

# CITY BEAT

WITH ANTHONY MARX



anthony.marx@news.com.au @AnthonyMarxCM

## ORCHESTRAL MOVE

BRISBANE bizoid Chris Freeman (illustrated) loves the arts but freely admits that his daughter used to drag him kicking and screaming to the ballet.

That's a tad ironic, since the former Mirvac top-gunner grew up in a very arty household and has been actively volunteering with artistic and cultural groups over the past 15 years.

Freeman, who formerly chaired QPAC and the Brisbane Festival, has just snared another artsy gig to add to his already impressive CV.

It emerged yesterday that he will chair the Queensland Symphony Orchestra starting in January, replacing current head Greg Wanchap.

"They didn't engage me because I play the violin," Freeman joked.

"Orchestras have intrigued me for years. They're such complicated structures and organisations. The way it all comes together, it's visually exciting plus you get the enjoyment of the music."

Freeman comes on board as the QSO celebrates its 70th birthday in pretty robust shape.

Ticket revenue for its 188 concerts last year swelled 28 per cent to nearly \$3.3 million.

It finished the year with a \$250,000 surplus, although state and federal subsidies still account for almost 60 per cent of the income.

He said he'd like to address the challenge of encouraging a younger audience to attend the symphony.

"I think there's a much broader demographic that we can attract

(music director) Alondra de la Parra, who is just a brilliant person to have in Brisbane," he said.

In case he didn't have enough on his plate, Freeman is still active on urban planning advisory boards and also chairs Tennis Australia.

## FALLING OVER

CITY Beat has learned that about 100 investors, including some pretty well-known business entities, have lost more than \$10 million in an energy known as Stand2 Enterprises.

Company directors are poised to plant in liquidation following an EGM in Brisbane next month.

Things went pear-shaped when Stand2's only major asset, US-based entity Stand2 LLC, crashed in to bankruptcy earlier this year.

Stand2 LLC had sold a safety harness system for workers who needed mobility on top of trucks, tankers, rail cars, cranes and other heavy equipment.

The product was developed by longtime Brisbane bizoid Cameron Baker in 1999, was eventually sold in 20 countries. Clients included

top shelf outfits such as BP, Shell, Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Texaco, Caltex, Boral and Orica.

But sources say the GFC clobbered the company and it never recovered after that.

Stand2's Australian Army officer who now lives in Texas, could not be reached for comment.

## A CURIOUS BRUSH

BRISBANE real estate whiz Warren Ebert returned to work this week after a curious brush with two self-proclaimed healers while dining recently in Kathmandu.

The rather stunned Sentinel Property Group boss was told that he exuded a potent "aura," especially in his right hand, and that he had the power to be a "financial healer".

That's probably a reassuring for the more superstitious investors in his property empire. Ebert and a few of his sidekicks spent a few days in Nepal and Tibet this month ahead of doing a bit of recon in China.

They met up with another five staffers in Shanghai, where they scoured the city for ideas to cherry pick for Sentinel's retail shopping centre portfolio across Australia.

## FILLING A HOLE

YOU might say it's a hole in the ground, but a hole in England, Brisbane hospitality supremo Damian Griffiths jets off to London this weekend to launch his first Doughnut Time outlet outside of Australia.

The shop, based in the Soho Theatre district, throws open its doors next Friday.

It's the first of about 20 stores Griffiths hopes to operate across the UK by the end of 2018. There are



# Woodside San... fore

## SIMONE ZIAZIARIS

WOODSIDE Pet shares have dipped as energy heavyweight Woodside had suffered a fall in quarterly production and analysts forecast range for year-end output.

The oil and gas producer yesterday lowered the top of its production forecast for 2017, now expected to be in between 84 million to 86 million barrels of oil a day.

That compares with previous forecast of 84 million to 90 million barrels.

In the three months to September the group's production slipped to 20.3 million barrels a day from 25.2 million in the same period a year earlier, due to scheduled maintenance and a lower shipping rate for gas from the Woodside Shelf project.

Total sales revenue edged lower, down 7.5 per cent to \$US94 million (\$121 million in the quarter, compared

# Domino of the G

## PRASHANT MEHRA

AUSTRALIAN fast food Domino's Pizza Enterprise is ratcheting up its push in Europe, snapping up a chair in Germany.

Domino's has revealed it will pay €32 million (\$48 million) for the Hallo Pizza as it forges towards its goal of 1000 German outlets.

The cost of integrating 170 stores into Domino's Deutschland, which is majority owned by Domino's, will be the Brisbane-based company