Quays will sink us

Fight on to save oldest boatyard

Renato Castello

KINGSLEY Haskett is not one to mince his words.

Mention the words Newport Quays and the 60-year-old boat builder spits out words not fit to print.

And he has a reason to be angry. Mr Haskett is at the helm of Port Adelaide's oldest surviving boatyard, Searles, which faces extinction from June next year.

Gone will be the weathered sheds of the 96-year-old Port landmark. In its place will be waterfront apartments for the \$1.5 billion housing project.

"For the State Government to say the boatyards have to go is ridiculous," Mr Haskett said.

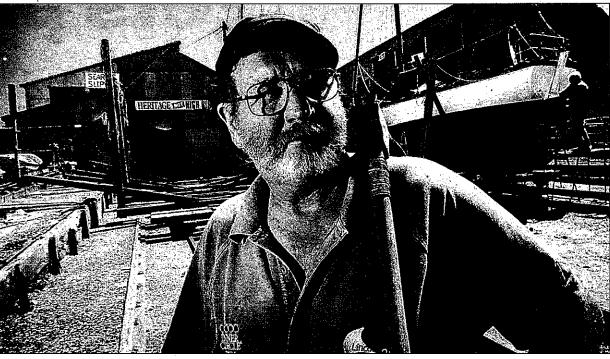
"They've got this concept by slamming people into this area they are going to revitalise Port Adelaide.

"Well, unfortunately, that's not going to work. It hasn't worked before and it won't work this time."

Among Searles' creations have been four of the original Popeye boats that plied the River Torrens and Nerida, the only South Australian yacht to win the Sydney to Hobart race.

The National Trust is trying to fight a rearguard action and save Port Adelaide and its boatyards from the bulldozer.

Mr Haskett has been offered a new base in a new marina at Snowden



AGAINST THE TIDE: A fired-up Kingsley Haskett and his 96-year-old Port landmark this week. Picture: Sam Wundke

Beach, but he said the proposed rent would make his business unviable.

The trust last week listed Port Adelaide in the top 10 heritage areas most at risk in Australia.

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The inaugural list was compiled by members including the Australian Institute of Engineers and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

Port of Adelaide National Trust chairman Tony Kearney said he hoped the listing of Port Adelaide would draw attention to the area.

He said the listing would be followed

up with a community and media blitz to fight the "destruction" of the maritime precinct's heritage.

"Putting this on a national stage brings a magnifying glass to the area and hopefully the State Government will begin to realise that what we have in the Port has some significance and is not something that can be knocked down without some consideration," he said. "The listing doesn't protect (the Port), but hopefully it is a bit of a wake-up call."

The National Trust has lodged a big bucks for developers."

submission with the Development Assessment Commission to oppose plans for three 12-storey towers on the Port River between Semaphore and Causeway roads. Mr Haskett said he and his seven-man workforce would not be leaving the Port without a fight.

"Christ knows why a Labor government is bending over backwards to look after bloody developers at the expense of small business," he said.

"Where the hell is the social justice in this? There isn't any. It's all about big bucks for developers."

Class for climate managers

BUSINESSES have a critical role to play in tackling climate change and one Adelaide university will give them the tools to meet that challenge.

Next year the University of South Australia will launch an online business course to equip businesses and managers with the knowledge to help save the planet.

The inaugural lecturer in the Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Business program, Dr Geoff Wells, said most businesses were ill-equipped to tackle sustainability challenges around energy, water, biodiversity and climate change.

"Accounting for carbon emissions is only one aspect that businesses will need to come to terms with," he said. "And issues such as the cost, quality and security of materials will affect the supply side of the business equation too."

The program will be aimed at both senior managers "grappling" with environmental survival and up-and-coming managers looking for a professional edge.

"Our graduates will be among a managerial elite transforming businesses for the sustainability age." Dr Wells said.

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