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Mikaela Phillips and mum Chrys are excited about their new TV series. Picture: Penny Stephens

## Bayside's slick new TV series

Bayside's shiniest cars, yachts and seascapes are the glossy accessories in a popular web series set to evolve into a national television show later this year.

*Counter Play*, pitched as a cross between *Gossip Girl* and *Dynasty*, is the creation of Sandringham's Chrys Phillips.

To her delight, it has been given the thumbs up by the Nine Network, which plans to premiere the first two series as 30-minute episodes later this year.

Ms Phillips said she came up with the idea for *Counter Play* — covering the dodgy dealings and intrigue behind the million-dollar lifestyles of three families — after several years in the US, where she worked on the sets of *The Vampire Diaries* and *Revenge*.

With her eye tuned to the production values of US television, Ms Phillips was keen to re-create its style in an Australian setting.

"I came home (to Australia), and I thought 'let's do a web series and give some local actors a run'," Ms Phillips said.

She chose Bayside for the range of film locations it offers, from parks and shops to scenic coastline.

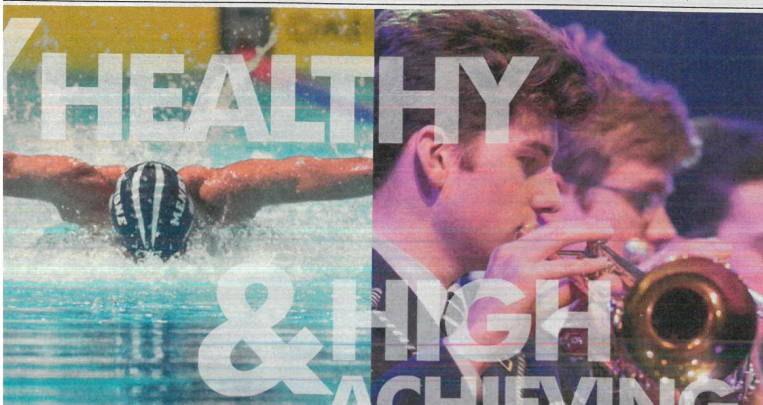
"I feel it has the essence of The Hamptons in New York with its beaches, beach community and lovely piers and yachts," she said.

It has picked up a cult following and was listed by Amazon Prime.

When the Nine Network showed interest a year later, actors and crew, including Ms Phillips' 22-year-old daughter Mikaela, returned to shoot new scenes for the longer TV format.

"They're just a great bunch of people ... all new talent you've never seen," Ms Phillips said.

Visit [counterplayseries.com](http://counterplayseries.com)



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