and that the project should be speeded up rather than take the projected ten years to complete.

Police and Community Consultation Committee



I attended the PCCC meeting on March 11, which was well attended by business, media, residential, security and other interests. Police provided stats on crime in Docklands. Overall crime has been relatively moderate since the last meeting in December. Police had previously reported that short term rental apartments are at times used for drug trafficking ; nothing new in that area. Theft of cars and motorcycles has risen across the whole city. I again reported the problem of cyclists racing along the Esplanade and New Quay Promenade commuting to and from work during week days. This scares walkers and can be dangerous. They rarely use their bells although required by law to do so.

Hoon car drivers also a problem.

Other Projects

Construction of the Boating and Family Hub adjacent to the Library has commenced and due for completion in December. Improvements to Docklands Park will include conversion of wetland area along Collins Street end into a public activity space. Along the Bourke Street side new street trees are planned with new park entry and garden bed. Collins Wharf development is in the consultation stage.

Coming Events

AFL football begins at Etihad on Easter weekend.

There's also a Messenger bicycling championships scheduled for Easter weekend to run from the NAB down to around Wharf Road and a women's cycling event scheduled the following weekend – route not yet known.

World Duathlon championships are scheduled for May 1 to 4 in Docklands.

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Regards to All

Roger Gardner

President DCA



March 2015

Chinese New Year

The function attended on Feb 19 hosted by the Chinese community was a pleasant and informative evening, with speeches by the Lord Mayor and Chinese dignitaries. The huge dragon is a great feature and livens the otherwise bare area. It also shows how the area can be livened when the area is lit up. All the best to the Dragon Boat participants.

Fountains and Flames Proposal

At the DCF on Feb 25 the promoters gave us a thorough briefing on this proposal including video presentation of spectacular shooting fountain and flame displays, which they propose being operated from a barge at the end of Central Pier at intervals during the day and early evening. It appears to be a feature that would be a great drawcard for Docklands. It would be particularly useful when allied to events. I took the opportunity on air to say we need associated and supporting services and spaces such as a ferry service and a welcoming esplanade park for people view everything from.

Panel Appointed by the State Government to review Short Stays practice

In announcing the appointment of the Panel, the Minister of Consumer Affairs on behalf of the State Government said the government had listened to concerns of residents and was fulfilling an Election promise. I have been selected on the panel to represent the views of residents against the practice; also on the panel is a Council Manager representing Council being against the practice; other members include two operators, and representatives of strata managers, tourism and a strata lawyer.

I have six years' experience along with others in opposing the practice. The first meeting of the panel is on March 6. I am asking for any input from Chairs of buildings which have short stay/serviced apartments who would like to add any particular comments. The panel is scheduled to complete the review and report to the Minister by late May.

Esplanade Re-development

At the DCF on Feb 25 the Director of the Digital Harbour development, David Napier, gave a presentation supporting principally a linear park. This was great to have a developer agreeing with the DCA; we're not used to it. He intends to make the presentation to the Council Committee. We hope that this shifts Places Victoria and Council from their steadfast proposal for sheds. As David said we don't want the vista blocked and we want open space for people to enjoy. We also are sick of Council, Places Vic and media commentators claiming the area is windswept as a generalisation. Yes it is windswept amongst and close to the buildings due to wind tunnel effects but it is not normally windswept on the open esplanade. All they have to do is walk along it to check but they don't; none of them live here.



Ron Barassi Snr Park

It's good to see the ground work progressing. We understand the structures will be put in place in the next few months.

Lorimer Street Structure Plan

Residents in Yarra's Edge are strongly opposed to the 74 level residential tower proposed for the South side of Lorimer Street opposite the Yarra's Edge residential complex. It will be considerably taller than those buildings. There is concern over the effect on amenities and open space. The proposal has not yet received government approval.

Coming Events - March

- Events notified to us by Council include:
- Hot Wave Music Festival – New Quay Piazza Mar 7
- Annual Melbourne Fashion Festival –Central Pier –Mar 14 -22
- Herald Sun Fun Run for the Kids – Mar 22
- Dragon Boats Victorian titles – Mar 29

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Regards to all

Roger Gardner

President DCA



Docklands Esplanade – battle over re-development

Twice within ten days [Jan 30 and Feb 9], despite our refutation, a major newspaper quoted Lord Mayor Robert Doyle as stating the Esplanade is “too windswept” [for a park], in order to justify putting buildings along it. The quote continues- - “We think a number of smaller buildings along Harbour Esplanade would give a greater sense of being a street”.

No way do we want yet another street! We need open space for locals and visitors alike. The propaganda issued by the ‘terrible development twins’ Council and Places Victoria is faithfully printed without checking facts or checking the views of people who live here. In fact, as pointed out in a letter to the editor, whilst buildings cause wind at each end, the 400m stretch is not windswept and is no different to any other open waterfront area; the beaches around the bay can get windy at times but are enjoyed by the public and are not built on.

We are starved of open space, in addition to which the Esplanade is the iconic waterfront for visitors and locals to view and enjoy; this would be ideally helped by a linear [long] park including, for example, a children’s playground, kiosk or two, rotunda or two, BBQ’s, winding walk, trees and seating. Everybody supports a ferry service and boat moorings, which are compatible with a park.

The Council/ Places Victoria plan on the other hand is to cram in sheds/pavilions catering for as many uses they can think of, including markets, cafes, restaurants, which we’ve already got, as well as cinema and concerts. On the other hand, there already is a live theatre in the new Community Centre whilst in any event there is talk of possible location of a cinema in nearby Harbourn town.

Additionally and importantly, the sheds/pavilions up to 10m or more high would block the waterfront panorama. This obsession with cramming more and more buildings into Docklands just serves to perpetuate the sterility.

I should add that a survey conducted by Places Vic which was designed to support their own plan did not provide a long park as an option. In contrast to that, an online survey by the DCA showed 78% want the park. This request for a park is now supported by a major developer and businesses.

So far Council and Places Victoria refuse to listen.

Roger Gardner

President DCA



February 2015

Best wishes for a happy and successful year in 2015! We're going to be busy!

Reports regarding events held Consumer Affairs Victoria have advised that the updated rules of the DCA adopted at the AGM

in Nov have been approved and became effective Jan 13. They confirm that the DCA is a resident association. Essentially our rules follow the model rules laid down under the Act, except for election procedures where the rules that have been in use for the last seven years have been retained.

Our Xmas Party held Dec 10 was a great night. Prizes donated by eight local businesses totalled nearly \$1,000. Thank you to them ; they are listed with logos on our Facebook page. Thirty new members signed up. Also not forgetting the fireworks on Australia Day night- great display.

Esplanade Re-development

Our campaign against the Places Victoria/ Council sheds/pavilions plan received a 'shot in the arm' when I was contacted by a major developer who agrees with us and intends to take the matter up with Council. He supports the idea of a linear park. We intend to canvass other key businesses to obtain their responses. A key restaurant has also supported our linear park proposal.

Skateboarders

This continues to be a major problem in Docklands and seems to be increasing. We have received a number of complaints from residents recently, not only because of ground noise but also of rowdy behaviour and vandalism, including hand rails being pulled off and thrown in the water. They are onto Monument Park and the slopes on the installations. We suggested to Council in Dec that a 'no skateboarding' sign be put there.

Council and the Police say there is no law against skateboarding but action can be taken against disturbances or vandalism. Council has agreed to patrol the affected areas at times including Victoria Harbour near Dock 5; the difficulty being to catch them in the act. For this purpose it is suggested that residents keep a log of place and times to show any patterns to report and also to report as it happens- to Council and more serious cases to the police. The same applies to hoon driving around the area which is a police matter.

Waterways clearing of rubbish

Residents have also been complaining about the rubbish that accumulates along the waterfront edges. We see the traps for collection on the accessible waterways but not the shorelines, particularly at the rear of pylons .Council have responded that their boat contractor cleans where accessible every day except Sundays unless there are storms. Some of the debris that come down the Yarra River is swept into Victoria Harbour. The staff on the boat also have nets that they use to scoop up accessible litter in corners and edges. Over the years a lot of litter has gathered



under the old wharves. Some of these wash in and out with tidal movements and present a continuing challenge. In regard to the litter gathered along the water's edge

at Harbour Esplanade, this is the responsibility of Places Victoria. This has become a noticeable problem with the works carried out. Places Victoria say they have identified a viable solution which will be implemented shortly.

Ron Barassi Snr [Western] Park

Residents got a shock recently to see a long section of Docklands Drive from the tram terminus to the bridge closed off, dug up and built over. Upon enquiring of Places Vic they stated this has been planned for some time to extend the park area. Whilst this is fine we replied that it is not detailed on their website and that layouts including the Community and

Place Plan do not show the road diversion. The residents/community had not been informed which was not good enough. The last time a possible diversion was advised to us was three years ago when the Melbourne Football Club was considering putting a training facility there but dropped the idea. Places Vic have agreed to provide updates in future.

Coming Events

A list provided by Council showing events out through July has been emailed to members. It is quite extensive. 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. We're also on [Facebook](#).

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.