

45th year

# NW MN NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE NEWS

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## Colourful writing on a festive wall

The mural at the corner of Errol and Queensberry streets has become a treasured part of the neighbourhood at this time of year.

Artists Adrian Doyle, Matt Hannah and Supansa have been busy creating this year's offering, a joyful celebration of Australia's seasonal highlights.

Passers-by watched as the crew from Blender Studios in West Melbourne showed off their artistic skills.

The mural is sponsored each year by the City of Melbourne, with support from the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association.

Make sure you drop by to enjoy the now complete mural.



## Billycarts race to success

Fifty billycarts joined in the race for honours in the Queensberry Cup. Locals and visitors enjoyed all the action as the inventive and colourful carts took to the course from Queensberry Street down the Errol Street hill. Orly Furlong won the cup for the second year running.

There was plenty of entertainment and food stalls to create a festival with something for everyone.

Photographs: pages 14 and 15.

# Farewell to Mr Price's local culinary delights

Laura Misale

Mr Price's Food Store, a hallmark of North Melbourne's culinary scene, has recently shut its doors. Popular owner Gary Price is preparing for his next adventure.

Within the walls of the Queensberry Street restaurant, Gary welcomed the who's who of Melbourne in intimate seatings of up to a dozen diners at a time.

Each day, Gary would serve a soup, a vegetarian dish and dishes of meat and fish, followed by a tempting dessert of the day. Gary's menu was his own artistic creation.

He grew up in North Sunshine, where he was surrounded by good food and good company.

"My mother had four boys. The others all played footy, but I helped Mum in the kitchen," he recalls.

"My mother made all her own food, including sweets, and our backyard was a working garden, with chickens, and Dad grew all of our vegetables. He was an early eco-warrior because nothing would go to waste."

Summer created its own enduring family memories.

"The highlight of summer would be having half a fresh cantaloupe each, warmed in the sun with homemade vanilla ice-cream in the middle," he says.

Gary started working in food when he was 15 years old. Never classically trained, he learned by reading the many cookbooks that later lined the shelves of Mr Price's. His skills were quickly recognised when he ran his commercial catering company in North Melbourne.

"My big client in town was accounting firm Arthur Andersen. However, they went bankrupt with the collapse of Enron, the American electricity company, and Arthur Andersen closed down worldwide. More than 33,000 people lost their jobs, and I lost mine. It was 90 per cent of my income."

Gary faced a tough decision. "So I thought, what the bloody hell do I now?" he says.

He opened Mr Price's Food Store, wanting it to be like a delicatessen. "Then one day I saw a 'forthcoming auction' sign so I sold my house in Footscray, my then partner sold his West Footscray house – and we bought it.

"This was back when properties were much cheaper. We moved in more or less immediately because we were absolutely penniless," Gary says.

"I just flung the furniture around and ever since, everyone has asked 'How long has this antique shop been here?'" I tell them, 'A very long time'," he jokes.

Passers-by in Queensberry Street knew to slow down when they passed Mr Price's. Through the tall glass windows, they could see a baby grand piano and an array of paintings and books piled high, all sandwiched between things Gary had found on the street.

The curios included the formica table from his family home. Amongst all the grandeur, Gary would typically be sitting down the back, in his usual chair, nose deep in a new book.

The loyal clientele that patronised Mr Price's are sure to miss the events that were celebrated, the 'antiques' that were admired and the fine cuisine that was shared on Queensberry Street.

Gary is looking to move to the regions. Perhaps Castlemaine, perhaps a beach-house in North Cornwall.

Laura Misale writes regularly for the News.



Popular local restaurateur Gary Price.

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# Community cheers 90 years

David McRae

Lorna Hannan, heart and soul of many North Melbourne community organisations, celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in early October.

More than a hundred people gathered in Gardiner Reserve — an appropriate venue, given Lorna's love of the outdoors and this area — to celebrate her life and to wish her well.

Even for these days of longer living, 90 birthdays is a good many, especially for someone who is as sprightly and engaged as Lorna.

One of the things about getting older is that you can remember things as they were, and as they will not be again. This can be discomfoting. But it holds no fears for Lorna. As she herself has said: "One of the roles of becoming older is not to be averse to being bewildered."

And she hasn't been. Lorna has a gift for looking life in the face and finding it all interesting. Novelty, for her, is not something to fear or dismiss but rather to incorporate in the larger collection of wonders.

Lorna has spent her life — in education, in civic politics, in the arts, in community activities — determined to improve things. She says: "You don't set out to have a long history with a place; you set out just to be there." She is a classic case study of 'being there' with an activist bent.

Lorna's art is not high politics or grandstanding. Her strategy is refreshingly simple.

"If you sit down and talk things through over a cuppa, great things happen. Listening to each other is



Above: Lorna with husband Bill. Below: David McRae and co-organiser Barbara Champion help Lorna with the cake.

not just hearing what somebody has said and getting ready with your response," she has said.

"It's another way of thinking, by inviting somebody inside you to express ideas that perhaps you're a little bit surprised about. The art of conversation is a way forward and of being with each other and of feeding each other ideas."

With her infectious chuckle, endless curiosity, staggeringly restless mind and relentless optimism, Lorna has lived and is still living a life of enthusiasm, one from which many of us continue to benefit.

David McRae is a local resident and a long-time friend of Lorna and Bill Hannan.



## Lorna

her sight is fading  
glare closes her eyes  
I imagine her life is darkling  
but all her family sees  
is the light within

Bill Hannan's poem Lorna is taken from Bill: a collection of writings by Bill Hannan, edited by David McRae.

## Rare record of a rich life

Felicity Jack

Those celebrating Lorna Hannan's 90th birthday included many past and present members of the Hotham History Project. Lorna was a founding member in 1995 and has been chairperson for nearly 30 years, with the group flourishing under her dedicated leadership.

The Project's work includes local history walks, talks on topics of historical interest, various publications and regular contributions to the *News*.

David McRae, a long-time friend of the Hannans, gave a moving and insightful speech at Lorna's celebration that covered many aspects of her life.

He touched on her inspirational teaching career, her books that helped to modernise the teaching of secondary English and the contribution she has made to developing communities, both in North Melbourne and elsewhere.

Lorna has been involved in so many community activities. Today, she is deputy chair of the board of North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre, publisher of the *News*.

She has been active in Arts House and many other theatrical institutions over the years. She is an accomplished performer and the author of many books and articles.

She is a supporter of many humanitarian causes, including the Brigidine community that supports asylum seekers.

In 2019 Lorna was deservedly awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her services to the community, including the two terms she served as a City of Melbourne councillor.

Felicity Jack is a member of Hotham History Project.



Photographs: Jim Weatherill



## END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

and Brand Launch

Free Sausages Sizzle - Free Ice Cream - Art & Craft - Sing NoW! Community Choir - Prizes - Games and more!

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Kymie Simpson

# Cruise widens students' world

In September, North Melbourne Language and Learning (NMLL) took 70 of our students and some community members on a cruise on the Yarra.

NMLL assists culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people, most of whom live in the North Melbourne public housing estate, with English classes and helps them connect with local agencies.

NMLL operates classrooms and learning facilities on the ground floor of the high-rise at 33 Alfred Street. Its aim is to give participants the language and learning needed for them to build a better life for themselves and their families.

Our students are isolated in our society in several ways. They are isolated by language, with most being Somali, Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese speakers, and by the experience of migration, with some migrating by choice but with many being refugees.

Not all NMLL's educational support takes place in classroom settings.

Our cruise down the Yarra, which was funded by a connected communities grant from the City

of Melbourne, is just one of the community-based activities we organise for our students.

The group boarded at Federation Wharf before cruising upstream to Herring Island.

During the one-hour return trip the students enjoyed a packed lunch and chatted happily while listening to a

historical overview of the Yarra.

Herring Island is not well known by many Melbournians. A small man-made island in South Yarra, it is barely three kilometres from the CBD and accessible only by boat or canoe. The lower Yarra's only island, it was formed in 1928 when a channel was cut through an old basalt quarry.

The outing was of enormous benefit to all of the participants. Many had not resumed a social life since the restrictions of the COVID lockdowns and, until the river excursion, many had felt nervous about catching public transport.

Community activities such as our boat trip can significantly reduce

isolation and build the confidence and capacity of vulnerable and isolated members of the CALD community to get out and about and to lead a normal life.

One of our students, Mandarin-speaking Ling Yun Liao, said she had found the excursion to be very valuable. "I gained a lot. It enriched my day and allowed me to learn more about Melbourne and Australia," she said.

Ling Yun was disarmingly frank in revealing her social isolation. "I have been in Melbourne for eight years, but no-one takes me out. I can only go to Chinatown. Because of the language barrier, I dare not go anywhere else. I feel really lonely," she said after the cruise.

She added how much she appreciated NMLL's assistance and specifically mentioned the support of her teacher, Alex, who ensures she is always included and heard.

"With the care I get at NMLL, I feel warm and comforted. My heart feels much more at ease. I am extremely grateful," she said.

*Kymie Simpson is community development worker at NMLL.*



Happy sailors before boarding for the cruise.

# Podcast takes the News into the ether

Penry Buckley

The sharp-eared among us may have noticed the *North & West Melbourne News* is boldly going towards new, sonic frontiers.

*Market to Melrose* is a new community podcast bringing the voices of North and West Melbourne to Spotify, YouTube or wherever you normally listen.

It's the brainchild of local resident Tom Rigby, a devoted reader of the *News*. The inspiration for the fortnightly program came when he first moved to the neighbourhood with wife Emily in the spring of 2019.

"The first week we were here, the *News* was delivered to our doorstep by one of the distribution volunteers. All our books and our TV were packed in boxes, so we read that edition cover to cover over the next few weeks."

Tom says he can only remember one specific article – about the redevelopment of a local church.

"They built something new and beautiful, something useful and suited to the community's needs and with a strong connection to its history. That told me a lot about what kind of a neighbourhood we had moved to."

Each episode of *Market to Melrose* includes a feature interview based on a story from the *News*.

Interviews so far have included artist Parul Sen of the pop-up shop Sarah & Parul at 54 Errol Street, the Neighbourhood Centre's director Ariel Valent, and musician and *News* illustrator Ed Zhao.

The podcast has also released a special on the Queensberry Cup, featuring interviews with daring billycart racers aged 7 to 76.

The podcast has a community

noticeboard section for coming local events and achievements, and will soon include advertising for local businesses, Tom hopes. He says items for the noticeboard and ideas are always welcome.

The noticeboard is part of his original vision to capture the atmosphere of the community he first moved to, which he describes as a "village in the heart of Melbourne".

"We've now had a baby and bought our own flat here and we wouldn't want to live anywhere else!"

As the podcast seeks to explore new heights, Tom is also "eternally grateful" to anyone who subscribes (for free), leaves a rating and writes a word or line of review, all of which he says takes around 90 seconds.

"Ninety seconds for an eternity. We think that's a pretty good deal!"

### Want to know more?

Listen and subscribe on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, YouTube and wherever you find podcasts. Follow us on Insta and Facebook.

*Penry Buckley is a local resident, an SBS audio journalist and a sounding board for the podcast.*



Tom Rigby is creator and host of the new *News* podcast *Market to Melrose*.

# Community Comment

Keely Naylor asked four locals about the Christmas family tradition that drives them nuts



**Jade, scientist, North Melbourne**

My least favourite Christmas tradition is watching Christmas movies. They all have the same boring plot and the same stereotyped characters.



**Ethan, musician, Essendon**

A family tradition is prawns for Christmas Day lunch. Unfortunately, I simply can't bear the sight or smell of shellfish. It puts me right off.



**Erin, early childhood, North Melbourne**

Definitely the gift-giving thing. Just choosing something to buy from someone's list of 'I want this' isn't meaningful and doesn't involve much thought.



**Ryan, engineer, North Melbourne**

I can't bear the waste involved in wrapping presents up in coloured paper and cards. It's pointless and all for just two seconds of mystery.



# Irish dancers step out at national titles

Flora Sciarra

Pacific Irish Dance offers training in Irish dancing as a competitive sport. Its young dancers compete regularly at state, national and international levels.

The Sunbury-based group holds Monday evening classes in North Melbourne at Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance at 1/64 Sutton Street.

In September, 11 Pacific Dance students competed, with more than a thousand other dancers, over five days in solo and team events in the national championships in Sydney.

Three of the dancers were competing in their first championships. The two youngest were seven-year-old Molly Higgins and Olivia McCorry, who turned eight during the nationals.

The Sydney championships were Pacific's most successful involvement in nationals competition, with four of our eight solo dancers receiving top-20 recognition.

We were thrilled to have two podium finishes. Ciana O'Neill came fifth in the 19-years solo competition, while Olivia Grant and Niamh Nelson, both 13, came fifth in the team reel-in-couples event.

Pacific Irish Dance founder Charmayne Dulley and fellow teacher Samarah Symons cater for all ages and abilities as they share their passion for dance.

For Charmayne, Irish dancing has been a life-long love affair.

"I started at seven after I saw *Lord of the Dance*, Michael Flatley's stage show. Irish dancing soon became a worldwide phenomenon and, as a kid in the nineties, I got on board," she says.

"I started teaching as a teenager. By the time I finished high school I knew I wanted to sit the Irish dance teaching qualification. You can't do this until you are 21," Charmayne says.

She delights in inspiring her students. "It comes down to finding the core love of Irish dancing and the commonality of it. It culminates in a real understanding of each other as teacher and student," she says.



Pacific Dance founder Charmayne Dulley.

When not working full-time in real estate, Charmayne finds Irish dancing fills her life.

"When I'm not dancing or teaching, I'm judging Irish dancing, including at last year's world championships in Montreal. I've also made dancing costumes," she says.

After Pacific's outstanding results in the nationals, the girls are bubbling over with excitement at their usual Monday night class.

Olivia Grant, a Sydney placegetter, has been learning Irish dance since she was eight. "I was introduced to it by a friend and once I started, I just couldn't stop," she says.

"Irish dance is art to me in the way we can move our bodies to create a visually mesmerising piece. I've competed in many competitions and it gets crazy as the standard



Ciana O'Neill, wearing the traditional wig, receiving her fifth-place award in the 19-years solo at the nationals.

Photograph: Milton Baar – www.swoose.net

gets higher and the costumes get sparklier," she says.

Olivia McCorry recalls her first competition. "I was a bit scared. But once I got my first dance done it was easy and then I just kept going," she smiles. "Now I prepare by imagining the dance in my head."

Flora Sciarra writes regularly for the News.

BELOW: Pacific Dance students competing at the national championships.

Photograph: Milton Baar – www.swoose.net

# Rebellion on street

Josh Rule

It's 6 pm and I'm standing on a pedestrian bridge high above Boundary Road in North Melbourne.

Seven members of Extinction Rebellion (XR) have already been here for an hour, waving at the heavy commuter traffic below, with the aim of engaging people – perhaps for the first time – with the climate crisis.

One member, Merry Kidby, says she has come to love North Melbourne since moving here in 2004. She reels off her favourite haunts: Drunken Poet, Casa Verde florist and the Lithuanian Club. "And North Melbourne Books, of course, because my husband's a writer," Merry says.

An XR climate campaigner for five years, Merry says she is driven to do "something". "I have a grandchild and I'd do anything to ensure they have some kind of future."

She has always been concerned with social justice. "However, climate is an absolute emergency now. I didn't think such a thing would happen in my lifetime," Merry says.

Merry compares the climate crisis with a scene in the film *A Fish Called Wanda*, in which a steamroller slowly approaches a character stuck in concrete.

"We are in the beginning of climate breakdown. We're near tipping points, from which there's no return. Once they've passed, it's going to be a tragedy for humanity. We are moving towards it more and more each day," she says.

Merry isn't part of a political party, and her work with XR isn't to push for any particular party or policies.

XR has three simple demands of governments: to tell the truth, to reduce emissions "as fast as humanly possible" and to use alternative governance arrangements, like citizens' assemblies, to remove politics from decision making.

In Melbourne, XR is composed of local affinity or community groups based on an area of interest. While there's no specific North or West Melbourne chapter, Merry's group is called 'West Side', which stretches across inner northern and western suburbs.

They meet in Footscray, but she says a new spot that better suits North Melbourne locals is on the cards. For now, they regularly meet up on a Wednesday night on the Boundary Road overhead pedestrian crossing.

Merry believes locals, while supportive and socially conscious, are being let down by poor leadership.

"It's frustrating because people really want to see climate action and are happy to put their hands up for policies that reduce emissions. But we're lacking leadership, which is tragic, because a vast number of lives will be affected and then lost to the effects of climate change," she says.

Merry will be supporting XR's actions in the CBD from 5 to 10 December.

"Being active is the key because if you feel you are doing something about the problem, however small, you think that at least I did what I could," she says.

"In all conscience, I could not just do nothing. Join with other people – you can only do so much on your own."

Josh Rule is a new contributor to the News.



Merry Kidby (second from left) with fellow climate change protestors Brenda, Coralie and Joe.



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# Simonds students on show

Emily Droszcz

Simonds College recently staged a spectacular inaugural Performing Arts Showcase in the Lithuanian Club's theatre in Errol Street.

The music and drama students were joined by films by media students and artwork by art and design students.

One of the highlights was the guitar ensemble. Thirteen boys, from years 7 to 12, showed their skills on the instrument and delighted the audience.

After the delicacy of the guitars, the six boys in the rock band brought a thumping energy to their performance. Their set included a performance of their own original composition.

Maximilian Moscicki, Year 9, achieved a musical hat trick by performing in the guitar ensemble, the jazz band and the rock band. "It was an exciting night, and I had a great time playing music with my mates," he said.

The school was thrilled that Matteo Encena, from last year's Year 12, was also on the bill. Now studying music at the University of Melbourne, Matteo played a dazzling solo piece on the piano, Nikolai Kapustin's *Variations for Piano, Opus 41*.

"Simonds was a really good school for me, and it was just an amazing experience to come back and perform on the evening," Matteo said.

Student creativity, 2023 vintage, was abundantly on show.

The drama club staged three fine performances and the 15-student vocal ensemble delighted the audience with a stirring rendition of the rousing *Do You Hear the People Sing?* from *Les Miserables*.

Media students had created several 'media reels', short videos that were played on the projector as the audience entered the theatre.

The successful evening was truly a whole-school affair. Learning diversity coordinator Alistair Forge proved a smooth front-of-house and dealt with ticketing, before student ushers took patrons to their seats. "It was brilliant to see the talents all the boys brought," he said.

Deputy principal Helen Koutoulogenis contributed her social media and design skills to the Showcase. She promoted the event on Simonds' website, Facebook and Instagram pages, created the ticket purchase via a QR code and designed the program layout.

The college's Year 12 coordinator Luke Wilson was impressed with the way that teachers and students across all year levels worked cooperatively to produce an amazing spectacle.

"The boys all showed their artistic talents and it was so good to see students of all ages performing in front of their peers, families and public."

*Emily Droszcz is director of music at Simonds. Arts faculty leader Ryan Bentley assisted with this report.*



On stage at the Simonds Showcase: the vocal ensemble and rock band.



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# Remembrance Day walk a tribute to downed RAAF pilots

Patrick Ferry

On Remembrance Day, the deaths of two RAAF pilots in a freak wartime air crash at North Melbourne were commemorated with a special walk of remembrance led by the National Archives of Australia and the Hotham History Project. Eighty years ago, Flight Lieutenant Richard Roe DFC and Pilot Officer James Harris died when their RAAF dive-bomber crashed into a warehouse adjacent to Macaulay railway station. A group of local residents and others walked down to the crash site on Saturday 11 November. Along the way, aspects of the tragedy were recounted, including through the reading of eye-witness accounts from archival records and newspapers.

At 11am, poppies were placed on the memorial commemorating the tragedy and the Ode was recited. One of the participants was Rodney McLeod, whose father Jim McLeod had witnessed the crash as a boy and decades later erected the memorial on the site. Mention was also made of the uncanny coincidence that one of the modern warehouses at the crash site had burnt down on 3 September, just a day before the wartime tragedy's 80th anniversary. Following the event, participants enjoyed a morning tea at the Victorian Archives Centre in Shiel Street.

*Patrick Ferry is assistant state manager for the National Archives of Australia based at the Victorian Archives Centre, North Melbourne.*



Rodney McLeod, whose father witnessed the crash, holding a newspaper article about the memorial.

## Have your say on the future of Royal Park

The City of Melbourne is reviewing and updating the Royal Park Master Plan. The plan will take into account new challenges, trends, latest research and changing community values to guide and protect Royal Park for the next 20 years. The council has prepared a Discussion Paper outlining eight key themes:

- Theme 1: Celebrating Aboriginal Culture and knowledge
- Theme 2: Caring for nature
- Theme 3: Continuing the legacy of previous Royal Park master plans
- Theme 4: Landscape characters
- Theme 5: Recreation and community wellbeing
- Theme 6: Visitor experience
- Theme 7: Movement through and within the park
- Theme 8: Parking, roads and transport

The council is asking for feedback so it can draw a meaningful vision and guiding principles. The master plan reviews and updates the 1997 Royal Park Master Plan, continuing with the aspects that have proved successful and enduring, updating others and introducing new themes to reflect current day practice and values, particularly relating to Aboriginal culture and knowledge, the climate and biodiversity emergency and a health and wellbeing crisis. The Participate Melbourne website has extensive information about the 155-hectare park and the process of preparing the master plan. More information about the park can also be found at the Friends of Royal Park website, [royalpark.org.au/](http://royalpark.org.au/)

**Go to the survey**  
The 10-minute survey is open until 10 December. You will find it at: [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/royal-park-master-plan-review](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/royal-park-master-plan-review)



From noisy protest to quiet persistence, The National Archives' *Disrupt, persist, invent* exhibition explores the many ways people have achieved social change in Australia. *Disrupt, persist, invent* is on display at the Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Shiel Street North Melbourne from 8 December 2023 to 5 April 2024, 10 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday and the second and last Saturday of every month.



Anti-nuclear rally, Melbourne 1984. NAA: A6135, K26/6/84/20. Courtesy of National Archives of Australia.

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# Aunties and Uncles find family ties and friends

Mary-Anne Hess

West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre hosts Aunties and Uncles, a multicultural group for people over 50, each Wednesday morning.

The Aunties and Uncles group offers a welcome, inclusivity and an opportunity for people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to practise conversational English.

Aunty and Uncle are terms of respect in many cultures, which acknowledges the special place of seniors within our community and life.

The group also has a focus on healthy ageing and involves psycho-education, gentle exercise, laughter therapy and a range of other games and activities that promote good health and recreation.

A light lunch is provided so as to encourage a friendly social interaction.

We are inspired by the words of Irish playwright, critic and activist George Bernard Shaw: "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."

Our group has Aunties and Uncles from Cambodia, Vietnam, Somalia, Egypt, El Salvador, China, Taiwan



Aunties and Uncles enjoy getting together.

and Thailand, as well as seniors from an Anglo Australian background. It is a wonderfully rich experience in cultural diversity.

Tadros comes from Egypt and is a regular attendee. "I love coming to the Aunties and Uncles because it makes me feel at home. It's a place where everyone can connect, express themselves and belong. It's the

highlight of my week," he says.

Hor, from Cambodia, was the first to join our group.

"We have a lot of fun learning things like new exercises, dances and games. We also have discussions and share strategies for managing getting older, like memory loss," she says.

"I am making new friends, improving my English and also using the

different languages I know, such as the Cambodian Khmer and some dialects of Chinese and Vietnamese. I sometimes catch up with people outside the group, and we go shopping to Springvale and share noodles."

Our group has been enriched by the participation of some people much younger than 50, who have enjoyed

the company of people the age of their parents or grandparents. We're delighted that some of those visitors have continued with the group.

Aunties and Uncles is a rare opportunity for intercultural and intergenerational friendship.

Mary-Anne Hess is interim community centre manager at West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre.

### Want to know more?

Contact Mary-Anne Hess on 0403 175 200 or community centre office manager Marcus Chick on 0417 372 194. The group meets on Wednesdays from 10.30 am to 12 noon.

### Take a walk with a purpose

If you enjoy walking around North and West Melbourne, a great way to explore areas you may not usually visit is to help with delivery of the North & West Melbourne News to homes and businesses. If you are interested, please email [admin@centre.org.au](mailto:admin@centre.org.au) or call in at the North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre in Errol Street.

# Experienced bowlers share their skills and enjoyment with newcomers

Madeleine Scully

The City of Melbourne Bowls Club is nestled in the pretty Flagstaff Gardens in West Melbourne.

Every Wednesday evening for the last nine weeks, we have been welcoming locals to a weekly bowls competition. Our last session will be on Wednesday 13 December.

Fifty people booked their free spot for each of the program's 11-week cycles. Each person was teamed up with an experienced bowler, which led to some very entertaining matches.

The evenings have never been too serious. Dress was informal and no-one has minded if the bowl stopped halfway down the rink, travelled through to the ditch, or even ended up in the adjacent rink. Rather, the focus has been on

entertainment. Everyone has enjoyed themselves, has met new people and has made connections with other locals. At the same time, they have all learned about the intricacies of a game that is sometimes undeservedly represented as boring.

It's been fabulous to see lots of new faces bowling on our greens every Wednesday, and also mingling with our regulars. As the cult film *The Castle* taught us, it's all about the 'vibe'. And the vibe at sunset on our rinks is always full of fun.

Our Wednesday evening recruits have made many interesting comments. While some admitted they didn't know the bowls club was there, all remarked on the friendly welcome and assured us they'll be back.

With summer now upon us, the club

is planning other events over the months ahead.

We are excited to be partnering with the Hotham History Project to publish a history of our wonderful club. We expect it to be available next year.

New members are always welcome. You will have access to our fantastic facilities, the greens, club events throughout the year and discounts across the bar. Also, you can bring friends down to socialise and to enjoy a friendly game of bowls.

Madeleine Scully is secretary of the City of Melbourne Bowls Club.



Wednesday night action at the City of Melbourne Bowls Club.

### Want to know more?

Check the bowls club website [www.citybowls.org/](http://www.citybowls.org/)

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**N**unga, my loved-loved and late assistance dog, had an impressive full name – Nunga The! Magnificent! Wonder! Dog! I had no idea that, 10+ months after his untimely departure last December, I would miss him as much or as often as I do. I'd give anything to have him back. While he lived with me for only 11 of his 19 years, he was the best dog in the whole world.

Nunga was no fan of other dogs. He rarely barked at another dog except to say "Go away". Some dogs even required two barks. At times he barked at aircraft contrails. Not sure if it was the planes' sound or if he could see the vapour trails, but he would go absolutely bonky off his head at them. I've never heard of another dog doing that.

We often walked around without a leash. He just didn't need one. In the city, he would stop for traffic lights and ask if he was allowed to cross. He would even stop on the 'Littles' of Lonsdale, Bourke, Collins and Flinders. People

## VERY IMPRESSIVE

should realise that traffic lights aren't just decoration. I see hundreds ignoring them every day, and it pisses me off hugely. Is that only my autism, or do others also suffer with me on this?

Nunga had no interest in playing with other dogs. If any tried to initiate play, Nunga ignored them. I admit that he once liked another dog and I was told that he had got a dog friend pregnant. I'd love to meet one of those puppies. He was fascinated by cats and would stare at them wondering why they didn't want to play with him. I often thought he must have grown up with cats.

He was always willing, be it night or day, to come back to bed with me. He was the best person ever to sleep with. In winter he came under the duvet, sleeping on my left side and letting me fall asleep holding onto his right rear leg.

As my registered assistance dog, through the wonderful support of Mind Dog Australia, he came with me everywhere. To hospitals, cinemas, restaurants and even on last year's flights to New Zealand, sleeping peacefully on the floor. He would walk onto escalators without any encouragement. I've never met another dog willing to do that.

The ladies who did our annual assessment said Nunga was the best non-trained assistance dog they had met. He gave me his confidence at all times. Sometimes I would be a stupidly angry and annoyed horrible person in public, just another part of my living with my PTSD. But Nunga would always love me. People often said they felt he was a person disguised as a dog.

*Very Impressive shares his views on life in each issue of the News.*



# When footy was thrilling, and a bag of nuts cost a shilling

**B**ack in June, I took my three grandkids to the old Arden Street Oval, which was almost my second home as a youngster. In those innocent days, my dad, Phonse, was a long-time North Melbourne club official.

We went to watch North's VFL team (effectively the Seconds) playing the GWS Giants. It was the first game I'd seen there in 40 years.

For the kids, it was a fun outing. For me, it was a journey back into my increasingly distant childhood, when 1950s' and 1960s' suburban football in the old VFL (now the highly commercialised AFL) was another world.

The playing surface, once a mudheap but now lush and green, sits in an attractively treed community park.

No physical reminders of the old days remain. The ancient wooden grandstand has been demolished. The towering gasometer across Macaulay Road no

## TOBIN'S TALES Gavan Tobin

longer casts a shadow. The dog track that circled the playing area is gone.

So too the rickety scoreboard where large metal plates were manually placed on hooks to show the scores as well as updating scores from other grounds and race results from the Valley or Flemington.

Footy was friendly then, even when a big crowd packed the terraces. Children would be allowed through for a prime viewing spot on the fence. If they got lost, a smiling cop would walk the boundary with a tearful child astride his shoulder, waiting to be claimed by an anxious parent.

At VFL games in that era, the Peanut Man carried his hessian sack as he

cried: "Peanuts, peanuts. Shilling a bag. Peanuts." After a bob coin was tossed to him, a bag of unshelled peanuts would be relayed hand-to-hand through the crowd.

One of footy's vanished characters, the Peanut Man, John Boyd, can be glimpsed on ancient footy replays plying his trade in his signature baggy brown jumper. We heard that on Saturday afternoons, when all six VFL games were played on suburban ovals, he drove between them in his Mercedes.

At half time, committeemen circled the boundary with a canvas sheet as spectators lobbed coins into it for a retiring player's testimonial. Children followed, bobbing like emus while

picking up errant throws. A hand-held board announced the winning ticket in the club's raffle for an electric blanket or a cutlery set.

At the final siren, spectators raced on to get a favourite player's autograph. In chaotic scenes, unimaginable today, fans mixed with players, perhaps querying their parentage but always wary of the police horse galloping out to rescue the sole field umpire.

Kids revelled in an extended post-game kick-to-kick on the turf their heroes had recently graced. Outside the ground a final treat was a sugary donut full of jam so hot it would burn the tongue.

Club memorabilia had not yet been commodified, but tiny kewpie dolls, ribboned in North's royal blue-and-white, were on sale. We boys saw them as a bit sissy.

*Gavan Tobin writes regularly about his memories of North Melbourne long ago.*

# Staying safe and secure is best in cyber's wild west

**I**n October, I had the privilege of addressing the audience at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria (CNAV).

My presentation centred on the responsible use of Information Technology (IT) to support the valuable work of community newspapers, with a focus on cybersecurity.

I started the presentation by explaining the difference between IT and cybersecurity, as the two can get conflated. When people hear that I work in cybersecurity, they sometimes ask if I can fix their laptop or printer to which I normally respond, "Have you tried turning it off and on again?"

We talked about developments in the IT field and how community newspaper contributors can take advantage of them at little to no cost.

One of the key takeaways was the

## SAFETY IN CYBERSPACE Nebojsa Pajkic

importance of regular data backups. This practice not only safeguards against data loss but also allows version control and provides a level of protection against cyber threats like ransomware.

To achieve this, we discussed the advantages of embracing cloud-based collaboration tools. These tools enable multiple individuals to work on the same file simultaneously if they have access to the internet, and to save all work automatically.

I also did a live demonstration of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered online chatbot. This was a highlight of the presentation as many

people in the audience had never seen how it works.

The audience were impressed with how effortlessly and quickly ChatGPT carried out simple instructions such as "write a 200-word review of a Big Mac in the writing style of Joan Didion".

The point of the demonstration was not to put fear into people that AI will soon replace all workers, but rather to demonstrate how technology can assist our work, and how we can use it in a safe and secure way.

As advances in IT are made, it's helpful to leverage the benefits provided without compromising the security of our data.

Taking simple steps like enabling automatic updates and multi-factor authentication, using strong passwords and exercising caution with unfamiliar links and files means we can all use and enjoy technology responsibly.

Finally, I emphasised that as writers and publishers we have an opportunity to provide value to the community by promoting cyber awareness. This was a timely message given that October was cybersecurity awareness month!

The conference provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with lots of inspiring people and to exchange ideas about how to best serve our communities.

Got a cybersecurity question? Write to [nebojs4@gmail.com](mailto:nebojs4@gmail.com) and you may be featured in the next issue.

*Nebojsa Pajkic is a local resident and an information security professional.*



# Miles aims for 'kind of weird' music

Keely Naylor

Miles Brown is greeted by name as he walks into Errol Street's Hot Poppy for his regular coffee.

He's a striking figure, dressed head to toe in black, "There are people who are sure I'm a Satanist. But I'm not. I just wanted to play the theremin," he says.

The theremin is a unique musical instrument, controlled completely by gestures. It is essentially a box, with complicated inner workings, and two antennae, one on either side. One is vertical and controls tone, the other is horizontal and controls volume.

The player stands between the two antennae and uses hands and fingers to create an opera-singer-like sound by manipulating the electromagnetic field created between the antennae.

It's an incredibly sensitive instrument. "You can't eat before you play, because your body needs to be totally still. If you've eaten, your body will want to move to digest the food," Miles says.

"Not only do your hands change it but so does every part of your body, as does everything in the room. If the audience moves closer to you during



Theremin musician Miles Brown.

the show, you have to retune it," he explains.

Miles arrived in Melbourne from Tasmania in 1997 ("a thousand years ago", he says wryly), hoping to further his music career, with his grunge band. "We wanted to go beyond doing supports and we were hungry for the Melbourne rock world," he says.

Miles had discovered the theremin in Tasmania in a teenage search for music that was weird and different. "I was listening to bands that use synthesisers and my dad said, "Oh,

the theremin came before the synthesiser."

"Dad and I built one, just for fun, out of cake tins and bits of electronic shit we had – and it worked!" Miles says.

From there, his love of the theremin grew. He says that while not a goth at that stage, he was already into horror movies and "spooky stuff".

In those early days he heard famous Lithuanian classical violinist Clara Rockmore, who is also a virtuoso performer of the theremin. "It was so operatic – the coolest thing I'd ever heard," he enthuses.

While traditional theremin players prefer concert halls and silence, Miles introduced the theremin to Night Terrors in the 1990s and hasn't looked back since.

Later, he opted to refine his theremin skills. "I was self taught but I knew I didn't have it right, and my Melbourne audiences were suffering."

He reached out to Lydia Kavina, famous for her theremin playing in Tim Burton's film *Ed Wood*. She told Miles he was too advanced for her group classes. Instead, she offered private lessons.

"She invited me to spend some time with her, which was wild because

the first CD I ever had with theremin music was hers," he says.

Miles continues Night Terrors with musician Sarah Lim in electro goth band Night Terrors and focuses on projects that put the theremin in the forefront. "I'm gonna have to build my own game," he says.

Part of Miles' development involves his band's collaboration with the Melbourne Town Hall's pipe organ.

"We rehearsed over summer in there with the organ then I spent many nights in there. Overnight, by myself,

in that very spooky hall, playing a very spooky instrument. It was amazing," he says.

Miles stresses he doesn't want his music to be bland. "I want to make music that is kind of weird."

Keely Naylor writes regularly for the News.

### Want to know more?

Miles' and the Night Terrors' new album, HYPNOTICA – Composition For Theremin and Electronic Music Synthesiser, is out now.

## from my Shiel Street balcony

Brendan Gleeson

Let the public  
Be advised that  
The local  
Lumpenproletariat  
Have taken  
To e-scooters  
In my neighbourhood

With all stolen thrills  
They're unpassably good  
Except with themselves  
Just now  
One stroppy piggy  
Passing another yelled

'Give us a ciggie'



Brendan Gleeson contributes regularly to the News.

# Bees and blossom herald a bountiful harvest

Spring was an exciting time of change in my garden.

The bees were awakening from their winter dormancy and were out gathering nectar and getting on with their job of pollinating the new blooms that were appearing in the backyard. I waited for the beekeeper to come and gather the first honey of the season. It was a time of hope, of looking forward to the coming harvest.

Blossoms on our numerous fruit trees were gradually arriving. First out were the pink flowers of the peach, then the apricots and the damson's white blooms, then the quince and the Morello cherry and the apple, all followed by the crabapple's clusters of double pink flowers.

Meanwhile a multitude of waxy white, sweet-smelling citrus buds on the lime, the oranges, cumquats and lemons were making their appearance.

## GARDEN GLORIES Marion Poynter



In the vegetable garden the broad beans were in flower and developing fast; the spinach, sorrel, kale and silver-beet were flourishing and constantly available for picking. I decided to make up a recipe for an Ithaca pie. Found in Sarah Raven's

*Garden Cookbook*, it uses a mixture of all these leafy vegs.

It was time to plant tomato seedlings and lettuces and to sow the seeds of pumpkin and beans saved from last year's crops. And there was always plenty of weeding to do. Numerous



LEFT: A tawny spring posy. CENTRE: Self-sown Queen Anne's lace, honesty and hollyhocks. RIGHT: Apple blossom, with nasturtiums, roses and irises.

unwanted weeds had appeared all over the gravel-paved area, and needed to be pulled up. But there were others that I left, and delighted in their unplanned wild appearance.

It was a great time to make up posies from the multitude of flowers that were then ready to pick in the garden. I went out one morning to gather the makings of a bunch to give to my granddaughter Sophia when I was about to visit her at her newly-moved-into house in Fitzroy.

There were so many lovely blooms to choose from: forget-me-nots, borage and Turkish navelwort all in various shades of blue; then daisies, feverfew, and pale-coloured and tawny nasturtiums (that were creeping up the trunk of the apple tree) in yellows, as well as roses in yellow and white, that blended with the citrus shades of euphorbias and leaves of golden marjoram.

Sophia was delighted with her

posy. For another friend's birthday, I gathered up and bunched together a cluster in various shades of yellows and oranges.

Meanwhile the copper beech was coming into pale coppery leaf and the roses were emerging over the arbours and on bushes, and were beginning to provide a great show along with the mauve irises. Feeding them, and most other plants in the garden, was one of the most pressing tasks that needed to be undertaken in the spring.

The chooks were beginning to lay more reliably. One had become broody and was sitting on the eggs. I decided to see if I could find a source of fertile eggs, so we could find replacements for some of our ageing hens. Certainly, spring is the season that is all about looking ahead.

Marion Poynter is a North Melbourne local – and a very keen gardener.

# ELLEN SANDELL

## GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen, your local state MP.  
I'm here to help. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

(03) 9328 4637  
office@ellensandell.com

146 Peel Street  
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Authorised by E. Sandell, 146 Peel St, North Melbourne.





# Uncertain future for our public housing residents

I want to introduce you to Ahmed. He recently moved into one of the public housing towers in Melbourne after being homeless for five years. My office worked with Ahmed and his family for over a year. I was so pleased when we were able to, finally, help find them a home.

Ahmed, his wife, and daughter have settled into the community and are enjoying meeting their neighbours. So it was a real shock when they heard that the Labor government plans to demolish their building – along with every other public housing tower in Victoria – forcing Ahmed and thousands of other people into uncertainty.

Twelve of the 44 towers being knocked down are in my electorate, including buildings in North Melbourne, Kensington and Carlton. In

## THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Ellen Sandell



fact, 33 Alfred Street in North Melbourne will be one of the first to go.

This means thousands of our neighbours will be displaced and will risk losing important community and social connections.

Residents don't know where they will be moved to and are understandably concerned. Parents are asking if they will have to move their kids to different schools, and people are worried about losing access to good local medical care, given many have complex medical needs.

The government hasn't confirmed if they will rebuild the public housing

that they knock down.

Instead, it will likely become 'community' housing with the buildings funded by private developers and run by private organisations, with potentially fewer protections and higher rents than public housing.

To make matters worse, two-thirds of this public land will be handed over to developers to build private apartments and make mega profits.

Across Victoria, the Labor government is planning to let developers build private apartments for 20,000 people on existing public housing estates. To put this into perspective, across Victoria, only 440 extra public homes will be built over 28 years.

That's just 15 new public homes a year for a wait list that's currently 125,000 people!

It's outrageous that Labor is giving this land to private developers. Given the crisis we're in, it should be used to build more public housing.

The Greens and I are working with the local community to push back and demand that only public housing be built on public housing land. We need more public housing, not less.

### Want to know more?

If you want to get involved in the fight to save public housing, please get in touch with me at [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com).



Choir in full voice at October's Queensberry Cup.

# NoW time to find a voice

Bernice Murphy

My partner and I recently moved to West Melbourne.

We downsized after 30 years in nearby West Footscray, and I found myself the new kid in town, living a life of relative anonymity – and loving it. I arrived willing to have a crack at things I've always secretly harboured a wish to pursue.

Many of us were in the choir at school. For me, that involved a bunch of old nuns and a lot of even older hymns – not necessarily a guarantee for a lifelong commitment to song.

While I've always loved the idea of choirs and often thought I'd like to join one, I was deterred by the prospect of having to sing alone, audition or be judged.

I didn't know if I was a soprano, alto or bass or how I was going to find out without being publicly exposed. Also, the chance of seeing someone I knew was enough to keep me away.

Then, I saw an article in the News about the choir. With nothing to lose, I realised

that, as I didn't know anyone, it didn't matter if I made a complete goose of myself. Life is too short not to have a go.

So, with a positive attitude, willing to have a crack and with just a degree of angst, I went to my first choir practice with Sing NoW. I'm not a great singer, not even a good one, but if I stand near someone who is, I've found I just need to make the same(ish) sounds as them.

One year in, I'm still going to choir. It turns out I'm an alto. Our excellent choir leader, Susie Kelly, made that call by listening to my speaking voice. If only I'd known it was that easy!

I've also met a bunch of people who I otherwise would never have known and I've even made a friend or two. And now I'm writing about the choir!

In October, the choir performed at the Queensberry Cup. We rocked our way through crowd favourites such as Bruno Mars' *Count on Me*, Queen's *Somebody to Love*, Sia's *Titanium* and finished with Santana's *Make Somebody Happy*.

Despite a dire forecast, the weather proved our friend. The mood was cheery, spectators joined in and kids danced along. Even dogs caught the vibe and wagged their tails to the tune. We received warm applause.

Other recent choir activities have involved video contributions to larger projects and have included participating in Reconciliation Week and in supporting the Yes vote.

Our enthusiastic and talented leader, Susie, arranges songs that work for us. Each week she wrangles us into at least a degree of order and makes sure we have fun.

The world really does seem like a better place after a good sing, and together we sound great.

*Bernice Murphy is a new(ish) member of Sing NoW.*

### Want to know more?

Come along and join our merry gang each Thursday night 7.00–8.30 pm during school terms at Sokol, 497 Queensberry Street.



Ellen Sandell with local public housing tower resident Ahmed.



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# Migrants finds a place to learn and build links

## HOANG NGUYEN

I went to university in Vietnam and I came to Australia for marriage.

I studied finance and banking in Vietnam but after graduating I work in administration. I find the Australian lifestyle is much slower than that of Vietnam, more laid-back.

When I arrived here, we rented and I attended a free English class for migrants where I met many new people. I didn't have any friends or family so I built my own network.

At first I worried that I might have been saying the wrong things. It's difficult for migrants to settle here because they don't know much about this country. But Australia is a welcoming country.

I was pregnant and had my daughter during lockdown. We only had the 5 km radius and there were few grocery stores nearby, so shopping was difficult.

Many community services, such as the North Melbourne community legal centre, helped migrants if they were being underpaid by an employer.

With many jobs open only to permanent residents, migrants can be desperate for work. In my first job interview, I was asked for referees, but only had Vietnamese ones.

I bring my daughter to local libraries so she can get used to the social environment and meet some people.



Hoang Nguyen, from Vietnam, is NMLL's administration coordinator.

North Melbourne Language & Learning is an adult educational facility, on the ground floor of an Alfred Street high-rise, that assists culturally and linguistically diverse new arrivals with English classes.

**Cindy Huang** met a student, a teacher and two staff members who shared their touching stories of coming here as migrants.

I like it here at NMLL. People are always friendly and willing to help. I meet new people and I like helping other migrants. NMLL also cares about a new mother's mental health. I was able to take a year for maternity leave.

One thing I don't like about Melbourne is transport disruptions. I live far away, so any train incident means it takes me up to three hours to come to NMLL.

## ALEX BINOS

I've been teaching English and Greek at NMLL for three years. I come from a Greek migrant family and I saw my family's struggles with a language barrier. My mother raised five of us on her own. When she enrolled in a migrant school, I would go through the homework with her explaining stuff. And I decided to do that as a career down the track.

I love working at NMLL, it's the best job I've ever had. I hear very sad stories, refugees on boats and all, and it puts things into perspective. I learn



Alex Binos, whose parents came from Greece, began as an NMLL volunteer and now teaches English there.

so much from them too. It's made me a better person. It has opened my eyes to the rest of the world.

NMLL students are so lucky with our staff members. Cliff is a wonderful manager who looks after us. There are no issues here whatsoever.

Australia is so geographically isolated, at the end of the world. Anyone who hasn't travelled has no idea how the world is. There's propaganda in the media and racism out there, but at NMLL I meet lovely people, wonderful people. It's opened my eyes.

We're like everyone else, just with different cultural traditions and beliefs. Migrants and refugees have brought so much to this country.

I love the students here – they bring a world of knowledge and experience to my class. And as they share stories, it not only changes my view but it makes assimilation much easier because they all learn from each other. It creates a huge web of multiculturalism.

People should try to be involved in community events and learn about other cultures. We could be a little United Nations here. Smile at the person beside you. It doesn't matter if they look or dress differently. We're all human beings, we're all brothers and sisters.

We just come from different places, with different cultures and different traditions.

## GIUSEPPE BARRANO

My name is Giuseppe, Joseph in English. People here call me Pino as it is easier to say. I came to Australia a year ago because my wife was here.

I work three days a week as a chef in an Italian restaurant in Brunswick. The other days I study English.

Australian working conditions are better than in Italy, but renting here is difficult for migrants. It took a

month, living with a friend, for me to eventually find an apartment. It was difficult without references.

My visa gives a free English class. I found NMLL and enrolled in this program. In English classes, I learnt about writing, speaking and reading. I spend a year on each level and move up after I pass my test. The last one was in November.

I spend my spare time walking in parks and I really like Melbourne's coffee culture. My favourite Italian café is Pasticceria in Brunswick.

I don't like pineapple pizza. Fruit on pizza is not authentically Italian. Theirs are thick on the side and thin in the middle. Italian cuisines are very simple with three or four ingredients. Domino's pizza isn't authentic

## NABIHA SAID

I came here as a teenager from Ethiopia as a refugee migrant in 1985.

I studied Year 12 before university. It was hard because I was supporting myself by working in a factory and



Giuseppe Barrano, from Italy, works as a chef, studies English at NMLL and is a student of Alex Binos.

a supermarket. Eventually, I got a science degree from Swinburne University, with majors in chemistry and biochemistry.

Because of illness, I couldn't keep working and I was also a single mother with a daughter. I tried to find work but wasn't successful.

At NMLL, I'm an administration assistant. I started here last year as a volunteer. After six months I was offered this position, and I now deal with student enquiries.

My daughter loves to read. She started reading at a very young age and now finishes a book a day. I'm so proud of her. She now works in a full-time internship.

Australia is a country with freedom where, if you work hard, you can achieve your goals. While not perfect, it is good for women, who are denied education in many countries.

It can be hard to assimilate with other communities, but I'm involved in several East African communities.

I love to play sports, especially tennis. I watch a lot of tennis and footy as well and I walk a lot every day for exercise in nearby beautiful gardens.

People should respect migrants' language and culture because it's not easy for them to assimilate. Give them time to understand the Australian way of living.

*Cindy Huang is a community outreach worker at North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre.*



Nabiha Said, from Ethiopia, began as an NMLL volunteer and now works there in admin.



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# Pressure is on international students' budgets

Kashifa Aslam

International student Peiqi Shi (Kevin) is a keen volunteer at Errol Street's Neighbourhood Centre (previously known as The Centre). This year he has provided mapping assistance for March's Spanish Language Fiesta and October's Queensberry Cup. He has also helped out in the rainbow art class and the homework club. Kevin says he enjoys the 'teaching' element of volunteering. "I'm interested in teaching because both my parents are teachers. I really like teaching the kids in Laurence's homework club," he says. When not supporting the club's young students, Kevin is building his own future by studying architecture

at the University of Melbourne. His Australian journey had begun in 2018 when he studied environmental design at Trinity College before the pandemic led him to return to China to visit his parents. He says he was then "locked outside" by the Australian government until he was able to return at the start of last year. Kevin has chosen to live in West Footscray after finding the weekly \$500 rent for a CBD studio prohibitive for an international student. One downside to living in the western suburb is the one-hour travel to university by bus, train and tram. The budding architect is far from impressed by the living spaces for international students in the CBD. "While the rent is high, the living space is very tight and doesn't justify

the price. When I pay a lot of money, I want a decent space or bedroom, but in the CBD, units are expensive with very little space," he says. Like all international students, many of whom take on part-time work such as food delivery to make ends meet, Kevin is faced by financial challenges. Post-pandemic soaring costs for housing, transport and groceries have to be met. Kevin admits that, with his parents' financial support, his own situation is not dire. "However, my parents say I need to find a job, and I have a tight budget. I'm keen to get part-time work in a café," he says. Transport and food costs have led to him cutting back on spending by cycling to the city, a decision partly driven by an ugly racially charged

incident on public transport. Kevin is determined to create a safe and supportive environment for his fellow international students. "I discourage international students from speaking their native languages and I've designed social media posts encouraging other Chinese students to speak English," he says.

He believes that speaking English is essential for international students as it allows them to expand their knowledge and to contribute actively to society.

*Kashifa Aslam is community outreach & communications coordinator at the Neighbourhood Centre.*



Kevin has a hands-on meeting with a friendly local.



## my father by Bill Hannan

my father dealt in dicta  
I'm a Labor man he'd say  
they fed a lot of canaries white bread  
and they all died he'd announce  
sausage wrapper he interjected  
when the orator quoted The Herald

since he was a sheep man  
who could tell the value of wool  
by testing a fleece with his hand  
I took him to a film about droving  
but at the opening scene he snorted  
crossbreeds and fell asleep

terse he was but he had a dream  
I could see it in his eyes  
as he narrowed them to scan  
what lay beyond the horizon  
a land where roses grew  
and eucalypts prayed to lost gods

as old men are wont to do  
he went to bed to die  
he stayed there for a while  
dreaming of the plains  
he's gone now past the horizon  
and is camped where the roses grow

*Bill Hannan is a long-time local resident and a legendary figure in Victorian state education. my father is one of 50 of his poems in Bill, a Collection of Writings, edited by David McRae.*

## Stay Informed - Stay Safe

### COVID's 8th Wave - What You Need to Know

317 people are in Victorian hospitals affected by COVID-19.  
126 people in Victoria have died from COVID in the last 28 days  
*Data from 17th November 2023 state government report*

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Follow 6 simple steps to help prevent severe illness and reduce the spread of the virus in our community

Get vaccinated

Booster doses protect you from getting very sick with newer variants. Scan the above QR code to book your vaccination with HealthSmart Pharmacy (311 Grattan Street, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre). If you are not sure how to book, visit NWMNC at 58 Errol Street.

Managing COVID at home

If your symptoms are mild, rest and recover at home. It is recommended to isolate for at least 5 days. Check if you're eligible for anti-viral medicine from your GP. For severe symptoms, call 000 immediately.

Wear a Face Mask

Wearing a high-quality and well-fitted face mask can help protect you and those around you. It is recommended to wear a mask for at least 7 days if you have COVID-19.

Get a COVID test

Free RAT test kits are available at North Melbourne Library. You can also buy RATs from local pharmacists, supermarkets and other retailers.

Ventilation

COVID-19 spreads when a person breathes out very small droplets or aerosols that contain the virus. Allowing fresh air into a space reduces the risk of transmission.

COVID-19 antiviral medicine

GPs can prescribe antivirals to eligible people, including everyone aged over 70. These medicines work best if you take them as soon as you get symptoms or within 5 days of getting sick.

Scan QR code (bottom right) to read this information in below languages:

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# A book of gardening love emerges in full bloom

Rhondda Fahey

Local resident Marion Poynter's charming gardening book, *In My Own Backyard: The Bountiful Harvest of an Inner City Garden*, was launched in October in St Mary's Anglican Church in Queensberry Street.

St Mary's vicar, Fr Jan Joustra, himself an avid gardener, introduced Mediterranean Garden Society president Caroline Davies to launch the book.

The garden theme was reinforced when St Mary's director of music, Beverley Phillips, played a medley of garden tunes, including Percy Grainger's arrangement of *English Country Garden*.



Marion (centre) with Caroline Davies, who launched the book, and Fr Jan Joustra.

## English Country Garden

How many gentle flowers grow in an English country garden? I'll tell you now, of some that I know, and those I miss I hope you'll pardon. Daffodils, hearts-ease and flocks, meadow sweet and lilies, stocks, Gentle lupins and tall hollyhocks, Roses, fox-gloves, snowdrops, forget-me-knots in an English country garden. *– English traditional*

Caroline spoke of her delight in getting to know Marion and her garden, admiring the touch of wildness that had crept into the garden. She praised the garden for its variety and the book for its photographs, recipes and tracing of the history of the house and garden. She noted the quotes that introduce each chapter and set the tone for the

chapter. One, on the history of the house, is introduced with an Adam Nicolson quote: "A place consists of everything that has happened there; it is a reservoir of memories. It is necessary to go back to the foundations of the place, its roots and sources; understanding its historical beginnings."

In turn, Marion thanked Caroline, the publishers, her family, all those who had attended and all who had helped. She said she had long wanted to write about how much gardens had shaped her life and what her house and garden meant to her. During COVID lockdowns, she had set space aside for writing every day.

A lavish afternoon tea included asparagus rolls, posh sandwiches and lemon cakes. A small stall sold goods made to recipes included in the book, and jars of Seville orange marmalade and bottles of lemon cordial proved popular.

Readers will discover that the book is truly a love story. A story of Marion's love for husband John; for the house they bought in North Melbourne and the garden she made there; for her family; for the chooks that scratch in her garden; for the bees and the dogs and for everything planted there; and

her love for sharing God's creation.

*In My Own Backyard* also reveals Marion's generosity in sharing the garden's bounty in so many ways: in posies for friends, in flowers for the church, in preserves and cakes for church fairs, in gifts of shared meals, and in brilliant cocktails using juice from her blood orange tree.

Marion and her garden are never boring. She is always on the lookout for a new colour scheme, a new recipe and a new plant.

Rhondda Fahey is a friend of Marion Poynter.

## Want to know more?

*In My Own Backyard* is available at all good bookshops, including North Melbourne Books, Readings in Carlton, The Hill of Content, the Avenue Books, Royal Botanic Gardens Bookshop and Ceres Bookshop.

You can also order it from the North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre or Australian Scholarly Publishing at [enquiry@scholarly.ino](mailto:enquiry@scholarly.ino). Phone 9329 6963. RRP: \$49.95.



Marion signing her book at the launch. Photographs: Jim Weatherill.



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# A day at the Queensberry Cup

The second Queensberry Cup was run on Saturday 21 October. Errol Street and Queensberry Street were closed to regular traffic as more than 750 haybales were used to mark out the billycart racetrack.

Eight thousand people turned out to watch 50 racers zoom down Errol Street, competing for trophies across three categories.

Away from the racetrack, a troupe from Ministry of Dance was just one of many highlights from local performers. The World Kitchen hosted Chinese, Venezuelan, Eritrean and Indian cooks.

Thanks to everyone who made this such a special day, including all our sponsors and our 50 hardworking volunteers.

For full race results and more photos visit [www.queensberrycup.org.au](http://www.queensberrycup.org.au)







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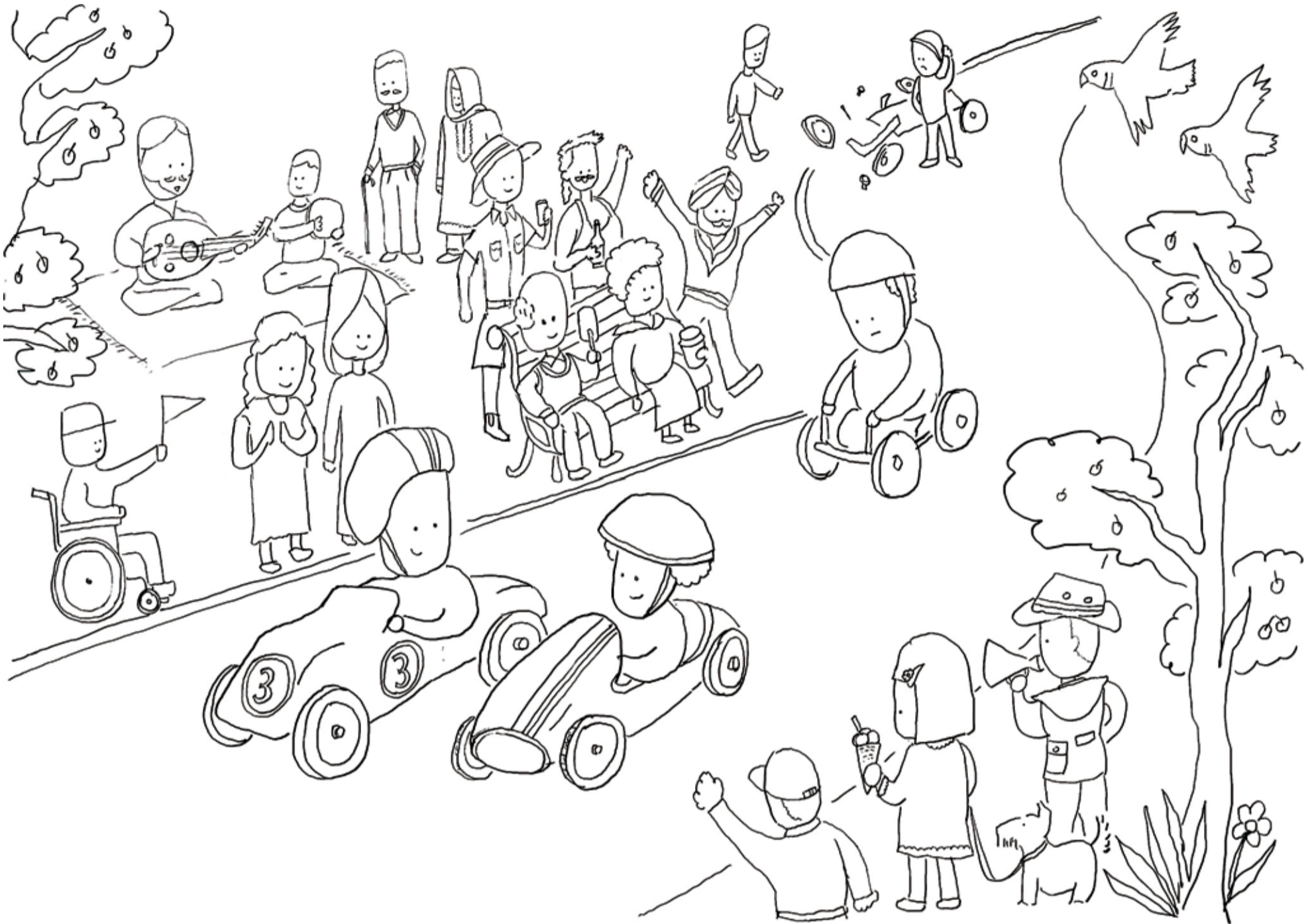
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Illustrator Ed Zhao spent the day at the Queensberry Cup



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# Students ask if Arden plan measures up

In September, the North and West Melbourne Association (NWMA) was invited by the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at Melbourne University to join Master of Urban Planning students on a field trip around the Arden Precinct.

This was part of a core subject, Urban Sustainability and Climate Change, which was using Arden as a case study, asking "How can Arden become a good example for sustainable development in the context of anticipated climate change impacts?"

The Arden Precinct is a proposed high-rise development at the western end of Arden Street encompassing the former railway yards and workshop, the Lost Dogs' Home, the council depot and North Melbourne Recreation Reserve. It aims to house about 15,000 residents and provide 34,000 jobs. Central to the precinct is the newly completed Arden station in the new Metro underground railway network.

The idea was for NWMA representatives to give their personal perspective and views on the Arden Precinct plans as members of the community. The students had already heard a more formal presentation from the Department of Transport.

The Association gladly accepted the invitation. Kevin Chamberlin, Jan Lacey and Janet Graham joined subject coordinator Dr Jinlong (Jimmy) Liu, students and tutors at North Melbourne Station.

By the time the group set off down Laurens Street towards the new Arden Metro station, the expected 50-odd participants had swelled to 130 or 140 – apparently something of a record turnout!

Jimmy had provided detailed site notes. At each of the seven sites he introduced relevant topics and asked the NWMA members to comment and share their insights more broadly.

Kevin drew on his vast knowledge as a resident since childhood to explain the industrial history of the Arden area and the jobs it provided to many local people on the railways, the wharves, as panel beaters or working for the council.

He expressed his hopes for a flourishing renewal of the area with



great employment opportunities, especially in the medical field with the anticipated new campuses of the Royal Melbourne and Royal Women's hospitals. The two-minute train journey between Arden and Parkville would make this enterprise entirely feasible, he noted.

Kevin was critical of the building heights and density planned, maintaining that "smart design and smart architecture" could accommodate population growth without the need for high-rise. But he was optimistic that the heritage areas of North Melbourne would be preserved.

Jan expressed her disappointment that no public housing was included in the final Arden Precinct plans. With the demolition of the Abbotsford Street estate she believed Arden would have been an ideal place for public housing. She was also concerned that the lack of mandatory height and density controls might result in less open space.

*"In terms of sustainability, I think the Arden Precinct has the potential to be a real showcase, but I don't think the planning panel got that message."*

– Kevin Chamberlin



Subject coordinator Dr Jimmy Liu (centre, with microphone) interviews NWMA's Kevin Chamberlin (far right) at the Moonee Ponds Creek site. Photographs: Janet Graham

As the group gathered near the North Melbourne Recreation Reserve the focus turned to the flood plain and plans to build a massive water storage tank under the Arden Street Oval. Had future flood events been adequately addressed?

Jan related her personal experience of flooding in the ground-floor flats in the apartment block where she lived. Built in one of the lowest parts of North Melbourne near the underground Harris Street Drain, or Levers Creek, the flats were regularly inundated when the watercourse overflowed.

After much lobbying by the committee, the installation of big drains had eventually rectified the problem.

Responding to a site note about the preparedness of the authorities and the community to deal with likely future flooding, Janet said she thought we were ill-prepared in view of what had happened in October 2022 when the Maribyrnong River burst its banks and flooded premises in Maribyrnong, Kensington and West Melbourne.

This event is the subject of reviews, and Melbourne Water acknowledged it had been using outdated modelling.

We were all worried about the likely devastating impact on Docklands if Moonee Ponds Creek were to experience a major flood, especially in light of the predicted rise in sea level caused by climate change.

Discussion about pumping water into Moonee Ponds Creek to prevent flooding, and re-wilding and greater biodiversity using native plants in the riparian zone to help flood mitigation, continued at the creek site next to Macaulay Station. Janet noted that the very active Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek had done excellent revegetation work and achieved better management of pollution.

Jimmy warned: "There are large uncertainties about the extent of water, and how effective the proposed water tank will be remains questionable."

The group crossed the creek and the tour ended in Kensington, just outside the Arden Structure Plan area. As we stood next to a newly converted apartment block, Jimmy pointed out that the floor level had been deliberately raised to adapt to possible flooding.

Janet listed some suggestions made in her submission to the panel to help Arden reach net zero emissions by 2030. These included: using recycled and upcycled materials in building construction; using recycled glass as a substitute for sand (a diminishing resource) in building materials and roads; and adopting think-tank Beyond Zero Emissions' ground-breaking research into low-emission cement using local materials and low-emission manufacturing processes to produce sustainable concrete.

She believed solar panels should be compulsory on every new building in the precinct, preferably supported by a solar farm on a suitable site, and that widespread public battery charging stations should be installed to assist electric vehicle owners.

Jan said there were solutions out there and thanked Jimmy and the students for discussing them and trying to address the problems.

In summing up, Kevin said: "In terms of sustainability, I think the Arden Precinct has the potential to be a real showcase, but I don't think the planning panel got that message."

He encouraged the students, in their future careers, to "have a wide-open mind for everybody, not just the developers".

"Profit's not the only thing when you're talking about urban planning," he urged. "You're talking about a lot of other social things as well."

## Want to know more?

Watch a video of the field trip at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4p5rFuqMaw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4p5rFuqMaw).

## FROM THE ARCHIVES Michelle Brett

The *North Melbourne Advertiser* was distributed in the North Melbourne area from 1873 to 1894. Some of the most intriguing articles involved the criminal cases heard in the North Melbourne Court. Here are some of the stories that ran in December in the 1880s.

### Finegan wakes up drunk but charge gets the boot (1885)

Joseph Finegan was charged with stealing a pair of boots from an Errol Street shop. Finegan claimed that he had taken the boots because he was drunk but promised to mend his ways. Surprisingly, the prosecution decided not to press the case of theft, and a very relieved Finegan was discharged.

### Two feisty women duel over which witch had a broom (1887)

Helen Kelly and Jean Ross faced court on a cross summons. Kelly alleged Ross had rushed into her home and given her a black eye. In turn, Ross claimed Kelly had beaten her with a broom. The Bench were not satisfied that Ross had assaulted Kelly but fined her five shillings for entering Kelly's home.

### Court frowns on assaults using sticks and stones (1889)

Dominic Rohan was charged with using threatening language after being seen misbehaving on Lothian Street when he told a shopkeeper: "I'd stone you if it were dark." Rohan then claimed the arresting constables had struck him with sticks. The police denied the use of unnecessary violence and the Bench imposed a fine of £5.

### Coppers in toppers lag Porter with a snorter (1889)

Inspector Brown alleged John Miles Porter of the Hotham Arms Hotel had traded on Sunday after he had noticed the bar door was open. Brown said two men had entered and had been asked what they would have. The defence claimed the police had disguised themselves as smartly behatted travellers. Porter was fined £5.

### Roller gets rolled as he forgets about the forge (1885)

Blacksmith Edward Primmer sued his employee Thomas Roller for leaving his service without giving due notice. Roller explained he had got drunk on the night of the 21st and admitted he had not returned to work. The Bench decided to make an example of Roller and sent him to jail for seven days.

### Blake avoids being baked as he stakes defence on a wake (1889)

Seamus Blake, licensee of the Hotham Parade Hotel, was charged with having his bar door open on Sunday. Blake pleaded guilty, but said that he was offering refreshments to mourners on their return from a funeral for a local jockey. The Bench honoured the Irish custom and did not impose a fine.

Michelle Brett writes regularly for the News.



Melbourne University urban planning students gather outside North Melbourne Station for the field trip. Dr Jimmy Liu at far left.



# Charles finds his purr-fect life

Zelda Balsamo

Extraordinary things can happen when animals and humans form meaningful bonds.

When King Charles Rupert – or Charles for short – was surrendered to Lort Smith Animal Hospital's Adoption Centre in Campbellfield, he had no teeth and was diagnosed with a life-threatening heart disease.

We thought it would be difficult to find the cuddly five-year-old cat a home, as he seemed unlikely to survive

for long. But we never give up on cats like Charles. He was incredibly affectionate and quickly took a liking to one of our long-term volunteers, Raquel.

Charles would follow her for pats and roll on his belly whenever he saw her.

In turn, Raquel couldn't resist Charles' charms, and what began as a palliative foster care arrangement ended up as a full-time home for Charles.

"We kept telling ourselves 'Don't get too attached, he doesn't have long' but we couldn't help it, he was just

the best cat," Raquel said.

Then something incredible happened. Under his new family's loving care, Charles' condition improved dramatically.

A routine ultrasound by Lort Smith vet, Dr Harold, indicated that Charles's condition was not worsening.

"I never get to say this," he said with a grin, "but it looks like Charles' heart is working well."

In some circumstances, health conditions in both humans and animals can stabilise if they feel safe, happy

and cared for. This is exactly what had happened to Charles.

With loving support from his new family and regular medication, the loveable cat's condition became easier to manage and his quality of life improved.

Charles' story is a beacon of hope, illustrating how love, care and commitment can lead to a happier and healthier future.

Zelda Balsamo is digital marketing officer at Lort Smith.



# Rock Bottom scales high notes

Angela Flint

St Michael's Primary School recently presented its first whole-school musical production, a time-travel romp titled *Rock Bottom*.

This successful event provided every one of our students with the opportunity to perform in front of an enthusiastic audience of family, friends and classmates.

Not only were all students involved in the performance but each class had its own musical number that included a song and dance. Senior students featured in 35 individual roles.

The performance was part of St Michael's dedicated music program, in which all students participate in weekly music classes and have the



St Michael's students in performance.



opportunity to be part of a choir.

Stacey Cheeseman, the school's music teacher, was thrilled with *Rock Bottom's* success and the students' participation. "There is nothing more rewarding than watching students grow through the process of putting on a show," she said.

Stacey believes the students' involvement in the musical has spilled over into personal gains. "They were uncertain at the beginning but, by working together and making a show, they built not only their own skills but also a sense of achievement and community."

Ahan Saxena, our young student who played the role of

Bobby Cobblestone, summed up the feeling of many of our students. "The big challenge for me was learning the lines that my character had to say," she said.

"I overcame my early stage fright. Afterwards I was really proud of myself."

Angela Flint is deputy principal at St Michael's.

# Rotary builds bonds with Cambodian families

Neville Page

The Rotary Club of North Melbourne has established a relationship with a Rotaract club in Siem Reap in north-western Cambodia.

Under the guidance of a Melbourne Rotarian, we have developed the Cambodia Rural Students Trust, which is run by local Cambodian Rotaract students. As part of the trust they have established a program to support families that do not have sufficient funds to survive on.

The Rotary Club has joined this program and is now supporting a single father and his two daughters, who live in the Phreas Dak commune in the Banteaysrei district of Siem Reap province.

The father, Mr Rith, is 48 and unable to work due to a permanent injury from a car accident. Older daughter, Sreyyon, 18, has moved out to study at university in Siem Reap while younger daughter,

Koryan (a member of Siem Reap Rotaract), 15, is at school.

Due to their studies neither daughter can work. Mr Rith looks after animals and collects mushrooms but is unable to support his family without help. As part of this scheme, our local Rotary Club contributes \$60 a month to the trust that then uses it to buy and deliver all necessary supplies to the family.

We hope that, in a few years, both daughters will have graduated and be able to support the family.

Currently, the rural students trust is supporting about 30 families.

Neville Page is past president of North Melbourne Rotary.

### Want to know more?

If you would like to be part of the program or if you want to find out more about your local Rotary Club, contact Neville Page on 0414 673 611 or [nevillepage7@gmail.com](mailto:nevillepage7@gmail.com)

## KRYPTIC KWIZ Maurice Gaul

See page 23 for the answers.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

### Here are 40 Australian Olympic medallists since the 1948 Games in London

Barber	Beck	Belch	Boyle	Brennan	Bruce	Burton
Cherry	Clarke	Croker	Elliott	Freeman	Green	Gregory
Hargraves	Harris	Hill	Hogan	Hooker	Horton	Jackson
Jones	Lawrence	Lean	Martin	McIntyre	McLennan	Mellor
Mitchell	Morrison	Norman	Nunn	Palmer	Parry	Pollock
Porter	Saville	Skinner	Williams	Winter		

### Can you link the names to these clues? (They're either cryptic, obscure or simply silly.)

- I'm what Jack Sprat's better half just couldn't stomach
- I'm an out-of-this-world weirdo who walked on the moon
- I'm singing that Sam left Seattle to take Jen home to Nome
- I'm a bibulous Rat Packer mate of Frankie and Sammy
- I'm a fish but I sound ranine, neither tuneful nor melodious
- I'm the Kate who egged my Kate-mate on to get Krack!n
- I'm a top-ranked legal Christian with a shady legal past
- I'm a famous Farnarkeler in the land of a long white cloud
- I'm cocky and I wrote a classic that went away with wind
- I'm a multi-minister happy clapper, getting gen from Jen
- I'm a tweedy type near Lewis out on the Outer Hebrides
- I'm the law behind pumping a bike tyre and filling a syringe
- I'm long-form cricket's new ball and a sweet treat on top
- I'm a medieval Christian pilgrim who visited the Holy Land
- I'm rewarding my boxed rats if they push the right button
- I'm doubly keen on Liz and I twice wedded and bedded her
- I'm a middle-aged peasant who surfed on top of the serfs
- I'm a good-time gal who extracts balls from rugby scrums
- I'm coldly ushering in the Bard's season of discontent
- I'm a folksy American actor, playing loveable old codgers
- I'm a place you can die on if you have a real purpose
- I'm a non-abrasive tool made for metal thread embroidery
- I'm in a sitcom Nazi PoW camp with my many champions
- I'm taking 'ell' from a weird perfectly tailored BBC presenter
- I'm a tonsorial trimmer known for my red-and-white poles
- I'm a deserted TE and DH of a colourful English Lady
- I'm the colour of the Republic and won't mix with Oranges
- I'm in deep despair, one of the hollow men, the stuffed men
- I'm Andrews, Reynolds and Goldberg, veiled ladies of habit
- I'm a French conquest, changing the olde English language
- I'm crying 'Eureka' on spec after seeing flecks and specks
- I'm sounding as happy as Larry as I ward off an attack
- I'm a calendar creator duelling with Julian over the years
- I'm a drunken carouser, marrying Maria on a twelfth night
- I'm Monty Python's moniker for every single Aussie bloke
- I'm painting in dribs and drabs, daubing the poles in blue
- I'm Stringybark's sole survivor and I later spilt the beans
- I'm sporting nanna knickers as I fill my doleful daily diary
- I'm named twelve times as Church Road champion women
- I'm old English, running freely and won't brook any dispute



ABOVE: Mr Rith, head of the Cambodian family supported by Rotary. BELOW: Koryan Rith, daughter of the family receiving support.





# An awkward AUKUS

John H. Smith

In recent months, the Institute of Postcolonial Studies (IPCS), based in Curzon Street, hosted two public discussions.

Led by the critical-thinking publication *Arena*, they opened up issues emerging from the AUKUS agreement.

Top of the list were the catastrophic effects of restarting the move to nuclear energy and weaponry in our region and the total integration of Australia's military resources with United States command.

Australians should be concerned that embracing AUKUS would introduce a nuclear threat to our friendly relationships in the Asia Pacific and all forms of life on the planet.

Australia has already followed the US into many unnecessary, costly and unsuccessful wars, with Iraq and Afghanistan the most recent.

The current dysfunctional state of the American government with its fears of losing dominance in the world has elevated the risk of conflict.

Meanwhile, the global context desperately needs all nations to utilise all political, financial and scientific resources to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The potential deaths and the fallout from a catastrophic war add to the already threatening extinction of life on the planet.

In October, Prime Minister Albanese was in America, partying with President Joe Biden and American politicians and officials.

While he was there, the AUKUS agreement, which, over the next four decades, commits Australia to spending \$365 billion for nuclear-powered submarines, was a key topic of discussion.

The AUKUS agreement that firmly binds Australia into American strategies of domination is aimed at resisting China's encroachment in our region and undermines Australia's sovereignty.

The capacity for the 'interoperability' of our military with the US exposes Australia to the danger of being engulfed by a foreign power and of alienating China, our largest trading partner.

In his later years, Malcolm Fraser warned that America is a "dangerous ally" for Australia. He maintained we will never be allowed equal participation in the policymaking of American war deliberations.

Participation in the renewal of nuclear proliferation and being subject to the dominant power of the US is detrimental for Australia, for the climate and for the world.

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.

**Want to know more?**

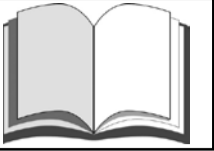
Go to <http://IPCS.org.au>



An IPCS panel leading the discussion.

## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### Chris Saliba



#### Absolutely and Forever

Rose Tremain  
Chatto & Windus, RRP: \$39.99

It's England in the 1950s, and 15-year-old Marianne Clifford has fallen in love with the beautiful Simon Hurst, a few years older than her. Their

love blooms like a fresh spring flower, young, delicate and vulnerable.

When Simon flunks his exams, his parents send him to Paris. The two young lovers stay in contact, with each letter from Simon fuelling an impossible hope that the two will spend their lives together. Then comes the fatal blow: Simon is getting married to a woman he met in Paris.

Marianne tries to carry on, but is drowning in an ocean of grief. She marries, but the union is ultimately unsatisfying. Her parents, a brash colonel and his emotionally absent wife, are no help. When Simon makes a surprise return to England, Marianne knows in her heart she will see him again. But what will be the outcome?

Award-winning English novelist Rose Tremain has written an authentic story of young heartbreak and its aftermath. Despite the painful subject, the novel is largely entertaining, with comic portraits of the blunt colonel and Marianne's tell-it-like-it-is Scottish friend Petronella. A perfectly realised and cathartic story about how early love has the power to haunt us through life.



#### Doppelgänger: A Trip Into the Mirror World

Naomi Klein  
Allen Lane, RRP: \$36.99

Canadian writer Naomi Klein has spent much of her career investigating capitalism and its effects on society and culture and focusing on the inequities it creates. Klein felt her work was clear; readers knew what she stood for.

Imagine her surprise when she started noticing online that she was being mixed up with Naomi Wolf, a writer who had shot to fame in 1990 with her feminist treatise *The Beauty Myth*. Wolf has since had a stellar career, but in recent years has lurched to the far right as a conspiracy theorist.

*Doppelgänger* is Klein's attempt to come to grips with this new age of online extremism. The book explores via literature, history and politics how individuals and even societies have a dark side, an almost evil twin. (Australia often gets a mention, the doctrine of terra nullius seen as a denial of the existence of First Nations.)

According to Klein, we are all vulnerable to this doubling and need only look in the mirror. *Doppelgänger* starts from a flimsy premise, but spins into a fascinating and absorbing book, full of superb analysis and surprising paradoxes.



#### The Concrete Garden

Bob Graham  
Walker Books, RRP: \$27.99

In a dismal high-rise tower block, a throng of children spills out of the lift "like sweets from a box" after a cold winter.

Amanda is first out of the lift and onto the ground floor. She carries with her a box full of coloured chalk. She starts drawing patterns on the concrete of the basketball court.

Soon the other children are joining in. Jackson draws a dandelion, Janet creates a mushroom and Bradley adds more flowers. Indira draws a big palm tree, while Celia puts in an alien invader. Rosie stands atop of all this colour and draws a "Queen of Swirls".

Looking on from a few stories above, Nasrin takes a photo and sends it to her mum in faraway Isfahan in Iran. The photo magically travels across the world. When the children have finished drawing, the adults come out onto their balconies and clap, while the young artists take a bow.

Written in the time of COVID (referenced with several characters wearing masks), Bob Graham's *The Concrete Garden* is a sweet celebration of creativity and play after a long winter of discontent. These are wistful lockdown memories that have warmth and intimacy.

Ages 3+

Chris Saliba is co-owner of North Melbourne Books, 546 Queensberry Street. He writes regular reviews for the News.



# Community connections create a place to call home

John H. Smith

Before Lee Hurlston arrived in North Melbourne in early 1981, the suburb had barely registered in her mind.

"I saw it as a place you passed through on your way from the airport to the city," she says.

"Now there is an energy about the landscape that reminds me of Hobart, where I spent time as a child. That's why I feel happy here," she smiles.

After Lee married, they rented in South Yarra while looking to buy elsewhere. "We tried Richmond, which didn't feel comfortable," she says.

Then they saw an ad for a North Melbourne property described as "a gem". "It was! We bought it in the early 1980s and lived there for 16 years," she says.

Lee recalls her mother-in-law, who knew the suburb in the 1930s, was appalled they had bought here.

However, she has never regretted it. "I celebrate all that the suburb has been for me for many years. It's been a haven, a special place, that we all love through its community connections."

Since her arrival in the suburb, 42 years ago, Lee's personal journey has

followed a circuitous route.

After leaving home in Year 11, she intended to study medicine but, at 17, she began work.

Along the way she has been a chef, an after-school program coordinator and worked at the University of Melbourne's vet school.

During the Whitlam years, Lee studied HSC at night at University High then was accepted to study Melbourne law as a mature-age student, one of only five to be accepted from 1,800 applicants.

"By the end of first year I was the only one left. I had my second child, Sebastian, at the start of second year. It was a long journey," she says.

After the birth of third child Isabella, Lee started work at North Melbourne Community Legal Centre, which provided free services in casework and legal education. "In casework, you learn what the real issues are for people," she says.

"I got to know a mixed network of people who contributed strongly to a feeling of belonging and connectedness in our area."

With three young children, Lee connected with the Abbotsford Street maternal health centre. "It generated a sense of collective energy that flowed

over into other things. I wonder how young mothers find support now?" she muses.

It was a simpler time. "An association formed through the old

neighbourhood house. We fundraised for three years and in 1991 opened a coffee shop on Victoria Street, later called the Peppermint Lounge, that became a community meeting point."



Lee Hurlston with grandson Joey.

Lee laments the damage done during the slash-and-burn Kennett era with the dramatic loss of local public assets.

She lists some losses. "Boundary Road Primary closed down, West Melbourne Primary was sold to the Salvation Army, the swimming pool closed, the Meat Market art space changed hands and selling the town hall was planned."

She believes the three things that changed the community mood were Postcode 3000, a plan to encourage residential development in the CBD; the banks' lending policy for residential space; and the rise of private equity firms.

For Lee, what she terms the "human scale" of the suburb is precious. "A saving grace is the width of the streets. It gives us a better sense of space. And our quality open spaces were well used during COVID," she says.

"I love our coffee culture and the spirit of our community. But the new architecture that is going up is really boring."

John H. Smith writes regularly for the News.



# Courses & Activities (Dec'23 – Mar'24)



North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre (NWMNC) hosts programs and activities for locals.

We try and offer programs that people in our community want to see happen.

Use the following link to register your interest for forthcoming programs and share your ideas about what you think we should offer. Or if you are interested in a course but the time doesn't suit, let us know. Maybe you even want to offer something yourself.

<https://forms.office.com/r/nqyCDTTt5S>

Bookings: [www.centre.org.au](http://www.centre.org.au), 9328 1126, in person at NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne



## Health & Wellbeing

### Pilates

Pilates aims to improve your awareness of how to use your body correctly and strengthen your postural muscles to allow you to support your spine. Pilates classes are graded so it is possible to find the level that suits your ability, experience or limitations. Exercises can be adjusted to suit all ages. Graded classes are taught by Brazilian-trained physiotherapist Fernanda Cury. Classes are relaxed and a great way to meet up with other locals. Online options also available. Tuesdays and Thursdays now in fabulous Quaker Centre venue.

### General/Intro to Pilates

A class that caters for all levels of experience.

**Wednesdays 9.15 am-10.15 am**  
Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane (behind North Melbourne Library)

### Beginners

The basics are still covered but some knowledge is assumed. Over the term the exercises will progress to more challenging options as you build strength and flexibility.

**Thursdays 5.30 pm-6.30 pm**  
Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

### Intermediate

This class provides the next step up with more challenging exercises. Strengthen your postural muscles and exercise in a manner that is safe for all your joints.

**Tuesdays 5.30 pm-6.30 pm**  
**Thursdays 8 pm-9 pm**  
Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

### Intermediate Plus

Our hardest class is suitable for people with a good level of body awareness and strength. Designed to improve your trunk strength and provide a really stable base for your other sports or daily activities.

**Thursdays 6.45 pm-7.45 pm**  
Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

**Timetable:** Pilates classes operate run on a 10-week term timetable. Term 4 concludes 11 December. Term 1, 2024, commences 22 January.

**Costs:** \$21 (\$15.50 concession) per class when booking for full term or remainder of term. Casual enrolments (\$28 per session).

## Community Gatherings

### Seniors Morning Tea

Join this group of multicultural seniors for an informal chat over morning tea – a place where friendships can flourish. Sometimes with a guest speaker.

**First Tuesday each month 10 am – 11.30 am (not January)**  
NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne  
Cost: \$5

### North Melbourne Men's Afternoon Tea

A casual get-together for some food and a chat with other men from the neighbourhood. New people encouraged. **FREE**

**Thursdays (7 December, then fortnightly from 18 January),**  
**3.30 pm – 5 pm.**  
NWMNC, 58 Errol St. North Melbourne



### Monthly Community Dinner

Delicious food (home-cooked entree, mains and desserts) and good company.

**First Sunday of each month, 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm**  
West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre,  
4 Miller St, West Melbourne  
\$10 (under 12s free)  
RSVP 0403 175 200

### WomEmpower

WomEmpower is a group for young women to gather for games, activities, chats and fun each week! Includes guest speakers, craft sessions, language exchange and cooking classes. For young women 15 to 25.

**Wednesdays, 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm, 7 February for 8 weeks**  
NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne and online  
Presented by Hotham Mission  
Bookings and enquiries: [programs@hothammission.org.au](mailto:programs@hothammission.org.au) or call  
(03) 9326 8245

## For Seniors

### Older Adults Exercise

A general strengthening class for those 60+. Includes low impact aerobics, balance and strengthening exercises, using exercise band resistance for all parts of the body. Suitable for people of all abilities.

**Mondays 11 am – 12 noon (except 11 March)**  
West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre  
4 Miller St, West Melbourne

**Wednesdays 10.30 am -11.30 am**  
Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane  
(behind North Melbourne Library)  
Cost: \$21 (\$15.50 concession) per session when booking for the term.

### Centre Adventures

Visit historical, cultural or horticultural places of interest and significance. Normally a full-day bus trip, Centre Adventures are a great way to get out beyond the everyday.

**27 February**  
**26 March**  
**9.30 am – 5 pm. Departing from NWMNC, 58 Errol Street,**  
**North Melbourne**  
Cost: \$60 (\$45 Concession), including lunch and morning tea.

North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre Inc  
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne, Vic 3051

Tel: (03) 9328 1126 Email: [admin@centre.org.au](mailto:admin@centre.org.au)

Office hours: Monday 10 am to 6 pm, Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 3 pm





## Creative Pursuits

### Sing NoW! Community Choir

Join music director Susie Kelly in this inclusive community choir for adults of all ages. The choir sings music from across the world and spanning many decades.

No previous experience required. Special performance 14 September (see page 6)

**Thursdays 7 pm–8.30 pm (Starting 1 February for 9 weeks)**  
Sokol Melbourne, 497 Queensberry St, North Melbourne  
Cost: \$18 (\$11.50 Concession) per session when booking for the term.

Casual enrolment online \$25 per session, if available

### Beginners' French

Only one language could be the language of both diplomacy and love: French! If you would like to begin, extend or re-kindle your Francophile tendencies, join native French speaker Léa Carré in a relaxed and supportive environment. Over eight weeks you will build your vocabulary, practice conversations and grasp grammatical structures while exploring French culture and tradition.

**Friday 4.30pm – 5.30 pm – Basic Steps I (no experience necessary)**  
**Friday 5.30pm – 6.30 pm – Basic Steps II (a little knowledge)**

Starting 2 February for 8 weeks  
NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne  
\$140 (\$100 concession)

### Spanish for Fun

Learn the language spoken by more than 500 million people across the Americas and Spain: Español A small and friendly conversation-based class that will prepare you for travelling. With Colombian-born Katherine Taborda.

**Mondays 5 pm – 6 pm (Starting 29 January for 8 sessions – no class 11 March)**

NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne  
\$140 (\$100 concession)

## Digital Skills

### Computers: Digital Essentials

Make your computer work for you. ecome more comfortable engaging in the digital world. This friendly course will help you maximise your productivity and minimise frustration. With new tutor James Klonis

**Wednesdays 10 am–12.30 pm (starting 31 January for 9 weeks)**  
NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne  
Cost: \$65 (\$50 Concession)

### Making Your Phone Work For You

Who said phones were made for calling people every now and then? Modern 'smartphones' are mobile computers, and used for all matter of activities. This course covers setting up your phone, choosing apps, using the cloud and phone security. With tutor James Klonis.

**Wednesdays 1 pm – 3 pm (starting 21 February)**  
The Centre, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne  
\$35 (\$25 concession)

Plus later in 2024: Microsoft Intermediate; Coding Essentials; Digital Marketing. Express Your Interest.

## Small Business Skills

### Foundations of Entrepreneurship

Get an understanding of what it takes to build a small business from scratch. Develop your ideas into an actionable business plan.

**Saturdays 1 pm – 4 pm (10 February for 4 weeks)**  
NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne, and online.  
\$80 (\$40 concession)

Plus later in 2024: Personal Brand Development; Bookkeeping; Digital Marketing. Express Your Interest.

## Skills for Work and Life

### Podcasting

Make your own podcast pilot! Learn about the storytelling craft, researching and synthesising information, presentation and interviewing, audio editing and podcast distribution. Graduates get to contribute to Market to Melrose podcast.



**Saturdays 10am – 12:30pm (10 February for 4 weeks)**  
NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne & online  
\$80 (\$40 concession)

### Event Management

Learn what goes into designing, developing and implementing an event, such as a local community festival. Covers topics including event concept and design, community development, marketing & sponsorship, logistics, financial management, risk and volunteers. You will be learning skills hands-on, as part of the event teams organising the Spanish Language Fiesta and/or Multicultural Eid.

**Tuesdays, 6pm – 8pm (Starting February 13 for 6 weeks)**  
NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne, and online  
\$80 (\$40 concession)

Plus later in 2024: Photo & Video Storytelling; Journalism; Financial Literacy; Sports Development. Express Your Interest.

We don't want cost to be a barrier to participation. Those with the means are encouraged to pay a bit more so that others can also participate. If you would like to take advantage of our flexible pricing policy, contact the North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre.

## For Kids

### Rainbow Art Class

Experienced art teacher Shyamasree Bose will guide children in a colourful exploration of drawing and painting, using watercolour, acrylic, oil pastels, mixed media and pencils. Suitable for creative kids aged 4 to 12.

**Tuesdays 4 pm – 5 pm (Starting 6 February for 8 weeks)**

NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne  
\$96 (\$80 concession) (\$15 casual if available)

### Home Away From Homework Club

Friendly and inclusive, students come to complete their homework (or our extra material) with the assistance of tutors. There are also games, and a nutritious snack and drink provided. For children in Grades 3 to Year 9. **FREE**

**Wednesdays 3.30 pm – 5 pm (during school term)**  
– NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

**Wednesdays 4 pm – 5.30 pm (during school term)**  
– North Melbourne Language & Learning, 33 Alfred St, North Melbourne

**Thursdays 3.30 pm–5 pm (during school term)**  
– Library@TheDock, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands

### Sing NoW! Kids Choir

This new choir engages children with the joyful learning of pitch, rhythm, harmony and musical expression, with regular performance opportunities. The choir will explore a wide range of music to help foster a life-long love of music appreciation and involvement. With local singer and educator Jenna Stamp. For children aged 6 to 12.

**Thursdays 4 pm – 5 pm, starting 1 February for 8 weeks**  
\$96 (\$80 concession)

**FREE School Holiday Trial Session**  
**Thursday 18 January, 2pm – 3pm**  
North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol St, North Melbourne

### Spanish for Kids

¡Hola! Dora the Explorer speaks it. So do 500 million people across the globe. A small and friendly class that will get your kids speaking Español in no time! With Colombian-born Katherine Taborda.

**Mondays, 4pm – 5pm**  
**Starting 5 February for 7 classes (no class 11 March)**  
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne  
\$123.20 (\$77 concession)

**School Holiday Taster Session**  
**Tuesday 16 January 2024, 2pm–3pm**  
\$16.50 (\$11 concession)

## School Holiday Program

### Gumtree Art Workshops

Three sessions that help kids connect with nature and creativity, with local artist Liv Sutherland. Learn a variety of drawing techniques as you draw some of the beautiful trees and other plants from around North Melbourne! Join all or just one of our available workshops.

**Tuesday 16 January (Playing with Lines), Tuesday 17 January (Colour) & Wednesday 18 January (Tone & Shape)**  
10 am – 11 am daily

NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne  
\$10 per session (\$25 for all three)  
Suitable for kids aged 5 to 11. Artworks might even be displayed in a gallery exhibition!

### Make-A-Game Workshop

Are you interested in games? Art? Coding? Music? Then this workshop is for you! Come along to this three-day holiday workshop where instructor James Klonis teaches the magic of 2D game creation! By the end of the workshop, you will come away not just with a game prototype, but with basic skills that you can take into many other areas.

**Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 22–24 January 2024 (3-day program)**

10 am – 3 pm (30-minute lunch break)  
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne  
\$130 (\$95 Concession)

Suitable for any level of experience. Return participants encouraged.





## North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre

# New name for old friend

You may have noticed a new look and a new name for the organisation that brings you *North & West Melbourne News*, Queensberry Cup, Sing NoW! choir and many other programs and initiatives.

We are now known as North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre. We don't really mind what you call us, but that is now our official name. And you'll also start to see the initialism NWMNC.

This is the culmination of a journey that started almost two years ago. Our previous name, The Centre, was seen as overly generic and lacking any kind of description. The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne was descriptive, but also long and cumbersome.

We are surrounded by myriad 'Centres': North Melbourne Community Centre, Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre, North Melbourne Recreation Centre, West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre, not to mention children's centres, medical centres and shopping centres.

While it was nice to think we were The Centre of everything, the reality was that many local people didn't know The Centre existed, what it stood for or what it did. As we expanded our reach into the community, I found I was constantly answering the question "Which centre?"

Over the past few months, we have been working with Dan Truong, a young local graphic designer on our rebranding journey. As part of this process, we considered many

### FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR Ariel Valent



potential naming options.

Our board created a shortlist of names, which we road-tested with four focus groups in our community. The name that was strongly preferred was unanimously endorsed by members at the annual general meeting in September.

Those with long memories may recognise North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre as the name by which we were known prior to 2007. So it is a back-to-the-future moment of sorts! I look forward to again revealing the wonderfully colourful teapot banner that has suddenly regained currency.

Dan has also helped us with our visual identity.

"The design captures the essence of Errol Street and Victoria Street, where NWMNC is situated," Dan says. "Taking inspiration from the maroon-coloured awnings that are symbolic of North and West Melbourne's history and that can be found in surrounding streets, this design depicts the warm and welcoming doors of NWMNC.

"The iconic light globes that illuminate these streets at night are captured in this design. It's a simple yet welcoming icon."

To help people understand what North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre is, we've added a tagline that is self-

explanatory: "A welcoming place for all to connect, learn and share."

Our end-of-year event on Thursday 14 December will also be the official launch of our new name and brand. We hope to see many of you there to share in our branded cake! (see page 2 for more details)

Please drop by at 58 Errol Street or book in for one of our programs (see page 20-21). And if you don't see anything that would help you connect, learn or share, let us know and we can try and design something together.

★ ★ ★

On behalf of the whole team at North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre, I would like to wish our whole community a safe and happy festive season. Whatever you do (or don't) celebrate at this time of year, we can all savour the longer days and slower pace.

With so much turmoil across the globe, now is the perfect time to remember that our common bonds as humans – as neighbours – are much more important than any differences in religion, national origin or demography.

Our Neighbourhood Centre will be closed from Saturday 16 December and will re-open on Monday 8 January.



Annie Jeffery, Gabrielle Pestinger and Carol Pestinger with their award.

## Premier's Award for Wholefoods Unwrapped

Wholefoods Unwrapped has been offering a fortnightly service in North Melbourne since October. Ten to fifteen orders have been filled each time and there is room to grow to up to twenty-five.

It's a simple system. Anyone can order about 400 different items through the online shop. Those with the means pay the reasonable prices. Those struggling to get enough good food on the table can use a code at checkout to get up to \$80 of free produce.

Then on Thursday afternoon, the orders are brought to the Neighbourhood Centre for collection. Everything is packed in waste-free, returnable containers. No plastic at all! Take the food home, enjoy it and bring your empty containers back next time.

Wholefoods Unwrapped Collective was recently awarded the Circular Economy Innovation Community Champion award at the 2023 Premier's Sustainability Awards. Founder Gabrielle Pestinger said: "We're super honoured and humbled by this award. We may be small but we are mighty!"

**Find out more at:** [wholefoodsunwrappedcollective.com/northmelb/](https://wholefoodsunwrappedcollective.com/northmelb/)

## Nine Days of Christmas Fun

Explore hidden gems in the North & West Melbourne precinct. Shop the main streets and be entertained by live music.

Gardiner Reserve will host a community picnic on Friday 15 December with a performance by the Australian Girls Choir.

Bring the kids to Errol Street to see the hilarious Elf Twinkle Toes on Tuesday 19 December or find last minute gifts at the EziStreet Christmas Market on Sunday 17 December.

On Wednesday 20 December, Santa and his helpers will make a grand entrance in their fire truck.

As an added bonus, shop throughout the precinct and enjoy free designer Christmas wrapping paper!

To find the full list of offerings visit [northwestmelbourne.com.au](https://northwestmelbourne.com.au)

# Delivering the good News

Rashi Jain

Coordinating the distribution of the *News* is no easy task. When I took on the role three years ago, I was lucky to inherit a detailed strategy and distribution maps from legendary coordinator Helen Lew Ton, who left in early 2013.

I knew we wanted to maintain Helen's successful distribution strategy and to ensure that all locals received a copy of the *News*. It proved a bigger task than I anticipated.

Before each quarterly distribution round, we updated area maps for each distributor and assigned routes to each. If distributors were unavailable, we revised the plan.

On publication day, staff at the North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre bundled and tagged the required number of copies of the *News* for each of our volunteer distributors.

One of the joys of the role was dealing with our long-term volunteer distributors, such as Jan Lacey, Rob Oke, Tom Seddon, Susan Harraway and Tim Creaman, some of whom have been with us for more than 10 years.

As with all community volunteer groups, we were in a constant state of recruitment. Often deliverers

encouraged friends to join us. One recruit said: "I'm willing to do it because I have time to devote to it and it gives an excuse to go for a friendly walk around my neighbourhood."

Distribution coordination was not all smooth sailing. Some apartment blocks restrict access, which made delivery difficult. Contacting building management was a challenge, as was catering to occasional volunteer unavailability and providing for any 'orphaned' delivery rounds left unallocated.

But always, after the rush of the hectic pre-distribution week, there was a beautiful sense of relief that all North and West Melbourne locals had had their copies of the *News* delivered to their homes.

After my three years of coordinating delivery of our community newspaper, the role has passed to Zara Winter. I'm certain she will continue to get the good *News* out to all our readers.

*Rashi Jain was distribution coordinator of the News (2021-23). She will continue to write for the News.*

**RIGHT: Outgoing News distribution coordinator Rashi Jain.**





NOTICEBOARD



The North & West Melbourne News is a quarterly publication produced by volunteers. Readers' contributions and letters are welcomed. Where relevant the News may seek alternative opinions in the interests of balance. Contributors' opinions are their own and the News takes no responsibility for them. We reserve the right to edit or omit articles considered unsuitable or when space is limited. Send articles by email to [editorial@centre.org.au](mailto:editorial@centre.org.au). Please send photographs of suitable resolution for reproduction as graphic files with the article.

**Finance**

The News is a program of the North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre, a registered charity. Costs of producing the News are met through advertising, sponsorships, subscriptions and donations. Donations of more than \$20 are tax deductible through the ANHCA Public Fund for DGR.

**News distribution**

The News is distributed free throughout North and West Melbourne. Get in touch if you know of anyone not receiving their copy. Copies are available from the North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre, North Melbourne Library and online at [www.centre.org.au](http://www.centre.org.au). Subscriptions are \$20 per year (four issues) sent to anywhere in Australia.

**Volunteers**

The News welcomes new volunteers. If you have skills in writing, drawing, photography, archiving, proofreading, computer technology, social media or design and layout, please consider joining the team.

**Editor:** Maurice Gaul

**Production:** Anne Burgi

**Advertising:** Janet Graham

**Distribution:** Zara Winter

**Proofreader:** Suzie Luddon

**Illustrator:** Ed Zhao

**Photographer:** Jim Weatherill

**Podcasters:** Tom Rigby & Penry Buckley

**Writers:** Michelle Brett, Maurice Gaul, Brendan Gleeson, Rashi Jain, Very Impressive, Nancy Lane, Laura Misale, Keely Naylon, Nebojsa Pajkic, Marion Poynter, Josh Rule, Flora Sciarra, John H. Smith, Gavan Tobin

**Publisher:** Ariel Valent

**Circulation:** 7,500

Printed by Express Print  
5 Jones Road, Morwell 3844



Melbourne North Police in conjunction with the Melbourne North Police Community Consultative Committee are holding a

# CHRISTMAS TOY AND FOOD DRIVE

Donate toys or non-perishable food items to those less fortunate and help put a smile on someone's face this Christmas!

Drop items at the Melbourne North Police Station by Wednesday 13 December and they will be distributed to those in need.

**Enquiries**

Acting Sergeant

Nick Parissis

(03) 8379 0800

Melbourne North Police Station

36 Wreckyn Street,

North Melbourne



## Volunteer information transcribers wanted

Volunteers are being sought to transcribe names from Sands & McDougall directories for selected streets in North and West Melbourne. This is a home-based, at-your-own-pace task that will appeal to careful typists who know how to use a spreadsheet and have a passion for local history.

**Please register your interest at [melbournestreets1@gmail.com](mailto:melbournestreets1@gmail.com)**

## Kryptic Kwiz (page 18) answers

- 1 (David) Lean (*lean meat*) 2 (Marjorie) Jackson (*Michael Jackson's moonwalk*)
- 3 (Mack) Horton (*Johnny Horton, North to Alaska*) 4 (Lisa) Martin (*Dean Martin*)
- 5 (Norma) Croker (*frog sound*) 6 (Sally) McLennan (*Kate McLennan & Kate McCartney*) 7 (Chilla) Porter (*Christian Porter*) 8 (Ron) Clarke (*John Clarke*)
- 9 (Rick) Mitchell (*Margaret Mitchell, Gone With the Wind*) 10 (Jessica) Morrison (*Scott Morrison*) 11 (Meg) Harris (*Harris tweed*) 12 (Raelene) Boyle (*Boyle's law*)
- 13 (Emilee) Cherry (*new ball red cherry*) 14 (Keegan) Palmer (*Pilgrim, Chaucer's Prologue*) 15 (Catherine) Skinner (*B. F. Skinner*) 16 (Tom) Burton (*Richard Burton*) 17 (Cathy) Freeman 18 (Steve) Hooker 19 (John) Winter (*Winter of our discontent*) 20 (Kate) Brennan (*Walter Brennan*) 21 (Alexander) Hill
- 22 (Fleur) Mellor 23 (Hec) Hogan (*Hogan's Heroes*) 24 (Jane) Saville (*Jimmy Savile, Savile Row*) 25 (Kelsey-Lee) Barber 26 (Allan) Lawrence (*Lawrence of Arabia, D.H. Lawrence*) 27 (Thomas) Green 28 (Herb) Elliott (*T.S. Eliot*)
- 29 (Glynis) Nunn (*Julie Andrews, Debbie Reynolds & Whoopi Goldberg all played nuns*) 30 (Peter) Norman (*Norman Invasion, 1066*) 31 (Jack) Hargraves (*Edward Hargraves prospector*) 32 (Shannon) Parry 33 (Leon) Gregory (*Pope Gregory XIII, Gregorian calendar*) 34 (Mathew) Belcher (*Sir Toby Belch, Twelfth Night*)
- 35 (Theodore) Bruce (*G'day Bruce!*) 36 (Judy) Pollock (*Jackson Pollock, Blue Poles*) 37 (Annabelle) McIntyre (*Sgt Thomas McIntyre*) 38 (Brenda) Jones (*Bridget Jones' Diary*) 39 (Serena & Venus) Williams (*Serena seven Wimbledon singles titles, Venus five*) 40 (Nicole) Beck (*river or stream*)

## Send contributions, letters and feedback to:

**North & West Melbourne News**  
**North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre,**  
**58 Errol Street, North Melbourne 3051**  
**Email:** [editorial@centre.org.au](mailto:editorial@centre.org.au) **Telephone:** 9328 1126

**Autumn 2024**

Copy deadline: Friday 2 February

Publication date: Friday 1 March

**Winter 2024**

Copy deadline: Friday 3 May

Publication date: Friday 31 May

**Spring 2024**

Copy deadline: Friday 23 August

Publication date: Friday 20 September

**Summer 2024-2025**

Copy deadline: Friday 8 November

Publication date: Friday 6 December

# Christmas Services, North and West Melbourne



### St James Old Cathedral, Anglican

Corner King and Batman streets, West Melbourne (opposite Flagstaff Gardens)

Sunday 17 December 10.00am Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 24 December 10.00am Advent 4 Holy Communion

Sunday 24 December 11.00pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Monday 25 December 10.00am Christmas Day Holy Communion

### St Mary Star of the Sea, Catholic

Corner Victoria and Howard streets, West Melbourne

Sunday 24 December 10.00am Mass; 5.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass; 11.30pm

Carols before Midnight Mass; 12.00 midnight Solemn Midnight Mass

Monday 25 December 10.00am Mass of Christmas Day; 11.30am Lithuanian Mass

Tuesday 26 December to Friday 5 January 12.30pm Weekday Mass

Saturday 30 December 10.00am Mass

Sunday 31 December (The Holy Family) 10.00am & 5.00pm Mass

Monday 1 January (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) 10.00am Mass

Sunday 7 January (Solemnity of the Epiphany) 10.00am & 5.00pm Mass

### St Mary's, Anglican

Corner Queensberry and Howard streets, North Melbourne

Sunday 3 December 7.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols (with the Choir of St Mary's, North Melbourne)

Saturday 16 December 5.00pm Carols on the Corner

Sunday 24 December 5.00pm Kids' Christmas; 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25 December 9.00am Family Christmas Service

### St Michael's, Catholic

456 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne

Not available at time of going to press

### Saints Peter and Paul, Ukrainian Catholic

35 Canning Street, North Melbourne (corner Dryburgh Street)

Sunday 24 December 9.30am Divine Liturgy; 11.30am Divine Liturgy; 5.00pm

Great Compline; 11.30pm Divine Liturgy (for Christmas)

Monday 25 December 10.00am Divine Liturgy

### Uniting Church, Mark the Evangelist

29 College Crescent, Parkville

Please note new address.

Sunday 24 December 10.00am Cycle of Advent Readings and Carols

Monday 25 December 9.30am Christmas Day with Eucharist

### West Melbourne Baptist Church

4 Miller Street, West Melbourne

Sunday 24 December 5.30pm to 7.30pm (normal service day and time)

Christmas Carol Service; coffee, snacks and chat afterwards

Monday 25 December 9.30am to 10.30am Christmas Service.

From 11.30am to about 1.30pm we will host a Christmas lunch, which is open to all but particularly for those who may not have any family/friends to spend Christmas with.

## NWMN advertisement sizes and rates to March 2024

Size	Colour	Mono
Full page (24 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$1,795.00	\$1,560.00
Half page (24 cm wide x 17 cm high or 12 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$900.00	\$785.00
One-third page (24 cm wide x 12 cm high)	\$650.00	\$575.00
One-quarter page (24 cm wide x 8.5 cm high or 12 cm wide x 17 cm high)	\$485.00	\$415.00
One-eighth page (12 cm wide x 8.5 cm high)	\$245.00	\$210.00
One-16th page (12 cm wide x 4 cm high)	\$130.00	\$115.00
Business card (in Services Directory) (9 cm wide x 5.5 cm high)	\$115.00	\$95.00

- Prices inclusive of GST
- Book four consecutive issues to receive a 20% discount, total amount payable at time of booking.
- Prices are for supplied artwork (high-resolution PDF). Layout services are available — talk to us about how we can help.
- The News reserves the right to reject advertising bookings that are outside the standards for a community-based publication.
- For information and bookings, email: [advertising@centre.org.au](mailto:advertising@centre.org.au)





Baillie Street



Harris Street



Errol Street



Errol Street

## Treats in timber

Nancy Lane

Tucked among the predominantly brick houses of North Melbourne are a little wooden house here, a little wooden house there. Only rarely are there two or more in the same block – for example, a row of five on Curzon between Harris and O'Shanassy streets, and three clustered on either side of Harris Street at Isaacs Lane.

Some of the houses are definitely showing their age, while others have recently been 'done up.' Whatever shape they're in, they make me smile, knowing they've been there for a long while and, by and large, are holding their own against their brick cousins and the nouveau concrete apartment blocks.

Nancy Lane writes regularly for the News.



Little Baillie Street



Little Provost Street



Abbotsford Street



Harris Street



Curzon Street



Abbotsford Street



Dryburgh Street



Curzon Street at Weirs Lane



Chapman Street



Chapman Street



Curzon Street