



Heads up for Somali soccer in Docklands

The week-long ASFA – United Through Football soccer tournament drew a large crowd of soccer enthusiasts to Ron Barassi Snr Park in Docklands. The event included cultural performances, food and entertainment by international artists. See story, page 2



Local volunteers rewarded with Rotary awards

Neville Page

The North Melbourne Rotary Club held its annual Phonse Tobin Community Awards dinner in December with a full house of Rotarians and community members at the Mercure Hotel. The club's annual signature event recognises three local volunteers who have not previously been acknowledged. The three recipients for 2023 were: **Peter Wright:** Peter volunteers with Travellers Aid, the Neighbourhood Centre and the Peter MacCallum

Cancer Centre. He was nominated by Ariel Valent, director of the Neighbourhood Centre **Deborah Henry:** Deborah started a program where she feeds the homeless in the Melbourne CBD, in which she does all the preparatory work at home. She was nominated by local resident Cheryl Shalks. Deborah was unable to attend on the night, so her award was accepted on her behalf by nominator Cheryl who attended with husband Troy. **Elio Sarpi:** Elio runs the Houses of North & West Melbourne Instagram Account with 17,000 followers. Elio,

who educates the community about historical aspects of North Melbourne architecture, was nominated by local resident Meg Moorhouse. The awards have been going for 26 years and honour the life of past member Phonse Tobin, a past president of the North Melbourne Football Club. This year, Tobin Brothers Funeral Service was represented by Phonse's niece, Frances Tobin, who was accompanied by another niece, Sarah Tobin. A long-time supporter of the Rotary program, Frances was presented with a Paul Harris recognition award. Paul Harris founded Rotary in 1905 and this recognition is awarded to people who have given significant service within Rotary or within the community. Phonse Tobin had himself received this award when he was a member many years ago. It was fitting that niece Frances was honoured with the same award. A video interview of each winner was shown to the attendees at the function. Each received a framed certificate and \$500, to be used for a charity of their choice.



Michael Lapina (Rotary district governor elect), **Frances Tobin** (Tobin Brothers) and **Herbson Singo** (North Melbourne Rotary president).

A highlight of the evening was Rotary district governor elect Michael Lapina singing four operatic arias. An excellent tenor who has performed for most of Melbourne's opera companies, he thrilled the audience with his dynamic performance.

Neville Page is past president of North Melbourne Rotary.

Want to know more?
To find out more about the local Rotary Club, contact Neville Page on 0414 673611 or nevillepage7@gmail.com



Elio Sarpi, Troy Shalks (holding absentee Deborah Henry's award) and **Peter Wright**.

Saturday 16 March

See page 11

Yarra Valley trip the pick of the bunch

Kymie Simpson

North Melbourne Language and Learning (NMLL) took 110 of our students and some community members on a cherry-picking trip to the rolling green hills of the beautiful Yarra Valley.

Our cherry pickers boarded a fleet of buses and 90 minutes later arrived at Cherryhills Orchard in Wandin East. We were welcomed by the Riseborough Brothers, Glenn and Stephen, whose grandfather, George, established the orchard more than 80 years ago.

We were there at a perfect time, right in the middle of cherry-picking season (November to February). After a short tour of the farm and a quick tutorial in picking the luscious fruit, which has to be hand picked and the stem retained, we were let loose in the orchard.

We had two lovely hours in the warm sunshine picking cherries. Many of the group went home with up to 10 kg of hand-picked cherries. Others enjoyed the challenge of eating as many as they could of the glossy red delicacies, straight from the tree.

For many participants, whose backgrounds included Somali, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Sudanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Colombian and Russian, the thrill was getting out of the city, seeing a bit of the fertile Yarra Ranges and socialising with friends, new and old.

Faiza and Lul are Somali-Australian community members of the North

Melbourne public housing estate. They are enrolled in English as an Additional Language and gave glowing reports of their cherry-picking excursion

“My children – Sabrina, Ayoub and Alyah – loved the day, especially having fun with other children they met. And they loved the chance to pick their own cherry fruit,” Faiza said.

“It was a bonding time for community members, and for parents with their children. The picking was also a great learning exercise for children,” Lul said.

By mid-afternoon, we were back on the buses and homeward bound. Perhaps it was the warmth of the day that induced many to fall asleep on the trip. Or perhaps it was an over-indulgence of cherries!

NMLL has run this end-of-year excursion for five years and our students look forward to it.

Of the many fun and educational activities NMLL offers, this one is surely the cherry on the top.

Kymie Simpson is community development worker at NMLL.

NMLL assists culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people, most of whom live in the North Melbourne public housing estate, with English classes and helps them connect with local agencies. NMLL operates in classrooms and learning facilities on the ground floor of the high-rise at 33 Alfred Street. It aims to give participants the language and learning needed to build a better life for themselves and their families.



NMLL student Jin Wang enjoys cherry picking on the NMLL trip to the Yarra Valley.



Somali community leader Ahmed Dini at the United Through Football soccer tournament.

Playing to build a strong community

Najat Mussa

Somali community leader Ahmed Dini was the driving force behind the Somali football tournament held in late December.

The young dynamo sought to engage fellow Somali youth with their community and ensure they did not fall into negative interaction with the law.

After taking it upon himself to be a catalyst for change, Ahmed reached out to local councils and met the challenges of obtaining event permits and securing necessary financial backing.

“Getting the council to buy the idea and support our community, and

then navigating the many regulations was tough,” he said.

The ASFA - United Through Football tournament was partnered by the City of Melbourne and ran as a successful week-long spectacle.

The tournament was wonderfully inclusive. While primarily catering to the Somali community, it also welcomed other African communities.

“Football is the driving force behind our unity. The tournament was about more than kicking a ball. It became a full-blown celebration of our culture and traditions,” Ahmed said.

The event attracted more than 3,000 supporters and enjoyed wide community participation. It included

cultural performances, food and entertainment by international artists.

Twelve senior and four junior teams competed, with some teams coming from interstate, even New Zealand. The Perth team took out the senior trophy when it edged out North Melbourne/Kensington in the final.

In the junior section, Kensington City went through the tournament undefeated. Ahmed was full of praise for the local youngsters.

“They’re a young group of elite footballers who displayed great talent and leadership. Congratulations to all,” Ahmed said.

Najat Mussa is a new community outreach worker at the Neighbourhood Centre.

Thanks, goodbye and good luck

Maurice Gaul

The News has recently said a reluctant “Thanks and goodbye” to four of our wonderful volunteer writers.

Suzie Luddon contributed to the News for more than 15 years. After her early dating column (colourful, to say the least!), she produced an impressive range of travel reports and many more general stories.

Since mid-2021, she has served the paper loyally as our eagle-eyed proofreader and so generously supported the frazzled editor. She was also a wonderful friend.

Katianna Grosser began with the News in late 2021. Like many of our other journalism student volunteers, she was thrilled to see her name as a byline and honed her writing skills with many fine contributions. Study commitments have forced her to withdraw. In a graceful resignation note, she wrote: “I have loved having this opportunity. The News is such a great platform for emerging writers.”

Stephen Hatcher launched his regular Streets of our Town column at the start of 2020. His 16 columns backgrounded the names of local streets, interwoven with the biographies of local identities after

whom they were named. Readers were delighted to read reliable and researched information about the hidden history of their own streets.

Nicole Pereira contributed to the News for four years with a wide range of her always delightfully warm and readable stories and charming profiles of local identities. Recently admitted to the bar and now practising in her chosen field of property law, her time is understandably at a premium. We’re sad to see her go.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.



ANZAC DAY

LEST WE FORGET

Join our local service

Sunday 21 April, 2pm

Corner Hawke and Victoria streets

Guest speaker Kevin Chamberlin

Flag Ceremony

Wreath Laying

The Last Post

One Minute’s Sacred Silence

Refreshments



North & West Melbourne
Neighbourhood Centre



FOR ALL WHO SERVE



CITY OF MELBOURNE



VICTORIA

First day crowned with excitement

Sarah Nicol

We all have vivid memories of our first day at school. The first day for the 34 new Prep children at St Michael's Primary was certainly a day to remember.

The day began with a quick 'kiss and reassuring cuddle' from parents before the excited littlies were ushered inside to be greeted by smiling teachers.

We started by reading a picture storybook, *First Day* by Andrew Daddo, which proved a hit. One sharp-eyed child explained the characters had a 'donkey smile', with both top and bottom sets of teeth on show.

Prep teacher Lucinda Goring had plenty of day-one stories to report. As she was reading *First Day*, she heard some obviously fake snoring. When she suggested to little Hugo it was time to wake up, he said "I am tired from school already."

The re-energised Hugo and the other students then went on a tour of the school and were excited to find the rooftop playground and the art and music rooms.

Lucinda and fellow Prep teacher Tahlia Boggs soon had them all playing games and singing songs as they made new friends.

Lucinda shared a second classic Prep day-one story when at midday one of her new charges, still full of an Italian family's holiday memories, asked her: "Is it time for our lunch, Nonna?"

St Michael's use a play-based 'discovery learning' program involving students engaging in a self-directed learning process.

They choose a specific area and learn the skills of collaboration and turn-taking. Term-one areas in the Prep rooms are doctors, trains, arts and crafts, rainbow connectors, planks, fruit and vegetable market, and the farm.

At lunchtime, the new Preppies explored the school, played on the slide and built houses out of

connector blocks. The only tears came at pack-up time, but all were relieved to know they could return next day to complete their towers.

Just before home time, the children all made a first-day-of-school crown, which they wore as they headed out the door to be greeted by very proud parents.

School principal Denise Hussey looked on, thrilled with the success of the Preps' first day. "We value community and the idea of being 'connected'. On day one, we lived out that value," she said.

However, as always, it was the children who had the last word. "I loved playing with puppets," little Rosalie said.

However, for Nas'ben, not everything went so smoothly. "My name tag had a crocodile on it and it bit my finger off!" he said.

Grade 6 student Violetta said she was excited to see the incoming Prep group.

"It feels like just yesterday we were in Prep. They are so adorable and we can't wait to meet our new buddies."

Sarah Nicol is community engagement leader at St Michael's.



St Michael's Preppies hard at work making their first-day paper crowns.

Celebrate Eid with culture, community and food festivities

Najat Mussa

For two years, various local groups and nonprofit and government organisations have been working together to present an Eid festival for the local community.

Eid is an important Islamic celebration that symbolises unity and spiritual renewal. Next month's local multicultural Eid festival will bring together people from various Muslim cultures in public housing and will feature music, dance, shared meals and activities for all ages.

Everyone from the community is welcome to join in the celebration.

The festival showcases performances, food and activities representing eight different cultures. It's a way of connecting people in public housing, supporting new communities and promoting understanding.

The focus is on celebrating diversity and making our community more inclusive.

The planning of this year's Eid festival is underway. Organisers from mixed African-Muslim backgrounds, including Eritrean, Ethiopian, Oromo, Somali, Sudanese, and Tigrayan, have formed a committee.

Regular meetings are ensuring careful planning for the anticipated 2000 attendees, with inclusive activities for all ages.

It's a fantastic opportunity to come together, enjoy the festivities, and contribute to your community.

Join us on 13 April to celebrate culture, community and food.

We can't wait to see you there at the North Melbourne Community Centre, 49-53 Buncle Street, North Melbourne.

Najat Mussa is a new community outreach worker at the Neighbourhood Centre.



Eid is celebrated with lots of colour.

Community Comment

Simonds College teacher Ryan Bentley asked his Year 7 students about their long-term career plans.



Daniel:
I'm going to play AFL for Carlton. I'll be the Blues' centre half forward and I'll wear Charlie Curnow's number 30.



Nhial:
I'm going to be a professional athlete. Footy, basketball, it doesn't matter. Just as long as I make a lot of money.



Hajin:
My plan is to be an astrophysicist like Brian Cox and study the history of star formations. Perhaps I'll discover new galaxies.



Hayden:
I want to play first-grade soccer for a top professional team. Or I'd be just as keen to become an interior designer.

Ripe rewards from Australian cheese

Cindy Huang

When Singapore-born Hakim Halim came to Australia as a 17-year-old international student, he already had experience in marketing. International students can find their early days are challenging. "I was so poor when I arrived. I was living in an apartment with broken windows and eating canned tuna and rice crackers," Hakim says.

He completed an RMIT business degree before quitting his corporate job due to its work environment.

After graduating he applied unsuccessfully for more than 200 jobs and met discrimination when he found his resume only won an interview if he used a fake Aussie-sounding name.

During COVID, Hakim launched his RIPE Cheese online shop and began a masterclass in which he taught people how to cook and eat cheese and how to pair it with wine. He was soon securing corporate clients via word of mouth.

"A big gun in Citibank arranged private classes for his mega-wealthy clients. We hand-delivered cheese and wine to their mansions. I'd rock up, ring the bell and the butler would

come to the door. It was eye opening," he says.

With lockdowns well behind us, Hakim has run his RIPE Cheese shop in the dairy section of the Queen Vic Market since 2019. It boasts that it showcases 50 varieties of Australian artisanal cheese and is the "first and only all-Australian cheese shop in the world".

Hakim's talents were recognised with the 2023 Lord Mayor's Small Business of the Year award for his innovative work. It was an extraordinary achievement for a young man who arrived here as a student.

The award was life changing. "It has opened so many doors for me. I've spoken at several international student conferences. I always say that if there are no doors for you, or if people keep shutting the doors on you, create your own door," he says.

Hakim has truly found his niche. For him, cheesemaking is "almost an art", an expression of creativity very different to the Singaporean rote-learning educational system he rejected.

Straddling two cultures is never easy. Hakim recalls a Kiwi friend urging him prior to coming to Australia to "learn

to speak English properly".

He sees an initial downside in training himself to speak more like an Australian. "I lost a bit of an identity. But now I just don't bother anymore."

Curiously, Hakim is lactose intolerant, not the first quality one would associate with a cheesemonger. Despite this, he still loves eating Australian cheese.

He judges supermarket mass-produced cheese as inferior because he feels every one of them is the same. For him, cheese is a living thing and deserves respect.

"The grass that the cows or goats or sheep eat at every season is different. As a result, it produces different types of milk and you can taste the difference."

Cindy Huang is a community outreach worker at the Neighbourhood Centre.

Want to know more?

Visit RIPE Cheese at Shop 61-65 in the dairy hall at the Queen Vic Market.
Email hello@ripecheese.com.au.
Phone 9329 6085.



Cheesemonger Hakim Halim in his RIPE Cheese shop at the Queen Vic.

Imagine a better way to connect our community

Dylan O'Donnell

Have you ever had an idea that reimagined our public spaces or the ways in which the community of North and West Melbourne connects? What if others within the community have had a similar idea or would support your idea if there was a way they could?

Perhaps you would like to enlist support for a regular 'bike bus' to encourage more kids of North and West Melbourne to ride to school every day in a safe and fun way.

Or maybe you have walked past the Telstra Exchange building on Chetwynd Street and wondered whether a concept like silo art could be brought to the inner city to transform an eyesore into a tourist attraction, co-funded through a campaign driven by the entire local community.

Maybe your ambition is even bolder, and you envisage transforming the streets of North and West Melbourne with Barcelona-style 'super-blocks' and you believe you can generate a groundswell of support to make it happen.

As part of Melbourne Design Week 2024, and under the theme of Design the World You Want, the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association is proud to be presenting *IRREGULAR* – a hyperlocal festival of ideas and actions for the community of people who live, work, and play in North and West Melbourne.

IRREGULAR will be held at Cobblestone Pavilion, North Melbourne Meat Market, from Thursday 23 May to Saturday 25 May. The very best ideas from our



community will be exhibited over three days in a variety of visual formats, with keynote speakers and presentations, panel discussions and workshops rounding out the program.

This festival of ideas and actions has been created to showcase the incredible depth of talent and diversity of expertise and perspectives within our local community, facilitate connections and collaborations that may not otherwise exist, and provide inclusive and interactive forums for the entire community to participate.

IRREGULAR takes its name from an influential newsletter that was started more than 50 years ago by two local urban activists, Ruth and Maurie Crow.

As a festival, *IRREGULAR* will give the community of North and West Melbourne an opportunity to come together and not only reimagine the future urban spaces and ways in which we will connect with each other but also play a meaningful role in helping to shape that future.

Dylan O'Donnell is founder of IRREGULAR

Want to know more?

Contact Dylan O'Donnell by email: irregular@northwestmelbourne.com.au

Invitations to submit an idea for *IRREGULAR* are now open to the entire community. Submissions are due Friday 12 April.

Go to www.irregularfestival.com.au for a copy of the submission form, and all relevant details you will need to submit your idea.

A panel of judges will shortlist submissions and the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association will help shortlisted contributors create a visual presentation of their idea for the exhibition.

The panel of judges will award prizes to the best ideas under different categories and there will be additional prizes for those ideas that resonate most with visitors to the exhibition.

Tickets to speaking events will become available when the Melbourne Design Week program is launched in early April. Entry to the exhibition will be free.



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Blooming good time in heat of summer

How I love our summer garden! This year it was particularly wonderful owing to the continuing tropical weather combination of warmth and wet.

Looking out in late January it seemed that a good number of the many flowers nestling amongst their background of lush greens were white in colour: daisies, roses, lilioms, alstromerias, gladioli.

Everywhere there were great stands of self-sown night-scented tobacco and blankets of sweet-smelling climbing mandevilla. I made a posy for a friend in care using just white flowers combined with yellow. She loved it.

The white theme continued with the two quaint Silkie bantams that my cousin gave me for Christmas. My husband, John, christened them Polly and Anna. They give great joy, though I can't really tell which is which!

As summer came on, many edible things were ripening. In early January I made the most exquisite jam from the mature Morello cherries, and more delicious marmalade from the Seville oranges still hanging on their tree.

A bit later I gathered the first of the maturing Lord Lambourne apples and combined them with lots of the plentiful rhubarb to make pies and a great rhubarb gelati.

Meanwhile lots of produce was

GARDEN GLORIES Marion Poynter



Two new hens—white silkies — Polly and Anna, with our black bantam Rosie.

shooting up in the vegie patch. Great crops of beans, tomatoes and raspberries in late summer are now being followed in early autumn by a flourishing crop of Jerusalem artichokes.

At the same time lots of green figs covered their tree, ready to be savoured when they ripen ... if we make sure to net them to protect them from invasive birds. I look forward to preparing and eating fresh ripe figs with prosciutto.

Oh, the glories and promises of the summer garden!

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



Magnificent white lilioms with alstromerias, hydrangeas and crocosma.



A posy of summer flowers for Kerry.



In the veg patch —crops developing: beans, figs and raspberries.



Yellow, white and green flowers from the summer garden.

Nelson Alexander

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Spicy artistic taste of South Asia

Experience hypnotic and subversive voices from South Asia. Two new exhibitions curated by Vishal Kumuraswamy come to Arts House in March and April.

Unfolding at Arts House from 1 March, *ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಣೆ nireekshane* ('the act of seeing') showcases a broad array of works by traditional and innovative image-making artists from South Asia and its diaspora. This is an official exhibition of PHOTO 2024 International Festival of Photography and features work from Arun Vijai Mathavan, Jaisingh Nageswaran, Kirthika Sriram, Palani Kumar, Priya Kambli and Sadia Mariam.

In April, *ಒಡಲಾಳ Odalala* ('from the depths of one being') opens alongside *ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಣೆ nireekshane* as a multi-format activation, bringing together Australian and international

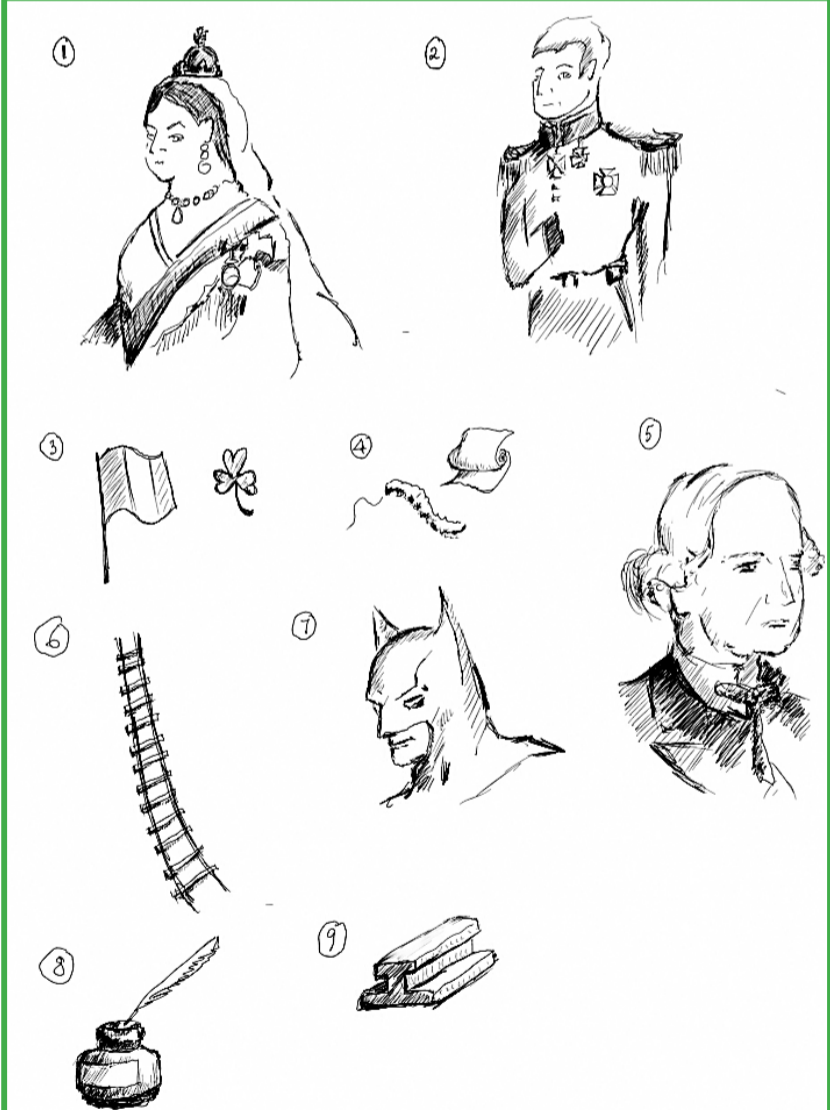
artists to examine histories of caste, migration, gender and sexuality through contemporary expression. *ಒಡಲಾಳ Odalala* features an exhibition, public programs, talks, screenings, communal meals and curator and accessible tours. Among the works of *ಒಡಲಾಳ Odalala* are two new major commissions: a performance installation from Sajan Mani set between colonisation, missionary-led education and growing up in a Dalit community of rubber tappers; and *ALAM/ع* from Elyas Alavi exploring the intersections of Islamic ritual and marginalised queer identities.

What to know more?
ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಣೆ nireekshane 1 March – 27 April
ಒಡಲಾಳ Odalala 3 – 27 April
Visit artshouse.com.au



Millenia of Oppression, 2016, Arun Vijai Mathavan.

Illustrator Ed Zhao asks if you can guess the names of local streets



- Street 1:** This street was named after a long reigning British monarch. She had lots of children.
- Street 2:** This street was named after an officer who was the commander-in-chief of the English forces during the Crimean War. His name is also used to describe a type of shoulder-sleeve structure of trench-coats. This little street connects Errol Street and Leveson Street.
- Street 3:** This street shares a name with a country that has a tricolour flag and famed for its stout.
- Street 4:** This street shares a name with a type of worm and a type of smooth fabric.
- Street 5:** This street was named after a lord who promoted the Great Exhibition of London. It is the only street with this name in Melbourne and it intersects with Street 1. There is a pub with the same name on this street.
- Street 6:** This street is placed along the railway. You can see the trains passing by from there.
- Street 7:** People often think this street was named after the caped superhero.
- Street 8:** This lane shares a name with a type of liquid that you can write with. These days the liquid is more likely to come in cartridges than bottles.
- Street 9:** This street shares a name with a type of processed metal that is key for industry. It is tough and strong. This street is near a triangle-shaped reserve / park.

See page 23 for answers.

Locals earn a history gold star

Maurice Gaul

The 2023 Victorian Community History Awards were celebrated at an Arts Centre function in early February. Two North Melbourne people enjoyed spectacular success in a competition that attracted more than 150 entries. Local identity Elio Sarpi won the prestigious Local History Project Award for his brilliant Instagram account, *Houses of North and West Melbourne*, described by the judges as an “exemplary model of how social media can be used to lift the profile of local history”. Elio was deservedly commended for his “detailed research and an abundance of engrossing, intriguing and little-known fact”. Part of the judges’ comments included: *The account has attracted more than 16.6 thousand followers who have enriched the heritage value by adding their own cultural and historical knowledge through the comments. An engrossing offering to a broad audience of both locals and others interested in the history of Melbourne.* Former resident Dr Edward Duyker received a commendation in the ‘Diversity Award’ category for his beautifully written memoir, *Horace Street Green*. The eminent and widely published historian has penned a graceful and lyrical account of his early days growing up in a Dutch-Mauritian family in Malvern. The book gives an evocative account of the then working-class suburb in the 1960s and 1970s and the richness of his family’s culture. Less happily, Edward shares a searing critique of his schooldays where Catholic Brothers freely dispensed



Local Instagrammer Elio Sarpi took out the prestigious Local History award.

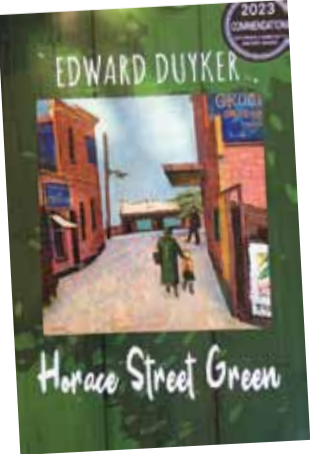
verbal and physical violence. Most upsetting is his abuse by a pedophile Brother, which is recounted in horrifying detail.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

Want to know more?
Elio Sarpi’s award-winning Instagram account can be found at Elio Sarpi (@housesofnorthandwestmelbourne). Dr Edward Duyker’s memoir, *Horace Street Green*, is available from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Bookshop: www.historyvictoria.org.au/product/horace-street-green-a-personal-past-by-edward-duyker/



Historian Edward Duyker receives his award from Royal Historical Society’s Judy Maddigan for his highly commended memoir (below).



Manzé shares the tantalising tastes of Mauritius

Laura Misale

Manzé is a wonderful little Mauritian restaurant and wine bar in the southern end of busy Errol Street.

Step inside the door and you are immediately magically transported into another world. Natural vines line the windowsills, plants adorn the empty spaces and the shelves are filled with glass jars pickling chillies, mangoes and peaches for the winter.

When owner and chef Nagesh Seethiah opened Manzé, he says he was expecting to open a “sleepy little restaurant”. Now, just two years later, the little restaurant has built a big reputation.

“We have a really lovely team of people and we’re full almost every night, both with people who live around here and people who travel to eat here,” Nagesh says.

Manzé (it means ‘eat’ in Mauritian Creole) brings the flavours of tropical Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean east of Madagascar, to North Melbourne in a way that harmonises with the Melbourne climate.

“My cooking experience is very much about cooking with seasonal ingredients, so I like thinking about how in winter, for example, we can apply tropical flavour to pumpkin or celeriac,” Nagesh says.

He grew up in Mauritius, until he

turned nine. In those early years, he acquired a taste for the local fresh seafood and home-grown produce.

“My dad’s a fisherman and we’d be down at the beach on the natural reef that goes around Mauritius. He would fish and I’d be on the beach, playing with the crabs and making sandcastles,” Nagesh recalls.

The family then moved to New Zealand before Nagesh headed to Canberra to study at university. “I studied art history and law, but I really enjoyed working in restaurants,” he says.

In 2018, he moved to North Melbourne, settling in before the COVID lockdowns ramped up.

Nagesh used his newfound spare time to do a lot of cooking. A casual chat with a friend resulted in a plan to utilise the access they had to a commercial kitchen and to share their love of cooking with the community.

After posting in the North Melbourne Good Karma Network on Facebook, they soon attracted interest from locals, including international students and unemployed who were in need of a free meal during lockdowns.

“It became a good way to keep interacting with people in this really bizarre way, where you just message people, drop food at their door and run away,” Nagesh smiles.

At the time he wasn’t thinking of

owning a restaurant and felt that he had remained somewhat anonymous from his COVID cooking expeditions, but once Manzé was born, there was no hiding from the spotlight.

Locals and serious food critics alike started showering Nagesh with rave reviews. Ultimately though, the tick of approval from his parents was the key influence.

“I try to get my parents in when we change the menu. Mum will call me back the next day and tell me what I need to fix. I usually agree with everything she says,” Nagesh grins.

Manzé is not only about Mauritian food. On the first Tuesday of every month, the restaurant runs Chez Manzé, where a new chef takes the helm.

“We invite someone different to take the lead, often a member of our kitchen team. Recently, we had Senator Mehreen Faruqi from the Greens, and she made a Pakistani dinner,” Nagesh says.

“It’s never Mauritian food, it’s always someone’s comfort food.”

Laura Misale writes regularly for the News.

Want to know more?
Manzé is open Tuesday–Saturday for dinner and Thursday–Saturday for lunch. Phone 0415 083 128 or book online at www.manze.com.au



Manze owner and chef Nagesh Seethiah serves a happy diner.



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I heard in the news recently that humans are ingesting much more micro plastics than scientists had previously thought. I watched *How Do They Do It?* and was told England still has glass milk bottles. Just like when I was a kid in New Zealand. Each bottle can be reused up to 25 times before being broken up and turned into another milk bottle. Wow! Just think of the amount of plastic waste Australia is causing per day from not having glass bottles.

★★★

I always insist upon recycling. We should all know that a certain percentage of milk bottles sent for recycling still have their lids on them. In that case, the entire load will go into landfill. Some feel the reason is because having the lids on bottles indicates that they've not been washed (clearly proven by my many useless neighbours). It becomes a problem when those bottles are crushed. No-one wants the stench of thousands of bottles of sour milk in their workplaces.

VERY IMPRESSIVE

★★★

Another waste problem for consideration in the amount of plastic is the energy used to create that plastic. That energy is wasted when the milk in shops passes its expiration date before being sold. No one is allowed to be a McGillicuddy anymore – it's a rule that I made up years ago. I often think about all those other people here in Melbourne whom I've never met and about creating my own Alternative Manifestation Manifesto for solo McGillicuddy living.

★★★

I'd love to have crochet gloves in all sorts of colours. I once appeared on the front page of the *Northern Territory News*, wearing white crochet gloves, a floral sunfrock and carrying a red parasol. I was standing next to Midnight Oil's Peter Garrett at a time



when he was still cool. That was back around 1999, I think. I was in the Territory for an anti-Jabiluka mine campaign. The traditional owners won veto and the blockade celebrated its 25th year last year.

★★★

I've done various things onstage, but there's no way that people believe in my

being-in-a-band-ability. I have various instruments, mostly brass ones, that I take busking, but I can't play any of them. My favourite is my trombone and two trumpets. I even have a flute, two acoustic guitars, a saxophone of course and some percussion bits. At White Night my trombone is an astonishing crowd-clearing device. The crowd just parts, and I soon have a conga line following along behind.

★★★

In the latest round of Community Consultation from our City of Melbourne, one of the most frequent requests was More Trees In Errol Street, Please. I'm sure I'm not the only person who wants this. I'm sure others would also have thought that would mean more trees and fewer cars. However, instead we get trees in concrete boxes on the footpaths. It looks like the council could come and take them away any moment if they were to change their minds.

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

Art and music in shared house but who cleans the dunny?

Our share house was at 6 Capel Street, right opposite the little park – if you could call it that. It was a small triangle of grass with a bench in the middle. Not big enough for a game of soccer.

I remember it well, that house. A two-storey Victorian terrace, painted white with a cast-iron fence at the front, and the mechanic out the back with the huge-visible compressor that was run on what was, no doubt, three-phase-power.

It made a hell of a racket when it was filling up – chug-a-chug-a-chug for half an hour or so. This happened all day, even on weekends.

We never really got used to it. It wasn't like living next to a train line. I'd done that, and, in the end, the trains going past were kind of comforting. But this bloody compressor, it was noise pollution. We tried to counteract it with music but it never really worked: chug-a-chug-a-chug. It was my brother and me living in that

A PLACE TO CALL HOME Matthew Hooper

house. Him and me, and a couple of others: my brother's girlfriend, Allie, and Tim, a guy we used to go to school with.

We were only renting but I remember we painted the kitchen, just to liven things up a bit. In winter-we had fires with bits of wood we collected from the neighbourhood—old pallets that we'd break up, and we bought bags of coal that burned hot and orange and warm and left a dark yellow dust all over the hearth.

It was a bitch to clean up every winter's morning, because when we swept the dust up it was so light and small that it would float up away from the hearth and settle all over everything.

But we all loved living in North Melbourne. Allie was working as a junior lawyer, and she'd catch the tram into the city. On nice days-she'd walk. Tim was studying architecture and he'd catch the tram into RMIT with Allie. My brother was studying-too. He'd drive to La Trobe – learning how to be a businessman.

I was painting at the time and when everyone had gone for the day, I'd set up on the kitchen table, painting on paper with mixed media: pastels, ink, water-colours.

I was working towards an exhibition I'd been offered at a gallery in Richmond. I'd turn the stereo on to combat the compressor, and I'd paint all day until

they all got home. Then, I'd pack my work away and we'd all cook together and drink beer and smoke.

Even though we were smokers, Tim and I would go running up Queensberry Street, round the Carlton Gardens a couple of times then back home. Tim was competitive and would always run out in front of me. The cool evening air was nice. I never cared that much about winning. It was just nice to run. So I let Tim go ahead.

We'd listen to music when we got home and eat Napoli sauce with vegies and pasta. It was a good house, that Capel Street house. You couldn't touch it now. I see it's been done up. The mechanic has gone, along with his compressor. A wealthy family probably lives there now.

I like to think we warmed it up for them, living as we did.

Matthew Hooper is a new contributor to the News. He will write a series of his memories of local share houses. His novel, A Cold Season, will be published by Transit Lounge in November.

Sharing pics of your meal might leave a nasty aftertaste

I visited a lovely little restaurant on Errol Street recently and couldn't help notice how many people were taking photos of their food and drinks and presumably posting them online.

It reminded me of a news story I read a few years ago when a former PM had his phone number and passport details obtained by a hacker after posting a photo of his boarding pass on a social media platform.

Now, it would take a pretty crafty hacker with some exceptional local knowledge to achieve the same feat just by using a photo of someone's meal, but that's not to say posting online isn't a risky exercise.

Imagine if I regularly posted a photo of my morning garlicky fougasse. Could savvy North Melbournians guess that I'm a regular at Bread Club on Queensberry Street, especially when factoring in the usual posting time? It's a possibility.

The point is, every online post reveals some type of information. Sometimes it's

SAFETY IN CYBERSPACE Nebojsa Pajkic

pretty obvious, intentional or harmless, and sometimes it's hidden in plain sight and we may not be aware of its sensitivity.

The collection and analysis of data gathered from open sources such as media, internet, various publications and such is called Open Source Intelligence or OSINT for short.

OSINT can be very useful for tracking cyber threats among many other use cases that go beyond the cybersecurity domain, but by the same token it can also be used to collect sensitive information for nefarious purposes.

Whenever we post something online there's an associated risk, so it's worth

taking some simple steps to mitigate that risk.

The first is probably the easiest: think before you share! Consider what type of information you're revealing and who might see it, then ask yourself if the potential risks outweigh the benefits.

Most social media platforms allow users to adjust who can see their posts and profiles, so it's advisable to check these settings and adjust them to your comfort level.

Various apps and social media platforms also tend to embed metadata in posts, which is information that describes other information (think information written on the outside of a letter rather than the contents of the letter itself).

For example, a photo might contain embedded GPS coordinates which might reveal your place of residence or work, so it's worth looking into these settings and disabling any that you're not comfortable with.

Finally review the permissions granted to apps on your devices because some apps request and collect a lot more data than they need, so only grant permissions that are essential for the app's functionality.

Employing these simple measures will hopefully make posting photos of your fougasse much safer. Or alternatively you could just eat it without posting anything!

Got a cybersecurity question? Write to nebojs4@gmail.com and you may be featured in a future issue.

Nebojsa Pajkic is a local resident and an information security professional. He shares his cybersecurity knowledge in the News.

Krava Maga teaches skills for a safer life

Rashi Jain

Krav Maga Global Melbourne (KMGM) at 176 Adderley Street, West Melbourne, is a haven for people seeking to boost their confidence and learn self defence.

Jennifer Chan, an instructor at KMGM, explains that Krav Maga is a martial art form designed to equip people with self-defence skills.

"It's unique among martial arts sports with its primary goal to give people the confidence to feel safe and to build problem-solving and decision-making skills."

Jennifer says Krav Maga caters for everyone regardless of gender, age, physical stature or fitness level. "We believe everyone deserves to feel safe," she says.

A KMGM instructor since 2019, she started as a student at the training club in 2015. "I only wanted to stay fit but I instantly fell in love with the sport and decided to complete my instructor course," Jennifer says.

"You don't only learn how to protect yourself in a dangerous situation but also others, such as your partner or a child," she adds.

The club, established in 2002 by Ruairi Molloy, is the oldest Krav Maga school in Melbourne. An affable

Irishman, Ruairi is still an instructor, helping participants deal with volatile situations and serious attacks involving a knife or rod.

Club member Lu Lin bravely shares a disturbing personal experience.

"I was about to be groped from behind by a man late at night as I was walking my dog. Thankfully I told him off before anything could happen. However, it made me realise the need to learn self defence."

It was a good decision. "I've learnt more than I expected and I have more confidence, both in my personal life and at work," she says.

Lu explains what she terms the "paradox of self defence": "You have to become comfortable with feeling uncomfortable. The more you know about self defence, the less likely you'll need it because potential threats can sense your energy."

Fellow student Julie Lan relates her own inspiring story.

"Previously I was often afraid but, since starting here with the caring trainers, I've learnt you can be assertive, confident and kind at the same time. I've become resilient enough to remove all the toxic people from my life."

Rashi Jain writes regularly for the News.



ABOVE: In the middle of the front row among the Krav Maga gang: student Julie, instructor Jennifer and student Lu.

RIGHT: Krav Maga students in action.

Want to know more?
More information about KMGM's Krav Maga, Brazilian Jujitsu (BJJ) and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) classes and timetable are on KMGM's website: <https://www.kmmelbourne.com.au>. Phone 0404 346 602 or drop in and chat with owner Ruairi Molloy.



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Ted offers a helping hand to travellers

Josh Rule

Ted Dziadkiewicz is the genial director of Contours Travel at 520 Victoria Street, North Melbourne. For nearly 50 years Ted has been sending adventure-seeking tourists to South America. He knows that alluring continent like a local. He started out offering overland camping tours in the 1970s before moving to package tours and customised itineraries, mainly catering to professionals and over-50s' retirees. "People would plan a six-month tour from Rio to New York. It was good fun but hard work because of the bad roads and buses kept breaking down. Eventually we found it too hard to operate from Australia," he says. In those early days, Australians were often hesitant travelling to South America. "Some countries frequently changed generals and the news often reported stories about corrupt generals making off to Switzerland with all the money, and worse," Ted says. However, positive publicity and improved tourist infrastructure has led to increased travel to the continent. "The train in Peru from Cusco to Machu Picchu was one of the most disgusting trains I've been on, especially the toilet facilities. Today it's been tidied up. The train track is the same, but the companies that run the Orient Express through Europe have taken over," Ted says. However, it is now more expensive. "When I was there with my first clients, we paid probably \$100 for the fare. Today, it's nearly \$1000," he notes ruefully. Ted says South America's appeal is that it's relatively unknown. "Australians know Europe's attractions but South America has history, culture, amazing sights and sounds and unique places too."





Ted at Contours Travel, with his eye on South America.

He reveals his own favourites. "I like compact Ecuador. It's just all in one spot. You can swim in the Pacific in the morning and then swim again in the Amazon jungle by three in the afternoon. "And I like Chile because of the mountains and the wineries." Ted's other passion is the North Melbourne Rotary Club. For 28 years he's been part of fundraising for local and international projects, including scholarships at Mount Alexander College, a filtration project in Peru and refugee assistance. He has seen big changes in Rotary. "Early on, it was a businessman's tie-and-suit affair. I got in when it had more of a business focus. Now it's less stuffy, more relaxed and it's fun. Even young people can join. You don't have to be old and grumpy like me," he grins. Rotary and his travel business have made Ted a part of the North Melbourne community. Initially

drawn to our suburb's village vibe and its close-knit community, he now enjoys the many familiar faces and the variety of businesses. Ted reels off the area's many attractions. "There's the Queen Vic, great public transport, the gardens and parks, heritage buildings and so many restaurants." He hesitates when asked to pick a favourite. "Perhaps Amiconi, the Leveson and Town Hall pubs, and the nice cafes on Howard Street," he says guardedly. Ted wraps up our chat with one of his many stories about life at Contours Travel. Ten years ago a local couple booked a Contours trip to celebrate a wedding anniversary. "They walked in here just a few weeks ago to book a new wedding anniversary holiday. And we're sending them to Mexico."

Josh Rule writes regularly for the News.

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Podcasting casts magic spell as it shares all our stories

Tom Rigby

If we bump into each other around the neighbourhood, forgive me in advance for the blank stare, for I'll more than likely have one earbud in, streaming a politics, history or comedy podcast.

I use the aptly named *Podcast Addict* app. There are worse addictions, I suppose.

The neighbourhood was my inspiration and the *North & West Melbourne News* provided the model for the podcast, *Market to Melrose*, that I launched in spring last year.

I set out to do one episode per fortnight of *Market to Melrose*, which I more or less achieved, with six episodes between the start of October and the end of December.

These first half dozen episodes featured interviews with artists Parul Sen and Nancy Lane, each of whose practice is focused on representing the local urban environment in charming and unique ways.

I was also joined by polymath Ed Zhao for the first *Market to Melrose* studio interview, in the State Library of Victoria's Studio 4.

Ed, a regular *News* illustrator, played us a haunting love ballad from his repertoire of Central Asian folk songs that he learned during COVID lockdown, accompanying himself on the oud, a Turkish pear-shaped string instrument.



We rounded out the year poolside, talking to academic and swimming enthusiast Kerry Mullan about the history project she is working on about the North Melbourne pool.

The Queensberry Cup special was a must-listen episode, capturing the atmosphere of that glorious event. The preceding episode featured Cup impresario Ariel Valent, who provided some exclusive insights into last year's Cup's new format, which helped make it such a success.

After a month or so away, *Market to Melrose* will return in early 2024. I've got a few special projects in the pipeline, including one focused on the Vic Market and I've been in talks about working with a local Instagram celebrity and a local business group.

With a toddler and a full-time job keeping me busy, the frequency is likely to drop down to monthly this year so that I can devote enough time to promoting each episode.

If you have an idea for an episode or some feedback on how the show sounds, get in touch. And don't forget to subscribe so you don't miss an episode!

Tom Rigby is a policy adviser, amateur broadcaster and podcast addict. He and fellow News' podcast coordinator Penny Buckley will write regularly for the News.

Want to know more?
Market to Melrose is available on Spotify, YouTube, or wherever you find podcasts.

Yoga is your core for a better life

Sara Pinkowski

CorePlus North Melbourne - Pilates Yoga Reformer is a bit of a mouthful for a yoga studio. You'll find it on the corner of Queensberry and Leveson streets, North Melbourne.

No longer do locals seeking their yoga fix need to venture to neighbouring suburbs like Fitzroy or Ascot Vale. A CorePlus studio is now right on your doorstep!

To borrow from yoga parlance, the studio gives a stronger core to North Melbourne.

Studio owner April Apostolikas starts every class with three mindful breaths and a simple reminder to participants. "Just do your best, whatever that looks like," she says.

April has always been a hard worker. As a child, she trained six days a week at the Australian Ballet School and she is an interior designer, married to Tex and a mum to three girls.

A perfect exemplar for the benefits of yoga, she is warm, welcoming and has perfect posture.

Visitors to her exquisitely manicured studio are greeted with the CorePlus signature scent and are instantly transported out of the everyday nine-to-five world.

April and Tex knew they wanted a space in North Melbourne.

"We could have opened anywhere, but we spent a bit of time around North and West Melbourne for Tex's work. We saw that the cafes were full and there were lots of people around, but there was nothing like CorePlus," she says.

April says she spoke to many locals and was told, "Please! Open something up! There's nothing around here," she smiles.

She and Tex found the studio building serendipitously. After driving past and noticing it vacant, they made enquiries and checked it out. They inspected the building and the minute they went upstairs, both knew this was their ideal space.

"We realised that if we couldn't do it in this space, there was no point looking elsewhere," Tex says.

April is adamant they've made the right decision. "It's been a fun journey to get here. It was a big process to open the doors, but now that we're here, it just feels so good!"



CorePlus owner April Apostolikas is ready to welcome locals looking to work out.

April loves the relaxed local community. "It's such a fun group of people. People turn up so chilled, there is no expectation on what you look like. You could literally just turn up in your PJs and no one would bat an eyelid," she says.

Age is no barrier. April says her mum, in her mid-60s, had never previously practised Pilates or even exercised at a gym. "She is now a regular at the studio. She just loves it".

April says the studio offers 10 unique class types from which participants can choose and adds that yoga leads to "mindfulness in its purest form".

She says yoga is not about being beaten into shape. "Rather it's about coming in, moving your body (however that might look) and taking a break from whatever is going on in your life".

Sara Pinkowski is a new contributor to the News.

Podcast studio on our doorstep

North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre (NWMNC) is setting up a podcasting studio at 58 Errol St Street.

It will be available for *Market to Melrose* projects, and as well as being available for hire at reasonable rates for any podcast or audio recording project.

NWMNC also runs podcasting and other digital storytelling courses.

Take a walk with a purpose

If you enjoy walking around North and West Melbourne, a great way to explore areas you may not usually visit is to help with delivery of the *North & West Melbourne News* to homes and businesses.

If you are interested, please email admin@centre.org.au or call in at North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre in Errol Street.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
Michelle Brett

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

Rose’s meat on the nose as he gets grilled in court (1882)
Richard Rose was charged with selling unfit meat at the Metropolitan Market. Dr Fulton inspected the meat and stated it was in an unhealthy state with the kidneys diseased. The defence called abattoir inspector John Gee, who said the meat was perfectly sound. With the bench divided, the case was dismissed.

Fran’s family fractures as the court shows lenience (1882)
Frances O’Keefe was charged with threatening her daughter. Her defence claimed that her husband, who had given evidence in their daughter’s favour, wanted his wife sent to a lunatic asylum to get rid of her, because he had spent all her money. The court dismissed the case, saying O’Keefe’s actions were out of character.

Case bootied out of court after charge of boots’ theft (1882)
Richard Johnson was accused of stealing a pair of riding boots, valued at 4 shillings, from the shop of M. W. Griffiths in Errol Street. After evidence showed the prisoner had taken the boots while under the influence of strong liquor, the prosecutor chose not to press the case and the accused was discharged.

Mary, Mary, very contrary in her dispute with nagging mum (1884)
Mary Garret (14) was charged with insulting behaviour after creating a disturbance in Leveson Street. Her mother, who had given her into custody, said Mary had fallen into bad company. Mary claimed her mother endlessly “jawed” her. Magistrate Dr Lloyd said a taste of the ‘cat’ might improve her behaviour and sent her to the reformatory.

Nowhere to hide for Hyde after cops check on cheque (1885)
Geoff Hyde was charged with larceny of his employer’s cheque, which he had been sent to cash so her employees could be paid. Hyde was found next morning when he claimed he had been robbed. A police search found only 10 shillings and a silver watch. Hyde pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months.

Fowler’s foul acts with fowls’ guts frowned on in court (1887)
Maria Fowler faced court for unlawful assault after she and neighbor Ellen O’Leary had engaged in a bitter quarrel. Fowler had used obscene language to abuse O’Leary and thrown fowls’ intestines and dirty water into the neighbour’s yard. The Bench considered both to be culpable and fined each 10 shillings.

Michelle Brett writes regularly for the News.

Friendly big pup Lionel had a taste for icy vegs

Ruby Liakoureas

Annette Emmerson is now able to speak about the loss last August of Lionel, her much-loved Great Dane Wolfhound.
“Lionel was seven-months old when Anthony and I got him from the Gracie Street Lost Dogs’ Home,” she says.
“Anthony said he’d found a dog ‘on hold,’ but I didn’t need to see him. I said: ‘Just get him and bring him home.’ He was already big, just a gangly, sweet puppy.”
Annette fondly recalls Lionel’s daily ritual. “He’d sit on our Errol Street front porch and watch the world go by. People would stop and he loved a pat. The occasional dog would bark at him and he’d bark right back. He rarely barked but when he did, he had the loudest bark.”
Lionel never realised how ungainly he was and Annette recalls the day he wrecked her couch.
“I threw a tennis ball in the hallway for him to chase. It bounced the wrong way, and he retrieved it by leaping the couch but in doing so he chewed a six-inch hole in it. He was so happy he got the ball but we had to get a new couch,” she smiles.
Annette was more cautious outside the house. “I couldn’t let him off in a park with dogs and people around, as he would frighten them. But he was really just a big goose, a big doofus, who loved a pat from passers-by,” she says.
Annette says Lionel loved their regular walks around the Parkville hospital area. “Often frazzled healthcare workers would see him and drop to their knees, just wanting to hug him. He brought so much joy to so many people.”
After an early illness, Lionel was put on what became his staple 10-year diet of premium kangaroo meat.



Annette Emmerson with her much-loved Great Dane Wolfhound, Lionel.

“There was no fat in it and he cost us an absolute fortune. Goodness me, he was spoilt rotten,” Annette admits.
However, the Great Dane Wolfhound had an unlikely favourite food – frozen vegetables. “I’d serve him frozen vegetables in a big ice block and he would wolf it down,” Annette smiles.
“He just loved broccoli. Once coming home from shopping, I dropped a whole head of broccoli and he ate the lot. I thought I’d poisoned him. He was a crazy boy.”
When Lionel was 12 he became unwell and eventually lost the use of his legs. Annette struggled to assist the giant dog to walk. Eventually a difficult decision had to be made and Annette and Anthony opted for “the most humane thing”.
“We found a vet from Paws at Peace and she was a godsend. She sat with us for an hour on the front porch and we shared tears and laughter,” Annette recalls.
“We didn’t want Lionel to suffer and I think he was smiling when he was eating his final steamed kangaroo meatball,” she says.
Annette is now active in dog fostering and she provides a short-term home and care for unwanted dogs. In the six months since Lionel’s passing, she has fostered five dogs.
One was a 10-week-old puppy that had been abandoned in a box beside the road. “We had her for six weeks before she was adopted. She grew from a frightened pup to a happy healthy dog,” Annette says.
“She used to sit out the front with her head between the gateposts, watching the passing parade, yearning for a pat. Just like Lionel did!”

Ruby Liakoureas is a new contributor to the News.



Lionel enjoyed watching the world go by.



Illustration: Ed Zhao

Reet (Bill Hannan)

my own recent memories of death particularly that of my sister come back unsought but today can be pushed back by some photos of my childhood one of me about three resting curly head on Betty’s shoulder she in a childish dress I remembered as green and yellow or white me in a crumpled shirt with Reet-knotted tie

and I wonder how Reet afforded to dress us the Reet I turn up in the family photos now being sorted from Betty’s stuff one solemn with a lip about to tremble as it did sometimes when I shouted at her with the vicious petulance of a child wounding a mother the other in a long dress from early in her century possibly somewhere in the Riverina Conargo perhaps more likely Moonbria legendary households even now where Reet was housemaid and her mother the cook

and it was on Moonbria that she met Bill and in 1929 they came to Melbourne and married soon after in June in Richmond a sacristy marriage of course since she was not yet a Mick and she bore Betty six months later to the day I’m writing this which facts I have gathered from the documents I’m filing as part of a big spring cleaning

in 1942 Reet was better set up than she had been for a while

[Reet is Bill Hannan’s mother. Betty is a sister.]

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

Harmony rules when life's a song

Rosie Greenfield

Sing NoW community choir lives in the heart of North Melbourne where the community beats with a rhythm all of its own. Perhaps that should be our next song!

However, that song hasn't yet been written so our choir will leave it to someone else. But there are so many other songs to be sung.

We've always sung a wide range of music for voice from 19th century Welsh love songs to protest songs, lullabies to 1980s' rock and roll, songs that get you on your feet and ones that you want to sing at every opportunity.

Now, our choir leader, Susie Kelly, has found a whole new list for us to get our voices around.

This term's repertoire includes our version of an ABBA compilation of *Mamma Mia* and *Dancing Queen*, which contrasts with *Tomorrow is the Marriage Day*, a 16th century song from Thomas Weelkes of Chichester Cathedral.

I am sure our rendition of *Mamma Mia* and *Dancing Queen* will be joyous and boppy and it will take all of Susie's conducting skills to rein us in as we move into Weelkes' more restrained song.



Sing NoW members find fellowship beyond the joy of choral singing.

Just as our music reflects a variety of sources, so does the makeup of our choir.

Some of us have been with the choir from its inception while others have joined in more recent times, some even as recently as this term. Some of us have background in more formal choral singing and some of us haven't sung since school choirs.

Susie, the maestro behind our musical adventure, guides us with an

infectious energy that leaves us all inspired. Her weekly tuition and the unexpected challenges she gives us add an extra layer of camaraderie to the group.

Under her leadership the choir not only polishes its vocal ability but also cultivates a sense of community that extends beyond the rehearsal room. After any performance whether it be for a local community event or for our family and friends a gathering at the

local watering hole is always on the cards.

You may have heard us sing at last year's Queensberry Cup or at the Neighbourhood Centre's end-of-year celebration. Rather than just listening, why not come and join us as we embody the true spirit of community in North and West Melbourne?

We'd love to renew a connection with former members who may have taken a break and to welcome new

members. We are a non-auditioning choir with no hurdles to jump. Come and try us out, we'd love to see you!

Rosie Greenfield is a member of Sing NoW.

Want to know more?

Contact us via the Neighbourhood Centre, 58 Errol Street, or join us at choir practice on Thursday evenings (during school terms) from 7.00–8.30pm at Sokol, 497 Queensberry Street.

IRREGULAR

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NORTH + WEST MELBOURNE
PRECINCT ASSOCIATION



History full of local dogs' tales

Felicity Jack

The Hotham History Project was formed in 1995 with the aim of researching and publishing the history of North and West Melbourne – its landscape, institutions and the people who have contributed to the development of this very special area.

One of its first publications, *Faithful Friends* (disclosure: authored by this writer), tells the early history of animal welfare, particularly how the Lost Dogs' Home and the Lort Smith Animal Hospital both came to be in North Melbourne.

The Lost Dogs' Home came to the area because of the availability of suitable land and was opened by Her Excellency the Lady Denman, wife of Australia's Governor General, in 1913. Its supporters included many titled and wealthy people who held a significant place in Melbourne.

Louisa Montgomery, born in 1875, was a passionate advocate for animal welfare and, although she was not herself highly placed in its social ranks, she had taught dancing to many of Melbourne's elite. At 50 she married Charles Lort Smith, a solicitor and an expert on the laws of horse racing. He was solicitor for both the Victoria Amateur Turf Club and the Victoria Racing Club for many years.

Charles was president of the Lost Dogs' home from 1926 to 1929. In 1928 he drew up the rules of a new group, the Animal Welfare League, and Louisa was a member of its executive. While originally supporting the Home, the League became highly critical of various aspects of its practices, and there were acrimonious exchanges between the two.

The League finally set up its own clinic in the grounds of the University of Melbourne,

Want to know more?

Hotham History Project researches and records the history of our surroundings and runs regular events – walks, talks and workshops. Forever Friends, and a number of other books HHP has published can be bought through the website, www.hothamhistory.org.au. The Project is keen to attract new members and encourage people to participate in whatever way they can.

and subsequently built and operated its own facility in Villiers Street. However, intense acrimony and arguments continued for several years. In 1930 Lady Somers, wife of the Governor of Victoria and a patron of the Home, walked out of a meeting held to try to resolve some of the issues, complaining of rudeness.

Charles died of encephalitis in 1931 at the age of 75. This gave Louisa the financial means to assist in the building of the new hospital, later named the Lort Smith-Lyle Hospital. Lady Clare Lyle, wife of Thomas Ranken Lyle, professor of natural philosophy at the University of Melbourne, was also a generous donor. In 1942 Lady Lyle had a major falling out with the hospital board and asked that her name be withdrawn.

Louisa was a skilled hospital manager and fundraiser and was particularly known for her determined support for animal welfare causes. She was evidently a formidable and purposeful woman of great presence. Margaret Hazzard, writing in the *Parade Magazine*, June 1974, described her as: "Short and stout, she was more like a hansom cab than a fashion plate."

Megan proves handy on bus trips

Natasha Hortis

In her hectic professional life of now 38 years as a hand therapist, Megan Fitzgerald diagnoses and treats an endless range of hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder injuries. Outside of her busy Carlton practice, Megan lives out her philosophy that volunteering for others is an admirable way to live.

A one-time West Melbourne resident for more than 12 years, intriguingly living in a one-time undertaker's building, she is a long-term volunteer at the North and West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre.

Her involvement began by chance. "I discovered the Centre when I was walking with Ella, one of my two daughters, along Errol Street," she says.

Soon, the chatty and irrepressibly energetic Megan was involved in various volunteering roles, with the highlight being her continuing

involvement in the monthly seniors bus trips, the Centre Adventures.

These trips, with the Centre's Craig Barry in the driver's seat, usually involve full-day visits to historical, cultural or horticultural places of interest and significance. "The trippers love morning tea and lunch and a chat," Megan says.

She reels off places she has been on the excursions. "There's Phillip Island, Cranbourne's Indigenous Gardens, Ballarat's Begonia Festival and the Yarra Valley. I enjoy going to areas I've never visited before and discovering places like Bendigo's huge Buddhist temple."

Megan loves her career as a hand therapist, which centres around trauma injuries. She sees patients injured in industrial work mishaps and serious car accidents.

"A mutilating hand injury affects people's ability to work as well as their interpersonal relationships if they can't look after themselves" she says.



Megan Fitzgerald in her Carlton hand therapy consulting room.

In her long medical career, she has worked at some of Melbourne's major hospitals. "People who are attracted to healthcare tend to want to give and listen to people and help them. It can be demanding and health workers should be respected," she says.

Megan's selfless care for others extends well beyond her professional hand therapy and her volunteering on the

seniors' bus trips.

Each year for the past eight she has volunteered in Bhutan on the eastern edge of the Himalayas. The tiny kingdom, which only recently opened its doors to outsiders, carries the enviable reputation as the world's happiest country.

Megan goes to Bhutan as part of a program that sends nurses, anaesthetists, therapists and plastic surgeons who do reconstructive surgery with the locals. "We didn't run it during COVID and I really missed it," she says.

"We've made a huge difference. We've developed a hand therapy clinic as a separate unit at the hospital. We've got respect from the surgeons there.

"My Bhutanese voluntary work can be really draining, but I love connecting with the people, especially the children who are less advantaged than my kids."

Natasha Hortis writes regularly for the News.

KRYPTIC KWIZ Maurice Gaul

See page 23 for the answers.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

Here are 30 state capitals that you'll find in the Good Ol' USofA

Albany	Atlanta	Augusta	Austin	Baton Rouge	Bismark	Boston
Carson City	Charleston	Cheyenne	Columbia	Columbus	Concord	Denver
Dover	Harrisburg	Jackson	Juneau	Lincoln	Madison	Montgomery
Nashville	Olympia	Pierre	Phoenix	Providence	Raleigh	Saint Paul
Salem	Springfield					

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

- 1 I'm where Vera's bluebirds circled over towering white cliffs

2 I'm where Janis Joplin got busted as she waited for a train

3 I'm as honest as the day is long but Booth didn't like my truth

4 I'm dancing in a 1920s' craze for flappers and good-time gals

5 I'm defending my home town when I ask critics "Witch city?"

6 I'm where a nuclear conflagration was just three miles away

7 I'm Joe's press secretary at home on Pennsylvania Avenue

8 I'm an annual test in the long run, deep in Kennedy country

9 I'm a fictional Mid West city, home to a quirky cartoon family

10 I'm indestructible and I'll always keep rising from the ashes

11 I'm discovering a new world more interesting than the old

12 I'm the last sight of home for the Anzacs sailing to Gallipoli

13 I'm laying my coat down so Queen Liz's feet don't get wet

14 I'm an Olympic track event of crazy two-wheeled madness

15 I'm the endless care of the divine, bestowed on all believers
- 16 I'm a high-flying British-French venture that crashed in Paris

17 I'm sounding like an undersea lost city, first noted by Plato

18 I'm a Native American clan that stopped Custer standing

19 I'm hunting a wily desert fox in the North African sandy waste

20 I'm an ancient site where nude competitors played Games

21 I'm like the pocket rocket battler that did the Hood no good

22 I'm a feelgood singer of syrupy sentimental country songs

23 I'm hosting Grand Ol Opry for patriots who love their country

24 I'm a famous golf course for Masters – unless you're black

25 I'm a 2003 space flameout failure, the first after Challenger

26 I'm the same name as a kitted-up Wild West frontiersman

27 I'm sounding like a 1944 beach where Canadians made land

28 I'm a weird moonwalker who Neverlanded on a lunar surface

29 I'm all writers' patron saint and wrote long letters for my boss

30 I'm a famous British automobile, the baby of the family fleet



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Get your gifts in time for Mother's Day!

IMCL acts on behalf of high-rise residents

Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL), at 2/508 Queensberry St, North Melbourne, provides free legal assistance to disadvantaged people in the City of Melbourne.

IMCL's mission is to promote social justice and the health and wellbeing of the community through advocacy, education and casework.

IMCL has recently filed a Supreme Court of Victoria class action against the Victorian government on behalf of local public housing residents.

The action seeks to halt the planned demolition and rebuilding of 44 public high-rise towers across the city.

The claim states that the government failed to properly consider the human rights of residents at 33 Alfred Street, North Melbourne, and two Flemington high-rises when it made the decision to 'retire and redevelop' all public housing towers by 2051.

These three estates are among the first scheduled for demolition by 2031.

Affected local residents do not have

to move or agree to move from their home now.

IMCL is asking the government to properly consider the human rights of public housing residents when making any decisions about the redevelopment of the towers.

Under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)*, public housing residents have a number of rights: to live free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with home and with family; to have families protected; to have the best interests of children protected; as well as property rights and the right to security.

IMCL is asking the government for complete transparency about the decisions made, why they were made, and the impact these decisions will have on public housing residents' human rights. IMCL is also asking the government to properly consult with residents before making any decisions.

The lead plaintiff has filed the class action on behalf of local public



IMCL is taking action to support local high-rise residents.

housing residents. All tower residents are automatically included in the legal proceedings because all are similarly affected.

At this stage, public housing residents do not need to do anything. There are no legal costs for residents, except possibly for the lead plaintiff.

Next, there will be an initial hearing to discuss preliminary issues about the case and a timetable to resolve the matter will be drafted. Once the parameters of the claim have been established, public housing residents will be issued with a notice that details all available options.

What to know more?

Public housing residents can contact IMCL for free legal advice at 9328 1885 between 9 am and 5 pm or by email at info@imcl.org.au.



In the steps of Melbourne's history

Bluestone laneways may be risky if you're wearing stiletto heels, but they are a treasured part of Melbourne's streetscape.

Over the past few weeks, residents and pedestrians around Blair Place have watched with interest the re-laying of the laneway.

While there were bobcats and power tools aplenty (including the odd early morning jackhammer), the final result relied on the age-old skills of the specialist gang. Each stone is still individually chosen, manually lifted into place and seated into the intricate mosaic.



ADAM BANDT

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

Authorised by J. McColl, 142 Johnston St, Fitzroy VIC 3065.



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Exhibition celebrates change

Patrick Ferry
National Archives' *Disrupt, Persist, Invent: Australians in an ever-changing world* exhibition was launched

at the Victorian Archives Centre, Shiel Street, North Melbourne, on Saturday 9 December. The keynote speaker was academic and pioneering gay

rights activist Professor Dennis Altman AM. Describing himself as an 'accidental activist', Dennis reflected on the nature of social change. He highlighted that change is not linear and usually doesn't happen without significant pressure. Given this, he challenged everyone to consider how the concepts 'disrupt', 'persist' and 'invent' intersect, both throughout Australian history and in contemporary events. *Disrupt, Persist, Invent* will be on display at the Victorian Archives Centre, North Melbourne, until 5 April.

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



Jenni Davidson (NAA member) and Nicola Laurent (president, Australian Society of Archivists).



Celia Blake (director, National Network Coordination), Professor Dennis Altman AM, Detlev Lueth (state manager, Victoria NAA) and David Taylor (assistant director, Access Services Public Record Office Victoria).



Janelle Inkster (Bureau of Meteorology) and Mohammed Abdur (Shrine of Remembrance).

Patrick Ferry

Doris McRae was appointed headmistress [principal] of Flemington Girls' School in 1942, joining the handful of women then leading a Victorian state secondary school. After a 30-year career in education, it was to be Doris' last appointment. Just seven years later, she resigned in a cloud of controversy associated with her political views and social activism. Doris was born in 1893 at Pakenham, then a small, rural community. Her father, Donald, was a teamster, driving horse or oxen-drawn wagons; her mother, Mary, a former schoolteacher who had to resign when she married. Doris became a teacher and a trade unionist. As a member of the Victorian Teachers' Union (VTU) executive, she fought for equal pay for female teachers and campaigned against the law requiring them to resign upon marriage. Doris was involved in wider initiatives to advance women's rights. She served on a committee that helped develop the 1943 Australian Women's Charter, which urged equal rights for women and the abolition of sex discrimination and which proposed establishing childcare centres and community centres to

Doris paid a high price for her social activism

promote lifelong learning. However, Doris's radical political views attracted the attention of Australia's security services. In 1940, the lifelong pacifist was accused of making statements against the war effort, both in the classroom (her students and colleagues refuted this) and publicly. It was also suspected that she was a member of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA). Soon after World War II, Doris was caught up in a wave of anti-communist sentiment in Victoria. In November 1946, she was accused in the Victorian Parliament of spreading communist propaganda amongst her students with comments purportedly made in class about the housing situation in Australia. While officially exonerated, Doris was nonetheless formally admonished for "lack of judgement" in making statements in class that should not have been made "by any teacher of standing and experience". Doris believed her comments had been



Doris McRae, at 83, in 1976. Photograph: courtesy Dr Cheryl Griffin

taken out of context. She was strongly supported by the VTU, which described Doris as a teacher of "high standing and repute" with the union defending teachers'

rights to hold personal political and religious beliefs. The school's advisory council also told Melbourne newspapers that Doris had never been heard expressing "any political opinions or show(ing) any bias". Despite this, there were further calls in parliament for Doris to be removed from her position because she represented a "danger to education". The attacks took a personal toll on her health when some of the mud thrown began to stick. She was targeted by a campaign that ousted her from the VTU executive, and the Flemington Catholic priest led a local crusade to remove her from the school. Allegations that Doris had "preached" communism at school split the school community. The final blow came with the 1949-50 Royal Commission into Communism in Victoria where Doris was accused of being part of a radical "teachers' cell" within the VTU and allegedly acting on the directions of the CPA executive. In June 1950, Doris decided to retire early from teaching, just weeks after the commission's final report named her as a communist. As Doris's biographer Dr Cheryl Griffin has noted, "the events of the previous four years had compromised her health

and ability to function as a teacher". Doris paid a significant personal price for her social and political activism. However, undeterred in her commitment to her social and political causes, she remained active with women's issues through the Union of Australian Women and the Melbourne International Women's Day committee. Former Victorian premier Joan Kirner later wrote about Doris' resignation on ill-health: "She was shamefully treated and it was a sad end to a distinguished and irreproachable teaching career." Doris McRae remained a lifelong member of the Communist Party. She died in 1988 aged 94. *The Age* wrote soon after: "A woman of great spirit and brilliant mind, who was a tireless worker for world peace and women's rights".

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

This article is based on Dr Cheryl Griffin's A biography of Doris McRae, 1893-1988 and NAA: A6119, 163. The assistance of Dr Griffin is gratefully acknowledged.



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THE LIFE OF THE PARTY
Ellen Sandell



Costs and bills
are crushing us

Jo (not her real name) is a retired teacher living in West Melbourne. Like most people in our community, Jo has been feeling the pressure of the rising costs of essential items like food, medicine and household bills. “It’s becoming increasingly evident that prices are continuing to rise significantly. It’s very disheartening,” she said.

Jo says she has become more cautious with her spending. She shops at the major supermarkets as well as ALDI to keep costs down. She chooses not to go out for a coffee or meal with friends as often as she used to.

As a retiree, Jo relies on her superannuation but is concerned that given the market fluctuations, it won’t last as long as previously projected. “I always thought that I would financially support myself, but it could be that in the future I’ll need to apply for a pension. I never thought that would be the case.”

More and more, I’m hearing from people in our local community who are struggling to stay on top of the rising cost of everyday items like groceries.

A survey we did last year showed that 70 per cent of Victorians who responded felt that their mental health had been negatively affected by cost-of-living pressures.

Meanwhile, the profits of Coles

and Woolworths are soaring well beyond inflation rates. They’re raking in billions while Victorians struggle to afford essential items.

“It’s absolutely wrong. Governments must take more responsibility and act to alleviate current pressures. The financial stresses on families is unacceptable and detrimental to mental health in our community,” Jo said.

My fellow Greens and I have been calling on the Labor state government to stop supermarket price gouging and to introduce price controls on supermarket items. That’s something that many countries around the world are already doing.

The good news is that we were able to get an inquiry, to begin this year, into the rising cost of groceries and supermarket price gouging.

Everyday Victorians will be able to have their say on how the cost of essential items is impacting them, and the inquiry will make recommendations to the government on how to fix this.

The Greens will keep pushing the Victorian Labor government to step in and stop greedy supermarkets from ripping people off.

Want to know more?
If you’d like to know more about this, or chat about anything else, please get in touch at office@ellensandell.com.

BETWEEN THE COVERS
Chris Saliba



Roman Stories

Jhumpa Lahiri
(Picador, RRP: \$34.99)

Acclaimed British-American writer Jhumpa Lahiri moved to Italy 10 years ago, and now writes in Italian. Her new collection, *Roman Stories*, comprises nine stories, with Rome featuring as both place and state of mind. They are translated from the Italian by Lahiri and Todd Portnowitz.

Anyone familiar with the author’s writings will know she concentrates on the minutiae of daily life: the particular slant of light during a summer afternoon, the memories a favourite restaurant conjures, warm and inviting houses.

Lahiri interweaves these descriptions with various narratives about middle-class life, relationships between husband and wife, parent and child, and the ups and downs of close friendships. A particular theme that recurs is the feeling of being an outsider, of locals suspicious, even hostile, to foreigners (Lahiri is the daughter of Indian immigrants).

The stories have a ruminating, Proustian feel, of memory in search of lost time, of raking over old personal events and trying to glean meaning from them. Lahiri’s fiction is deceptively simple and easy to read, yet her writing, while subtle, is psychologically rich.

An intimate and highly enjoyable collection, for readers of Rachel Cusk and Deborah Levy.



A Day in the Life of Abed Salama:
A Palestine Story

Nathan Thrall
(Allen Lane, RRP: \$36.99)

In 2012, five-year-old Palestinian boy Milad Salama was scheduled to go on a school trip. His family lived in the impoverished town of Anata on the West Bank, where infrastructure such as roads and housing were of a poor quality.

The bus travelled along the Jaba road - a road notorious for its safety issues. Conditions were bad on the day of travel, with an approaching storm making visibility difficult. An oncoming truck collided with the bus and seven children died. Help was late to arrive. Had it come earlier, it could have saved lives.

A Day in the Life of Abed Salama describes the events of that awful day. Through a brief biographical sketch of Abed Salama, Milad’s father, the reader also gets a short history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and how occupation directly affects the lives of Palestinians.

The genius of Nathan Thrall’s book is how it shows personal lives caught up in larger historical forces. With its focus on people and their relationships to each other, the book reads much like a novel. A humbling book that concentrates on the pain and suffering of many Palestinian lives.



Copydog

Zachariah OHora
(Abrams, RRP: \$29.99)

Elise and her sister Rosemont get along most of the time. But there is one thing that drives Elise bananas. Rosemont copies everything her sister does. She’s a copydog! Everything Elise does her sister has to do too – friends, food, hobbies, clothes. Everything.

Rosemont finally goes too far when she gatecrashes Elise’s friend Fuzzy’s birthday party. Not only that, Rosemont gives the exact same gift, a rainstick. Elise becomes so angry she puts on her skates and leaves as fast as she can.

Her anger backfires when she hits a rock and falls over. Luckily, Rosemont finds her and gets her sister home safely. Later Rosemont admits she is a copydog – she has copied all her sister’s best qualities.

Writer and illustrator Zachariah Ohora has produced a fun-filled story with his trademark bright colours, bold designs and cute character drawings. *Copydog* has plenty of humour, which makes this tale about a big sister’s outsized ego a laugh-out-loud read. The party scenes at Fuzzy’s ‘next-level’ birthday are a hoot, while the mind boggles at what is involved in Elise’s invention, ‘Cookie Soup’.

For ages 4–8



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

Irish boyos reject salvation

Brendan Gleeson

In about 1886, a melee broke out in North Melbourne.

The two warring factions were the local Irish inhabitants of the area, in particular their wayward youth, and members of the Salvation Army, which had been aggressively proselytising in inner Melbourne.

What a battle it must have been! Historian Blair Ussher wrote:

...Along Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, larrikin gangs numbering from two to three thousand turned out to attack the Salvationists. The local corps, street parades and meetings were invariably broken up by charging mobs who pelted the Salvationists with rocks, red-ochre and a mixture of flour and soot. It was here that the local officer, Captain Edwards, earned the title of ‘Ironsides’ for his capacity to withstand the crush of jeering larrikins. The larrikins themselves became highly organised, forming their

own ‘skeleton army’ for the specific purpose of opposing the Salvationists. – Ussher, B. *The salvation war’* in *The Outcasts of Melbourne*, Davison et al. (1985) (eds.), Allen & Unwin, North Sydney, p.133

The right-wing Murdoch media have always loved a bit of racist demonising. In 2016 the *Herald Sun* began whipping up fears about “African gangs” and “riots” and the then state Liberal leader Matthew Guy joined in, labelling Melbourne the “Johannesburg of the South Pacific”.

Much later, in 2018, the now federal Liberal leader, Peter Dutton, made inflammatory comments that Victorians were “scared to go out to restaurants” because of “African gang violence”. His slanderous ravings smeared the kids in the North Melbourne and Flemington-Kensington flats.

My kinsfolk, the Irish boyos of 1886, might have behaved pretty badly early on, but of course were relentlessly provoked by the Salvationists.

Youth Question Remembered

Peter Dutton’s African gangs
Have nothing to hangs
Their hats on
Considering a day in 1886
When North Melbourne’s skeleton
army
Poured from the slumming Styx
Descending upon
The Salvation Barmy
Bravely knavelly marching into
Hell’s kitchen to rescue its
Priest-charred souls
Lots of biff ensued
Snouts knees and groins
Roughly kangarooed
But assuringly according to
The *Argus* next day
No Proddies made
The final honour roll
In that great affray

Local resident Brendan Gleeson contributes regularly to the News.

RIGHT: *The Larrikin* (1885). Source: Wikipedia Commons



Courses & Activities (Mar '24– Jun '24)



North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre (NWMNC) hosts programs and activities for locals. We try and offer programs that people in our community want to see happen.

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

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

Bookings: www.nwmnc.org.au, 9328 1126, in person at NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne



Health & Wellbeing

Pilates

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

General/Intro to Pilates

A class that caters for all levels of experience.
Wednesdays 9.15 am-10.15 am
Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane
(behind North Melbourne Library)

Beginners

The basics are still covered but some knowledge is assumed. Over the term the exercises will progress to more challenging options as you build strength and flexibility.
Thursdays 5.30 pm-6.30 pm (except 25 April)
Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

Intermediate

This class provides the next step up with more challenging exercises. Strengthen your postural muscles and exercise in a manner that is safe for all your joints.
Tuesdays 5.30 pm-6.30 pm
Thursdays 8 pm-9 pm (except 25 April)
Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

Intermediate Plus

Our hardest class is suitable for people with a good level of body awareness and strength. Designed to improve your trunk strength and provide a really stable base for your other sports or daily activities.
Thursdays 6.45 pm-7.45 pm (except 25 April)
Quaker Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne

Timetable: Pilates classes operate on a 10-week term timetable. Term 1 concludes 28 March. Term 2, 2024, commences 15 April.
Costs: \$21 (\$15.50 concession) per class when booking for full term or remainder of term. Casual enrolments (\$28 per session).

Community Gatherings

Seniors Morning Tea

Join this group of multicultural seniors for an informal chat over morning tea – a place where friendships can flourish. Sometimes with a guest speaker.
First Tuesday each month 10 am – 11.30 am (9 April not 2 April)
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
Cost: \$5

North Melbourne Men's Afternoon Tea

A casual get-together for some food and a chat with other men from the neighbourhood. New people encouraged. **FREE**
Thursdays (fortnightly from 14 March except 25 April), 3.30 pm – 5 pm.
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

Monthly Community Dinner

Delicious food (home-cooked entree, mains and desserts) and good company.
First Sunday of each month, 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm
West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre,
4 Miller Street, West Melbourne
\$10 (under 12s free) RSVP 0403 175 200

WomEmpower

WomEmpower is a group for young women to gather for games, activities, chats and fun each week! Includes guest speakers, craft sessions, language exchange and cooking classes. For young women 15 to 25.
Wednesdays, 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm, during school term
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne and online
Presented by Hotham Mission
Bookings and enquiries: programs@hothammission.org.au or call (03) 9326 8245

Anzac Day Ceremony

Join this local service to commemorate the lives of Australians and New Zealanders who died at Gallipoli and in all conflicts since 2015. With guest speaker former Lord Mayor Kevin Chamberlin, The Last Post played live, wreath laying, flag ceremony and refreshments. **FREE**
Sunday 21 April, 2 pm
Corner of Hawke and Victoria streets, West Melbourne

Bicycle Repair Session

Is there something wrong with your bike that is stopping you from cycling? Bring it along and bike mechanic and local dad Anthony Marcus will try and fix it (and teach you how to do it next time). Minor repairs only. No bookings required. **FREE**
Monday 18 March, 4 pm-7 pm
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne

For Seniors

Older Adults Exercise

A general strengthening class for those 60+. Includes low impact aerobics, balance and strengthening exercises, using exercise band resistance for all parts of the body. Suitable for people of all abilities.
Mondays 11 am – 12 noon (except 11 March and 10 June)
West Melbourne Baptist Community Centre
4 Miller Street, West Melbourne
Wednesdays 10.30 am -11.30 am
Legion Hall, George Johnson Lane
(behind North Melbourne Library)
Cost: \$21 (\$15.50 concession) per session when booking for the term.

Centre Adventures

Visit historical, cultural or horticultural places of interest and significance. Normally a full-day bus trip, Centre Adventures are a great way to get out beyond the everyday.
26 March, 23 April, 28 May, 25 June
9.30 am – 5 pm. Departing from NWMNC,
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
Cost: \$60 (\$45 Concession), including lunch and morning tea.

Creative Pursuits

Sing NoW! Community Choir

Join music director Susie Kelly in this inclusive community choir for adults of all ages. The choir sings music from across the world and spanning many decades. No previous experience required.

Thursdays 7 pm-8.30 pm, starting 18 April for 10 weeks, no class 25 April
Sokol Melbourne, 497 Queensberry St, North Melbourne
Cost: \$18 (\$11.50 Concession) per session when booking for the term. Casual enrolment online \$25 per session, if available

Beginners' French

If you would like to begin, extend or re-kindle your Francophile tendencies, join native French speaker Léa Carré in a relaxed and supportive environment. Over eight weeks you will build your vocabulary, practice conversations and grasp grammatical structures while exploring French culture and tradition.

Friday 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm – Basic Steps I (no experience necessary)
Friday 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm – Basic Steps II (a little knowledge)
Starting 19 April for 10 weeks
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
\$175 (\$125 concession)

Spanish for Fun

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

Mondays 5 pm – 6 pm
(Starting 15 April for 10 weeks – no class 10 June)
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
\$175 (\$125 concession)

Doll Felting

Create a beautiful felted doll that you can give to your child (or keep for yourself!) Steiner craft educator Cara Aitken will step you through the process of turning natural materials into a treasured keepsake.

Mondays 1 pm-3 pm (starting 6 May for 5 weeks)
\$20 per person (including materials)
OK to bring your small person/people along

Digital Skills

Computers: Digital Essentials

Make your computer work for you. Become more comfortable engaging in the digital world. This friendly course will help you maximise your productivity and minimise frustration. With tech-wizard James Klonis

Wednesdays 10 am-12.30 pm (starting 17 April for 10 weeks)
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
Cost: \$65 (\$50 Concession)



Documents, Spreadsheets and Slides

Now that you've got the basics, join tutor James Klonis in this intermediate course that will super-charge your productivity, whether you are using Microsoft suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint) or Google (Docs, Sheets, Slides).

Wednesdays 1 pm-3 pm (starting 15 May for 6 weeks)
\$35 (\$25 concession)

Plus later in 2024: Making Your Phone Work for You; Coding Essentials; Digital Marketing. Express your interest.

Small Business Skills

Foundations of Entrepreneurship

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

Saturdays 10am-1pm (starting 27 April for 4 weeks)
NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne, and online.
\$80 (\$40 concession)



Personal Brand Development

In the current digital age, there is so much more to being an ideal candidate than just a resume. This course examines the impact of personal digital identity on employability, and teaches how to curate your online presence into a cohesive professional brand that reflects your personal views and values.

Saturdays 10 am-1 pm (starting 8 June for 4 weeks)
NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne, and online
\$80 (\$40 concession)

Plus later in 2024: Bookkeeping; Digital marketing, Podcasting; Journalism; Event Management; Sports Development. Express your interest.

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

For Kids and Young People

Rainbow Art Class

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

Tuesdays 4 pm-5 pm (during the school term)
\$12 (\$10 concession) when booking for the term
(\$15 casual if available)

Home Away From Homework Club

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

Wednesdays 3.30 pm – 5 pm (during school term, except 25 April)
– NWMNC, 58 Errol St, North Melbourne
Wednesdays 4 pm – 5.30 pm (during school term)
– North Melbourne Language & Learning, 33 Alfred St, North Melbourne
Thursdays 3.30 pm-5 pm (during school term)
– Library@TheDock, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands

Sing NoW! Kids Choir

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

Thursdays 4 pm-5 pm (during the school term; no session 25 April)
\$12 (\$10 concession) when booking for the term
Trial your first session for free

Art, Music & Games

Get creative in this weekly after-school workshop program with professional James Klonis. Generate interesting ideas and explore how to bring them to life through digital art, music production and game design.

Mondays 4pm – 5pm (starting 22 April for 9 weeks, no class 10 June)
Suitable for young people aged 13 to 18.
\$180 (\$140 concession)

School Holiday Program

Coding for Girls

A one-day program that gives girls a hands-on experience coding a game. Work together to design a game that you would enjoy playing, including setting the controls, choosing the reward, drawing the characters and adding music. All without any annoying boys!

Wednesday 3 April, 10am – 3pm (30 minute lunch break)
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
Suits all genders aged 9-13.
No experience necessary.
\$80 (\$60 concession)

Make-A-Game Workshop

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

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 8, 9, 10 April
10 am – 3 pm (30-minute lunch break)
NWMNC, 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne
\$180 (\$140 concession)
Suitable for any level of experience. Return participants encouraged.



North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre

Busy start to the new year

As this issue of the *News* hits the streets in early March, the university year is commencing. Congratulations and good luck to all local students who are embarking on higher education for the first time. And to the thousands of international students who are arriving in Melbourne for the purpose of study, welcome!

North and West Melbourne are popular locations for international students to live, work and play while studying. Close to the University of Melbourne and RMIT campuses, many accommodation options are available, including some purpose-built student accommodation.

However, it's not always a straightforward path for international students. Living far away from home for the first time, managing high expectations from family, navigating English as an additional language and trying to understand Australian culture are all significant challenges.

Almost all international students work part-time in addition to studying. Finding work, dealing with sometime unscrupulous employers and keeping within visa requirements are all extra hurdles.

And then there are the study requirements, not to mention the very significant fees.

FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR Ariel Valent



We've been fortunate to employ Cindy Huang, an international student from China, as a community outreach worker over the last six months. Cindy has been instrumental in helping us identify the needs of this important cohort in our community and propose ways to address those needs.

One simple thing we did was participate in a 'thrift shop' where students could swap, sell and recycle basic items such as furniture and kitchen appliances. This was a new concept for a lot of international students and really helped their finances as well as addressing sustainability.

We've also teamed up with Dr Nupur Nag, a neuroscientist turned public health academic, whose research at the University of Melbourne focuses on how lifestyle changes can help prevent chronic illness.

Together, we are presenting a program for first-year international students, exploring lifestyle factors such as mindfulness, sleep quality, diet, social connection and physical activity — simple things that can have a big impact on wellbeing.

We're hoping this can be a pilot for a larger program and research project.

If I could give one piece of advice to international students arriving in our neighbourhood, it would be to embrace the opportunities of our local community. It's all too easy to stay at home, order UberEats and connect digitally to people from your home country.

North and West Melbourne are great places to live. Get involved: visit the cafes, walk the streets, join the local library, volunteer (our coming Spanish Language Fiesta needs some 'helpers' — a gentle hint!), even write about your experiences in this newspaper. You'll be welcome!

Farewell and hello

In other Neighbourhood Centre news, we bid a fond farewell to Kashifa Aslam who left us at the end of February after more than a year as the welcoming face at our 58 Errol Street shopfront. She was also the strength behind our marketing and communications improvements. We are delighted that Dhanya Nair will step into Kashifa's role. Dhanya worked at Docklands Neighbourhood House and has recently spearheaded our website redevelopment project.

We welcome Najat Mussa as a community outreach worker, specialising in Muslim African-Australian communities. Najat has already contributed two articles to this issue of the *News*.

We also held a special general meeting in mid February at the Quaker Centre in West Melbourne. Neighbourhood Centre members considered substantial changes to the organisation's constitution. These changes mean that we are in a much better position to receive tax-free financial donations. If you want to learn how you can reduce your tax while supporting the Neighbourhood Centre's work, please get in touch.



Cindy Huang



Kashifa Aslam



Dhanya Nair



Najat Mussa



North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre

New Website!!

nwmnc.org.au





North Melbourne's iconic billycart race and street festival is back for 2024.

Yes, it's months away, but now's the time to plan to make it the best event yet.

We need sponsors, community groups, committee members and volunteers.

Get Involved!



VICTORIA'S NEW CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

Let's work together to bring this scheme to North & West Melbourne

10 cents for every eligible container returned

Express your interest 9328 1126



NOTICEBOARD



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

Finance

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

News distribution

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

Volunteers

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

Editor: Maurice Gaul

Production: Anne Burgi

Advertising: Janet Graham

Distribution: Zara Winter

Proofreader: Suzie Luddon

Illustrator: Ed Zhao

Photographer: Jim Weatherill

Podcasters: Tom Rigby & Penry Buckley

Writers: Michelle Brett, Maurice Gaul, Brendan Gleeson, Matthew Hooper, Natasha Hortis, Very Impressive, Rashi Jain, Nancy Lane, Ruby Liakoureas, Laura Misale, Nebojsa Pajkic, Sara Pinkowski, Marion Poynter, Tom Rigby, Josh Rule
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5 Jones Road, Morwell 3844



Spanish Language Fiesta

Important Street Event Notification Road Closure Notification Saturday 16 March

For details on Spanish Language Fiesta program, see page 11.
The Centre is holding the ninth Spanish Language Fiesta in George Johnson Lane, North Melbourne, on Saturday 16 March from 11 am to 4 pm.

Expected Disruptions

- The following streets and locations will be affected:
- George Johnson Lane and Little Errol Street will be completely closed to vehicles from 7 am to 7 pm.
 - No public transport will be affected by the event or road closures.
 - Errol Street, Leveson Street, Queensberry Street and Victoria Street will not be affected.
- Route 57 Tram: The route will run unaffected through North Melbourne on the regular Saturday timetable.
Roadblocks will be installed at 7:30 am and removed at about 7 pm.
Car parking along Errol St, Leveson St and Queensberry St is available on the day of the event with most spaces metered between 7:30 am and 12:30 pm. Parking in these spaces is free for the remainder of the day.
Access will be reopened to traders and residents within the precinct after 7 pm or when it is safe to do so.
For further enquiries about the traffic management of this event contact Yulay Perez at The Centre on 03 9328 1126 or the City of Melbourne Event Coordinator Tina Rizza on 0468 567 719.
Thanks for your understanding and supporting the Spanish Language Fiesta in North Melbourne.

We look forward to celebrating with you.
Kind Regards,

Yulay Perez
Event Coordinator –
Spanish Language
Fiesta 2024
03 9328 1126
slf@centre.org.au



Kryptic Kwiz (page 16) answers

- 1** (*White Cliffs of Dover*) Dover (*Delaware*) **2** (*Bobby Magee*) Baton Rouge (*Louisiana*) **3** (*Honest Abe*) Lincoln (*Nebraska*) **4** (*Charleston dance*) Charleston (*West Virginia*) **5** (*Salem witch trials*) Salem (*Oregon*) **6** (*Three Mile Island*) Harrisburg (*Pennsylvania*) **7** (*Karine Jean-Pierre, Biden's press secretary*) Pierre (*South Dakota*) **8** (*Boston Marathon*) Boston (*Massachusetts*) **9** (*The Simpsons*) Springfield (*Illinois*) **10** (*Phoenix from the ashes*) Phoenix (*Arizona*) **11** (*Christopher Columbus*) Columbus (*Ohio*) **12** (*Albany WA*) Albany (*New York*) **13** (*Walter Raleigh*) Raleigh (*North Carolina*) **14** (*30-50km Madison race*) Madison (*Wisconsin*) **15** (*Divine providence*) Providence (*Rhode Island*) **16** (*Concorde plane*) Concord (*New Hampshire*) **17** (*Atlantis*) Atlanta (*Georgia*) **18** (*North Cheyenne*) Cheyenne (*Wyoming*) **19** (*General Montgomery*) Montgomery (*Alabama*) **20** (*Mount Olympia, Greece*) Olympia (*Washington*) **21** (*Pocket battleship Bismarck*) Bismarck (*North Dakota*) **22** (*John Denver*) Denver (*Colorado*) **23** (*Country music capital*) Nashville (*Tennessee*) **24** (*Augusta, Georgia, hosts US Masters*) Augusta (*Maine*) **25** (*Columbia space shuttle*) Columbia (*South Carolina*) **26** (*Frontier legend Kit Carson*) Carson City (*Nevada*) **27** (*Juno, Canadians' D-Day landing*) Juneau (*Alaska*) **28** (*Michael Jackson, moonwalker*) Jackson (*Mississippi*) **29** (*Apostle St Paul*) Saint Paul (*Minnesota*) **30** (*Baby Austin 7*) Austin (*Texas*)

Local Streets (page 6) answers

- 1. Victoria Street; 2. Raglan Street; 3. Ireland Street; 4. Silk Place; 5. Leveson Street; 6. Railway Place; 7. Batman Street; 8. Ink Lane; 9. Steel Street**

Send contributions, letters and feedback to:

North & West Melbourne News
North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre,
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne 3051
Email: editorial@centre.org.au **Telephone:** 9328 1126
Winter 2024
Copy deadline: Friday 3 May
Publication date: Friday 31 May
Spring 2024
Copy deadline: Friday 23 August
Publication date: Friday 20 September
Summer 2024–2025
Copy deadline: Friday 8 November
Publication date: Friday 6 December

Easter Services in North and West Melbourne

St James Old Cathedral, Anglican
Corner King and Batman streets, West Melbourne
(opposite Flagstaff Gardens)
Palm Sunday 24 March 10.00 am Holy Communion
Good Friday 29 March 10.00 am Passion Reading and Choral Meditations
Easter Sunday 31 March 10.00 am Holy Communion



St Mary Star of the Sea, Catholic
Corner Victoria and Howard streets, West Melbourne
Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent until 22 March 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm
Passion (Palm) Sunday 24 March 10.00 am Sunday Morning Mass; 5.00 pm Sunday Evening Mass – palms will be distributed at each Mass
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week, 25, 26 & 27 March, 7.00 am & 12.30 pm Weekday Mass
Holy Thursday 28 March 10.00 am Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral; 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Mary's
Good Friday 29 March 10.30am Stations of the Cross; 11.15 am Seven Words of Our Lord on the Cross Sermon; 12.00 noon Holy Rosary; 3.00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday 30 March 8.00pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 31 March 10.00 am Easter Mass; 12.00 noon Easter Mass in Lithuanian; 5.00 pm Easter Evening Mass

St Mary's, Anglican
Corner Queensberry and Howard streets, North Melbourne
Palm Sunday 24 March 8.00 am and 10.00 am. 10.00 am Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees and Peace at Parliament Gardens, East Melbourne
Maundy Thursday 28 March 8.00 pm
Good Friday 29 March 10.00 am
Saturday 30 March 9.00 pm Great Paschal Vigil
Easter Day Sunday 31 March 8.00 am and 10.00 am

St Michael's, Catholic
456 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne
Details not available at time of going to press

Saints Peter and Paul, Ukrainian Catholic
35 Canning Street, North Melbourne (corner Dryburgh Street)
Good Friday 29 March 10.00 am Royal Hours; 5.00 pm Vespers with the exposition of the Holy Shroud; Jerusalem Matins
Holy Saturday 30 March 4.00 pm Vespers with the Liturgy of St Basil the Great; Blessing of the Easter baskets
Sunday 31 March Pascha, Resurrection of Christ: 12.00 midnight Prayer at the graveside; Divine Liturgy; Blessing of the Easter baskets; 8.00am Resurrection Matins; Hierarchical Divine Liturgy; Blessing of the Easter baskets

Uniting Church, Mark the Evangelist
All Mark the Evangelist services are now at the Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent, Parkville.
Sunday 24 March 10.00 am Passion of St Mark
Maundy Thursday 28 March 7.30 pm
Good Friday 29 March 10.00 am
Saturday 30 March 8.00 pm Easter Vigil
Easter Day Sunday 31 March 10.00 am

West Melbourne Baptist Church
4 Miller Street, West Melbourne
Thursday 28 March 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Evening Supper (free)
Friday 29 March 9.00 am – 10.00 am Good Friday Service
Sunday 31 March 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm Easter Sunday

NWMN advertisement sizes and rates

Size	Colour	Mono
Full page (24 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$1,795.00	\$1,560.00
Half page (24 cm wide x 17 cm high or 12 cm wide x 34 cm high)	\$900.00	\$785.00
One-third page (24 cm wide x 12 cm high)	\$650.00	\$575.00
One-quarter page (24 cm wide x 8.5 cm high or 12 cm wide x 17 cm high)	\$485.00	\$415.00
One-eighth page (12 cm wide x 8.5 cm high)	\$245.00	\$210.00
One-16th page (12 cm wide x 4 cm high)	\$130.00	\$115.00
Business card (in Services Directory) (9 cm wide x 5.5 cm high)	\$115.00	\$95.00
• Prices inclusive of GST		
• Book a repeat advertisement for four issues for a 20% discount, total amount payable at time of booking.		
• Prices are for supplied artwork (high-resolution PDF). Layout services are available — talk to us about how we can help.		
• The <i>News</i> reserves the right to reject advertising bookings that are outside the standards for a community-based publication.		
• For information and bookings, email: advertising@centre.org.au		



Remembrance of things past set in stone



Nancy Lane

What's in a name? Many who built their homes in the late 1800s in North and West Melbourne chose to render in masonry at their roofline someone, someplace or something important to them.

Perhaps a wife, a mother or a favourite sister. Their chosen vocation. The place from which they came, and perhaps hoped to return to, wealthy, someday. Their university college. The family name for posterity. Their physical location near a park or on a hill. Their hopes for the future.

Look up at the names – from across the road is sometimes best – and wonder as you wander.

Nancy Lane writes regularly for the News.

