

# NW MN

NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE NEWS

ISSUE 174 SPRING 2016

THE NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE NEWS IS PRODUCED BY VOLUNTEERS AT THE CENTRE

SUNDAY 16  
OCTOBER  
2016

10AM - 6PM

Free entry



# Spring Fling

## Street Festival

PROUDLY PRODUCED BY THE CENTRE:  
CONNECTING COMMUNITY IN NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE INC.



Errol St / Victoria St / surrounding laneways  
NORTH MELBOURNE





**NOTICEBOARD**

The *North and West Melbourne News* is a quarterly publication produced by volunteers from North and West Melbourne and the inner city. It is now in its 38th year of production. Readers' contributions are welcomed. Where relevant the *News* may seek alternative opinions in the interests of balance. Contributors' opinions are their own, however, and the *News* takes no responsibility for them. We reserve the right to edit or omit articles and advertisements considered unsuitable or when space is limited.

Articles should be submitted by email to [nwmnews@centre.org.au](mailto:nwmnews@centre.org.au). Please use minimal formatting and do not embed graphics in documents. Photographs should be sent separately as JPEGs.

**Finance**

The *News* is a non-profit organisation working as a program of The Centre. Funding is by way of a limited quota of advertising, sponsorships, subscriptions and occasional donations.

**News subscriptions**

If you would like to receive the *North and West Melbourne News* by mail anywhere in Australia, please contact us. A new rate for four editions is currently under discussion. The *News* is distributed free throughout North and West Melbourne. Further copies are available from The Centre and the North Melbourne Library.

**Advertisement sizes and rates**

60 mm W x 92 mm H \$70 plus GST  
 124 mm W x 92 mm H \$140 plus GST  
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 A charge of 25 per cent may be added for advertisements that require designing. For more information phone 9329 1627 or email [nwmnews@centre.org.au](mailto:nwmnews@centre.org.au). *Community announcements are published free of charge.*

**Volunteers**

The *News* welcomes new volunteers. If you have skills in writing, drawing, photography, archiving, subediting and proofreading, computer technology or design and layout, please consider joining the team. We also need more walkers to distribute the *News*.

**Editor:** Lachlan Marr

**Deputy Editor:** Aaron Rowan-Bell

**Production Coordinator:** Position vacant

**Advertising Coordinator:** Janet Graham

**Section Editors:**

Arts & Entertainment: Charlotte Aldenhoven

Community: Position vacant

Education & Technology: Lachlan Marr

History: Position vacant

Noticeboard: Janet Graham

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Sport & Health: Lachlan Marr

Travel & Food: Aaron Rowan-Bell

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**Wednesday 9 November**

**Advertisers: Wednesday 2 November**

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[www.northandwestmelbournenews.com](http://www.northandwestmelbournenews.com)

**STOP PRESS!****IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT ARDEN DEVELOPMENT**

The State Government has just released plans for the Arden Urban Renewal Precinct in North Melbourne. Go to [www.vpa.vic.gov.au/project/arden/](http://www.vpa.vic.gov.au/project/arden/) to access information and to the City of Melbourne's website [www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/ardenmacaulay#jl\\_magic\\_tabs\\_gix4](http://www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/ardenmacaulay#jl_magic_tabs_gix4) to have your say on the Draft Arden Vision & Framework 2016.

**VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL  
October 2016**

**FREE public transport Sunday 2 October – Sunday 9 October**  
 Travel free on Melbourne's trains, trams and buses, V/Line trains, and buses in some regional cities. For Metro use a seniors myki, for other services Victorian Seniors Card. Some V/Line services require advance booking on 1800 800 007.

**Some local highlights from this year's festival program**

**Heartmoves — Tue 4 Oct 11.00am – 12.00 noon FREE**

A gentle physical activity program suitable for anyone who hasn't done any exercise for a while. Venue: North Melbourne Community Centre, 49–53 Buncle Street. Bookings essential: Olivia 9320 4700, [olivia.manzart@ymca.org.au](mailto:olivia.manzart@ymca.org.au)

**Water workout — Thur 6 Oct 10.00am FREE**

Great music, moves and instructors — beginners welcome. Venue: North Melbourne Recreation Centre, 1 Macaulay Road. Bookings essential: 9658 9444. Includes morning tea.

**Italians in Australia — Fri 7 Oct 1.00pm – 4.00pm FREE**

Talks and stories about the history of Italians in Australia before 1945. Venue: Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street. Bookings essential: 9927 2726, [idx@museum.vic.gov.au](mailto:idx@museum.vic.gov.au)

**Sex and death — Sat 8 and Sun 9 Oct 11.00am – 5.00pm, every half hour FREE**

When do we actually become old? This is a performance experience that invites you to reflect on life, death and what happens in between. Venue: North Melbourne Town Hall. Bookings essential: [sanddishere@gmail.com](mailto:sanddishere@gmail.com)

**Book a librarian — Wed 12 Oct 10.00am – 5.00pm FREE**

Presented by Melbourne Library Service. Book up to 45 minutes with a friendly librarian to get help with a tech issue of your choice. Venue: North Melbourne Library. Bookings essential: 9658 9500, [library@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:library@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**The Centre: Connecting Community in North and West Melbourne Inc.  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

In accordance with the Constitution of the Association, notice is hereby given that the 40th Annual General Meeting of The Centre will be held at 6.30pm on Monday 26 September 2016 at the clubrooms of the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women, North and West Melbourne Sub-branch, 16 Little Errol Street, North Melbourne.

**AGENDA**

- Welcome
- Attendance and apologies
- Confirmation of the minutes of the 2014–15 AGM
- Receive the Management Committee Annual Report 2015–16
- Election of three persons for a three-year term (2016 to 2018) to be members of the Management Committee\*
- Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2016 in accordance with Section 94 of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*
- Determine the annual subscription and date for payment thereof
- Appointment of an auditor or auditors

\* Nominations for membership of the Management Committee close at 5.00pm on Sunday 25 September 2016.

The reports will be publicly available on our website at [www.centre.org.au](http://www.centre.org.au) progressively from 1 September 2016.

**Michael J. Halls**  
 Director and Returning Officer  
 26 August 2016

**Book groups at North Melbourne Library  
Australian Book Group**

Like to discuss Australian literature? Come along once a month and discuss your favourite book and what you are reading now. **Second Tuesday of the month, 6.00pm. Meetings will be on 11 October, 8 November and 13 December.**

Phone 9658 9700 or email Heather on [heamck@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:heamck@melbourne.vic.gov.au) for information.

**North Melbourne Book Group**

**Third Monday of the month, 5.00pm, no bookings required**

**19 September** *One Life: My Mother's Story* Kate Grenville  
**17 October** *My Brilliant Friend* Elena Ferrante  
**21 November** *Ghost River* Tony Birch  
**19 December** Favourite book and favourite book group this year

North Melbourne Library, 66 Errol Street, North Melbourne  
[www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au](http://www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au)

**Rotary Club Book Fair  
QUALITY SECOND-HAND BOOKS — ALL \$2**

Saturday 10 September 9.00am – 5.00pm  
 Sunday 11 September 10.00am – 3.00pm

**Meat Market Stables, corner Courtney and Wreckyn streets, North Melbourne**

Conducted by North Melbourne Rotary  
*Proceeds to assist charities supporting homeless people in this area*

**Raising our voices to raise our kids****Pamela Every**

On Sunday 28 August, Errol's Angels Community Choir hosted a concert for The Centre's Home Away from Homework Club (formerly the Global Homework Program), which raised \$1602.

Through this vital program, 30 volunteer tutors work to support 60 students who are unable to receive help at home with their homework, usually because their parents are immigrants from non-English-speaking backgrounds. The club helps students both socially and academically to participate in school in a more meaningful way.

The Home Away from Homework Club supports students from North and

West Melbourne in finishing their homework and developing their skills, confidence and personal resilience. It also provides access to community-based resources such as computers, books and databases.

The concert took place in the St Mary's Anglican Church hall in Queensberry Street and the program included sparkling performances by the Melbourne Ukulele Collective and Homebrew Verandah



Errol's Angels performing at the fundraising concert Photo: Jim Weatherill

Singers. Tim Nguyen and Friends performed on the piano and violin and some young members of the homework club sang a specially chosen song.

The concert was followed by a delicious country-style afternoon tea provided by choir members.



COMMUNITY

# Spring Fling is here again

Emma McCashney

The locals of North and West Melbourne are gearing up to hit the streets in celebration of the 39th annual Spring Fling Street Festival taking place on Sunday 16 October from 10.00am to 6.00pm.

Tram, train, ride or stroll over to experience historic Errol Street coming alive with pop-up markets, street food, beer gardens, entertainment, the always-adorable Spring Fling Dog Show and plenty of exciting offerings from local businesses. With the aim of the event being to connect, collaborate with and celebrate our vibrant inner-city communities, what better way to do this than with a bit of sunshine and some good tunes?

Here's a small taste of what we've planned for your Sunday at Spring Fling.

### The Precinct music stage and beer garden

Whether you'd rather settle on the grass or have a boogie near the stage, we know you won't want to leave this vibrant pocket of the festival in a hurry. Taste many different cuisines on offer from a variety of food trucks on site or sip a cold beer and relax with friends while Melbourne's best local talent entertains you at The Precinct music stage.

### Melbourne StARTers Market

New to Spring Fling in 2016, the Melbourne StARTers Market is a pop-up initiative that supports Melbourne's emerging artists, designers, photographers and makers. Exhibition spaces have been offered free to 30 of our city's most talented creatives who'll choose to either sell or exhibit their work, many for the first time ever! Take a journey into the imaginations of our first-ever 'StARTers' and maybe even pick up something special for yourself along the way.

### The Little Vic Stage and Family Zone

New for the young and young at heart, this year

we're introducing a dedicated family zone just off Victoria Street at the southern end of the festival. With craft workshops, a sustainable play area, yoga demonstrations and a new location for the popular Dog Show, we can't wait to see this area alive with creativity and entertainment. This is a great spot for parents who want to sit and relax while the little ones enjoy themselves in a safe and welcoming space.

### Suitcase Rummage

A crowd favourite at last year's Spring Fling, Suitcase Rummage will be back in 2016 with an even bigger variety of eclectic goodies. Originally started four years ago in Brisbane as a way to bring people 'back to the town square', Suitcase Rummage has now expanded over a number of Australian cities and makes a regular appearance at the Atrium at Fed Square. Rummagers can expect to find trash and treasure alongside arts and crafts and are encouraged to bargain, swap or engage in an old-fashioned haggle.

The Spring Fling Street Festival is produced annually by a large group of dedicated volunteers from The Centre, a not-for-profit neighbourhood house located at 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne. As an event that was initially conceived to connect the locals, we're proud to say it's still our community's biggest get-together! Join us in welcoming newcomers and visitors to the area and help to promote unity and safety within this evolving precinct.

Keep up to date on all the latest news by visiting the official Spring Fling Street Festival website at [www.springflingstreetfestival.org.au](http://www.springflingstreetfestival.org.au) or by following us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/springflingstreetfest](http://www.facebook.com/springflingstreetfest).

The Spring Fling Street Festival and The Centre would like to thank the City of Melbourne, Yarra Trams, the North & West Melbourne Precinct Association, Alexkarbon Real Estate and City West Water for their contributions to the ongoing success of North and West Melbourne's much-loved community street party.



Crowds gather on Errol Street to enjoy the Spring Fling

Photo: Carla Del Porto

# Precinct Association supports Spring Fling

Tatiana Echeverri

Melbourne's inner north has played a huge role in the making and shaping of our city. It is less than three kilometres from the CBD and during the past few decades the area has attracted more and more young residents seeking the benefits of an inner-city lifestyle.

The North Melbourne area is striking. With historic streetscapes and buildings that have been recognised for their architectural and heritage significance, the area retains a distinct 'village' atmosphere.

Today, in the inner north-western suburbs you will notice a buzzing, dynamic and creative arts precinct at the Arts House Town Hall and Meat Market in North Melbourne, the Queen Victoria Market in West Melbourne, and many unique local retailers and business enterprises.

There is a wide selection of giftware and homeware shops, florists, book stores and fruit and vegetable stalls, complemented by automotive services, real-estate agents, health services and of course both a newsagent and a post office. Add to this the long list of reputable cafes, restaurants and bars, and you hardly need to go anywhere else to find what you are looking for.

The North & West Melbourne Precinct Association, comprised of local business owners and traders, aims to provide support and leadership for the increasing number of businesses in the area and to foster relationships between them and local residents. By enhancing the objectives of the businesses and promoting



NWMPA proudly supports the Spring Fling

Photo: Jim Weatherill

them to the broader community, the Precinct Association aims to create a positive and forward-thinking image for our community.

In addition, the North & West Melbourne Precinct Association strives to improve the everyday lifestyle and security of everyone who lives and works within the area.

The Precinct Association is making a significant contribution to the community by supporting the Spring Fling Street Festival in 2016 as a major festival sponsor. This support is

enabling The Centre to implement a bigger and better festival site with improved infrastructure and a greater number of local organisations becoming involved in the event.

For Spring Fling 2016, the Precinct Association is sponsoring the main stage and you will also see a number of members running interactive activities on the day. Be sure to pop over, introduce yourself, find out information of interest and enjoy the variety of offers each trader has for you.

The North & West Melbourne Precinct Association launched a new website at the end of August. The website has up-to-date and relevant information for locals, visitors, traders and members. More than 100 local business owners and traders are currently members of the Association. To find out how to become a member of the North & West Melbourne Precinct Association visit [www.northwestmelbourne.com.au/](http://www.northwestmelbourne.com.au/)



# Hotham History comes of age at Amiconi

June McIntosh

A 21st birthday is always a cause for celebration and that is exactly what members and friends of the Hotham History Project did on 30 May to mark the 21st anniversary of its foundation. Fittingly, they chose the oldest continuously operating restaurant in North and West Melbourne, Amiconi in Victoria Street, to mark the occasion with a special lunch.

The Hotham History Project was formed in 1995 by a group of North and West Melbourne residents and friends who were, and still are, passionate about recording and promoting the rich and diverse history of the local area.

They have accessed and researched historical records and recorded living histories of past and present residents. They have published works on the area's political, social and architectural trends as well as promoting a wider knowledge and interest in North and West Melbourne by organising walks, book launches, exhibitions and talks.

When my mother, who has lived in North

Melbourne for over 88 years, asked me if I would like to go to the lunch with her I readily agreed. Mum has had quite a bit to do with the HHP and I was interested to learn more about the Project as well as the history of the local area. The idea of the lunch at Amiconi's was also a drawcard as it was hardly possible to grow up in North Melbourne in the 1960s without developing a love of Italian food!

What I hadn't expected was such a fascinating and informative afternoon. It was a lovely autumn day and I took Mum in her wheelchair, which she really only needs when we are out and about; in fact, she won't be happy I mentioned it at all. As I strolled along Errol Street with her, my history lesson began.

I used to walk that way to school as a child and, as we passed every shop, Mum reminded me what they had been: the haberdashery, which is now Reynaldo's Restaurant, Maples where the current IGA now resides, the State Bank, now Char Siu House, and the old Woolworths building, which I remember with its two mirrored columns, now the Commonwealth Bank. I think Mum still finds it amusing that there seems to be such a need for banks and coffee nowadays.

When we arrived at the restaurant in Victoria Street, after negotiating the tram tracks with the wheelchair (not an easy task), we were greeted by a welcoming crowd. Lunch began with acknowledgment of the land's original owners, the Wurundjeri people. Speakers then told anecdotes and stories, sharing some amazing and beguiling facts about the local area's rich past.

The suburb, named Hotham for most of the 19th century after the second Victorian governor, Charles Hotham, was proclaimed a town in 1874 and its name changed to North Melbourne on 26 August 1887. A major shopping precinct developed in Errol Street, reminiscent of shopping strips in small country towns.

I learned that for the 1891 Women's Suffrage Petition, our part of the world provided a large proportion of the signatories. Parts of North Melbourne were so overcrowded and housing so congested that there were recorded instances of houses in lanes leading off lanes, in one case receiving 10 minutes of sunshine a day. This led to the slum reclamation movement in the 1930s.

After the Second World War came an influx of Italian migrants, many of whom came to

live in North and West Melbourne and worked at local markets and factories.

The Amiconi restaurant, which had previously been a barber's shop, opened in 1960. The word Amiconi translates as 'great friends' and the original owners, Angela and Franco Amiconi, provided home-cooked food for many of the Italian migrants who were among the 'new Australians' of the day. The restaurant was handed down to their children, who are godparents to the children of the current owners, so it has stayed close to the family for all of its 56 years.

The interior has changed little over time and as testament to its authenticity an episode in the TV series *Underbelly* was filmed there. I remember the charming restaurant from when I was a child, although honestly I recall the gelati shop further up Victoria Street with even greater affection.

Members of the Hotham History Project have written a number of books about specific buildings such as the Benevolent Asylum, which was a dominant landmark during the 19th century, the Lost Dogs' Home and the Lort Smith Animal Hospital, St Michael's Church, North and West Melbourne's many pubs, the imposing town hall and that house at 519 Dryburgh Street which used to fascinate me in my childhood, although I always thought it looked a bit spooky with its wide verandas and rambling bougainvillea.

The varied publications written by HHP members relate to the diversity of family life, the social atmosphere of specific streets and the political richness of the area.

The history of a place is a living and changing thing. North Melbourne virtually changes daily as developers and new people move into the suburb. Change is evident in some recent losses, one being the old shoeing forge on the corner of Flemington Road and Abbotsford Street, another the 110-year-old lemon-scented gum tree in Flemington Road.

Just as we think of a person who turns 21 as beginning their journey of life, so the Hotham History Project is at a point where there is much to do. History encompasses yesterday as well as last century. Changing buildings, demographics and culture should all be recorded as a living history before time marches on and they are lost.

So thanks to all the wonderful people who give so much time to the Hotham History Project. Thank you for a most enjoyable afternoon and for all the wonderful work you have done to record the rich history of this area. Happy 21st birthday and may you have many more years of research and recording ahead.

*The Hotham History Project would like to thank June for her account of the 21st year lunch and her mother Nancy for 21 years of sharing her knowledge of the area with us.*



Members of the Hotham History Project celebrate at Amiconi's in Victoria Street

Photo: June McIntosh

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# North and West Melbourne Association

## Western Distributor

A technical team from the Western Distributor project delivered a comprehensive presentation at the North and West Melbourne Association's June meeting. However, it did nothing to allay our fears that the new roads planned will have a negative impact on North and West Melbourne, where we believe traffic volumes in many streets will increase.

At a community meeting at the Elm Street Hall called by the Greens on 30 May, several presenters were sceptical because the unsolicited project had been initiated by a private company, Transurban, and since expanded. At least one speaker thought that an original objective — to take polluting trucks destined for the Port of Melbourne out of Yarraville streets — would not be achieved.

We believe a planned overhead extension of Wurundjeri Way through E-Gate is likely to compromise this site by dividing it, introducing an obstacle to any future expansion of the railway network, and restricting the capacity to build cycle and pedestrian paths over the rail corridor to link West Melbourne with Docklands.

At the NWMA's July meeting it was resolved that letters be sent to Premier Andrews, Lord Mayor Doyle, Roads Minister Donnellan and local state and federal MPs opposing the project and outlining the Association's concerns, including:

- increased traffic volumes in North and West Melbourne streets and the impact on amenity
- detrimental impact on the community's health from increased noise and pollution
- construction impacts with the project taking place at the same time as Melbourne Metro Rail, CityLink Tulla Widening, Queen Victoria Market redevelopment, other building developments and public transport upgrades
- the premise that road congestion can be addressed by building more roads is flawed, and public funds are better invested in public transport.

The NWMA has negotiated with Melbourne City Council and the Western Distributor team for a pop-up display to be held locally to inform the wider public about the plans. The pop-up shop will be set up outside the post office in Errol Street from Tuesday 13

to Saturday 17 September, from 10.00am to 6.00pm weekdays and 10.00am to 2.00pm Saturday. Specialists will attend on Thursday between 4.00pm and 6.00pm.

## Review of local heritage planning policies

When the City of Melbourne proposed a review of the local heritage planning policies in 2014 most groups concerned with heritage issues welcomed it. All agreed a review of the gradings system was long overdue.

It was understood that the review undertaken by consultants Lovell Chen was to be a translation exercise of the current system of A-D gradings to the preferred categories of State and Local Significance. The subsequent review was a large and complicated document with buildings assessed as 'significant', 'contributory' or 'non-contributory'.

We share the concerns of other groups about the definition of the word 'contributory' and the supposed translation of the gradings system across to the new categories. In fact, Ewan Ogilvy for the Carlton Residents Association has argued that it is "a massive downgrading of the status of places that are currently assessed to be significant".

This is of great concern in North and West Melbourne, when considered in conjunction with the re-definition of streetscapes, as North and West Melbourne will now have only 5 per cent of their heritage buildings in a significant streetscape. Of most concern is that 75 per cent of our total historic building stock (about 1200 buildings) is now assessed as only 'contributory' in non-significant streetscapes.

Councillor Leppert, deputy chair of the Planning Committee, has listened to community concern but is reluctant to delay the lengthy amendment process to accommodate a request to workshop the proposed changes with heritage professionals. He has instead proposed that a specific event for representatives of key groups be set up during the exhibition stage to explore in detail the gradings translation and its consequences.

Council officers have been receptive to some of our concerns and have agreed to changes that will make the revised Heritage Inventory more user-friendly and much less unwieldy.

## Court ruling needed to resolve Baptist Church usage restrictions

A court ruling is needed to determine if the historical land usage restrictions on the land at 621 King Street will be breached with the construction of 72 apartments (Hawke + King) by The Eighth Day Baptist Church.

Conflicting opinions have been put forward by legal representatives from The Eighth Day Baptist Church and local community group North West Melbourne Voice.

The West Melbourne Baptist Church was originally granted the right to use the land at 621 King Street free but with strict conditions limiting its use to a place of worship only. The intent of the Crown grant was also reflected in a special Baptist Church trust deed. Sadly, this local church has chosen to build apartments on the land for private sale instead of sharing the land with the community as open space.

Local MP Ellen Sandell questioned the Planning Minister in Parliament about the West Melbourne Baptist Church's land usage rights and restrictions. It was disappointing to hear that he had failed to respond within the required 30 days. However, Ellen's office promised to get answers for the community.

For more information about the community campaign for this land to become open space, see the NWMV – North West Melbourne VOICE Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/NorthWestMelbourneVoice/](http://www.facebook.com/NorthWestMelbourneVoice/)

## Queen Victoria Market redevelopment

Opposition by market traders to Melbourne City Council's proposed redevelopment is mounting. They say discussions have been held behind closed doors and they know very little about the plans. Councillors present at a public meeting on 11 August explained that they too were hampered by confidentiality provisions.

The plans seem to depend on the council's ability to raise funds by developing the site of the Munro building, purchased in 2014 for \$76 million. The council was counting on building a 200-metre development on this site to recoup

costs. However, Planning Minister Wynne, who has repeatedly voiced concerns about the Queen Victoria Market project, has thwarted this lofty ambition by imposing a 100-metre height limit with 'discretion'.

Misgivings abound regarding the proposed removal of trading sheds for five years while the redevelopment takes place, with stallholders guaranteed security of tenure. They fear the heritage structures and their own businesses will not survive a five-year hiatus. Other concerns are:

- the absence of a feasibility study to show how the stated \$250-million upgrade cost was arrived at and whether this is a realistic figure
- no reference to fresh food in the plans
- what the proposed underground services consist of and whether they are essential to upgrade the market's facilities or are really designed to service "a David Jones-style food hall".

One trader of 35 years' standing expressed her fears: "They're out to change the intellectual property of the market, which is the traders." Another said all that was needed was "a bit of tender loving care, not a major development".

## Spring Fling 'Veggie Patch'

North West Patch is a proposal for a community garden in North and/or West Melbourne.

As part of the NWMA stall at this year's Spring Fling, North West Patch organisers will have a working wicking garden bed, with growing plants and vegies, so locals can see how easy it is to grow your own vegetables in the city.

We will also be offering three different varieties of strawberries and some other plants for sale as part of our fundraising for the garden. There will be a short community survey and the opportunity to ask questions about the potential garden and gardening.

A forum on community and street gardens with a celebrity guest will take place at the Association's next meeting on 20 September.

### NWMA meetings and contact details

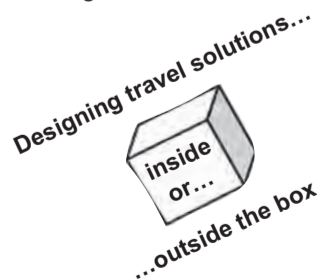
Meetings: Held on the third Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, Dewey Common, Bastow Institute, 601 Queensberry Street (enter from Union Street) — everyone welcome!

Date	Guest speaker/topic
20 September	Forum on community and street gardens with celebrity guest
18 October	To be advised
15 November	To be advised

Information: [info@nwma.org.au](mailto:info@nwma.org.au)  
 Website: [www.nwma.org.au](http://www.nwma.org.au)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NorthAndWestMelbourneAssociation/](http://www.facebook.com/NorthAndWestMelbourneAssociation/)



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# Flood of support for Ruth Crow Corner

Lorna Hannan

You may have been one of the nearly 700 people who came to *Refuge*, a weekend of events at the Arts House, connected to the North Melbourne Town Hall, over the weekend of 9–10 July, or you may have heard about it. There was a lot of talk. It was a novel get-together.

For two days, an Arts House event was created which set out to have us think about a local flood. Of course we know that some of our neighbourhoods could go underwater. Flooding seems likely along the roads that are built over former creek beds and we see the Moonee Ponds Creek rush with water when there has been rain upstream or a higher-than-usual tide.

We had probably not realised that the town hall built back in 1875–76 is today the official relief centre that we must head to if there is a flood in the area. So now we know.

Inside the Arts House for the two days was a range of things to do that artists had thought up and which focused on new and positive ways to deal with sheltering from a flood.

For example, in such circumstances it seems obvious that kids should feel safe and looked after. To give that a new reality, inside the Arts House they were invited into a giant cubby built of cardboard and brown paper where they could find a safe nook to read or play in. They could also select a spot in the building and make a cubby of their own where they could play and feel safe.

Upstairs, 'Uncle' Larry Walsh told stories and made observations that link us all to the spirit of the land which people of the Kulin nation are guardians of. At the same time, in the main hall, volunteers took on tasks to keep the building operating for the weekend.

Close to 300 people accepted the invitation to come down to the supper room for a 'cuppa' and a chat. The space was dedicated to Ruth Crow. Ruth, a long-term resident of North Melbourne from the 1960s, believed that when people talk things out, ideally over a 'cuppa', they come up with great ideas. She and her husband, Maurie, had guided groups through ideas about how to build a sociable community, and we decided to use the opportunities that *Refuge* provided to follow in their footsteps.

Thanks to McIver's, well known to those of us who shop at the Queen Vic Market, we were serving a special Ruth Crow blend of tea to go along with the talk. There was plenty of tea to go around and plenty of talking too. People were encouraged to write down ideas on sticky notes and put them around the room. The wall was slowly covered with sticky notes recording the varied ideas that people came up with.

So, what did members of the community



*Refuge* took place at the Arts House over the weekend of 9–10 July

Photo: Courtesy of Lorna Hannan

have to say?

"The strength of our community is in its people. They are friendly, neighbourly and there is a rich variety of residents including students, members of professions and social groupings that reflect the culture and values of successive migrant groups."

"We benefit from the experience over several generations of adapting to change."

"We can walk to local facilities and that adds to the friendly feel in the streets and parks. And we still have the North Melbourne Football Club!"

People also saw difficulties, such as: "Our lack of knowledge of the guardianship of the land by the Kulin nation and how this may be shared."

"The social isolation of new residents and prejudice against people seen as different."

"Deepening divisions between the well-off and those who are struggling. High rents, overcrowded schools and no apparent plans to provide more."

There were suggestions of things to do or ask for:

"Ask Arts House to have more performance

art that explores social issues."

"Have a new residents package for people moving into the area."

"Have increased outreach programs and a community kitchen associated with The Centre."

"Through City of Melbourne, establish Facebook pages for streets and apartment blocks."

"Safeguard the walkability of the area, especially along residential links to schools, the pool and parklands."

"Introduce the practice of protecting rental properties for long-term residents."

"Regulate the zoning of North Melbourne kids to local schools."

"See that speakers of various languages are catered for at public events."

"Monitor access to various events for people with mobility needs (pushers as well as wheelchairs)."

There were certainly plenty of ideas floating around as the tea flowed. You may have comments or other ideas of your own. Let's keep the conversation going! If you want to have a say about the good things or

the difficulties we face in North and West Melbourne, write or email your ideas to Crow Corner at The Centre or to the *North and West Melbourne News* at [nwmnews@centre.org.au](mailto:nwmnews@centre.org.au). We will report them in the next edition of this paper.

*Arts House is a core program of the City of Melbourne, based at the North Melbourne Town Hall. Arts House supports new ways to make and experience art and aims to develop work that is contemporary, experimental and participatory.*

*Refuge is an Arts House initiative that uses cultural spaces and the arts to explore ways in which the community could respond to a climate-related disaster, in this case a flood. The 2016 Refuge project involved the local community, emergency services and artists and was supported by a range of partners including the University of Melbourne, Emergency Management Victoria, Red Cross Australia, The Huddle at North Melbourne Football Club, the Creative Recovery Network, Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network and Resilient Melbourne.*

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# Residents matter – RAID@3051

Marg Leser

## Residents matter!

RAID@3051 continues to focus on working with residents, local government and other community groups to advocate for planning and development that is matched by concomitant social infrastructure that addresses the needs of current and future residents of all ages. RAID is a non-partisan incorporated local organisation that is committed to open, transparent governance.

## Woolworths site

RAID was launched in 2011 in response to an application by Woolworths to develop the triangular site bordered by Canning Street, Macaulay Road and Vaughan Terrace in North Melbourne. Despite opposition from the community, which regarded this as an over-development, VCAT approved two apartment towers of 10 and 16 storeys, a bottle shop with extended retail hours and a large supermarket. RAID continues to seek advice on the status of any new plans that may be submitted for this site.

RAID has recently been advised by the City of Melbourne (CoM) and the Office of the Minister for Planning that there are no endorsed plans for the Woolworths site at this time.

The endorsement process is a post-permit assessment of the conditions imposed by VCAT when approving the development in May 2013. Some conditions need the approval of the responsible authority (Minister for Planning) and others require approval from the CoM. We were also advised that it is common for developers to discharge conditions separately.

The permit for the Woolworths site has been extended with commencement of the development by 22 May 2017 and completion by 22 May 2021. The site has been cleared and a sales display suite installed on Macaulay Road.

Residents continue to express concerns over the potential impact on residential amenity of the proposed development, both during and after its construction. The CoM has stated it has a number of measures either in place or planned to mitigate the impact.

The lack of clear, timely information and community consultation remains a major issue for RAID.

## Shiel/Haines Street precinct

RAID is dismayed to see the developments in Haines Street opposite Gardiner Reserve proceeding apace. The six-level development at 1 Shiel Street is now at its full height and is an ominous indication of things to come.

RAID will continue to monitor the devel-

opments approved by council for 104–110 Haines Street, 3–15 Shiel Street and 112–114 Haines Street. We await final plans for the large development proposed at 36 Macaulay Road (corner Haines Street).

All these developments either approved or under construction are much taller than 1 Shiel Street; some are 10 storeys, others 13. This will drastically affect Gardiner Reserve and our only accessible playground and sets a terrible precedent for the rest of Arden–Macaulay.

This is a real missed opportunity. We could have had a medium-height, European-style, high-density Arden–Macaulay precinct. Instead we are getting a second Docklands with *twice the residential densities projected for Arden–Macaulay* — a big win for the developers, and a big loss for North Melbourne residents.

## Traffic management

RAID has made many submissions to CoM about traffic calming in the Shiel Street, Canning Street and Haines Street precinct, some of which have been received favourably. We will continue to liaise with council to try to achieve the best possible outcome for traffic in the area given the expected surge in new residents and resultant additional traffic.

As a step in the right direction, the dreaded ‘speed cushions’ in Shiel Street have been finally removed. Nearly every car that tried to negotiate these did so by veering into the bicycle lane, so North Melbourne cyclists are now a lot safer. Now we just need to fix the pedestrian crossings!

RAID has been advised that the current council proposes the following traffic management measures in the vicinity of the Woolworths site:

- traffic calming treatments in Shiel Street, subject to support by residents in the street
  - raised pedestrian crossings in Haines Street and Shiel Street at the Haines/Shiel/Dryburgh Street roundabout
  - 40 km/h speed limit in Shiel Street and Haines Street
  - extension of the 40 km/h speed limit in Melrose Street to whole of street
  - upgrade of existing bicycle lane in Haines Street between Dryburgh and Errol streets
  - improved two-way bicycle connection from Macaulay Road to Canning Street
  - proposed bicycle lane east of Buncle Street.
- A number of traffic management measures and bicycle works have recently been installed or are proposed in the North Melbourne area. View the map of traffic calming measures at [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/parking-and-transport/cycling/Pages/cycling-lanes-and-routes.aspx](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/parking-and-transport/cycling/Pages/cycling-lanes-and-routes.aspx) (PDF 561 KB).

## Resident input into policy

RAID’s experience is that resident voices mat-

ter and that local residents do make a significant contribution to good policy development and implementation affecting 3051.

RAID contributed to the Minister for Planning’s consultation on apartment standards. Our submission focused on the importance of natural daylight access from all bedrooms, living rooms, kitchens and studies and the abolition of the current building practice of borrowed light and ‘saddleback’ designs — long corridors with a window at the end.

We also urged the introduction of standards for minimum apartment sizes to put a stop to the ‘dog boxes’ currently under construction in inner Melbourne. New South Wales instituted minimum apartment sizes in July last year. RAID argued that new Victorian apartment regulations should have clear minimum standards that would enhance livability and encourage good design. It is also important that buildings interact with vibrant public spaces and amenities.

The *Better Apartments Draft Design Standards* were released for public consultation this August. RAID welcomes the requirement that all habitable rooms (bedrooms and living rooms) have access to daylight in every angle, and the inclusion of increased open space (including communal spaces and balconies), climate consideration and noise abatement in the draft standards.

We are concerned, however, that the draft does not follow the standards set by many international cities and by New South Wales in that it does not include minimum apartment sizes. Thus small flats will continue to be built in our area.

RAID urges all 3051 residents to express their views before the consultation closes on Monday 19 September. Go to [www.haveyour-say.delwp.vic.gov.au/better-apartments](http://www.haveyour-say.delwp.vic.gov.au/better-apartments).

## Community participation

A sprinkling of RAID members were amongst the people at the *Refuge* weekend on 9–10 July at the North Melbourne Town Hall. This event sparked many ideas about our suburb and a central topic was neighbourliness. Some people referred to their appreciation of the friendliness of the people who live in their street and to this as a longstanding local tradition. Others said there needed to be more opportunities for people to get together. Some felt that newcomers were finding it hard to make friends.

Public open space is one of the principal supports of urban neighbourliness as we know it and an aspect of the ‘integrated development’ that RAID promotes.

The use of our median and nature strips for recreation is quite widespread and, as spring and summer approach, we will see more people out of doors enjoying what open space we have. However, the *Refuge* discussions showed that as population in the area grows we will

need to add to our open space. RAID supports this idea and we would like to hear your comments about it.

RAID regards community interaction throughout 3051 as vital.

The Melrose Street precinct now needs revitalisation. Community engagement is especially important here because of the extra demand that the Woolworths development with 300-plus apartments will place on education, recreation and other community services in this under-resourced area.

## RAID tribute

Many Melbourne residents and RAID members will have reason to remember Mike Hill, former bike-riding, beret-wearing mayor of the City of Moreland and the inspiration for many years behind the Victorian Local Governance Association. He died on 26 July.

Mike had inspired many people with his pursuit of environmentally advanced ideas that can be incorporated into people’s homes and gardens. A true man for his times. We would like to express our admiration of Mike and extend our sympathy to his family and his partner, Lorna Pitt, a former and much-respected councillor of the City of Melbourne.

## RAID priorities

RAID regularly updates members. It will continue to address its five focus areas:

- Monitor the Woolworths and Haines/Shiel Street developments
- Monitor how the CoM deals with other large-scale developments
- Assess the implications of future developments by the CoM regarding development of a new Municipal Plan and the Arden–Macaulay Structure Plan
- Liaise with other community action groups
- Continue to work constructively with the CoM on planning and development matters.

## Want to help?

RAID’s resources are stretched and we really do need more residents to share their skills. We need the support of the community. Please contact us if you are able to assist.

## Connect to RAID@3051

For further information about RAID, or to become a member and receive our e-newsletter, email [raid3051@gmail.com](mailto:raid3051@gmail.com), access the RAID website at [www.3051-integrated.com](http://www.3051-integrated.com) or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/3051-RAID](http://www.facebook.com/pages/3051-RAID)

Marg Leser is deputy chair of RAID.



Construction at 1 Shiel Street is well advanced

Photo: Peter Hogg



A medium-height, European-style, high-density development

Photo: Peter Hogg



# See what's planned for this year's Spring Fling



## The Dog Show!

The popular Spring Fling Dog Show is taking place in a brand-new location this year. Pop down with your pooch to the Little Vic Stage at the corner of Victoria Street and Roden Street where there'll be an improved set-up for the Dog Show and plenty of activities to keep the young ones entertained for hours.

## Market stalls

A fantastic range of new and returning stallholders will be setting up shop along Errol Street and Victoria Street at this year's Spring Fling. Expect homemade goodies, jewellery, crafts, clothing, local business offers, charities and information stalls.



## Suitcase Rummage @ Spring Fling

After a hugely popular appearance at Spring Fling 2015, Suitcase Rummage is back in an even bigger way this year as it takes over Raglan Street with all sorts of unique goodies. Expect to find trash and treasure alongside arts and crafts and get ready to bargain, swap or brave an old-fashioned haggle.



## Delicious food trucks and local trader specials

Make sure you come to Spring Fling hungry this year because we have many different types of street food on offer, as well as our fantastic local restaurants and cafes waiting to welcome you inside. There are plenty of opportunities to sample something new or get your hands on your favourite dish, perhaps done a little differently.



Photos: Jim Weatherill



## Fantastic local performers

There are plenty of great places to stop on your way through the Spring Fling 2016 site, with five stages featuring all kinds of entertainment. Look out for Melbourne's best independent musicians, DJs, local multicultural groups, school choirs, dance groups, yoga demonstrations and more. There really is something for everyone!



THE CENTRE

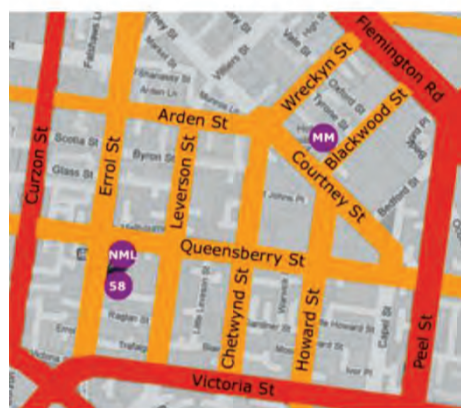


The Centre Courses Term 4, 2016

www.centre.org.au  
admin@centre.org.au

Office Hours:

Monday 12.00 noon to 6.00pm  
Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm  
Classes follow school term dates unless otherwise stated



**The Centre**  
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051  
Tel: (03) 9328 1126

**North Melbourne Library**  
66 Errol Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051  
Tel: (03) 9658 9700

**The Meat Market**  
5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051  
Tel: (03) 9329 9966

**Kensington Town Hall**  
30-34 Bellair Street, Kensington VIC 3031



**Docklands Hub**  
80 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands VIC 3008  
(near the corner of Bourke Street — look for the giant rabbit)



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Basic Self-Defence

Time: Tuesday (four sessions)  
5pm – 6pm Children & Youths  
6pm – 7pm Adults  
Cost: \$90 / \$55 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

Centre Adventures (Day Field Trips)

Time: Fourth Tuesday monthly  
9am – 5pm  
Cost: \$35 / \$25 concession\* #  
Meet at: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Drop-in Morning Teas

Time: First Tuesday monthly  
10.30am – 12 noon  
Cost: \$4 per session  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Errol's Angels Community Choir and Beginners Singing

Time: Thursday 7pm – 9pm  
Membership: \$165 / \$103 concession\*  
Venue: Maternal & Child Health Centre, 505 Abbotsford St, North Melbourne

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS ON:

Discovery Walks – Art, Architecture and History Walking Group  
Ready, Steady – Walk Docklands  
Volunteering

FOUNDATION SKILLS

Career Planning and Advice

Time: Monday 10am – 12 noon  
Cost: \$90 / \$55 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Home Away from Homework Club Primary (Grades 4 and 5)

Time: Wednesday 3.30 – 5pm

Secondary (Grades 7–12)

Time: Tuesday 3.30 – 5pm  
Cost: \$35 / \$25 concession\*  
Venue: North Melbourne Library

Open (Grades 4–10)

Time: Thursday 3.30 – 5pm  
Cost: Free to City of Hobsons Bay residents  
Venue: Hobsons Bay Altona Library

Management Studies: Business Communications or Compliance Frameworks

Time: Wednesday 12.30 – 3.30pm or 6pm – 9pm  
Cost: \$133 / \$105 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Financial Literacy

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm  
Cost: Free for concession card holders, others \$55  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Job Seeker Skills

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm  
Cost: Free to those sleeping rough  
Venue: Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation

Basic Skills

Time: Friday 1pm – 2pm  
Cost: Free to those sleeping rough  
Venue: Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation

Return to Study and Study Support

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm  
Cost: \$90 / \$55 concession\*  
Meet at: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Self-development Short Courses:

Travel Trip Tips  
Legal Fundamentals: Aged Care Law or Contract Law  
Social Media for Marketing  
Setting up a Small Business Online  
Understanding Workplace Documents and Processes

Writers' Workshop (creative writing and editing)

Time: Wednesday 6pm – 9pm (two sessions)  
Cost: \$90 / \$55 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Asthma Management or Anaphylaxis Management

Time: 9am – 4pm quarterly

(two sessions with pre-reading)

Date: Monday 19 September  
Cost: \$125 / \$105 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Core Skills for Work – Vocational Preparation

Time: Monday 10am – 12 noon  
Cost: \$133 / \$105 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Education Support (Teacher's Aide)

Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm  
Cost: \$1225 / \$250 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Event Management

Time: Monthly and term options available  
Cost: \$65 / \$55 concession\* or free internship  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Venue and Facilities Management **NEW**

Time: On-the-job training  
Cost: \$65 / \$55 concession\* or free internship  
Venue: INC @ Kensington Town Hall

Journalism, Media and Printing

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm  
Cost: \$133 / \$90 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Training and Assessment – Certificate IV

Time: Monday 6pm – 9pm (11 sessions)  
Cost: \$1595 / \$375 concession\*

Train the Trainer

Time: Monday 6pm – 9pm (three sessions)  
Cost: \$475 / \$375 concession\*

Upgrade to TAE40110 from old BSZ40198 and TAA40104

One-day workshop quarterly  
Time: Wednesday 9am – 4pm  
Date: 2 November  
Cost: \$475  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

INFORMATION, DIGITAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

Information, Digital Media and Technology:

First Steps

Time: Monday 10am – 12 noon

One Step Further

Time: Friday 10am – 12 noon  
Cost: \$125 / \$90 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Computer Skills: INTEL® Easy Steps

Time: Wednesday 1pm – 3pm  
Cost: \$125 / \$105 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Drop-in One to One Sessions

One-on-one training arranged with instructor  
Time: By appointment, bring your own device(s)  
Cost: First four hours \$93 and thereafter \$55 per session  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Introduction to Technology

Bring your own iPad or iPhone or laptop to class to learn.  
Time: Wednesday 10am – 12 noon (four sessions in group setting)  
Cost: \$90 / \$55 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Active at Any Age

Time: Second and third Tuesday monthly #  
10am – 12 noon  
Cost: \$35 / \$25 concession\*  
Venue: North Melbourne Library

Pilates:

Beginners

Time: Thursday 5.30 – 6.30pm

General Class

Time: Tuesday 5.30 – 6.30pm  
Tuesday 6.30 – 7.30pm  
Tuesday 7.30 – 8.30pm  
Wednesday 9.15 – 10.15am

Intermediate

Time: Thursday 7.30 – 8.30pm

Intermediate Plus

Time: Thursday 6.30 – 7.30pm

Antenatal / Postnatal Pilates

Time: Tuesday 7.30 – 8.30pm (five sessions)  
Wednesday 11am – 12 noon

Pilates – Men's Health **NEW**

Time: Subject to demand

Exercise for Older People

Time: Wednesday 10am – 11am

Cost for Pilates programs: \$185 / \$135 concession\*

Venue: The Meat Market and Little Errol Street

ART AND CRAFT

Art and Craft: Create and Communicate

Time: Tuesday 10am – 12 noon or 1pm – 3pm  
Cost: \$90 / \$55 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Performance and Theatre **NEW**

In 2016 The Centre will be developing a performance piece allowing people to speak out about issues that concern them in our community.  
Times and dates will be negotiated with interested participants.  
Cost: \$90 / \$55 concession\*

Photoshop and Your Photography

Time: Tuesday 10am – 12 noon or 1pm – 3pm  
Cost: \$133 / \$90 concession\*  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

\* subject to conditions

# subject to staff-student ratios

Volunteer and Internship Program

We have a wide range of opportunities for everyone, for example:

- Spring Fling, third Sunday in October annually
  - Writing and editing *NWM News*
  - News distribution
  - Tutoring or teacher's aide
  - Office and business administration
  - Venue and facilities management
- Time: Must enter into a regular commitment  
Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne



# Farewell to the lemon-scented gum

Janet Graham

The heady citrus fragrance filled the air as chainsaws gradually reduced the mighty lemon-scented gum to a stump.

Earlier that sad day, Tuesday 26 July, nine members of the 150-strong Guardians of the Lemon-scented Gum group chained themselves to the tree. After a round-the-clock vigil through the harsh winter by local people and concerned others, VicRoads and the CityLink Tulla Widening project team had to resort to getting Victoria Police to remove them.

Many officers in the large police contingent present were clearly sympathetic to the protesters' cause, as they cut through the chains and carefully carried out the guardians, among them 70-year-old Parkville resident Ann Read. Four protesters were arrested briefly for trespassing.

The protest throughout had been conducted in a determined but respectful manner, as befitted gentle souls who watch with dismay as our environment is sacrificed in the rush to build more, bigger, faster roads that induce more, bigger, faster vehicles to use them. The destruction of urban wildlife habitat and the benefit of trees to humans in purifying the air we breathe are forgotten.

At 11.00am that day the message went round by various means: "They're cutting down the tree. Get there." Those who could responded and a subdued crowd gathered. The cherry pickers started on the topmost and outer branches that had survived two previous culls.

Two pairs of distraught rainbow lorikeets circled noisily before settling in a nearby tree. A magpie — perhaps the one whose nest had fallen in the first onslaught — checked in. A passing seagull swooped several times to see what was going on. As flower-laden branches and ever-broader logs fell to the ground, a bobcat grinder reduced them to sawdust with ruthless efficiency.

Originally thought to be 94 years old, a photograph recently discovered by the National Trust suggests the tree was at least 110 or 120 at the time of its demise. The 1914 photo shows the same lemon-scented gum, already well grown. This tree had stood watch over the Flemington Road/Mount Alexander Road junction, surviving tramline works and the 1969–70 Tullamarine Freeway construction — in the latter case thanks to protesters who campaigned successfully for its retention.

The tree's four younger, smaller companions, easier to fell without endangering road users, had been chopped down on 25 June. The presence of protesters on that day stopped all but peripheral branches of the big tree being lopped.



Contractors fell the tree as police officers, VicRoads executives and protesters watch

Photos: Jane Poynter

While VicRoads paid lip-service to residents' concerns, providing 'consultations' at several meetings and mooted another which never took place, their clear intention was to proceed with the chop regardless. A viable alternative option produced by a local engineer working with the guardians, which would have satisfied all the technical requirements, was not considered.

Instead, we have a project that maintains a 60 km/h speed limit where 50 would be far more sensible in a road that passes or leads to four hospitals and two primary schools. It also adds another 100 metres or more to a dangerous on-road cycle path squeezed between two lanes of heavy traffic. The lemon-scented gum could have remained if a 50 km/h limit had been instituted with less stringent design constraints applying at that speed.

At 7.00pm on 26 July about 25 guardians gathered and formed a circle around the gapingly empty patch where the majestic eucalypt had stood until that morning. They placed flowers on the ground, held hands and observed a minute's silence. The night air was still redolent with lemon scent.



Guardians James Shugg and Ann Read chained to the lemon-scented gum



Dr Margaret McDowell  
Dr Alan Underwood  
Dr Hong Lam



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EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

# Bright ideas at Electron workshop

Charlotte Aldenhoven

North and West Melbourne are two areas that have been central to the industry and wealth of the city's prosperous history. You can still see the remains of that legacy with old industrial workshops, car garages and warehouses on every street. They are now monuments to mark an era of entrepreneurial successes and economic optimism in the inner north's colourful past.

That optimism can still be felt, as North Melbourne, in such close proximity to the CBD and many universities, has become a technological and artistic hub for fringe-dwelling freethinkers and small-business owners.

It is behind the lovingly maintained facade of one of those original small-scale businesses of the 1920s era, the Bulla Cream truck workshop at 31 Arden Street in North Melbourne, that an extremely optimistic start-up organisation called the Electron Workshop was built five years ago, creating a hi-tech sanctuary for digital innovators to work and collaborate freely.

The Electron Workshop is an initiative by two unconventional and passionate technology wizards, Martin Gleeson and Nick Jaffe. The two decided to create a space that would encourage similar individuals with a talent for technology and design to come together and

collaborate in a warm and friendly environment.

Dedicated work desks have been set up for their permanent paying members but the warehouse also offers flexible spaces for those who desire a quiet but well-equipped environment where they can work in any desk-based creative field. Also included are a full kitchen, foosball and ping-pong table, shower, toilets, air-conditioning, natural gas heating, bike racks and 100 per cent green wind-powered energy.

Each desk at the Electron Workshop includes symmetrical 1000-megabit fibre-optic internet connectivity, which has the same download and upload speed and allows these speeds to be used at the same time. A state-of-the-art cloud managed network powered by a WiFi controller is used to keep connectivity fair and ensure that any user who requires a fully backed-up business standard network can access one without needing to set one up for themselves.

The Electron Workshop also has some special features, such as a soundproof meeting room or studio and an overhead projector for show and tell or cinema classics. Premium coffee is freely supplied with an espresso machine and grinder.

All the hard work that went into creating the space means that a desk at the Electron Workshop isn't just a desk, but a place to find camaraderie, network and get things done. It has become a place for people who share the

philosophy of freedom of thought to meet locally based and like-minded individuals.

Many of the people who have opted to join the co-working space have left or are avoiding a 'corporate culture', where people have a second agenda and organisational politics are at play. There is a generosity and integrity to the people you meet at the workshop, which stems from the organisation as a whole.

The Electron Workshop believes that social, environmental and corporate policies should be intrinsically linked in the modern world of business. One per cent of turnover is therefore donated to environmental charities, including assisting the Friends of the Earth to fight fracking and supporting the Surf Rider Foundation. The workshop adheres to rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency.

It is not surprising, therefore, to discover that many projects operating out of the Electron Workshop are non-business ventures. Two key projects are the Privacy Workshop, an ongoing discussion on digital privacy, rights and access; and the Drone Club, for those who are interested in autonomous drones to get together to share and discuss their experiments.

North and West Melbourne have always had a strong history of innovating in the fields of industry and technology. Today, the Electron Workshop carries on the area's proud tradition of innovation and entrepreneurship into the digital age.



The offices of the Electron Workshop in North Melbourne

Photo: Electron Workshop

# Homework Club

Frances McMillan

We at the Home Away from Homework Club have all been working really hard this year developing ways to raise the funds to keep this vital community program going and we are thrilled to say that it is starting to come to fruition.

To kick off the whole fun experience was the *Raising our Voices to Raise our Kids* concert created and organised by Errol's Angels Community Choir. A fun and diverse musical experience was enjoyed by all and the funds raised are generously being donated to the homework club.



Leading the program was Errol's Angels Choir with a great repertoire. The whole concert was a vivacious mixture of music from Homebrew Verandah Singers, Melbourne Ukulele Collective and Tim Nguyen and his young music students, compered by Rob Tremlett.

Three students from Home Away from Homework Club — Inez, Subaan and Najla — performed the song 'Try Everything' by Shakira, because they said the lyrics capture "the vibe of the club". The day really put the fun into funding and it was a strong acknowledgement of the fact that we all work together to support the families in our community in raising their kids to ensure they reach their potential and become active and responsible citizens.

For the next instalment, under the very professional eye of Jordana Productions, the students in the Home Away from Homework Club have made a video to put onto the crowdfunding platform Chuffed. It was a truly exciting experience for them as they rehearsed lines and got involved in a range of creative activities to put into the film.

They made a beautiful mandala out of our learning tools and materials, a colourful jigsaw highlighting our core values and a lovely set of little paper houses to show that our club is like a home away from home.

Above and beyond the purpose of the video, the children gained a real insight into the video production process and were especially impressed by how much work and equipment goes into just a couple of minutes of film. The tutors were particularly impressed with the patient and respectful way the children approached the whole endeavour. They were real professionals.

A special thank-you goes to Andrea Jordan and her production team, who came all the way from Creswick to North Melbourne on two separate occasions.

So keep an eye out for the next fun activity or create one of your own. The future of our community depends on our efforts in the present, and involving young people in the process is a joy in itself.



## The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

Incorporating UnitingCare Hotham Mission

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For further details: 9326 8245; enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au; www.marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au



UnitingCare Hotham Mission delivers a number of programs focussed on education, early intervention, food security, and asylum seeker support. Volunteers are being sought to assist with educational support, transitional programs, community development initiatives and in-house support. Our Renshaw Education scheme opens December 1, offering material and financial aid for high school and tertiary students in the inner north west. For more information, visit the Hotham Mission website.

www.hothammission.org.au





## SPORT &amp; HEALTH

# The weakness of weak core theory

Bill Adamson

When I was at university we were taught a lot about 'core muscle' activation: how to palpate it, when it needed to be activated and a series of bizarre positions to fire it up.

It seemed that every second person had a 'weak' core and that this weak core was causing any number of musculoskeletal maladies. Back pain, groin pain, hip issues, urinary incontinence, hip flexor spasms and more were caused by these mysteriously weakened cores.

Thankfully, science is moving past this fad as research catches up. However, thanks to poorly researched journalism looking for easy headlines and social media warriors who share and share alike, somehow 'core' issues are more pervasive than ever.

So what is a core?

The term 'core muscles' generally means the muscles that stop your guts falling out, either through your abdomen or through your pelvis. The idea through the late 1990s into the 2000s was that your core should be contracted such that when you moved it helped to stabilise your spine.

People were taught to lie on their backs, contract their cores and then practise movement with their cores supposedly 'turned on'. But one of the overarching principles of body movement is that it should be easy, fluid and smooth.

If you are constantly contracting one area,

be it your core or your biceps, it makes smooth, fluid movement very challenging.

One of the key principles of rehab is to aid and enhance the movement that causes the problem. Lying on your back feeling for a tiny muscle is not the same as life. This means there were obvious flaws in the concept of core contraction from the beginning, and, like a lot of these isolationist-type approaches, the problem was poorly defined.

So you might be asking: "Do I have a core and how do I strengthen it?"

Everyone has a core. If it is weak, your guts will start to fall through your pelvis or abdomen. If this happens it is no laughing matter. Prolapses of internal organs through the pelvic floor certainly do need pelvic floor muscle activation. In fact, that would make sense, as the exercises would be targeting the problem.

However, for the great majority of people who think they have a weak core, their guts are not falling out. Also, for the great majority of people, core exercises in no way replicate the nature of their injury or prepare them to re-do the movement that caused their injury.

Lying on your back contracting an infinitesimally small muscle in no way replicates the varied running that a netballer or footballer has to do in a game.

Actually identifying the problem that results in pain is far more important than anything else. Yet this still leaves us wondering, if it isn't the core that's responsible for all these issues, then what is causing the problem?

I apologise to those who are attached to the

nomenclature 'core', but words and descriptions are important, and a 'weak core' is rather scary language. It is also deeply inaccurate most of the time. A more accurate description would be a 'movement flaw' that results in pain.

A lot of people find it hard to move well, smoothly and efficiently, and this is often the cause of problems. If you have a movement flaw, it often places undue weight or load on one particular part of the body.

To correct a movement flaw takes practice — practising the correct, painless, efficient way of moving. For example, think of someone who sits a lot in a slouching posture with bum well forward in the chair, a big gap between low back and chair, and shoulders on the back of it.

That person's hips do not spend much time flexing forward; they stay pretty straight most of the time as the back does a lot of the bending. The person might then bend forward to pick something up — and 'pop goes' their back.

The supposition for that injury would be that, because the person does not bend his or her hips often during the day, when they bend forward to pick something up, instead of using their hips they will bend their spine to reach whatever it is they are reaching for.

If that person were to spend the next few months learning how to contract their core it would make zero difference to the way they would move. Sure, they would bend forward with their core contracted, but they would still

be using their back to bend rather than their hips, hips being the joints where the thigh-bones join the pelvis.

This begs the question, why are practices like Pilates so effective? For me, Pilates is great. I am a Pilates instructor, although I'm no longer a red cordial drinker. Pilates encourages good movement. Whilst the word 'core' is often bandied about, the better studios are using it less and less.

Also, whether the word 'core' is used or whether the punter can accurately turn their 'core' on matters equally little. Why? Because the movements practised in Pilates are great. They teach smooth, efficient ways to move, with breath, that are more lifelike than just lying on your back.

Yoga likewise gets great results because it encourages good, smooth movement with variation. So do dance, martial arts, Feldenkrais and the Alexander technique.

The moral to this ramble is actually pretty simple. You have a core. It is there. If it is weak your abdominal contents will prolapse. Lying down trying to feel the activation of the core is generally useless. Smooth, efficient movement with variation is what you need to fix the movement flaw that is causing your symptoms. Squats are also good.

*Bill Adamson is the owner-operator of Errol St Osteo and a director of Osteopathy Australia.*

## TRAVEL &amp; FOOD

## Natural wine and natural food at Clever Polly's

Louisa Chalmers

When we were opening Clever Polly's, we always knew that we wanted to support small producers. That we wanted excellent quality and nutritious food that was grown with respect for the land. But it wasn't until I started putting the wine list together that I started to explore, and fall in love with, the world of natural wine.

I still remember that moment, one of the first tastings that I had with a winemaker or distributor, in the kitchen of the house that I was living in then.

It was the Le Petit Gimios Muscat Sec de Roumanis 2010. It was only the second time that I had tried a wine without sulphur and I was completely blown away.

It was so beautifully vibrant and so pure. It tasted so strongly of something, of somewhere, of the love and care that someone had put into tending the vines. That was it. I realised, in that moment, after smelling it and tasting it, that this was the kind of wine that I would love to buy, sell and, of course, drink.

I would say that I am quite an experiential person, and my thought was, if you could drink wines like this every day, how could you not be inspired or moved? Which probably sounds very dramatic but you only live once, why not make each moment, each sip, count?

The other thing was, the philosophy of natural wine just fit in so well with our ideas about food production and sustainability. Nothing added, nothing taken away, only enhanced through love and care.

The decision to work with natural food comes from a similar place but definitely came first. Have you ever woken up in the morning and been lucky enough to go outside and

simply pick a piece of fruit, an apricot, a fig, a pear, straight from the tree and eat it right then and there, with the damp grass between your toes and the morning sunlight in your face?

If you have, you'll know that there's nothing else like it. There can be so much vitality and energy in one piece of fruit. It will never taste better than that.

That's the experience we're seeking to bring with our food. We want it to taste like what it is and where it came from. Pure and simple.

To do that, you need good produce, that has been grown well. If it's not grown well, then it can hardly be worth telling the story as that's hardly uplifting.

We also believe in food and wine being nourishing, not only of the earth but also the person who eats or drinks it. Mentally, emotionally, physically. There's more than enough scientific evidence to prove that diet plays a major role in wellbeing and we believe that this is the kind of food and wine that makes us well.

I'm not talking about fat-free, sugar-free, vegan or even vegetarian eating. I'm talking about emphasising fresh, nutritious, carefully prepared food, and getting the balance right. Taking joy in the flavour of something that comes from the earth, in unadulterated form.

The other thing that keeps us coming back to this way of eating is the people and the sense of community. When we meet new producers of food, wine, beer, anything we love, there's a look that passes between us, a recognition. We *know* that we've made a conscious choice to do what we do for the same reasons, that we're treading the same path. I've never had so many friends before in my life, not just here, in Melbourne, but all over the world.

Every day, the network of people who we share our experience with, who are working

towards those same things, grows. There's a real honesty in this way of life. It means that, now that we've made these decisions, stripped back all the layers, gotten rid of the things we don't want in our lives, it's so much easier to connect and grow and learn.

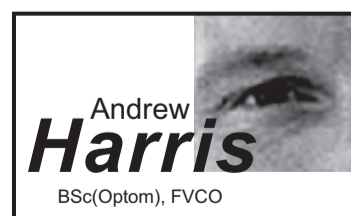
*Louisa Chalmers is an avid food and wine blogger and a part-owner of Clever Polly's, 313 Victoria Street, West Melbourne.*



Natural wines on display at Clever Polly's

*Photo: Louisa Chalmers*

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# Ways to enjoy yourself at the end of the world

Lachlan Marr

Standing on the wharf of Hobart's historic Constitution Dock staring out into the sea you would be forgiven for feeling as if you were standing at the very edge of the world. With little beyond the bay but water and ice it's easy to think of Australia's southernmost state as isolated, a lonely island at the end of the earth.

But that would betray the warm and welcoming atmosphere that makes one feel wholly at home and almost always at ease in Tasmania. While Australia's apple isle is mostly known for its rugged wilderness and abundant natural vistas, recently Tasmania has evolved into a far more enlightened version of what it once was, an outpost on the edge of the world.

The world-class and world-famous MONA (Museum of Old and New Art), which was built by the enigmatic David Walsh in 2011, draws visitors from far and wide. The contemporary gallery space showcases local and international art in exciting and innovative settings as well as coordinating large-scale events that encompass the entire state and totally take over Tasmania's capital city of Hobart.

My recent trip coincided with MONA's Dark Mofo Winter Festival, which meant I saw druidic processions walking down major streets, light displays that assaulted your very understanding of vision, and machines built to digest and eventually excrete foodstuffs.

There were performances by violin-playing drag queens and balaclava-clad musicians who wore their own instruments in a bizarre and erratic display. A man who wore a self-inflating suit completely covered in electrical wiring spoke in a machine-altered voice as crowds threw up their hands and surged toward him.

Labyrinthine structures and massive, overwhelming light shows dotted the docks, and buildings made to look like horror film sets, virtual worlds and video-art were set up in spaces all over the city.

The Dark Mofo Winter Festival takes place annually, generally during June. There is also a Summer Festival (MONA Foma) during January. The festivals, heavily supported by the city and the state, were initiated by MONA to bring the world of contemporary art to everyone in Tasmania. Different shows and displays are set up at various locations in and around Hobart as well as across several cities and towns around Tasmania.

When one of MONA's festivals is running the relatively quiet city of Hobart explodes into a whirlwind tour of the world of modern art. My own experiences saw me immersed in several different works featured as a part of the festival as well as enjoying several other Tasmanian attractions.

The Winter Feast put on as a part of MO-

NA's Winter Festival gives local restaurateurs an opportunity to show off their styles as hungry festival-goers gather at the range of food stalls that include some of Tasmania's best cuisine. Besides the foods on offer at the Winter Feast, though, there is plenty of good eating to be had in Hobart and its surrounds.

High-quality food is easy enough to find in Tasmania's capital, with many local restaurants catering to a wide variety of tastes. During the day, street markets often operate, selling all manner of goods and providing extra options for hungry travellers and locals alike.

Perfectly paired with Tasmania's growing fine-dining scene are a well-established boutique beer culture and a newly emerging taste for locally made spirits. Several distilleries can be visited around Tasmania and offer tastings as well as tours. I visited Lark Distillery's cellar door and was guided through a range of Lark's products, all of which were very enticing.

Besides what's on offer in Tasmania's capital there are also world-famous wilderness and unique old-growth forests to enjoy. Few states in Australia can boast the lush interior that is pretty much standard across Tasmania and during my visit I managed to get just outside the city to stay in a small mountaintop cabin in Magra, near New Norfolk.

After a week spent in the hustle and bustle of the Dark Mofo Festival, a few days in what felt like the middle of nowhere was exactly what was called for. Locating our accommodation wasn't easy as it involved an arduous drive to the top of a mountain. On arrival, however, any trials and tribulations seemed suddenly justified as from the mountain's peak were unrivalled and unbelievable views.

With the winter fog sitting below the mountain's top, all that could be seen in the sea of clouds were the other nearby mountaintops, which floating in the fog appeared like little islands in the sky.

The property also included numerous private, roaring waterfalls, and the housing provided was a small but well-designed chalet outfitted with a 1930s interior including a wood heater, claw-foot bath and loft bed. It was an ideal and idyllic setting for my final few days in Tasmania, which made it hard to leave when the time eventually came to end the holiday.

While Tasmania might sit at the end of the earth, the too-often forgotten state also plays host to exhibitions that can push you to the very edge of existence, food and drink to satiate all appetites and pristine natural wonders not found anywhere else on earth. It seems these days there are plenty of reasons to enjoy the end of the world.



Diners enjoying Dark Mofo's Winter Feast in Hobart

Photo: Charlotte Aldenhoven

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Is this Rock and Roll's last chance?

Lachlan Marr

Amber ripples form and expand as the pint glass in front of me shakes slightly, vibrating from the thunderous sound of psychedelic guitars kicking in as the band begin their set. Thrashing guitars and steady but heavy drumming rattle the room and the crowd sway in time with the music, whipping their long hair up and down to the beat.

The singer screams into the microphone and an electrifying air fills the room as the animalistic shamanism that rock and roll is known for takes hold. There is a certain camaraderie that comes naturally to outcast cultures as those rejected by others find acceptance and togetherness in a kind of collective difference.

At The Last Chance Rock & Roll Bar at 238 Victoria Street in North Melbourne, this sentiment is on full display as dedicated crowds gather almost every night at one of Melbourne's last remaining live rock venues.

The recently renamed and rebranded Last Chance Rock & Roll Bar already has a long history of supporting live music under its former name, The Public Bar. But the new owner and operator, Shane Hilton, obviously felt the need to drive the point home about Melbourne's dwindling live music venues when he chose to rename the historic bar and cater specifically to Melbourne's rock scene.

Uniquely attuned to Melbourne's live music circuit, Hilton had been running *Rock and Roll Magazine* when he claims he "started thinking about what could fund [his] suicidal mission of actually printing a real magazine about local bands without going broke in a couple of months".

"Then The Public Bar came on the market ... it just seemed a natural fit," he explains. Since taking over, Hilton has abandoned any pretence the North Melbourne bar had of being anything but a rock and roll venue. Dressing down The Public Bar to its bare essential components — live music, late nights and simple food — he hopes rock and roll's last chance won't be a last gasp.

The live music scene in Melbourne has been under assault for some time now, and with venues closing all over the city and inner city there are very few places left for local bands to get their start and make their mark.

When new liquor licensing laws that unfairly punished live music venues were introduced in 2010, many establishments were under threat and several closed their doors.

At what was meant to be the last night of the Tote in Collingwood, I remember large crowds gathering in protest at what was seen as an attack on live music. The Tote has since

reopened, though the iconic bar never really returned to its former glory and several other venues around Melbourne have either closed their doors or stopped putting on live music.

Much of my youth was spent, or misspent, following friends' bands around various venues. But over time opportunities for local acts to play became few and far between as most bars simply couldn't afford to host live bands. Despite the formation of organisations like SLAM (Save Live Australian Music) and a steady demand for good live music in Melbourne, it remains difficult for local acts to find venues where they can play.

With all that in mind Shane Hilton is hoping he can turn the tide and buck the trend: "Hopefully the people will start getting in here and we can get *Rock and Roll Magazine* going again to support all the awesome bands we have kicking around the sticky carpets of Australia."

With one of the latest liquor licences in Melbourne, Hilton believes his venue offers Melbourne a "last chance to have a good time without resorting to some yuppie meat market masquerading as a place to enjoy yourself".

"We're open until 7.00am on Friday and Saturday nights and the kitchen is serving souvlakis, golden syrup dumplings and a whole heap of fried goodies until 3.30 in the morning, so it's probably your last chance to get a decent feed after midnight as well."

Hilton's enthusiasm is entirely genuine. Most nights the owner can be seen in the crowd, though you'd be hard pressed to pick him out. Among the acolytes of rock and roll he blends in seamlessly as just another fan listening to the music he loves best. Swaying in time with the music and rocking his head back and forth to the beat, Hilton is indistinguishable from the other fans in his venue.

For Hilton, giving rock and roll a last chance isn't a business decision or a way to make a quick buck, it's the ultimate way for a fan to give back. The Last Chance Rock & Roll Bar is his love letter to rock.

While his choice of venue name illustrates exactly how dire the situation is for Melbourne's live rock and roll scene, Hilton still hopes for the best: "With any luck we will be able to pull it all off and have a good time doing it."

*The Last Chance Rock & Roll Bar is located at 238 Victoria Street, North Melbourne. Open 4.00pm to 11.00pm Monday to Thursday and Sunday and until 7.00am Friday and Saturday (Saturday and Sunday mornings).*



The Last Chance Rock & Roll Bar in North Melbourne

Source: Facebook



The interior at the Last Chance Rock & Roll Bar

Source: Facebook


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## Between the Covers

Chris Saliba

**Paradise Lodge**  
Nina Stibbe  
(Viking. RRP: \$32.99)



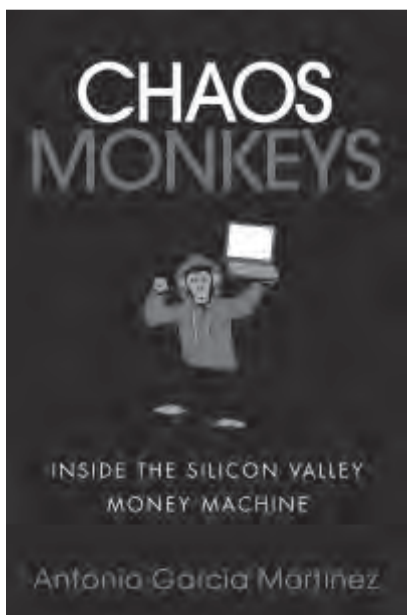
It's 1977. Fifteen-year-old Lizzie Vogel has taken a job working at a nearby nursing home called Paradise Lodge. While her main aim is to make a little extra cash so she can indulge in more upmarket shampoos and coffee (econo-coffee brand is her mother's household staple), Lizzie soon warms to the elderly residents and her fellow nurses.

The nursing home turns into a bit of a refuge, a second home with its laid-back atmosphere, breezy chatter and seemingly endless consumption of cigarettes, coffee and cream-centred biscuits. It is at Paradise Lodge that Lizzie can put her problems (home and school) momentarily on the backburner. This peaceful stability is about to be disrupted when the owner's wife leaves him to start up a rival nursing home.

This is a completely zany comedy with a guaranteed laugh on every page. The story travels at a breakneck pace, following all the minute dramas, conflicts and work politics of the nursing home. While the tone is often acerbic and sharp, there's a lot of warmth and humanity underneath. Lizzie develops genuinely close relationships with the residents.

Funny and heart-warming, *Paradise Lodge* will make you glad to be alive.

**Chaos Monkeys**  
Antonio Garcia Martinez  
(Ebury. RRP: \$35)



Antonio Garcia Martinez began his career at Goldman Sachs, then moved into the world of digital advertising. He took on a job with advertising firm Adchemy, soon quit, then created the start-up AdGrok with two collaborators. As often happens in the fast-paced and

cannibalistic tech world, AdGrok was quickly sold to Twitter. During these negotiations with Twitter, Martinez was headhunted by Facebook to work on their digital advertising strategies. He took the job, while his AdGrok colleagues went to Twitter.

*Chaos Monkeys* is Martinez's iconoclastic, cynical, often excoriating portrait of Silicon Valley. It's a world none too different from the aggressive, testosterone-filled trading floors of New York. The book's inside story on Facebook is quite alarming, describing its corporate culture as somewhere between a cult and a fascist dictatorship. Nor does the author give much credit to the presumed genius status of people like Mark Zuckerberg and Steve Jobs, insisting that luck and timing more than play their part in creating such success.

Martinez is a brilliant writer, quick-witted and perceptive. *Chaos Monkeys* provides a wild and unpredictable ride through the arcane tech world, rubbing a lot of gloss off its squeaky-clean image and leaving something much grubbier behind.

**When Michael Met Mina**  
Randa Abdel-Fattah  
(Pan Australia. RRP: \$18.99)



Michael and Mina come from different worlds. Michael's parents are well-heeled, educated and upper-middle class. They are also politically active, having created a movement called Aussie Values. The main focus of their politics is an anti-refugee message.

Mina fled Afghanistan with her family and arrived in Australia by boat. She then spent time in immigration detention. Finally her family made a life for themselves in cosmopolitan western Sydney. A brilliant student, Mina has won herself a scholarship to a prestigious private school — the very school at which Michael is a student.

A series of events brings the two into ideological battle. Michael soon finds that all his preconceived ideas about refugees and global politics are based on assumptions. He has simply adopted his parents' politics, without too much independent thought. Can these two very different young people build a bridge and meet somewhere in the middle, even find love?

Randa Abdel-Fattah's novel for young adults is an absolute winner. It has a cracking pace and a plot built around a compelling and urgent subject. Abdel-Fattah works the complex politics of refugees and Muslim identity into a teen romance that doesn't dumb down its serious subject matter. Warm, entertaining, but also challenging.

Chris Saliba is co-owner of North Melbourne Books, at 546 Queensberry Street, and a regular contributor to the News.

## Music Reviews

Paul & Maria from Heartland Records

**ARTIST – TERRY REID**  
**TITLE – THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER**

Terry Reid, or 'Superlungs' as he is better known in the industry, is famous for turning down the offer to front Led Zeppelin, a then-new group formed by guitarist Jimmy Page. He even recommended Robert Plant for the job, who was then singing with Band of Light. Plant was still relatively unknown outside the Midlands area of the UK.

Reid was also offered the front-man position with Deep Purple in the early '70s after Rod Taylor left, but he believed he could better express himself as a solo artist and decided to concentrate on his own material. The job went to Ian Gillan.

Born in Huntingdon, England, in November 1949, Terry Reid left school at 16 and started playing locally with The Redbeats before joining Peter Jay and The Jaywalkers after being spotted at a gig by Jaywalkers leader and drummer Peter Jay. This proved to be a good career move when the Jaywalkers were named as support act for the forthcoming Rolling Stones 1966 tour of the UK.

At the Royal Albert Hall show at the end of the tour Reid was befriended by then Hollies member Graham Nash, who persuaded the band to sign for EMI, his label at the time. The band had a hit with the single 'The Hand Don't Fit the Glove' before disbanding in 1967.

Deciding to go solo, Reid teamed up with producer Mickie Most for his first album, *Bang, Bang You're Terry Reid* (1968). Though the album wasn't a huge commercial success the single 'Better By Far' was popular on radio and this led to a support slot on Eric Clapton-fronted band Cream's 1968 American tour.

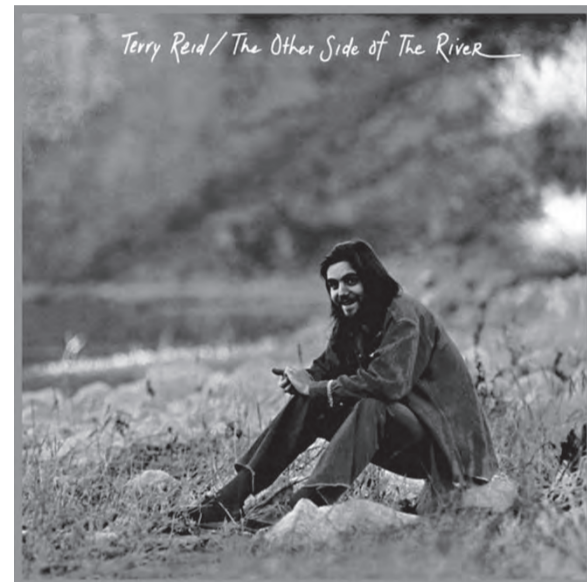
Reid had been asked by Jimmy Page to front his new band, The New Yardbirds (later renamed Led Zeppelin), but cited the tour with Cream as the reason for saying no, although rumours persist that he was less than happy with Page's interest in the occult and specifically Aleister Crowley.



Reid and his touring band were well received on the tour and album sales in America were positive though not great, the final performance of the tour at the Miami Pop Festival garnering excellent reviews from the music press. Reid more than held his own at a festival that included Joni Mitchell, Iron Butterfly, Fleetwood Mac and Marvin Gaye to name just a few. Things seemed to be looking up and the choice of a solo career appeared to have been the right one.

Unhappy with the pop ballad direction that Mickie Most was trying to steer him in, Reid

decided to relocate to America in 1969 to see out his contract and hopefully ignite his career. The release of his second album, *Terry Reid* (titled *Move Over for Terry Reid* in the USA), saw him supporting Jethro Tull, Fleetwood Mac and The Rolling Stones, though he didn't get to play at the infamous Altamont show on the Stones tour. Once again the reviews were good but this didn't equate to high sales.



Released in 1973, his third album, *River*, should have been the one to take his career to the next level. Considered a classic these days but mostly ignored at the time, due, in hindsight, to a combination of poor marketing and just plain bad timing, the album wasn't the success it should have been.

With a four-year gap between releases and only playing live occasionally, Reid seemed to be the forgotten man of rock. A change of labels and two more releases in the 1970s — *Seed of Memory* (1976) and *Rogue Waves* (1979) — did nothing to improve his standing, and the 1980s saw him release just one album, *The Hand Don't Fit the Glove* (1985), to little acclaim.

Turning to session work, Reid worked on albums for Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, Don Henley and hard-rock outfit UFO. Never really forgotten by those in the know, his tracks have been covered by the likes of Jack White's Raconteurs and Cheap Trick, and Rob Zombie used three of Reid's songs for his movie *The Devil's Rejects*.

Unreleased tracks and versions from the *River* album sessions were rumoured to exist and, thanks to USA label Light In The Attic, they have finally been released. Titled *The Other Side of the River*, this two-record set features six never-before-released tracks and five alternative versions of songs from the original release.

It has been 43 years but well worth the wait and this is more of a stand-alone album than a simple reissue of *River* per se. The inner cover of the album includes track-by-track notes on Terry Reid's recording process that make for interesting reading. Though Reid's sound is hard to pigeonhole it will appeal to fans of Neil Young, Van Morrison and Tim Buckley, to give you an idea of the quality of the man.

A documentary titled *Superlungs* is due for release this year and promises to be a great insight into Terry Reid and his colourful and ongoing career. Hopefully it will bring his music into more people's collections.

To quote Aretha Franklin circa late 1960s: "There are only three things happening in England: the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Terry Reid."



# Upcoming Events

[www.northandwestmelbournenews.com](http://www.northandwestmelbournenews.com)

## Comedy

Struan Logan: Bye Melbourne, It's Been Fun! | Courthouse Hotel | 86 – 90 Errol Street, North Melbourne | 15 September – 23 September

April Macie | Comics Lounge | 16 – 17 September | 7:00pm

Josh Earl | Comics Lounge | 21 – 24 September | 6:30pm

Matt Stewart: Pretty Dry | Courthouse Hotel | 26 September – 2 October | 8:30pm – 9:30pm

## Exhibitions

Martin King: Blind Faith | Gallerysmith | 170 – 174 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne | 8 September – 8 October | Opening Function 10 September | 4:00pm – 6:00pm

David Pottinger: Nerikomi | Gallerysmith | 8 September – 8 October | Opening Function 10 September | 4:00pm – 6:00pm

New Works by Luciano Prisco, Poems from Christopher Barnett, and Archaeology of Practice by Winsome Spiller | Langford 120 | 120 Langford Street, North Melbourne | 10 September – 9 October | Opening Function 10 September | 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Emerald City Arts Exhibition: As part of the Fringe Festival | Meat Market | 15 September – 1 October | 6:00pm – 9:00pm | Opening Function 14 September | 7:00pm

Formation of Fragments by Natalie Pillar: As part of the Fringe Festival | Gallery Voltaire | 14 Raglan Street, North Melbourne | 22 – 24 September | 11:00am – 6:00pm

## Festivals

Spring Fling Street Festival | Victoria Street, Errol Street & surrounding laneways | 16 October | 10:00am – 6:00pm

Design Anarchy Market | Meat Market | 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne | 18 – 20 November | 10:00am – 7:00pm

## Theatre and Fringe Festival

**Meat Market | 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne | Various Fringe Festival Events:**

She Dances | 15 – 18 September

AKAI ITO and the Forest | 15 – 30 September

Notorious Strumpet & Dangerous Girl | 15 September – 2 October

Train Man and the Rail Way | 15 – 18 September

The Boy Who Was Born With a Moustache | 15 – 24 September

Soula's Kitchen | 16 – 24 September

Circularicious | 16 – 28 September

## Continued from left:

Potty Mouth | 17 – 25 September | 2:30pm – 3:15pm

Big Tops and Tiny Tots Circus Show | 17 – 25 September | 1:30pm – 2:15pm

The Role Models – On a Roll Now and Forever | 20 – 22 September

4 + 4 = 4 | 20 – 25 September

Dear Delphine – Letters to a Dead Voodoo Queen | 21 – 24 September

Mortal Sins | 22 – 25 September

Body & Blood | 23 – 25 September

Emptying the Bucket | 28 September – 2 October

Vladimir the Crow – Whispering Ghoul | 28 September – 1 October

Tsu Na Ga (link, tie, connection) | 28 September – 2 October

Les Femmes Sauvages de Dieu – Wild Women of God | 28 September – 2 October

Fame, Fortune & Lies: The Life and Music of Eileen Joyce | 29 September – 2 October

## Lithuanian Club | 44 Errol Street, North Melbourne | Various Fringe Festival Events:

Man of the Year | 16 – 23 September

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche | 24 September – 1 October

Tudor Roses | 24 September – 1 October

## Arts House | 521 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne | Fringe Festival and Theatre Events:

Bomb Collar | 16 – 23 September

Thank You For Coming: Attendance | 7 – 10 October

The Secret Noise | 14 – 15 October

Anicca | 2 – 6 November

Tremor | 16 – 20 November

Permission To Speak | 23 – 27 November

## Music

Aly & Fila | Festival Hall | 300 Dudley Street, West Melbourne | 9 September | 8:00pm

Peter and the Wolf | Meat Market | 11 September | 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Safia | Festival Hall | 15 September | 7:30pm

Morrissey | Festival Hall | 22 September | 9:15pm

Trick or Beat | Festival Hall | 29 October | 6:00pm

Violent Soho | Festival Hall | 31 October | 6:40pm

To have your event listed here please email: [nwmnews@centre.org.au](mailto:nwmnews@centre.org.au)