

# Stonnington Leader

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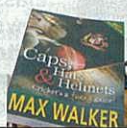
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007

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## Hotel bid in council belly flop

CHRISTINE ANTONIOU

GUESTS staying at a proposed \$75 million hotel could take in the sights of Chapel St while frolicking in a glass-fronted swimming pool suspended above the strip.

The pool is a feature of a 14-storey dual tower hotel planned for the old Fun Factory site.

Stonnington Council recently rejected the proposal, but the Asian Pacific Building Corporation has asked the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal to overturn the decision.

A car showroom, shops, cafe, gym and 241 serviced apartments are touted for 637-641 Chapel St. Councillors refused the application on the grounds that the development was too high, not set back enough from the footpath and had too few car parks.

Cr Sarah Davies said the proposed 43 car spaces were "totally inadequate" for the number of rooms and businesses proposed for the site.

A council report says 158 car spaces are required.

"This is not the quality of hotel we would hope for the area," Cr Davies said.

"To create further congestion is a real problem for traders and we should be protecting them and the residents."

Cr Tas Athanasopoulos said there were "too many" car showrooms in the shopping precinct and he did not want to see another in a prime position.

But Cr Steve Stefanopoulos said it was a "furfy" parking spaces were insufficient. There were "plenty in the area" - including 12 to 14 levels at Como Melbourne.

He said the plan would also encourage people to walk or take public transport.

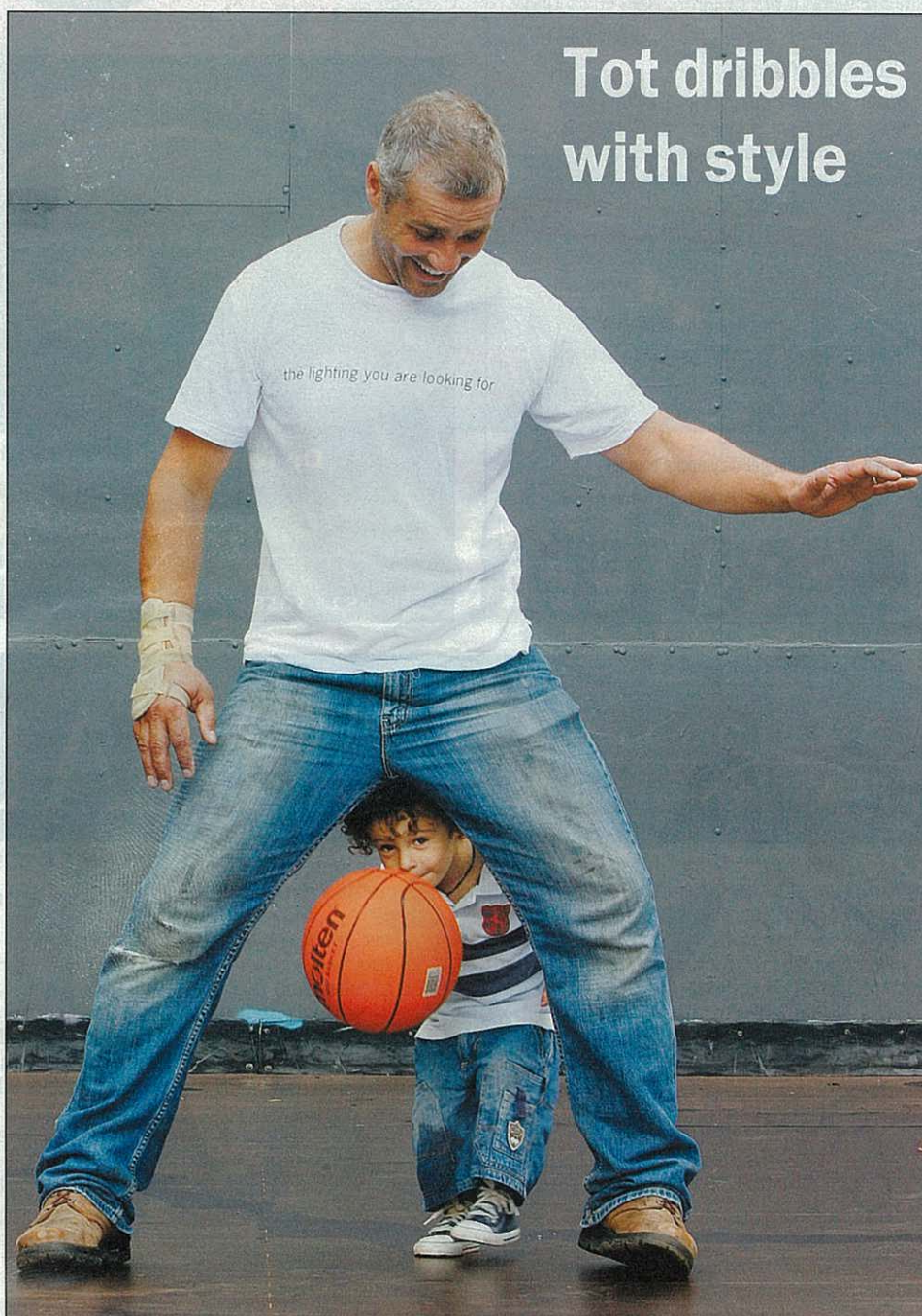
Asian Pacific Building Corporation director Will Deague said the development would build on the area's culture and the glass-fronted swimming pool would provide a "stunning landmark".

He said there was ample parking in the area, with two public car parks within 50 metres, and other approved developments were higher.

"We think this is an innovative and iconic building on this prominent corner," he said.

The site is now occupied by a single-level billiards hall and furniture showroom.

If approved, the hotel is expected to be completed late next year.



Tot dribbles  
with style

Coen Roberts started dribbling at an early age. But unlike other two-year-olds, he does his dribbling on the basketball court, as shown here with his father, Michael. Coen likes to go to the courts at Princess Gardens in Prahran a couple of times a week - and he draws a crowd. His mother, Lee, said he started playing at 18 months after watching older children play. "People actually stop to watch him, he's so good, and he plays with kids much older than him," Ms Roberts said.

Picture: PAUL LOUGHNAN N36MP101

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